



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

367 Main Street, Village of Hyannis, MA 02601

v. 508.862.4654 • f. 508.862.4717

www.town.barnstable.ma.us

Email: cfac@town.barnstable.ma.us

CFAC Committee:

Chairman:

Bill Brower

Members:

Robert Ciolek
Laura Cronin
Stanley Hodkinson
Ralph Krau
Tom Michael

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

Councilor Liaison:

James Munafo Jr.

CFAC MEETING MINUTES

1.19.10

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Bill Brower, Laura Cronin, Robert Ciolek, Tom Michael, Stanley Hodkinson

CFAC Members Absent: Ralph Krau

Councilors Present: None

Staff Present: Deb Childs - Finance/Budget Analyst

1. Call to Order

Upon a quorum duly present, Bill Brower called the CFAC meeting to order at 7:05 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room.

2. Act on Minutes

Motion made and seconded to accept minutes of 01.04.10

Vote: Unanimous

3. Chairman, Staff & Councilor Comments

Bill Brower commended the Clean Water Protection sub-committee for a well done job on the hosting of the recent public forum.

The sub-committee members thanked , Rob Sennott, for serving as the moderator. They agreed he did an excellent job and helped set a good tone for the meeting.

4. Old Business

Ten Year Forecast -

The Ten year forecast is still in progress and Mark continues to welcome any feedback.

Clean Water Protection Sub-Committee -

The sub-committee received good feedback at the recent public forum. There were many ideas that were a variation of ones they had already heard.

The sub-committee recently met with Peter Boyer who had an article in the Barnstable Patriot providing his recommendations on the sewer issues. The discussion included this article as well as his thoughts and information on projects he participated on such as the Silver Beach, Seacrest areas in Falmouth.

Mary Pat Flynn was also in attendance at the meeting.

The sub-committee continues to plan meetings to meet with various people to discuss financing topics as well as background information gathering.

At their next meeting they plan to discuss the timeframe for producing a report. This task is difficult with out a set time frame from the Town Council. There has been some public comment about producing a report by March 1st. Bob C. noted that is not that far away.

Tom M. inquired how comfortable was the committee now? Did they feel there are any stones they have left unturned that would prevent them from meeting a March timeframe?

Bob C. discussed that some of the concern has been with whether or not to include questions of new science and technology. One argument is to question whether the Town did a good job with the DEP approved facilities report. Even if they did do a good job, the technology has changed and should be reopened to review which could create a significant impact to cost. The counter argument is that it will not change to such a degree that an option on how to finance cannot be created and if the science and technology is included in the review a report will not be produced in a timely fashion.

Tom M. commented that the Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) was charged with the comprehensive issue of the science and technology.

Laura C. noted that Mark Ells indicated the DEP approved plan was vetted at the time it was produced. She also noted that some attendees to the sub-committee meetings have been "shocked" that Stewarts Creek is not being reviewed. Laura noted that the Stewarts Creek area was an issue of Public Health and not nitrogen. Falmouth had a similar project which was initially \$4M, they revisited it, and the end cost was \$14M with the same solution as initially proposed.

Bob C. commented that the CAC has a difficult charge if it is to cover everything with only eighteen months and no budget.

Laura C. is confident they could provide a document by March.

Bill B. inquired if the sub-committee was pursuing “road shows” at the other villages to educate on the topic and gather feedback from areas not directly impacted like Stewart’s Creek.

Bill B. and Bob C. agreed any document they produce could be an educational tool.

Laura C. noted that she did not think many folks understood clearly how and when any betterment charges would occur if they were applied.

Bob C. commented the law permits betterments to be assessed at the end of the project, but it also permits estimated betterments at the beginning of the project, too.

Bill B. inquired if there was any flexibility with the Chapter 83 law that covers sewers.

Bob C. replied that Chapter 83 gives approx. four options.

Laura C. mentioned there is talk about having a workshop with the Town Council.

Bob C. indicated any option outside of 100% betterment would likely require a vote of the community and or legislature.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27th at 5:30 p.m.

CIP Sub-Committee -

Bill B. is awaiting responses from the sub-committee and will then be forwarding results.

Laura C. had questions about the road projects? Where these outside the \$3.25M set aside for road maintenance? She also questioned the pond projects that may have since received grant money, did they receive any and would they be removed from the list?

5. New Business

Bill B. is still contemplating the composition of a letter to Town Council regarding the topic of Fire Districts.

Tom M. cited the FY08 letter from CFAC to Town Council regarding the operating budget. The letter recommended review of the possibility for consolidation.

Bill B. did talk with former CFAC committee member Mike Ingram. Mike was not aware of any response or report from a sub-committee. Janice Barton was on the sub-committee and confirmed there was no report published. Bill is reviewing some of the documents from the sub-committee.

Tom M. has two main questions he would like to see answered:

Would consolidation impact response time?
Would consolidation provide any savings?

Tom wonders what needs to be done to study that ? Is it time to push that topic?

Laura C. comments there is no good time. The purchase of new equipment etc. by the Fire Districts raises some questions for her.

Bill B. commented a member from the Fire District committee has requested to meet with him. He has indicated that districts are looking at how they can work together better to create savings.

Bob C. added that there are many groups that would do a study. He noted one part of the process is a geographic database system that determines where the best location for a fire house is to minimize response time. The results could potentially create new capital project. How would that impact costs? He also commented, if it moved into the Town Budget, the funding would then be limited to Prop 2 ½ limits. Consolidated may make sense but it may not make sense to move under the Town.

Laura C. had questions about the state funding and matching funds on the Cherry Sheet. If change occurred how would be initiated?

Tom M. commented there is only one or two other communities with similar fire districts (i.e. Palmer). Would it be a vote by individual districts or community?

Bob C. thinks there are two questions to answer: Will people be safe? Are we overprotected?

6. Discussions

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday February 1st at 7 p.m.