

MINUTES *approved minutes*

Budget Committee Meeting: February 2, 2022 **Present:** Judy Aron, Jennifer Bland, Conan Cook, Claudia Istal, Sue Metsack, Cheryl Sanctuary, Frank Emig, Jim Jennison, Glenn Elsesser
Meeting began: 7:00PM (SM)

1. Minutes January 26, 2022: Motion JA/JB to approve, passed.
2. CC requested the updated flood repair Damage Inventory (DI) be relayed.
3. GE updated the figure for paving the new section of Cold Pond Road to \$77,000.
4. JA reviewed potential for increasing county costs particularly those for the renovation of the County Home which would impact the 2022 tax rate.
5. The revised budget was reviewed. This revision begins with an \$8.20 tax rate which is a 5% increase over the 2021 rate. The revision restores some capital spending, covers recent highway crew replacement hiring, holds health agency funding level with 2021, includes reductions in the Legal, Library and Town office budgets and flood repair.
6. CC and FE requested Legal be restored. There was consensus to take the amount from flood repair.
7. SM asked whether Solid Waste could be reduced and CI asked about requiring recycling. JJ noted the recent study group formed to evaluate disposal costs found most opportunities for saving come with increased costs due to the small size of our operation.
8. CS asked whether Cold Pond Road paving could wait and GE noted a base coat can usually go up to 2 years before top coating.
9. In light of the above there was consensus to make the changes noted to present to the public hearing February 9.

Consensus to adjourn, 8:05PM, Respectfully submitted, Kathi Bradt

AGENDA: Budget Committee public hearing and meeting Wednesday, February 9, 7PM

Open hearing; Review proposed budget and warrant.

Close hearing and open meeting with Selectmen.

1. Approve minutes.
2. Review hearing comments amending proposed budget as needed.
3. Vote on warrant articles.

Meeting adjourned:

Some useful dates:

BC Wednesday meeting dates: 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.