

Approved Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)
Wed. September 28, 2005

Members present

Steve Andersen
Rae Barnhisel
Mike Darnell
Wayne Edwards
Brian Kullgren

Others present

Charlene Eddy (Select Board)
Tedd Petro (Select Board)
Priscilla Weston (Librarian)
Sydney Thomas (Library Trustee)
Gail Cromwell (School Bd. Rep.)
Peter Clegg (Animal Control)

Meeting called to order at 7:10 pm

1. Minutes from September 14, 2005, approved as amended.
2. Andersen informed members that Allan Oxman would not attend the next two meetings in October but was willing to chair the 2nd meeting in November when Andersen and Kullgren would be out of town.
3. Members requested Barnhisel to type the recommendations to date so that members could initial them and vote to present them to the Select Board.
4. P. Weston and S. Thomas presented their proposed 2006 Library Budget (see attached). Those items typically estimated by the Select Board were estimated by BAC members using the 2005 Account Detail. The following changes were proposed (p. 11):
 - a. *Increase* Telephone from \$1100 to \$1320 (+\$220)
 - b. *Decrease* Library Aide by 3% from \$130 to \$100 (-\$30).
 - c. *Increase* Electric from \$1050 to \$1200 (+\$150)
 - d. *Increase* Propane from \$1000 to \$2500 (+\$1500). Changes reflect the projected increase in fuel, the fact that that the line item appears to be exceeded each year, and the Highway Dept.'s assertion that the Library uses 90% of the propane that is split between the two departments (see BAC minutes 9-14-05).
 - e. *Increase* Repairs and Maintenance from \$1250 to \$1500 (+\$300). Anticipated projects include repairing bathroom pipes, a hole in the wall, shelves, and a broken window.
 - f. *Increase* Dues and Subscriptions from \$105 to \$250 (+\$145) to reflect the cost of Review Materials, previously included in the Books line item.
 - g. *Decrease* Landscaping from \$825 to \$500 (-\$325).
 - h. *Increase* Mileage from \$200 to \$250 (+\$50).
 - i. *Remove* the word "Video" from "Video Tapes" line item to reflect DVD technology.
 - j. *Delete* Miscellaneous line item and replace with P.O. Box Rental with \$50 and Training and Seminars with \$200. This is an *increase* from \$150 to \$250 (+\$100).
 - k. The remaining line items will stay the same.

The proposed 2006 Library budget represents a net increase of \$2110. P. Weston explained that training and seminars were often covered by employees in the past. She also explained that the books paid for by the town are sold and those proceeds are deposited into a private account to cover various programs.

Darnell asked that the Library be insulated to avoid the high heating expense. C. Eddy informed the Board that the Library bathroom cannot be used in winter because its sewer connection with the Town Hall under the driveway freezes.

5. P. Clegg presented his 2006 Animal Control budget. The following changes were proposed (p. 10):
 - a. *Delete* the following line items (zeroed for 2 years): Court Time, Group Health Insurance, Miscellaneous Expenses, Training, Equipment, Animal Shelter.
 - b. *Change* “Veterinary” Services to “Shelter” Services to reflect the true nature of the expense. *Decrease* amount from \$250 to \$200 (-\$50).
 - c. *Add* “Pager” to Supplies line item. *Increase* amount from \$250 to \$350 (+\$100).
 - d. *Add* an asterisk to Dog License Fees to indicate revenue is involved. *Decrease* amount from \$800 to \$500 (-\$300).
 - e. Other line items will stay the same.

The proposed 2006 Animal Control budget represents a net decrease of \$250. P. Clegg discussed the possibility of using Greenville’s animal holding facilities. He told members he was not interested in making Temple’s Animal Control Dept. cooperative with the Temple-Greenville Police Dept. but would consider working for Greenville under a separate contract.

6. G. Cromwell, Temple’s School Board representative, and C. Eddy, representing ConVal’s Selectmen’s Advisory Committee (SAC) reported that the SAC was being asked to vote to consider two changes to the District’s Articles of Agreement. One would change the funding formula from 50% Equalized Valuation: 50% students to 60%:40%. She presented data that showed that Temple would pay an additional \$6,213.66 under the proposed agreement. The second change proposed would be to amend the 2/3 or 60% required majority to 66%. She provided examples of votes that would have had a different outcome under a 66% vs. 60% majority. BAC members agreed to wait for updated valuation information before making any recommendations.
7. G. Cromwell provided a copy of ConVal’s detailed budget for the next 5 years. The projected increase of the total gross budget from 2006-2007 to 2010-2011 is \$39,441,434 to \$51,676,115, an increase of \$12,234,681. The projected increase in students is 50 in the next 10 years. She indicated that revenue will not likely increase at the same rate and stated several concerns regarding special education funding. She reported on various suggestions she and others have made to reduce the school budget and expressed frustration that the administration was inflexible. BAC members recommended that Cromwell look into why the school district did not have a full-fledged Budget Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rae Barnhisel
10/12/05