

Budget Committee
Fire Station training room
7:30pm September 3, 2008

Approved: September 17th , 2008

Present at this meeting: Selectmen: Richard Jones & Simon Carr. Budget Committee Members: Judith Shelnutt-Brotman, Earl Strout, Freda Swan, Charles Justice, William Lewis, Josh Kilham, Jeff Lehmann, & Elizabeth Glenshaw. School Board Representative: Mark Schiffman. Bookkeeper/Scribe: Dina Cutting.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Brotman at 7:30pm.

Mr. Carr presented the new "Committee handbook". This handbook is to be used by all town committee's. It is a brief review of laws and expectation of committee members.

Mr. Lehmann moved to approve the minutes of the July 9th 2008 meeting. Seconded by Mr. Justice. #3 section b: add in "School and municipal". The minutes were approved with the correction noted. 9 in favor with 1 abstention (Mrs. Swan).

Up-coming Budget Committee schedule:

Followed was a discussion concerning the timing of meetings, deadlines for budget requests, and the general past practice of the Budget Committee season. It was the consensus of the Budget Committee that Department Heads and Selectmen come to the October 22nd & 29th meetings ready to field questions from the Budget Committee. The Budget Committee felt it was important to have more discussions at this point with Department Heads. The November 5th meeting will be reserved for general budget discussions. The November 12th and 19th the Selectmen will present their proposed budget.

Mr. Lehmann gave a presentation to the budget committee with his concerns for the 2009 budget.

Mr. Lewis gave a presentation and passed out a hand out (attached to minutes) to the budget committee with his concerns for the 2009 budget.

Mr. Justice gave a presentation and passed out a hand out (attached to minutes) to the budget committee with his concerns for the 2009 budget.

Followed was a lengthy discussion concerning the budget committee's job in keeping the taxes affordable for all community members. Employee benefits, rising cost of fuel, the

Grafton County jail project, the Town offices bond, high school tuition, and attempting to keep the tax rate level were all discussed.

In an effort to aid department heads in the proposed budget for 2009 the budget committee felt it should urge the department heads to come forward with a budget using the general guideline of last years budgeted amounts. Hopefully the budget committee will have a more specific guideline to communicate with department heads after their next meeting.

At 9:10pm Mr. Jones moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Lewis. Voted unanimously in favor.

Next meeting: September 17th @ 7:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Dina Cutting