



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

CFAC Committee:

Chairman:

John Curtis, Chair

Members:

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

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

Councilor Liaison:

Richard Barry

CFAC MEETING MINUTES

5.04.09

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Bill Brower, Robert Ciolek, Laura Cronin, John Curtis, Stanley Hodkinson, Tom Michael, Ralph Krau

CFAC Members Absent: Jim Sproul

Councilors Present: None

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

1. Call to Order

Upon a quorum duly present, John Curtis 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 revised minutes of 04.27.09.

Revisions:

Added notation of Dr. Grenier's recommendation to surplus two school buildings and keep one.

Added notation of Bill Brower's request for a budget report by object of expenditure rather than site.

Vote: Unanimous

3. Chairman's Comments

John C. announced that he would be resigning his position on the committee and would not seek reappointment.

Bill B. was nominated for Chair of the committee. Laura C. was nominated for Vice Chair.

Vote: Unanimous

4. Staff & Councilor Comments

Mark M. shared that Jim Sproul is also resigning from the committee.

5. New Business

Review and discussion of School FY10 Department Budget-

The report requested by Bill B. of expenditures by object code is not yet available. Once it is it will be forwarded to the committee members.

Laura C. requested a report of FTE counts by site. Mark M. will request that information.

John C. inquired as to how the different sites are calculated. Mark M. indicated it is “tricky” as some teachers teach one day a week at one site, another day at another site etc..

Bob C. requested samples of past committee reports. Deb C. will forward samples to the committee.

John C. inquired if there would be any potential savings if the DPW and School Buildings & Grounds departments were combined.

Mark M. cited a prior MMA study that concluded it could be done but that both were currently under funded and unless adequate funding was going to be provided it would not be effective.

John C. inquired if there are any thoughts on privatizing those services? Mark responded no.

Mark commented that he did believe they currently share some vehicle maintenance but thought the question should be posed to Mark Ells. He also commented that the DPW department has concerns if the school sites are “surplused” as they do not have budgeted funds for that maintenance.

Bob C. asked what will the Town do if the State budget significantly declines?

Mark M. responded that the final State budget would probably be ready sometime in July and if at that point funds are significantly decreased for the Town, the Town Manager will review options at that point.

Ralph K. inquired about the current status of any stimulus funds.

Mark M. stated that the State holds the funding and has not yet released any of it. He noted that the House has filed various amendments based on the proposed sales tax increase. They suggested that the Governor use fifty dollars per pupil for education. Again, final decisions will not be available until late June or July.

Bob C. indicated he does not think there is a lot of area to trim funds and had two recommendations :

- Make sure there are rigid controls in place to limit overspending of the budget
- Tie up what to do in 2011; he thinks hard cuts will need to be considered

John C. inquired about the cost per pupil to attend the technical schools.

Mark responded that yes it does cost more per pupil. With about 200 students attending the Cape Cod Technical school it is costing approximately \$3,000 more.

Tom M. discussed that students can opt out to similar schools as school choice and that Technical schools have become very proficient. Colleges and Universities are much more apt to accept students than in the past.

Mark M reviewed the two methods available to determine a municipality's cost for the regional technical school.

- Regional agreement
- Department Elementary Secondary Education (DESE) formula

[The current agreement used by the Cape Cod Tech Regional School District follows the DESE formula.](#)

Tom M. commented in the past Superintendents were held responsible for the budget and living within the budget. They could face legal action.

Mark M. state that did occur around 1995 -1996 [where](#) the district attorney reviewed records for a \$2.5 million shortage that occurred in Barnstable.

Tom M. recalled there were three or four extenuating circumstances.

Mark M. reviewed that many schools do not encumber payrolls which can lead to issues. Barnstable currently encumbers payroll on day 1 of the Fiscal Year, so money is “set aside” for payroll.

John C. inquired about the costs for the Pre-K and Kindergarten enrollment. He inquired what the law mandates.

Tom M. responded that the Kindergarten is voluntary and six years of age is the required enrollment age.

Mark M. commented that the school committee supports the full day Kindergarten.

FY10 Proposed Operating Budget -

Mark M. shared some overview pages from the proposed budget. He reviewed each department and the overall budget. He highlighted the areas of recommended cuts and decreases in funding. The budget will be presented to Town Council Thursday 5/7/09. Mark suggested the committee watch the televised meeting and welcomed any and all to attend the meeting. Mark noted the June 4th scheduled Town Council meeting would include the public [hearings](#) on the budget and suggests the CFAC report be presented at that meeting.

Bob C. asked about the status of the councilor liaison to the CFAC committee.

Bill B. indicated Fred Chigarotis mentioned Jim Munafo and Rick Barry would be liaisons to the committee. The committee is still waiting on a formal announcement.

John C. inquired about how the budget for the libraries is distributed amongst the seven. Mark M. reviewed [that a](#) study and report was done, the “[Cohen Report](#)”, which made a recommendation on how to allocate the town budget. Each [library](#) agreed to the recommendation. He noted they experienced the same percentage decrease as other departments.

Laura C. inquired about the frequency of reviewing the revenues to expenditures.

Mark responded that Revenues are reviewed on a monthly basis. Expenditures are encumbered where they can be to prevent over expending.

Bob C. inquired what the anticipated Town FTE reduction would be?

Mark M. responded approximately 20.

6. Discussions - None

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday May 18th, 2009 in the Growth Management conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.