



# The Town of Barnstable

## Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

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### CFAC Committee:

#### Chairman:

John Curtis, Chair

#### Members:

Bill Brower  
Laura Cronin  
Alan Donheiser  
Ralph Krau  
Tom Michael  
Jim Sproul

#### Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

#### Councilor Liaison:

Richard Barry

### CFAC MEETING MINUTES

04.07.2008

7:00 PM

Selectman's Conference Room

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

CFAC Members Absent: None

Councilors Present: None

Staff Present: Mark Milne

1. Upon a quorum duly present, Chairman Curtis called the CFAC meeting to order at 7:02 PM in the Selectman's Conference Room.

2. Chair Comments: John C. mentioned that the minutes from the 02.19.08, 03.03.03 and 03.17.08 meetings were not yet available for approval. Mark and John are still working on them.

John C. welcomed Laura Cronin to the committee.

John C. commented that in June the election of officers for the committee is to be made if anyone is interested in being nominated.

3. Staff and Councilor Comments: Mark M. commented that the Town Council has started the process of approving the FY09 CIP and that CFAC was invited to the April 17<sup>th</sup> council meeting to present its report on the capital program. Bill Brower said he would attend and offered to make the presentation as he chaired the CIP sub-committee.

Mark informed the committee the annual state of the town address was scheduled for this Thursday night, April 10<sup>th</sup> if anyone on the committee wanted to attend.

Mark then passed out a summary of the FY09 proposed school operating budget. This is the budget approved by the School Committee. Tom M. asked if CFAC could get more detail similar to what they were provided in previous years. Mark said he would get this for the committee.

Jim S. asked Mark about the use of the school savings account and his opinion on the amount being used to balance the FY09 proposed budget.

Mark commented that although the amount could be construed as problematic in the long run, the savings account was implemented to provide the School Committee the flexibility to make these types of decisions. If the town is unsuccessful in restoring the school's savings account, then the School Committee recognizes that it is their issue to deal with and they will take the necessary steps to adjust the subsequent budgets.

Tom M. asked how much of the school department's appropriations were turned back into the savings account in FY07. Mark said it was a little over \$200,000.

#### 4. Old Business

Waterways Improvement and Maintenance Fund - John Curtis said CFAC was supportive of the creation of this type of fund. They had a very good meeting with Dan Horn and a member of the Waterways Committee on 03.17.08.

Mark explained that after further consultation with the Town Attorney, Ruth Weil, the ability to dedicate financial resources to this fund were limited by state laws. Only the mooring revenue and up to 50% of boat excise revenue can be directly credited to this fund. If the town wanted to create a comprehensive WIMF it would have to be done through several funds. The consolidation of all waterway related activity cannot be done. This defeats the purpose of creating the WIMF. Accounting for all waterway related activity in one fund would provide a clear picture of the resources and expenditures. The town will have to continue to address this through multiple funds. The main benefit of creating the WIMF was the attempt to dedicate a portion of the tax levy to waterway related activity. However, a portion of the tax levy cannot be "dedicated" to any particular expenditure without the approval of the Town Council and approval is required every year. A future council could undo the commitment to waterways. For now, waterway related activities will have to compete with everything else for annual funding.

#### 5. New Business

Bill B. presented some ideas on changes to the Town charter. He asked other committee members to submit their ideas if they had any. Ralph K. outlined the ideas that came forward from the Hyannis Civic Association. He will forward these to Bill for the next CFAC meeting. Some of the ideas presented included:

- a. A formal Finance Committee
- b. Eliminate primary elections
- c. Long-term forecast should be reduced to 5 years
- d. A compensation committee should be created to review salary of elected officials and non union personnel
- e. Size of the council should be reduced.

Tom M. asked what the time frame for suggestions was and how this would be presented to the Charter Commission. Alan D. suggested that the committee vote on each recommendation before something is presented to the Charter Commission.

The recommendations would be reviewed at the next CFAC meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for 04.21.08. Several members cannot make this meeting so it was agreed to set up a special meeting on 04.28.08. Mark will take care of the posting and reserving space.

6. Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was voted to adjourn at 8:20 PM

VOTE: Unanimous.