



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

Email: cfac@town.barnstable.ma.us

CFAC Committee:

Chair:

John Schoenherr

Members:

Robert Ciolek
Cynthia Crossman
Ralph Krau
Gregory Plunkett
Lillian Woo
Joseph Mladinich
Allen Fullerton
Vacant

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne
Nathan Empey

Councilor Liaison:

John T. Norman

MEETING MINUTES

06.12.17

6:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

Roll Call:

- CFAC Members Present: Cynthia Crossman, John Schoenherr, Lillian Woo, Allen Fullerton, Ralph Krau, Joseph Mladinich, Gregory Plunkett, and Robert Ciolek
- CFAC Members Absent: None
- Councilors Present: Frederick Chirigotis, and James Crocker
- Staff Present: Mark Milne, Finance Director

Call to Order:

John Schoenherr called the CFAC meeting to order at 6:00 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room of Town Hall.

Act on Minutes:

The following minutes were approved by unanimous vote:

Minutes 05.15.17

Old Business:

None

New Business:

John S. asked the Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) to update CFAC on the milestones included in the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan.

Phil B. said there are three phases whose implementation will be over 60 years. Many costs are not included in it yet. There are no suggestions as to how to fund it. It is possible that Phase I and II will wipe out the need for Phase III. Current cost estimates do not include operations & maintenance, inflation, hookup costs, and no costs for treating emerging containments. Phases I and II include hooking up 7,000 properties with a cost estimate of \$167 million in Phase I and \$230 million in Phase II. This is largely a program for coastal embayment's and not drinking water.

John S. asked how CFAC could help.

Phi B. said the plan is technology focused but will need a funding plan component. In some cases, there will be large costs for hookups. Should betterments be applied to hookups as well? Will legislation be needed? Concerned about what costs are not in the plan and that it is important to avoid surprises.

Bob C. said he was still comfortable with CFAC's 2010 numbers and that there are no known impacts on costs from Innovative and Alternative septic systems.

Frederick C. commented that fresh water and drinking water complicate the issue.

Phil B. stated there is a lot of skepticism surrounding the issue.

John S. asked if Bob C. could walk through the funding principals he drafted.

Bob C. commented that the cost of the project makes it a very political issue. His' memo is not a recommended funding plan but rather a set of principles for town administration and elected officials to consider when drafting a funding plan. It's a framework to think about. Some of it will be controversial. He recommended that the committee review the old 2010 material that is still applicable. We need an underlying cost report to create a funding plan. Just kicking the tires right now, but two important things a plan will need to consider are cost to property owners and what is equitable. The capital costs of Title V systems could be spread out and socialized to offset Title V owner's contribution to sewer systems.

Phil B. asked what is the average cost to replace a Title V system? Bob C. stated the Cape Cod Commission estimated this at \$10,000 but that is probably understated.

Phil B. asked who would pay for upgrades to a sewer plant?

Bob C. asked what are the assumptions for piping effluent back to recharge areas where water was drawn?

Phil B. commented that there was the possibility of Yarmouth tying into the sewer plant in Hyannis. There is a good chance that we will need to treat for contaminants of emerging concern at the sewer plant, which could cost \$3 million per year.

Bob C. commented that there are approximately 2,900 properties connected to the Hyannis plant, many of them commercial.

Phil B. stated over 50% of the town is still on a Title V system and title V systems do not de-nitrify.

John S. asked if there was anything CFAC could add to the funding principals outlined in Bob C. memo?

Frederick C. stated that some portion of the cost would have to be paid from taxes. Need to create buy-in, as everyone is not directly benefiting from a sewer. The contributions from Federal and state government of 25% each are speculative. This may be the economic engine that drives Cape Cod. A plan needs to include an education component.

James C. stated this would be a tough sell to constituents. What can our local pot handle? Do we offer a curbside pickup service for septic cleaning to create more buy-in?

Phil B. commented that pumping would not help the nitrogen issue, as it will still be entering the estuary.

James C. stated it will improve the system incrementally and we need a cooperative effort.

Phil B. stated that dredging Warren's Cove and Mill Pond would cost a lot of money. The Warren's Cove project could be a good project for a Federal grant opportunity.

Bob C. commented that the plan falls short of not having enough information on aquaculture that could be used to address this issue. Phil B. said this could be a way to attack the issue at its location (Warren's Cove).

Bob C. commented that the 25%/25% Fed and state contribution level to the project was meant to get local communities together to advocate for Cape Cod as we have good arguments to make. 60 years to implement the project is unrealistic as we have the Conservation Law foundation and EPA out there looking over our shoulder.

Frederick C. commented that in Phase I a \$167 million investment over 20 years is \$8 million per year, which seems more manageable.

Lillian W. commented that the average homeowner is not aware of this issue and we need to educate the public.

John S. commented that Cape towns are in this together and that we need better coordination between towns.

Frederick C. stated the 208 plan is by watershed and not by town highlighting the inter-municipal planning needed.

Phil B. said there seems to be no movement in Yarmouth to clean Lewis Bay. At Saturday's workshop session with Department of Public Works (DPW) WRAC will ask for more information on the costs of the program. The septic system trust fund idea proposed will require enforcement.

Bob C. commented we need to think of this as a town-wide problem, and does having a hookup to sewer make property more valuable?

Phil B. commented that sewerage a property has the potential to make it more valuable as expansion can happen. Rezoning should be considered as well when sewerage. However, 0% loans through the Trust may require neutral sewer flow. Next steps will be better numbers and assumptions from DPW. The capacity at the plant could possibly add 7,000 more properties. May need some aquifer rebalancing.

Frederick C. commented that regular presentations to the Town Council could assist in building support for the program as we need to sell this to the taxpayers.

John S. asked what is the next step? Perhaps we could have a follow-up meeting with WRAC in a month?

Phil B. asked if the 50% betterment assessment was still supported by the Council? Councilors responded that more information was needed.

Bob C. stated that averaging betterments could assist in building support for a plan and a new revenue stream would be needed to support subsidies for low income. Savings from the economies of scale could be significant for this program.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the chair:

None

Discussion of topics for the next meeting:

None

Adjournment:

CFAC's next meeting will be Monday June 26th at 6:00pm.

List of documents handed out

1. 05.15.17 Minutes
2. CFAC Draft Barnstable Funding Plan