

Approved Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)

Wednesday January 25, 2006

Members present

Steve Andersen Wayne Edwards
Rae Barnhisel Brian Kullgren
Mike Darnell Allan Oxman

Others present

Charlene Eddy (Select Board)
Mary Nutting (HDC)

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm

1. Minutes from January 25, 2006, discussed and approval deferred to next meeting.
2. Andersen distributed copies of the following: an adjusted estimated Template to Approximate Tax Rate for 2006, estimated Sources of Revenue for 2006 (copies attached), and Budget Worksheet dated 1-25-06. He noted that the TANS line item on p. 12 has been changed from \$2500 to \$1.
3. C. Eddy provided each member with a copy of the budget detail for Temple Greenville Police Dept., Wilton-Lyndeborough-Temple Ambulance, and the Wilton Recycling Center. Members attempted to quantify the projected total increase from last year, Temple's increased portion, and whether the Budget Worksheet accurately reflected the projected increases. Andersen said he would look into a possible \$17,000 discrepancy in what the Ambulance projects and what the Budget Worksheet proposes.
4. Darnell provided a copy of 2003 and 2004 auditing recommendations to the Administrative Asst. to improve cash accounting controls, formalize money receipt procedures, and address off-site computer storage (copies attached). He asked that the issues be addressed by the Select Board. C. Eddy agreed to look into it.
5. C. Eddy reported that the Police Cooperative Board was requesting \$1000 for professional/legal services. She clarified that the Temple-Greenville contract specifies it must be rewritten if SB-2 or a Budget Committee is voted in by either town.
6. Andersen requested that members see p. 13 of the Budget Worksheet and proposed monetary warrant articles totaling \$61,500. He refined his estimate of the tax rate to \$19.96, a \$0.96 increase over last year and did not agree that the bottom line of the budget needed to be cut. Members voted on whether to rescind their recommendation that 5% be cut from the 2006 budget. Majority voted not to rescind the recommendation.
7. Members discussed the pros and cons of listing abatements in the Town Report. Barnhisel agreed to provide the BAC with a copy of the information. Darnell asked whether abatements could be categorized.
8. Andersen agreed to provide the BAC with the latest Account Detail or "Checkbook" and Select Board minutes on a regular basis. Barnhisel stressed that these items have been requested every year since the BAC was formed and have yet to be received as protocol.
9. Edwards expressed concern that legal expense line items for the ZBA and Planning Board had been removed from the Budget Worksheet. Oxman stated that in the past the boards have needed to seek their own legal advice separate from the Select Board. Barnhisel agreed that the line items should be reinstated and recommended that the Budget Worksheet not be inputted and controlled by the Administrative Asst.
10. There was discussion of whether the Budget Worksheet could be presented on Power Point at the Budget Hearing scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2006, at the Town Hall at 10:00 am, per Darnell's suggestion. Barnhisel asked that photocopying of the Budget Worksheet not come out of the BAC budget since the BAC had no control or say over the budget.

Meeting adjourned at 9:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Rae Barnhisel
2/8/06