



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

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CFAC Committee:

Chairman:

Laura Cronin

Members:

Robert Ciolek
Peter Eastman
Stanley Hodkinson
Ralph Krau
Henry McClean
Jacqueline Michelove

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

Councilor Liaison:

Richard Barry
James Tinsley

CFAC MEETING MINUTES

10.03.11

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Robert Ciolek, Laura Cronin, Jacqueline Michelove, Stanley Hodkinson, Henry McClean, Ralph Krau

CFAC Members Absent: Peter Eastman

Councilors Present: None

Staff Present: Mark Milne-Finance Director, Deb Childs - Finance/Budget Analyst, Richard Elrick - Energy Coordinator

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.

Motion made and accepted to approve the minutes of 9.19.11.

Vote: Unanimous

2. Chairman's Comments

Laura C. welcomed Richard Elrick from the Renewable Energy Commission (REC) to the meeting. She proposed allowing him to speak first prior to other items on the agenda. All agreed.

Richard Elrick - Renewable Energy Commission

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee

Richard Elrick reviewed the proposed new ordinance change to the Board of Health regulations. The new ordinance would require all new permits issued to trash hauling provides be required to offer bundled pricing for recycling.

Richard shared two handouts, the first being the current ordinance, the second being the proposed updated ordinance.

Richard reviewed the main elements as to why this change is being proposed.

1. To require trash haulers to bundle pricing for trash and recycling. Hoping to improve recycling rates.
2. To implement required reporting of information from private haulers which is currently optional

Richard reviewed the current recycling rate for Barnstable as reported by the DEP is 16%.

The transfer station receives 1/3 of the town's trash and has a 30 % recycling rate.

Private haulers handle the remaining 2/3 of the town's trash. Based on the response of one private hauler, the recycling rate for private trash haulers is 11%. They currently charge an additional fee for recycling which is a disincentive. No information available on recycling rate or tonnage.

As the SEMASS contract expires, the town anticipates an increase in tipping fees but if recyclable material could be identified and removed the cost should decrease.

If the town were to move towards a pay as you throw system, the ordinance is a requirement in order to apply for grants from the DEP.

Sandwich, Easton, and Wayland all recently passed similar ordinances.

The REC is also reviewing curbside pickup as an option.

The BOH is normally the board that would review and implement the ordinance and is authorized to do so however the REC commission believes if the Town Council were to support the initiative it would garner more town-wide support.

Some private haulers may not be equipped to implement the ordinance and there would be a lag time between passing of the ordinance and full implementation.

Other concerns are staff time concerns regarding reporting and enforcement, how to effectively monitor and enforce the ordinance.

The next step is for the REC to get on the agenda for the Town Council. The Town Attorney is presently reviewing the language of the proposed ordinance.

Ideally, they would like to be able to implement prior to the permit renewal process for private haulers which occurs in November/December.

Another idea being considered is the creation of a Regional Municipal Recycling Center. Waste Management indicated they are willing to build a state of the art complex but this still does not address Barnstable's issues. Richard did think the county is close to making a decision on their approach to this topic.

Mark Milne inquired about potentially allowing haulers to offer a discount for recycling?

Bob Ciolek suggested some changes to the wording that would allow for "same or less cost".

Ralph K. and Mark M. both suggested that the REC get the official support of the BOH prior to submitting to Town Council.

Dick Andres, a resident in attendance at the meeting, inquired if the Town had considered offering curbside pickup for recyclables only?

Bob C. inquired where the REC stands on the joint project with CFAC?

Richard replied that the REC is looking at option to present to the Town Council. He anticipates the committee will present a prioritized list of options.

Richard welcomes any emails, comments and encourages any to attend the REC meetings.

Ralph K. inquired about the timeline.

Richard responded that the REC initially planned on the end of the year but that has now been pushed forward to January for something to be available to CFAC.

3. Old Business/New Business

CFAC Annual Report

The committee voted unanimously to accept the CFAC annual report as drafted by Laura Cronin. Mark Milne will forward to the appropriate department for inclusion in the Town Annual Report.

Properties

Mark Milne reviewed that he had forwarded some information via email with properties in foreclosure ready for auction for the committee review in response to some questions from members.

Meals & Rooms Tax

Mark presented the numbers for revenue received as a result of the increase in meals and rooms tax. Two percent of the room's tax revenue will go the Sewer Trust Fund.

Mark thinks the revenue estimate of \$1,767K for the Sewer Trust Fund will be met in FY12.

Mark noted that revenue for the meals tax was \$388K in the 1st quarter of FY12 as compared to the State's estimate of \$321K but he also noted the State estimates \$450K for the next quarter. Rooms tax for the 1st quarter dedicated to the proposed sewer trust fund was \$321K.

Mark reviewed that the rate setting process for the tax factor will be coming up. He spoke with the Interim Town Manager requesting he discuss with the Council President about the timing of it. In the past, during an election year, the existing Council has recommended the new council make the decision as to whether or not to allow a residential tax exemption and a split tax rate. The decision should be made by early December to allow for timely tax bills to be mailed.

CIP Subcommittee

Laura requested volunteers for the CIP subcommittee. Henry, Laura and Stan volunteered.

Operating Budget Subcommittee

In anticipation of the operating budget process the operating budget subcommittee was formed.

Bob C., Ralph K., Jacqueline, Peter were volunteered for this subcommittee.

Jacqueline inquired about the figures related to the Town Manager's buyout of his contract.

Mark referred the committee to the document published recently in the Patriot that outlined the assumptions taken and potential costs.

Ralph K. inquired about the search process costs. He thought the estimate seemed low.

Mark replied the estimate was based on recent search costs for other towns, i.e. Falmouth. Mark did note that Massachusetts as a state does not offer reciprocity of retirement funds which may limit the candidates and search to Massachusetts; if that is the case it could reduce costs.

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Next Meeting - Monday, October 17th @ 7 p.m.