

Budget Advisory Committee

Town of Temple NH 18 August 2008 Minutes

Members Attending: Mike Davidson, Honey Hastings, John Pierce, Shawn Smith (chair), Benjamin Tirey, Brian Kullgren

Members Absent: none

Also attending: Steve Anderson, Mike Darnell

Meeting convened: 7:05 pm

1. Minutes for 4 August - The BAC reviewed the draft minutes for 4 August in detail and the following changes were proposed:
 - A. Item #1, second paragraph. Remove parenthetical statement "under Town of Wilton."
 - B. Item #1, third paragraph. Revise the first 3 sentences to read: In 2006, problems with the Association administration appeared, and the Town of Wilton took over the operation of the ambulance service. Before 2007, the service primarily relied on volunteers.
 - C. Ben Tirey proposed deleting the excerpt from Dan Donovan's letter. [No change approved.]
 - D. Item #1, fourth paragraph. In the excerpt from Mr. Donovan's letter, line 5, after 25%, insert "[Lyndeborough]"
 - E. Item #2, at the end of the first sentence, add "of Peterborough."
 - F. Item #2. Correct the end of the last sentence to read: 1% of the town budget.
 - G. Ben Tirey questioned the secretary's use of names and courtesy titles in the minutes. Honey Hastings replied that this was a matter of style within the secretary's discretion. [No change approved.]
 - H. Mr. Tirey questioned the length and detail of the minutes and the quotation of documents discussed at the meeting. Ms. Hastings replied that she wanted sufficient detail that absent BAC members and other citizens of Temple could understand what was discussed. [No change approved.]
 - I. Item 4(a). Replace the third sentence with: Mr. Smith asked everyone to review the suggestions for further discussion. John Pierce offered to scan the marked-up copy and distribute to all.
 - J. Item 4-b. Correct the title to read: "Expense Detail."

- K. Item 6. Revise the first sentence to read, "Shawn reported that Mike Darnell suggested that we have all departments/boards submit information on one date, highlighting changes from last year."
- L. Item 6. Correct the last sentence to read: Ben Tirey asked for reports in writing the audited fund balance as of 31 December 2008. No one had seen it.
- M. Item 7. Correct the first sentence to refer to "draft minutes."
- N. Fill in the adjournment time of 9:03 pm.

Motion - A motion was made and seconded that the minutes be corrected and revised, incorporating changes A, B, D to F, I to N. The motion passed.

Arising from the minutes - Mr. Tirey explained his understanding that the reason Wilton took over the Ambulance Service was a switch from volunteer to paid service resulting in overspending the budget by \$20,000. The Service thought it had liability insurance through LGC, but could not as it was not a government entity. There is a trust fund held by the voluntary association; however, Mr. Tirey does not know the balance.

2. Brian Kullgren - Shawn Smith explained the history of his contact with Select Board about Mr. Kullgren's attendance record. The Select Board asked for a letter. Mr. Smith reported that he had drafted such a letter and he asked Mr. Kullgren his intention about the BAC. Mr. Kullgren said that he would think about it and get back to Mr. Smith. Further, he said, "I'm going to visit the Select Board and see what the results are - what you are doing." He noted that if the BAC was doing its job, he might not stay on.

3. Steve Anderson - Steve Anderson reported that he was working on a "cash flow scenario" however he needs some further information from Debbie Harling. He wants to discuss the scenario with BAC, but after the Select Board gets it. Mr. Anderson said, "Temple paid 60K more to ConVal than we expected."

Mr. Anderson said that he is working on something else, which he will email to the BAC before the next meeting. It is a different way of handling employees' health insurance deductibles. (He then left the meeting.)

4. Select Board Input - The Select Board would like the BAC to attend the next Select Board meeting (26 August) and give its input on ambulance question.

John Pierce said that if either he or his wife had a heart attack, he wouldn't want to go to Monadnock Community Hospital. Wilton has half the calls for the same number of ambulances (2), so there is more availability. Mr. Kullgren said that he agreed with Mr. Pierce and wanted the Peterborough Ambulance to go to Nashua.

Mr. Pierce asked how each does with collection of fees for services. Mr. Darnell reported that Peterborough does well on this; Wilton not so well.

Mr. Smith suggested that, since as a percentage of the town budget, the difference is negligible, the BAC encourage the Select Board to get the best deal with hospital choice, and that they ask Peterborough directly about policy on hospital choice. There being no disagreement, he will present this advice to the Select Board.

Wilton Recycling Center - Mr. Darnell noted that while Wilton had received an extension on the burn permit, increased costs for fuel were likely. He expressed the hope that BAC would have input on this topic.

5. 2009 Budget Preparation Cycle - Mike Darnell said that at the time of setting the tax rate, the Select Board should "look in both directions" at both the current and next tax year. He recommended that we have a proposal (from each department or board) in writing at the start of the meeting it is being considered at.

Mr. Smith circulated a new meeting schedule/agenda. There will be no meeting on Monday, 1 September (Labor Day). On 15 September, the BAC will review the following portions of the 2009 budget: administrative assistant, select board, general town government, government buildings, health/welfare, library, animal control, highway, cemetery, planning, and zoning. On 22 September, the BAC will review the remaining departments/entities. The new meeting schedule (attached to these minutes) was approved.

6. Financial Manual

The BAC considered how to approach the draft Financial Manual, in light of the Select Board input. Mr. Smith assigned sections and asked members to prepare 2 versions (full and "pocket"): Davidson - Cash Receipts: Tirey - Fund Balance: Smith - Intro, Budget Prep, Purchasing: Pierce - Debt: Hastings - Conflict of Interest, Fraud.

7. Next Meeting - Monday, 15 September, 2008 at 7 pm. No meeting 1 September. Topics: See section 6 above.

Adjourned at: _____pm.

Honey Hastings
Secretary



Temple Town Website <templeh.info@gmail.com>

BAC minutes

3 messages

sfiske1@juno.com <sfiske1@juno.com>

Fri, Oct 17, 2008 at 9:25 AM

To: templebos@comcast.net

Cc: templeh.info@gmail.com

Hi Debi & Webmasters,

This is the second email which is to included with the August 18, 2008 BAC meeting minutes.

Thanks,

Ben Tirey

Vice Chairman

BAC

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Shawn Smith <smithsha@nashua.edu>To: "'sfiske1@juno.com'" <sfiske1@juno.com>Cc: "'hastings@nhdivorce.com'" <hastings@nhdivorce.com>,'Honey Hastings' <honeyhastings@earthlink.net>,'John Pierce' <jlpc@cadence.com>

Date: Tue, 19 Aug 2008 12:53:01 -0400

Subject: RE: Revised Finance Manual

Message-ID:

<29DEC20DE3B42F4DAD47A13B4D5C8F01010698036C@nsdmail.nashua.edu>References: <20080819.082830.1916.0.sfiske1@juno.com>

Mr. Tirey (aka Ben)

Maybe we can refer to each other in our meetings as "the honorable Mr. Ben Tirey" or maybe "the respectable Mr. John Pierce", or maybe "Ms. Honey Hastings, Esquire" (is there a "female version" of Esquire?), or "the no good dirty rat Shawn Smith", or "the sewage sucking Mike Davidson" (pun definitely intended!). I prefer first names myself.

Anyway Ben - I noted the discrepancy when I was obtaining feedback from them a couple of months ago. For whatever reason one of them had the older version, so it made it difficult for me to follow along with their comments....so I just asked for their copy, which is what you have. I would use what you have as our most recent BAC approved version, e.g., the 2/10/08 copy and try to address their concerns as best you can.

I will reiterate that I'm not looking to appease anyone. The feedback from two of the SB members was the document was too long. We will address that by developing a "reader's digest condensed version". But the primary manual will stay an appropriate length with the content we believe is appropriate. I'm sure the rest of their comments we will have to address one by one at some point, but so long as we can point to existing state or federal policy/procedure, we should prevail. I guess the question might be, when is it appropriate to refer to another document (e.g., an RSA), versus taking excerpts from that document or attempting to put it in "plain English" (or "press 2 if you speak

Spanish" :-)).

That aside, I was troubled by the length of the discussion on the minutes last night. As you know I like a meeting with a steady pace and not getting bogged down on any one topic. There are obviously different ways to take minutes and to provide feedback. Also obviously we want the record to be accurate. I'm open to suggestions.

Just call me "Commander Smith"!

Shawn

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sfiske1@juno.com <sfiske1@juno.com>

Fri, Oct 17, 2008 at 9:27 AM

To: templebos@comcast.net

Cc: templenh.info@gmail.com

Hi Debi & Webmasters,

This is the third of 3 emails to be included with the August 18, 2008 BAC meeting minutes

Thanks,
Ben Tirey
Vice Chairman
BAC

On Tue, 26 Aug 2008 22:59:03 -0400 cga76@aol.com writes:

> I will repeat Honey's request for comments BEFORE the next meeting.??
> I personally will not sit through another 40 minutes, give or take,
> of corrections to prior meeting minutes.? As your chair, I find that
> unacceptable.? There are more pressing issues to discuss than prior
> meeting minutes.?
>
> That said, if you don't like my view on this matter, feel free to
> move for a re-election of the BAC chair.? I will be happy to step
> aside and resign my BAC membership if someone feels they can run the
> meetings in a more concise manner.? I don't do this out of any love
> of public meetings or?glory of public office.? My only motivation is
> to give back to a town I firmly believe in.? I can do without the
> bullshit.
>
> Sorry for the frank language, but that is the way I feel.? Shawn

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<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL2141/fc/loyw6i3nNfahvMC8JxEShAYYsrP8nUIO76L79Zn4Fegi3vSTCipW8w/>

sfiske1@juno.com <sfiske1@juno.com>

Fri, Oct 17, 2008 at 9:22 AM

To: templebos@comcast.net

Cc: templenh.info@gmail.com

Hi Debi & Webmasters,

This email & attachment are the first of 3 emails I am forwarding to be

attached to the August 18, 2008 BAC meeting minutes. The website doesn't have the 8/18 minutes yet.

Have you received the August 18 BAC minutes yet Debi?

Ben Tirey
Vice Chairman
BAC

----- Forwarded message -----

From: sfiske1@juno.com

To: smithsha@nashua.edu

Cc: CGA76@aol.com, hhastings@nhdivorce.com, honeyhastings@earthlink.net,
jlp@cadence.com

Date: Tue, 19 Aug 2008 08:28:30 -0400

Subject: Fw: Revised Finance Manual

Message-ID: <20080819.082830.1916.0.sfiske1@juno.com>

Hi Mr. Smith,

Attached is an email you sent to BAC on 2/10/08, w/ "final draft" of Manual.

It's my recollection that you indicated to the BAC that you first time you gave the Selectmen a copy of the draft was 3/14/08.

The draft you received back from the Selectmen, with comments, (which John kindly scanned & forwarded to us) is dated 1/21/08.

So it looks as though you have had 2 different versions circulating, without feedback on the most recent draft.
How would you like to proceed?

At first, I was perplexed by the dissimilarity of the Fund Balance chapter (scanned) relative to my final draft. I had prepared my final (2/9/08) draft (see attached) in response to the BAC critique that the my first draft (Sept 2007?) was too confusing. Should I be going back and reusing/editing the draft which had been "rejected" by the BAC early last fall? I didn't get any negative feedback from the BAC when I sent out the revised Fund Balance chapter last Feb.

Sorry I didn't notice this earlier. I had given away my hard copies of the final draft (2/10/08) to Honey & Mike when they joined the BAC, so I didn't have a copy with me to compare to the draft you showed us at the 8/4/08 BAC meeting.

Thanks,
Ben

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<http://thirdpartyoffers.juno.com/TGL2141/fc/loyw6i3m2XiB9QM3IQIvMI1stMvD5UQtBOPVoO0RTTaVDKKGegYxq/>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: cga76@aol.com

To: sfiske1@juno.com, smithsha@nashua.edu, michael.t.darnell@comcast.net,
michael.darnell@bench.com, jlp@cadence.com

Date: Sun, 10 Feb 2008 17:48:29 -0500

Subject: Revised Finance Manual

Attached is the "final draft" of the Finance Manual. I incorporated Ben's revised section on fund balance and the new section on property taxes, and otherwise made changes from my notes of the last BAC meeting.

Again, I'm sorry I can't make it to this Wednesday's meeting. Duty calls in Nashua that evening.

FYI, I was asked to serve on the Friend's (Town Hall) building committee, and have accepted. I'm not sure what sort of impact I can have on the process since the plans are apparently going to the NH Historic dept. this week, the RFP has already been issued to select a construction firm, references have been called, and my first action will be in sitting in the interviews of the 3 firms that responded. They apparently want to make a selection within the next week and make a recommendation to the Select Board...then work with the firm to develop a more "robust" (my word) estimate for the construction before Town Meeting. Wish me luck!

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