

Draft: July 9, 2008
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Budget Committee Minutes
July 9, 2008
Approved

Present: Earl Strout, Mark Schiffman, Jeff Lehmann, Dick Jones, Bill Lewis, Josh Killham, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Dick Justice, Judy Brotman, Dina Cutting.

- 1) Judy Brotman opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.
- 2) The minutes of May 27, 2008 were approved as revised.
- 3) A number of Budget Committee members have been doing independent research over the past month. Their findings were presented to the Committee:
 - a) Dick Jones handed out a Budget Analysis packet and gave a brief summary of the packet information.
 - b) Dick Justice presented a summary of the findings and analysis he had been working on since the May meeting. His suggestion to the Budget Committee is that they make a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen early in the fall proposing as a goal that the upcoming budget requests be aimed at keeping the school & municipal tax rate flat.
 - c) Earl Strout presented a 2009 revenue estimate which indicates revenue at roughly the same figure as this year. He presented a handout showing 3 tax scenarios for next year's tax rate - a 0 % increase, a 5% increase and an 8% increase, and an estimate of what those increases would mean for the budget.
 - d) Bill Lewis summarized his work over the past month, and included a handout that suggested areas for extra review by both the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen. His suggestions covered a number of items that have been growing in recent years, showing expenses with a faster growth rate than revenues. His preliminary recommendation is that the Budget Committee establish a cap on expenses.
- 4) Following the presentations, the Committee discussed the upcoming budgeting cycle, and the role of the Budget Committee in guiding the fiscal health of the Town.
- 5) The Committee decided to continue the informal one and two-person working groups. The Committee will advise the Board of Selectmen with budgeting goals as soon as possible, so that they can work with department heads to begin preparing their 2009 budget requests.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Judith Lee Shelnuttt Brotman

Next meeting will be September 3rd at 7:30 pm.