

MINUTES *approved minutes*

Budget Committee Meeting: January 26, 2022 **Present:** Judy Aron, Jennifer Bland, Conan Cook, Claudia Istal, Sue Metsack, Cheryl Sanctuary, Frank Emig, Rob DeValk

Meeting began: 7:00PM (SM)

1. Minutes January 19, 2022: Motion CI/JB to approve, passed.
2. SM noted budget request reductions received including \$1,000 from the Library and \$700 from ConCom. CI noted Cemetery Trustees offered \$1,000 if needed.
3. RD expressed concern about over cutting the core budget. He noted the immediate savings could cause problems in the future. He also noted that all roads damaged in 2021 are now open and recommended reducing the 2022 repairs line rather than cutting essential services and noted the need to restore fund balance as protection against future disasters.
4. The flood loan was discussed with concerns that FEMA reimbursement may not be timely and may not reach 75% of expenses. Keeping spending down by reducing the repairs appropriation was seen as protection against possible increased principal repayment which will begin in 2023. There was informal consensus that recovery could take several years and that budgeting only what the Town can afford annually is preferable to additional borrowing.
5. There was discussion about possible warrant articles for a truck purchase and paving on Cold Pond Road. It was noted that clear descriptions of the tax impact needed to be made to voters.
6. Highway crew size was discussed. It was noted qualified workers are difficult to keep in today's market and requires adequate budgeting.
7. In light of the above there was consensus to revise the draft budget targeting a 5% tax rate increase (rate=\$8.20) taking most of the necessary reduction from the repairs line and maintaining as much of the core budget as possible.

Meeting adjourned: Motion JA/CS, passed, 8:30PM, Respectfully submitted, Kathi Bradt

AGENDA: Budget Committee meeting Wednesday, February 2, 7PM

Open meeting

1. Approve minutes.
2. Review revised budget.
- 3.

Meeting adjourned:

Some useful dates:

BC Wednesday meeting dates: 2/2, 2/9: Public hearing, (2/10: Snow date, FMRSD meeting date)

February 1: Last day for petition warrant articles;

February 4: Last day to post budget public hearing;

February 11: Last day for budget public hearing;

February 15: Town Report goes to press with completed budget;

February 21: Last day to post signed budget and warrant;

March 1: Town Report available to voters;

March 8: Town Meeting.