

**Budget Advisory Committee  
Town of Temple NH**

4 August 2008 Minutes

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

Members Absent: Brian Kullgren

Also attending: Tedd Petro (topic #1 only) and Luke Peterson (on topic #1 but  
arrived after Mr. Petro left)

Meeting convened: 7:03 pm

**1. Meeting with Select Board member Tedd Petro regarding contract for ambulance services.**

Mr. Petro reported that he has researched this issue, participated in numerous meetings concerning it, and believes that it is in the best interest of the people of Temple for the Select Board to contract with the Town of Wilton for ambulance services. He gave the BAC a summary of the recent history of ambulance services.

At one point, Temple was served by Souhegan Ambulance (New Ipswich, Greenville, and Temple). Then Temple obtained services from Wilton Lyndeborough Temple Ambulance Association, a private non-profit organization. The Association is controlled by a board with members as follows: 4 from Wilton, 2 from Temple, and 2 from Lyndeborough. At some point Sherry Fiske became one of the Temple reps and did a lot to straighten out the bookkeeping and administration. The costs were divided 55% Wilton, 20% Temple, and 25% Lyndeborough. Temple's share of operating budget amounted to:

2005 - \$14,000  
2006 - \$17,000  
2007 - \$31,000  
2008 - \$25,000

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. Late in 2007, the Temple Select Board signed a 1-year contract with Wilton covering operating costs only, with no payment toward future ambulance purchases. In 2008, the Association voted to suspend operation except for fundraising, ownership of the building, and maintenance of \$11,000 bank account. Mr. Petro reported that he expects the Association will disband soon.

The current proposal from Wilton is set out in a letter from Wilton Select Board member Dan Donovan dated 16 June. Under it, Temple would pay 20% of costs. Costs include both service and a new ambulance. Mr. Donovan said in the letter:

We agree that a new ambulance will be requested in 2009. We estimate the cost to be a maximum of about \$135,000 and will investigate three alternatives: a new chassis for the 1997 box; a van; or a box. The cost will be appropriated by Wilton in 2009 and your towns will pay their pro rate share (20% [Temple] and 25% [Lyndeborough]) in equal quarterly installments in 2009. In the event that Wilton should not continue to offer its ambulance service for five years (2009-2013), then it shall be obligated to reimburse each of our towns 20% of your payment toward the ambulance for each of the five years it does not provide the service. (E.g., if it does not renew after two years, 60% of your contribution will be refunded.)

Mr. Petro distributed a chart comparing the Wilton and the Peterborough ambulance services. It showed projected costs to Temple for the next 5 years of \$155,000 for Wilton and \$76,000 for Peterborough. Mr. Petro said that the chart shows “my personal opinion on what we should do,” that is, contract with Wilton. With Wilton, “we have the best possible service for the people of Temple.” He mentioned Wilton’s open policy on choice of hospital and concerns about winter travel conditions on Temple Mountain as reasons. The economics of scale make Peterborough cheaper.

The number of paramedics is 6 (Wilton) and 5 (Peterborough). John Pierce noted that the number of paramedics may not be comparable, depending on the hours each person works. He asked how often both Wilton ambulances are out on calls. Mr. Petro answered 25% of the time. The BAC asked Mr. Petro about the question of “hospital choice.” His comparison chart says that the Peterborough service patient destination is “majority to Monadnock Community Hospital.” He said that he had not asked Peterborough about its policy but if there was a 911 call involving a heart attack, Wilton would take the patient to CMC.

Mr. Petro said that he is concerned about keeping our options open; if we leave Wilton now, and become dissatisfied with Peterborough, Wilton might refuse to take us back. Souhegan is not an option now or in near future, according to Mr. Petro.

Shawn Smith asked Mr. Petro if we “sent out specs, asking for bids, would the services from Wilton and from Peterborough be about even?” The answer was yes. Mr. Petro confirmed that all area ambulance services provide mutual aid. He explained that his reason for not seeking BAC involvement in the ambulance service decision is that we can’t change the numbers (costs).

## 2. Luke Peterson on ambulance services.

Luke Peterson noted that Wilton covers half the geographic area of Peterborough. He explained that Peterborough requires Medical Control (a physician) to authorize transportation to a hospital other than Monadnock Community Hospital. John Pierce asked about EKG telemetry. Mr. Peterson answered that St. Joseph’s is getting this capability and he expects Wilton service will

then equip for it. He noted the close working relationship of the emergency services personnel in Temple with the Wilton ambulance staff.

Shawn Smith noted that there is a difference between the costs of the 2 services of \$11 a year (out of \$22) to each Temple resident; John Pierce noted that this is 1% of the town budget.

3. Approval of BAC meeting minutes 21 July 2008 with no changes. (Ben & John abstained as they did not attend the meeting.)
4. Select Board Input

Shawn Smith reported on his 22 July meeting with the Select Board:

- a. Finance Manual – Both John Kieley and Tedd Petro feel that the draft is too long. They provided some specific comments in writing. Mr. Smith asked everyone to review the suggestions for further discussion. John Pierce offered to scan the marked-up copy and distribute to all. Honey Hastings will prepare a revised draft of the conflict of interest and fraud sections.
  - b. Expense Detail – Are not available electronically. Honey Hastings suggested that we ask to have them put in our “box” at the municipal building, before each BAC meeting.
  - c. Possible Personnel Action – The Select Board asked Mr. Smith to send something in writing to Brian Kullgren about his absences, and send them a copy. RSA 673:13 allows the Select Board to replace officials in certain situations.
5. Review of Temple Expenditure (7/22/08) & Revenue Reports

Expenditures year-to-date show Temple to be in decent shape financially.

6. Discuss Budget Input Schedule for 2008

Library – The Library Trustees will not meet until September, so any discussion will have to wait.

Police – Chief McTague will work through the 2-town police board and the Select Board.

Shawn reported that Mike Darnell suggested that we have all departments/boards submit information on one date, highlighting changes from last year. This one date could be 15 or 22 September. The BAC discussed the possible interaction of its work on the 2009 budget with the state’s setting of the tax rate. (This was a reason for attempting to move up the schedule.) Ms. Hastings suggested that if a budget increase is expected for 2009, it might influence the Select Board’s use of the fund balance.

Ben Tirey asked for reports in writing the audited fund balance as of 31 December 2008. No one had seen it.

7. Other: John Pierce reported on his review of the Right to Know law as to draft minutes. They should be available in 5 business days.

8. Next Meeting: Monday, 18 August, 2008 at 7 pm. Topics: Financial Manual, new schedule for meeting with departments and entities, and personnel action.

Adjourned at: 9:03 pm.

Honey Hastings  
Secretary

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