



## **Town of Madison Board of Finance Budget Workshop Meeting Minutes for March 3, 2010**

A Budget Workshop for the Board of Finance convened at 7:30 p.m. at the Madison Town Campus. Members present from the Board of Finance included Helen Burland, Peggy Lyons, James Matteson, Kathleen Rossini, Kathleen Stahelski, and Jennifer Tung.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Barbara Davis, 97 Stone Road, stated that she was representing the Madison Alliance for Senior Tax Relief. The organization would like to address the Board during its discussion of the senior tax abatement program. Ms. Burland indicated the Board intends to include senior tax relief on its agenda for the March 17<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and suggested her organization plan on addressing the Board at that meeting.

### **Board Discussion**

The Board agreed to use the meeting to discuss the school budget and to develop agendas for the upcoming budget workshops. Each Board member highlighted areas they would like to review in more detail and decided who to invite to future workshops to address additional questions.

Ms. Stahleski stated that after careful review she felt the Board of Education budget was very thoughtful, well-developed and did not require any modifications. She did not see any need to invite Mr. Klein to any further meetings or review his budget further. Ms. Tung stated she had submitted her questions to Mr. Klein and, contingent upon receiving satisfactory answers to these questions, would be comfortable supporting it as presented. Ms. Rossini stated she also thought it was an excellent budget and that Mr. Klein and the Board of Education should be commended for their work. Mr. Matteson agreed he thought the school budget was thoughtfully prepared and that Mr. Klein took a proactive approach to the budgeting process. He would like to see the Town also take this approach. He also wondered what areas of the budget were not getting adequate funding in the budget. Ms. Lyons also agreed the budget seemed well-prepared and comprehensive. Last year's budget had some obvious areas that could be modified but she did not see that in this year's budget. Ms. Burland agreed that Mr. Klein and the Board put great effort into the budget and that she was supportive of it as presented. Having served on the Board of Education, she recognized the challenges of developing a budget in this economic environment and commended the current Board for their work. Mr. Matteson asked if, given falling enrollment, why redistricting wouldn't be considered to reduce staffing needs. Ms. Rossini and Ms. Burland both responded that the BOE has a lot of experience in this area from the past and generally believe the benefits of redistricting do not outweigh the costs given the disruption it can cause on children and families.

2-Minutes for Budget Workshop held on March 3, 2010

The following schedule for future workshops was prepared:

3/9: Public Works & Facilities, LOCAP, Planned & Cycle Maintenance

3/11: Health Insurance, Pension, Planning & Zoning

3/16: Police, Senior Services

3/17: Revenue Outlook

3/18: Additional Requests, Revenue Outlook (if needed)

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Lyons

Board of Finance Secretary