

Madbury Musings

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SELECT NOTES

Taxes. Taxes. Taxes.

Where does it all go?

The enclosed tax bill causes us all to ponder this. It happens twice a year. We hear this low rumble throughout the town when the mailman delivers these. Checks are written (more rumbling) and we go about our business until the next tax bill arrives (rumble, grumble).

These mid-year bills are based on last year's tax rate so yours looks like the one you received in Nov. Your November bill will reflect a new tax rate which will be higher.

Why? Those of you who attended Town Meeting heard this before but it isn't exactly simple so you might want a recap. The budget covers many things but this year we have two big factors:

1. The School District bill went up.
2. We chose to build a library.

The School District gets the lion's share of your property tax money, about 68%. The schools are by far the most expensive program supported by your property tax. We are fortunate to have a well-respected program for our money. Madbury's share of school costs is mainly determined each year by three major factors: a. the size of the total school budget, b. the portion of the total school district costs allocated to Madbury and c. the State's "adequacy" grant.

- a. The total of school cost apportioned to the three Towns went

(Continued on page 2)



Happy 250th Birthday, Madbury!

On May 20, 1768 Madbury was invested with full town privileges. The town has a cake to celebrate the year thanks to cake maker extraordinaire, Garret Ahlstrom. Tony Lee's class from the Moharimet School built a 1/2 scale model, with lights too! Above, the class sings and dances Happy Birthday wishes to the town.

TOWN OFFICE NEWS

ROAD CLOSURE: Town Hall Rd will be closed from Rt. 155 to the Moharimet School bus access lane on Madbury Day, Saturday, June 2. See page 4 for more details.

DOVER RECYCLING CENTER is open year round and available to all Madbury residents. The Center is currently open on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 8:30am to 3:30pm. www.ci.dover.nh.us.

MADBURY TRANSFER STATION is open. Monthly hours are 9:00 to 4pm on 1st & 3rd Saturdays, as well as 4pm to dusk on 2nd Wednesdays.

DOG LICENSES: 2017 licenses expired on April 30. You are encouraged to license your dog prior to June 1 to avoid penalties. A male or female dog license is \$9.00 and spayed or neutered dogs are \$6.50. Owners over 65 years old may register one dog for \$2.00. A current rabies certificate is required. For licensed dogs whose rabies vaccination is current, you may renew the license via mail by sending in a check and a SASE.

TAX BILLS: It is anticipated that tax bills will be mailed on May 23 and due by July 2.

up by about 2.8%

b. Madbury's share of the district expense went up slightly from 15.8597% to 16.0000%, accounting for an increase of about $(16/15.8\dots) - 1 = 0.9\%$ on our bill. The NH Dept. of Ed. Calculates this share according to the formula agreed by the three Towns when the cooperative district was formed: Half of the District costs are apportioned by the equalized assessed values of the Towns. Half of the District costs are apportioned by "Average Daily Membership" (ADM) which represents the number of students from each Town *in the previous year*. Madbury's ADM was up slightly *last year*. The State Department of Education does these calculations for cooperative districts to ensure there is no funny business at the local level.

c. The State distributes "adequacy" grants to all towns. These grants are used to reduce the amount to be raised by taxes for our share of the districts cost (see b. above). The amount of these grants depends on several factors, the most important variable is the number of students in public education (ADM) *this year*. Our ADM is down slightly *this year* from last. The final figure is not known until after the school year has ended but the amount is projected to drop by about \$96,000, or about 1.5% of our school bill.

In this budget year, "a" went up, "b" went up, and "c" went down. These all increase our school bill. Note that "b" and "c" are based on ADM numbers from different years. When our ADM drops, this creates a squeeze for us. When ADM rises, we get a temporary break. The net effect this year is projected to be \$1.29/\$1000 as-

essed value increase in your tax rate. Note that there are other smaller factors affecting this total. The School District annual report provides additional detail.

A Library funding plan was supported by Town Meeting voters. Secret ballot votes on the two major money articles received clear majorities. The incremental impact on your tax rate of the library appropriation for this year will be about \$0.83/\$1000 assessed value. (For a \$300,000 home: $300 \times 0.83 = \$249$).

Other Things need money too. A new fire truck, new communications gear for the fire department, a new bridge, a major road rebuild (Hayes) all weigh on the budget.

Next year: NO further library capital appropriations are planned. The "Other Things" are still there and various capital reserves need to be fully funded. School funding will be subject to the same influences again. Operating expenses will tend to creep upward.

Strategies:

The Selectmen recently had a preliminary discussion with Durham town representatives about the prospect of collaborating on various town services in hopes of achieving some efficiencies and economies. This is an appealing concept but the devil will lurk in the details. We do not assume that real savings are achievable and we are concerned about maintaining a reasonable degree of control of any service so shared.

Bonding (borrowing) for major projects may be necessary in the near future. We plan to do some preparatory work in order to qualify to borrow money under current lending and bonding rules.

We also need to consider our tax base. The cost of educating a single child is greater than the tax bill for any house in town. This financial

reality make a residential-property-only tax base look like a bad bet. Can we allow more non-residential land use in Town? Would it really help? Let's think about it.

Water Resources Board

In 2017 Madbury was awarded a grant in support of the The New Hampshire Setting SAIL project which seeks to support implementation of the Coastal Risk and Hazard Commission (CRHC) report. The Commission was charged with recommending legislation, rules and other actions to prepare for projected sea-level rise and other coastal watershed hazards such as storms, increased river flooding and storm water runoff, and the risks such hazards pose.

For Madbury sea-level rise effects were generally minimal (don't expect to use the bridges to Portsmouth during a storm event & high tide), so the assistance was focused on emergency preparedness, extreme precipitation and flooding, and drought/long-term water supply. During a workshop in Madbury, residents had questions about ground water supplies and water quality testing. Unfortunately, there is wide variability to groundwater and no site specific maps are available. Thanks in part to Madbury resident, Joan Schreiber, the State started collecting residential well data in the mid-1980's. Search for the "*NH Water Well Inventory*" to see if there is information on your well in the OneStop database. For recommendations from the State on water quality, search for "*NH private well testing.*"

Save the Date 250th Event

Colonial Militia Meets to Protect Madbury Citizens From the Red Coats

October 13 & 14, 2018
Moriarty's Field, Mill Hill Rd.

All Citizens are invited to
attend & learn about
the defense of the colonies

**It is expected that the Red
Coats will arrive for battle
at 1 o'clock each day**

Food, Drink, Crafts,
Demonstrations & Entertainment
will be available
**Saturday 9-5
and Sunday 9-3**

Recycling News

There may be changes coming to the recycling process. China takes one third of the US exported recycling and they have stopped taking some kinds of material and are requiring much less contamination on others. Recently, Waste Management has indicated they may charge an extra fee if a load is too contaminated. For now, recycle only acceptable items, do not bag them (put them out loose in a container), and cardboard should be broken down and tied into two by two foot bundles.

New Library Building Project

Thank you to everyone who attended town meeting and supported the New Library Building Project! Your vote has secured funding for the public or town portion of the cost of the new library.

The Building Steering Committee is working with the architects to revise the building plans to keep within the \$1.3M cost projection. While there will need to be some changes in design, our goal is to build a library that will be a welcoming place for all residents to gather. It will reflect the natural beauty and rural nature of our town and will be energy efficient and cost effective.

The Library Capital Campaign continues, and we are hoping all residents will join with us to make this long awaited new library a reality. Early supporters have already contributed over \$200,000 toward our goal of \$350,000. To learn more about the project and complete donor information visit:
www.madburylibrary.org,
click on brochure.

We welcome your energy, enthusiasm and ideas and we need your help to plan events and spread the word to your friends and neighbors about the new library building coming to our town soon! To volunteer contact: mplsteeringcommittee@gmail.com or join us at Friends of Madbury Library Meetings the second Thursday of the month, 7:00 p.m. at the library.

Madbury Public Library

Upcoming Holiday Closures:

Monday, May 28: Closed

Wednesday, July 4: Closed

2017 Summer Reading Program: Libraries Rock!

Sign-ups begin Madbury Day, June 2, 10:00-2:00. Join us at the Madbury Day Parade! Dress as your favorite children's book character and look alongside the library banner. Then back at the library shop for great books for all ages at the Friends of the Library annual sale starting at 9:00 am. Then, between 10 and 2, be the first to sign up for the Summer Reading Program (children, teens, and adults) and win special, Madbury Day-only raffle prizes and special Summer Reading 2018 tee-shirts.

What's Going On at the Library this Summer?

"Libraries Rock!" refers to music, of course, but you can also learn about actual rocks and fossils, even dinosaurs, whatever strikes your fancy will be celebrated in books, stories, crafts, and DIY projects. Everything kicks off on Thursday, June 28, 10:30, when the Madbury and Lee libraries host Aaron Lee at Little River Park in Lee. Then the Durham, Lee, and Madbury libraries will also sponsor the always-popular Wildlife Encounters at Madbury Town Hall on Thursday, July 12, 10:30. Then on Thursday, July 19, at 10:30, juggler and comedian Bryson Lang and will bring his zany "Cure for the Common Show" to Town Hall. For our Summer Reading finale on Thursday, July

(Continued on page 4)

<i>Tentative Schedule</i>	Madbury Day ~ Saturday, June 2, 2018	<i>Subject to change</i>
Time	Activity	Location
8:00 - 9am	Fun Run, through the woods and around Tibbetts Field. Parking at the Moharimet School Lot.	Sugar Shack
9:00 – 11:00am	Music in the Morning Cafe - Music, coffee and desserts.	Town Hall
9:00am - 2pm	Friends of Library Book Sale & Open House	Madbury Public Library
9:30am - 2pm	Historical Society (raffle), Water, and Conservation exhibits, school displays, honoring veterans, spinning, homemade goods, critters, and antique cars!	Town Hall and beyond
	Church yard sale, Plant sale, American and Indonesian food concessions, Balloons & bubbles	Madbury Church
	11:30am	Parade Line-up at Cherry Lane (cars at Madbury Woods)
12 noon	Parade! - Everyone is welcome to join in!	Town Hall Rd
12:30pm	Oyster River Middle School Jazz Band (raffle winners, after)	Town Hall
5 pm	FAST Squad Dessert Auction	Town Hall
6 pm	Madbury Fire Department Chicken Barbecue Tickets available from any firefighter, the Town Clerk or Town Library. Reserve now! Adults \$12.00 Children \$6.00	Town Hall

Road Closure and Parking for Madbury Day

From 8:00am until after the 12:30 Jazz Band concert, Town Hall Rd will be closed from Rt. 155 to the Moharimet School bus access lane. A detour route will be available through the School parking lot. Parking will be at the School, and the lower Demeritt and Tibbetts fields off Rt. 155. The upper Demeritt field lot (by the Library) will be for official handicapped placard holders only. The newly paved expansion lot is available for display folks. Additional parking may be available near the Cemetery on Town Hall Rd, if weather conditions permit. Shuttle vans will make rounds from the Tibbetts lot.

(Continued from page 3)

26, 10:30, let's have a tie-dye party! There will be cake and we will announce the winners of the many raffle prizes. In between the summer's special performances, there will be drop-in story times every Monday, drop-in C.L.I.M.B. (Children Learning, Inventing, Making, and Building) sessions on Wednesdays, DIY Saturday workshops, and the return of library mini-golf!

Other Exciting Events @MPL

Read with Digby

Monday, June 18, 3 to 5 pm ~ Beginning and experienced readers are invited to spend time with

Digby, an outgoing Cavalier King Charles spaniel, either reading or being read to. Children can sign up for 20- minute sessions. Call, e-mail, or stop in to

Friends of the Library meeting

June 14, 7pm ~The Friends support the library through book sales, a basket raffle, and an annual appeal. In the past, they have donated funds that supported summer reading programs, purchased the Children's Room rug, our wireless printer, and provided the start-up funds for our website. Don't miss the Friends of the Library Book Sale, June 2, 9:00-2:00.

Daytime Book Discussion

Group ~ meets the fourth Monday of the month at 3 pm, September through June. On June 25, we will discuss *Less* by Andrew Sean Greer.

Evening Book Discussion

Group ~ The group will meet on Monday, June 4, 7:00 pm to discuss *Red Notice* by Bill Browder. The group will not meet during July and August.

Writing Group

~ meets the second Monday of the month at 5:15 pm. Writers are invited to share their works and receive constructive input from other members. The group will meet Monday, June 11, and then not again until