



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

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CFAC Committee:

Chair:

Laura Cronin

Members:

Robert Ciolek
Stanley Hodkinson
Ralph Krau
Henry McClean
Jacqueline Michelove
Gregory Plunkett
Laurie Young

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

Councilor Liaison:

James Tinsley

CFAC MEETING MINUTES

4.02.12

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Robert Ciolek, Jacqueline Michelove, Ralph Krau, Laura Cronin, Laurie Young

CFAC Members Absent: Henry McClean, Gregory Plunkett, Stanley Hodkinson

Councilors Present: None

Staff Present: Mark Milne-Finance Director, Gareth Markwell - Deputy Finance Director, Dr. Mary Czajkowski - Superintendent, Deb Childs - Finance/Budget

1. Call to Order

Upon a quorum duly present, Laura Cronin called the CFAC meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room.

2. Staff, Council & Chairman's Comments

Laura welcomed the newest member to join CFAC, Laurie Young to the meeting.

Mark M. indicated the notes for the 3.05.12 meeting are still to come.

Mark M. informed the committee that the Town Council meeting schedule for this upcoming Thursday would contain a workshop on the Capital Projects. The Council may or may not go into public hearing to vote.

Mark reviewed some spending authorities that would also be reviewed; Police vehicle purchases and Town Manager search funding.

Mark asked if the committee would like to provide a representative to speak on behalf of CFAC CIP report.

Laura indicated she would attend on behalf of CFAC.

Laura welcomed Superintendent Dr. Mary Czajkowski to the meeting and requested the committee go out of order to allow the Superintendent to review the FY13 School Budget. All agreed.

FY13 School Budget

Dr. Czajkowski provided a handout powerpoint presentation (Attachment A) of the proposed FY13 School Budget. She reviewed that the proposed budget is \$58M which represents a 1.58% increase over the prior year. The majority of which is attributed to increases in fixed costs.

Dr. Czajkowski reviewed several highlights:

NECC accreditation at BHS

Elementary Math Coaches

Retention of current positions and replacement of retirees

Move of health care benefit costs to another cost center

Discontinuation of Ed Jobs grant funding

She also noted that the schools maintain a good staff to student ratio. Although, there is an increase in needs for elementary students as the number of students affected by autism continues to rise.

The BHS is looking to fund and provide PSAT testing for all students. It is thought that this could help less advantaged students who may not otherwise take the testing to see their potential for advanced placement courses that they may not otherwise pursue.

Laura C. inquired what prompted the offering of Mandarin Chinese?

Dr. Czajkowski replied that there is an increase in desire to see schools offer a wide variety of languages to students. Mandarin Chinese gaining popularity recently.

Ralph inquired if Dr. Czajkowski envisioned students traveling to China?

Dr. Czajkowski replied that she thought there was already a trip scheduled for April. She noted they would still offer French, Spanish, Latin and Greek.

Laura inquired if they thought of offering as an after school option instead?

Dr. Czajkowski responded that there are too many competing offers for after school such as sports, drama, music etc.

Gareth M. commented that recruiting efforts showed there was interest in this subject.

Laurie commented that this subject is very popular in Cambridge.

Dr. Czajkowski reviewed that Barnstable is a DRIP (Data Rich Information Poor) school district. A new student data system was recently installed, X-2, which they would like to have produce reports for teachers. Currently, they do not have the expertise or skill to provide. They are hoping to create a position that will be charged with tackling this area.

Dr. Czajkowski reviewed teacher's surveys that were recently completed. She has been providing district results to the staff. The Principals will be reviewing individual school results. They had a 76% response rate on the surveys.

Dr. Czajkowski outlined plans to review and address areas of concern with regard to technology in each school. She briefly discussed the Barnstable Fiber Optics project and its impacts to schools.

Dr. Czajkowski reviewed that this year's budget attempts to align with the spending functions the DESE utilizes.

Dr. Czajkowski reviewed the marketing efforts to attract students to Barnstable.

Bob C. questioned the impact of the shift in health care costs to a new cost center.

Mark Milne replied that the fixed cost of these would be taken prior to the 60/40 split of revenues between the Town and Schools.

Bob C. inquired if that benefits the schools?

Mark commented that it will depend and could change year to year.

The committee thanked Dr. Czajkowski for her time.

Old Business

Solid Waste Review Sub-Committee Status Report

Bob C. reported this is not update on the REC and the written report.

Laurie commented that she had heard from friends who are residents of Sandwich that they did not like the PAYT program citing that the bags easily rip. They also indicated they did not approve of the town dividing residents by the amount of trash they create.

Bob C replied that Sandwich was working to get new bags. He also noted it would be interesting to see the numbers when stickers are due for renewal.

CIP Sub-Committee updates

A Vote was taken to approve the CIP sub-committee report to the Town Council

The report (Attachment B) was accepted unanimously.

Danforth Property RFP process

No update available.

New Business

Mark notified the committee that the Town Council had approved and allowed for expedited bargaining process for health care reform. A tentative agreement has been drafted for how to apply anticipated savings. The Unions will meet on Wed to ratify the CCMHG plan design changes for FY13.

Bob C. requested the committee bring suggestions to the next meeting for a department to be reviewed for performance measures. Similar to the process last year were and addendum to the Operating Budget report was completed outlining suggested performance measures for a particular department. Last year Regulatory Services was the subject.

3. Discussions

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Next Meeting - Tuesday, April 17th @ 7 p.m.