



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

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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

1.04.10

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

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

CFAC Members Absent: 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 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 12.07.09

Vote: Unanimous

3. Chairman, Staff & Councilor Comments

Mark Milne reviewed that the Town Council would be meeting this Thursday and voting on the various tax classifications.

The Town received certification of the Town property values. Collectively, the property values have dropped \$1.3 billion. The assessed property values are available on-line at the town website.

The state has proposed legislaturion to allow 3rd Qtr tax bills to be issued at the end of Jan versus then end of Dec. The Town Council will be asked to accept this proposal. The DOR has been experiencing

difficulty in approving certification of various towns due to staffing cuts related to budget issues.

If the approval is not received it could prove financially burdensome to the town, however, Mark does not anticipate any issues with approval.

Mark noted the Town received a government grant for the repair of the Barnstable Bulkhead. There will be a \$525K request for borrowing before the Council to complete the Towns 25% required match in funding. This will be from the Marina Enterprise Fund.

Bob C. noted that there was mentioned on the MMA website about potential legislation to allow towns to add ten years to their amortization schedule for pensions. Mark M. will keep an eye out for that information. He was aware that MMA was recommending that be allowed but he was not sure if current legislation was approved.

4. Old Business

Ten Year Forecast -

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

Ralph K. shared a document that outlines the necessary steps to amend the current charter and change the Ten Year forecast to a five year forecast. The proposed change would need to be introduced by Town Council, have a public hearing with notice published in the paper, a two-thirds roll-call vote, submission to the Attorney General, distribution to the voters, adoption/rejection by the voters through a regular municipal election, and finally notice of adoption to state officials. The next regular general election is scheduled for Nov. 2011. Councilor Munafo recommends that the committee move forward with this even though the next regular election is some time off. He thinks it could be a catalyst and example for other changes to the charter that voters may wish to pursue for future ballots.

Sewer Sub-Committee

The sub-committee has been meeting on a regular basis and has adopted a new title for their committee that better encompasses the full aspect of what they are reviewing, the "Clean Water Protection Sub- Committee".

The sub-committee met with Tom Mullen, the former department head of DPW. He was able to provide perspective on the financing options available during the original sewer expansions compared with what is offered today. He gave a good overview and helpful feedback.

The sub-committee has been working on creating an outline of what they hope to accomplish with some time-frames, i.e. 30, 60, 90 days from now.

The sub-committee meetings have had some public attendance. They will be conducting a public forum on Monday, Jan. 11th @ 7 p.m. in the Town Council Hearing room. The sub- committee has completed an outline for that forum. Rob Sennott will be moderating the forum. The Town Council, DPW Director, and Finance Director have all

been invited to attend. The forum is set to accept public comment on ideas for financing any projects. They have published notices of the meeting and will offer the CFAC email address as an option for where to send information.

The sub- committee plans to continue meeting with other folks such as Bob O'Brien, Mark Nelson, Peter Doyle etc.

CIP Sub-Committee -

Bill B. is working on the scoring sheet to forward to the sub-committee members. It should be sent by the end of the week.

The sub-committee should review and rate the projects and return their ratings to Bill via email. Bill will compile an avg. rating for each project. The sub-committee will then re-review and make final recommendations on the top projects based on rating and available funds.

The funding is anticipated to be similar to last fiscal year with approx. \$5.4 million, \$3.25 of which is dedicated to public roads.

Bob C. inquire how the \$5.4 M figure is determined.

Mark M. reviewed that DPW determined based on their review that in order to maintain adequate public roads they would require \$3.25M a year. Based on a long range projection in order to support the \$3.25M as cash funded, the town is able to use bond funding equivalent to the remaining \$2-3 M for the next few years. After that time, the town may need to wait for already issued bonds to expire prior to funding more.

Bob C. inquired about the flexibility of the roads number?

Mark M . responded that it is subject to the orders of the Town Council.

Bob C. inquired if the FTE information in the proposed projects was for new or existing personnel.

Mark M. replied it is supposed to reflect new personnel.

Bill indicated the target date to get the information to the Town Manager would be Feb 16th.

5. New Business

None

6. Discussions

Tom M. questioned if there was ever a final report produced out of the committee that was charged with looking at the possibility of consolidating the fire districts?

Councilor Munafo believed Councilor Barton or Councilor Curtis were involved with that committee but he was unsure if a final document had been produced.

Tom M. feels strongly that this is an area that should be reviewed. He referenced a recent article that ranked Barnstable as the third in the state for Fire department expenditures. He questioned how towns equivalent in size could have such lower expenditures and budgets. Due to the recent budget cuts , Tom believes it is time to review this area.

Laura C. inquired how a change would be initiated?

Bob C. suggested the committee forward a letter of inquire to the Council as to the outcome of their study.

Mark M. and Councilor Munafo both cautioned that when reviewing communities some costs and expenditures may be recorded in other areas of their budgets when the fire department is consolidated and may not be able to be a 1:1 comparison with Barnstable.

Bob C. mentioned that the MMA does have an arm that does fire department analysis. He also commented if a study could show savings that would result it may be a better context for taxpayers to review.

The committee conferred on sending a letter of inquiry to the Council. Bill B. will draft a letter.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 19th at 7 p.m.