

**Approved Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)
Town of Temple, NH
March 12, 2003**

Members present

(in alphabetical order)

Steve Andersen (co-chair)
Rae Barnhisel (minute-taker)
Bruce Kullgren, Sr.
Ted Petro

Public present

Bruce Kullgren, Jr. (moderator)
Jennifer Kullgren
Bruce Kantner (selectman)
Sherry Fiske (selectman)
Mason Klinck (at end)
John and Connie Kieley (briefly)

Members-elect

Charlene Eddy
Brian Kullgren
Paul Quinn

Meeting called to order at 7:09 pm

Order of Business:

1. Minutes:

February 12, 2003, minutes approved.

February 26, 2003, minutes approved with discussion regarding the paving for Howard Hill. Kullgren, Jr., reported that Road Agent Fiske would not be paving Howard Hill but rather taking that amount of \$15,000 out of the SN snow plowing line. He reported that he was told that \$10,000 would be needed for gravel if Howard Hill were not paved.

Discussion occurred on whether to provide the Detailed Budget to the taxpayers at the Town Meeting, Sat. March 15. B. Kullgren, Jr. was concerned with how to deal with budget amendments as a moderator and how the BAC could be formally noticed at the Town Meeting. He pointed out that Article 8 was to hear committee reports; however Article 5 was to consider the town's budget. It is unclear what form of the budget the public will hear at the annual meeting. C. Eddy questioned how exactly she could make amendments to the budget. Andersen stated that, without a detailed budget, it would be difficult to discuss line item cuts. Barnhisel pointed out that, without a report from BAC in the Annual Reports, it would be difficult to inform the public of their progress.

2. Review Documents:

Barnhisel presented a draft handout (attached) that explained the BAC's mandate, composition, goals, and proposed recommendations. Following additional discussion of town meeting logistics, B. Kullgren, Jr. thought the handout would not be effective. J. Kullgren disagreed and said that the handout explained what the BAC has been doing. C. Eddy agreed that the handout was a good avenue to explain the BAC directives.

S. Fiske stated in defense of the selectmen that Dept. heads now receive a monthly printout of their budget status. When questioned by Barnhisel on why the BAC was not asked to submit a report that would be included in the Town Annual Reports, Fiske replied that the BAC had not met the deadline of Jan. 30, 2003. Barnhisel stated that no one had informed the BAC of the deadline or had requested a report.

B. Kantner questioned the BAC at some length while providing his experience of lack of distrust for dept. heads and the lack of need to question the budget. He explained that he knew little of the details because Robert Frazier has been in control of the budget for the past 9 years.

Barnhisel stated that “distrust” has never entered the language of the BAC, that members have consistently praised the efforts of the Dept. heads, and have only been concerned with their degree of flexibility. Barnhisel stressed to Kantner that justification for a number of expenditures had not been provided at the Budget Hearing and so were unlikely to gain support from BAC members.

Kantner complained of not being informed of BAC recommendations and minutes. Barnhisel explained that minutes are distributed upon approval. Barnhisel stated that she makes 3 photocopies of the approved minutes and puts them directly into each selectmen’s tray.

P. Quinn suggested that the Moderator request that Andersen and Kullgren inform the taxpayers of where they recommend cuts. He did not recommend a handout, but felt that having the detailed budget available was a good idea. B. Kullgren stated he wanted to see the BAC present their ideas regardless of a handout.

Petro felt that the specific, line-by-line information provided in the 2/26 minutes was of the most value in cutting the budget. Other members felt that the handout offered a more soft-shoe, defensible approach.

M. Klinck brought in data from 261 towns that indicate population growth vs. total budget growth. For Temple, its population growth has increased 5% in a 10 yr. span (1992–2002); however, its total budget has grown by 150%. He said he could break down the total budget category into Highway, Police, etc., and had mean and median values rather than average. He requested that we not make a photocopy of his data since he had not proofread the information and hoped to present it at Town Meeting at his own expense. He said his handout will propose a warrant article to have FASBE, a financial accounting standard, determine the budget’s format in the Annual Reports so that taxpayers can better track expenditures and revenues.

Discussion continued on the most appropriate course for the BAC to take at Town Meeting. Consensus could not be reached on whether to include the handout, whether to vote on the recommendations that it contained (\$45,000 cut in 2/26 minutes), or whether to risk marginalization of members if they attempted to speak out without full BAC backing. The majority of BAC members supported the \$45,000 to 50,000 in line item cuts; however, no plans were made for the BAC to make formal recommendations to the budget at the Town Meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Rae Barnhisel
March 26, 2003