



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

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CFAC Committee:

Chairman:

John Curtis, Chair

Members:

Bill Brower
Robert Ciolek
Laura Cronin
Stanley Hodkinson
Ralph Krau
Tom Michael

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

Councilor Liaison:

James Munafo Jr.

CFAC MEETING MINUTES

6.01.09

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Bill Brower, Robert Ciolek, Laura Cronin, Tom Michael, Ralph Krau

CFAC Members Absent: John Curtis, Stanley Hodkinson

Councilors Present: James Munafo Jr.

Staff Present: Mark Milne - Finance Director, Deb Childs - Finance/Budget Analyst

1. Call to Order

Upon a quorum duly present, Bill Brower (acting chair) called the CFAC meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room.

2. Act on Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes of 05.18.09 with correction to page 3 as noted by Mark Milne.

Vote: Unanimous

3. Chairman, Staff & Councilor Comments

Bill B. noted that the CFAC action calendar has the review of the Barnstable Administrative Code slated for the June /August time period. He confirmed each committee member has a copy and encouraged the committee to begin reviewing the document for comments/suggestions.

Bill also encouraged the committee to gather their ideas / suggestions for improvements to the Operating Budget format.

Jim M. requested the required net school spending figure for FY10 from Mark Milne. Mark indicated it was approximately \$53.3 Million.

Jim also reviewed that there is an issue up for review by the Town Council in regard to the future wastewater projects across Barnstable.

The cost could be close to \$80 Million and he feels it should be vetted by the committee. He would like to insure that there is a solid review of the costs that would be applied to the town residents during a particularly difficult economic period. The topic will be on the agenda for the June 18th meeting of the Town Council.

The vote would need to be approved by June 30th in order to qualify for Federal Funds.

The three main areas impacted would be the Lake Wequaquet, Craigville Beach, and Stewarts Creek.

Tom M. questioned the water quality and any potential health risk?

Jim indicated the reports do not show any current health risk.

Bob C. questioned if there is a documented report available for review?

Jim M. responded yes, the town has a wastewater facilities plan. Mark M. will forward the link to the online report.

Ralph K. and Jim M. discussed some of the specifics regarding the need to pump out versus gravity feed removal, additional costs with pump stations, crush versus removal of existing tanks.

Bob C. inquired if the Town was currently under any enforcement orders?

Jim replied no but there are some threat of orders. Jim indicated there has been a lot of study completed over a long period of time with good data but he thinks Title V regulations can handle the areas.

Mark M. commented that the Board of Health is driving these suggestions for improvement.

Tom inquired if there is a master plan for town wide?

Jim replied yes. He indicated many of the associations related to the topic such as Three Bays Preservation have highlighted areas of priority.

In Tom M.'s experience he has seen Town's have success when phasing out the project by area.

Ralph K. inquired about the annual rates.

Jim replied it would be approximately \$300 a year. He commented that it is a state mandate that if the sewer line goes by the residence they must hookup to it.

Ralph K. suggested that a time frame be set by the councilors for a pay as you go plan to work effectively.

Jim M. commented that was a good idea.

Bob C. questioned if any consideration has been given to spreading the cross across the entire town as the entire town will ultimately benefit from the project?

Jim M. indicated the idea has been discussed. He also mentioned the idea of having the town pumping septic systems versus private companies to raise funds for the project.

Bob C. questioned why there is urgency to complete the project if there is no drinking water issue or health risk?

Jim M. replied there is some fear of a lawsuit. There is a need to balance the taxpayers economic impact now versus the water now and future nitrogen loading impact to estuaries. Jim feels the topic needs to be vetted accurately and timely.

Ralph K. commented tying into more sections may garner community support.

Jim M. would like to find a way to offset costs for those on a fixed income.

Mark M. commented that it is a very complicated issue and suggested a member of the committee serve on any wastewater subcommittee.

Jim M. agreed that would be a good idea and that he would check with the Council President. He reminded the committee that the order would be read at the next

Council meeting. When voting, it will be to do projects and give the green light to the special financing that is currently available.

Laura C. inquired if any local jobs would be created?

Jim M. indicated the process would follow the regular BID regulations.

Ralph K. commented their may be opportunity for the house hookups but probably not the total job.

Ralph K. volunteered to sit on the wastewater sub committee. The next meeting is scheduled for 06.10.09 at 4:15 p.m.

Jim M. inquired if there were any requests of him before he left the meeting?

The committee had none.

Mark M. reminded the committee that the budget hearings are set for Thursday evening.

Bill B. indicated he would be at the meeting and would make comments on CFAC's behalf.

4. Old Business

School FY10 Budget-

Noted approval of the letter to the Town Council in regards to the School FY10 Budget.

FY10 Proposed Operating Budget -

Bob C. noted that Mark M. had provided some minor edits to the document. These edits clarified Mark's comments but did not change the substance of the document.

Bob C. indicated Ralph had some comments in regard to the potential to consolidate the five Fire districts. He would like the committee to decide whether or not they feel it is appropriate to include those comments at this time.

Laura C. indicated the document contains other ideas about future years and options. She thinks it is valid to mention. It is considerable funding that does not currently require council review.

Tom M. agrees.

Bill B. agrees the concept can be presented. He does not think it should say it would reduce the town or household budget but strongly suggest evaluation.

Tom M. commended Bob C. work on the document and it's constructive approach.

Bob C. mentioned it should be acknowledged that the funds are currently outside the Town budget and if they were inside the Town budget they would be subject to Proposition 2 ½ rules for funding increases.

Jim M. suggested the committee may want to review if any benefits could be obtained by outsourcing EMS services. It would be beneficial if hard figures could be provided with an implementation plan.

5. Discussions -

Ralph K. reviewed that he discussed with Town Attorney Weil the requirements needed to change the 10 year forecast to a 5 year forecast. It is a seven step process that would be best reviewed in Sept./ Oct. for action after the vote on the Charter in November.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday June 15, 2009 in the Growth Management conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.