

Jefferson County Budget Advisory Committee
Minutes of December 16, 2021

Convened: 3:37pm (remote)

Members Present: Jim Dale, Emily Ellet, Ed Valenzuela, Amy Case

Members Absent: Brittney Warga, T.O. Owens, Leanne Emm

Staff Present: Stephanie Corbo, Dan Conway, Micah Badana, Jenna Pratt, Zoe Jenkins, Sheri Haxton, Julie Story

Guests Present: Madonna Nuce, Jefferson County Audit Committee

Public Comment: None

Approval of Minutes: Following a general discussion, the Committee upon a motion, second, and by a unanimous vote, approved the minutes of October 28, 2021.

Agenda Items:

1. Welcome and Introductions:

- Committee, guests, and staff introduced themselves.

2. Budget Updates

- Dan notified the committee that the 2022 budget was adopted November 16th, 2021. The Adopted Budget book is being and will be shared once completed.
- Dan reviewed and explained the budget process revisions in comparison to the county's current process.
- Dan summarized the pros and cons of the current process and discussed phase one and two of the proposed changes.
- Dan informed the committee that the design of the new process is derived from the feedback from the Board of County Commissioners need and county staff.
- Ed brought up the concern of base plus approach, KPIs and transparency. Dan explained why zero-based budget isn't the best fit for the county.
- Stephanie stated the county is taking a more data-driven, budget vs actual approach to better understand what departments need, have done and currently do. She stated this will allow the budget team to identify where dollars are being spent, where the collective need is and improve transparency for decision makers.
- Madonna supports the new budget process revision.
- Ed recommended KPI's and dashboards.

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3. Financial Realities

- Dan opened a discussion on TABOR refund checks and reviewed the associated communications.
- Ed provided some feedback on the TABOR flier that accompanied the refund checks.
- Dan informed the committee of the budget strategy work session that was held on December 8th with the commissioners and key staff. He reviewed some of the possible solutions to the county's financial problems being explored.
- Julie walked the committee through the communication outreach framework. Framework to include timeline, community budget forums, budget balancing exercises, TABOR 101 talks/videos, community surveys and articles/Op-Eds.
- Dan informed that this committee would benefit from taking part of the budget forums.
- Ed raised concerns about the framework being too education heavy.
- Emily suggested the communications should speak more about what couldn't be done because of TABOR.
- Julie spoke about level of services, managing expectations of citizens, highlighting the current services that have taken a hit.
- Ed suggested highlighting what the county is missing out on in comparison to surrounding counties. Perceived loss is received better than a gain. Education alone will not convince people to change.
- Emily inquired about the return of investment on TV and radio appearances. Julie shared that it is difficult to do as these will reach more than JeffCo residents.

4. Open Discussion:

- Jim recommended getting a response commitment for attendance and flushing out more of the communications plan.
- Stephanie discussed the PowerPoint in process that will communicate the problem and solutions.
- In January's meeting get a sense of what members are willing to participate in.
- Madonna will work on getting an email out about the audit committee.

Adjourned: 4:59pm