

Draft: May 27, 2008  
Approved: July 9 , 2008

Budget Committee  
Minutes  
May 27, 2008

Present: Barney Brannen, Earl Strout, Freda Swan, Mark Schiffman, Jeff Lehmann, Dick Jones, Simon Carr, Bill Lewis, Josh Killham, Elizabeth Glenshaw, Dick Justice, Judy Brotman.

1. Chair Barney Brannen opened the meeting at 7:30 pm.
2. The minutes of February 12, 2008 were approved as corrected.
3. Simon updated the committee on the status of the town meeting votes. The town is presently operating on a default budget from last year. The Bond, ball field, and all other expenditures are on hold pending legislative approval.
4. Barney Brannen moved to elect Judy Brotman chair for the upcoming budget cycle. Jeff Lehman seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.
5. The Committee discussed several issues at length –
  - a. Where we are this year,
  - b. Break down the budget by departments to discover when town government cost growth has been over the past 10 years.
  - c. The budget committee will recommend to the Board of Selectmen a tax rate guideline. [This may take some creative or innovative budgeting and /or operating this year.]
  - d. Public involvement is crucial to a balanced budget.
6. Several small two-person study groups were created to study past budgets and possible recommendations for this year's budgeting cycle. Reports will be discussed at the next budget committee meeting;
7. Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Next meeting will be July 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Judith Lee Shelnuttt Brotman

