



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

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CFAC Committee:

Chairman:

John Curtis, Chair

Members:

Bill Brower
Laura Cronin
Ralph Krau
Tom Michael
Jim Sproul

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

Councilor Liaison:

Richard Barry

CFAC MEETING MINUTES

11.17.08

7:00 PM

Selectman's Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Bill Brower, Laura Cronin, Jim Sproul, Ralph Krau, John Curtis, Tom Michael

CFAC Members Absent: None

Councilors Present: None

Staff Present: Mark Milne

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1. Upon a quorum duly present, Chairman Curtis called the CFAC meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Selectman's Conference Room.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the minutes of the 10.20.08 and 11.03.08 meetings.

Vote: Unanimous

2. Staff Communications: Mark M. informed the committee that the tax classification hearing was scheduled for Thursday night and any of the committee members were interested in attending and/or commenting. There has been a slight drop in the town's overall value, mostly in the residential category.

Mark M. passed out a final meeting calendar for the 2009 calendar year. Meetings have been moved to the Growth Management Conf. Room starting in January 2009 which is located on the 3rd floor of Town Hall.

Old Business: Jim S. passed out a draft of the letter from CFAC regarding the Field of Dreams proposal made to the committee a few weeks ago.

Laura C. questioned whether the committee was approving the project. Jim S. responded no.

Tom M. indicated that language could be inserted into the letter that makes it sound less like we are approving the project. He agreed with Laura C. comments.

Bill B. suggested changing the language as well to include something that would require the project to be submitted and reviewed at the same time as all other capital project submissions.

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Ralph K. suggested that the letter include language that the \$1 million would be contingent upon raising the matching funds.

Laura C. commented that the \$1 million from the sale of the Grade 5 building could be used for other school capital of a higher priority.

Tom M. suggested that they don't get too specific on school capital recommendations.

Jim S. commented that he would like to include a statement in the letter that the use of \$1 million from the sale of the former Grade 5 School is a proper use of these funds in accordance with state law.

Bill B. said he sees no issue with the School Committee requesting the allocation of \$1 million for this project.

John C. asked Jim S. if he would re-draft the letter with the input he received and send it out. Jim S. read back to the committee a re-draft of the letter and said he would finalize and send it out.

4. New Business: Review of town policies and reserves.

Bill B. agreed to take the lead on collecting the comments from committee members regarding the review of the town's financial management policies.

John C. asked if CFAC should be receiving a report from the Trust Fund Advisory Committee every year.

Tom M. does not think this is necessary. It gives the appearance of one committee reporting to another committee who has no authority over that committee.

Bill B. agreed with Tom M. and said if town management or the town council wanted CFAC to do a review then CFAC could.

John C. commented that he was introducing the thought for discussion and not advocating for or against it. He was suggesting that this was perhaps an example of what CFAC could be discussing when reviewing the town's financial policies.

5. Discussions

John C. asked if any CFAC members have watched the Charter Commission meetings.

Tom M. said he saw a couple and that they seem to be hashing the same ideas about; at-large councilors, elected vs. appointed chief executive.

Laura C. said she has heard that more people (civic association) want an elected chief executive.

Bill B. said that the budget calendar says CFAC will get capital program submissions on November 24th. Mark M. said that they were due Friday Nov. 21st but with the short week next week that it was more likely that the material will be provided to CFAC at their next meeting on Dec 1st.

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Jim S., Ralph K. and Bill B. are on the sub committee for the capital program.

A motion was made and seconded that Jim S. re-draft the letter on the field of Dreams project request and send it out.

Vote: Unanimous

6. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn at 8:25 PM

VOTE: Unanimous.