



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
Laura Cronin
Stanley Hodkinson
Ralph Krau
Tom Michael
Jim Sproul

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

Councilor Liaison:

Richard Barry

CFAC MEETING MINUTES

3.16.09

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Bill Brower, Laura Cronin, John Curtis, Stanley Hodkinson, Tom Michael

CFAC Members Absent: Ralph Krau, Jim Sproul

Councilors Present: James F. Munafo, Jr

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 minutes of 03.09.09.

Vote: Unanimous

3. Chairman's Comments

John C. thanked Laura C., Bill B., Ralph K., and Tom M. for their attendance at the Charter Commission Meeting held on 3.12.09. In particular, he thanked Laura for her efforts in preparing the presentation. The CFAC committee needs to determine whether or not they should attend the next meeting. If they attend, should they speak during the public comment? The committee should also determine how they will move forward on the issue based on each possible outcome (Charter passed with CFAC mention, Charter passed without CFAC mention, Charter not passed).

4. Staff & Councilor Comments

None

5. Old Business

Charter Commission -

Laura reviewed that there was a low turnout for the Charter Commission meeting on 03.12.09. The CFAC comments were presented during the public comment. She is unsure of the procedures for the Charter going forward, no clear directives were provided as to how the Charter Commission will respond to any of the information provided. There is another meeting scheduled for 03.25.09 to accept public feedback.

Tom M. feels there is more work to be done on several issues (lack of recall information, mayor, town council president etc). He suggests the CFAC commission work with any individual members of the commission they may know to communicate they are available for any questions/clarification and try to gain a “voice” in the deliberation. If CFAC is to go before the commission again, Tom thinks they should not present the same thing but focus on the objective of needing a citizen watchdog group for the financials. Tom also recommends writing a follow up thank you letter to the Charter Commission.

John C. volunteered to compose the letter.

Bill B. updated the committee that he and Ralph K. attended the Economic Development Relations Committee. Bill provided the same presentation and concluded that the chamber would contact the presidents of the various village associations to request they sign a letter supporting the need to have financial oversight. If feasible, this could be presented at the meeting on 03.25.09. Bill suggests CFAC stay in the background for this meeting.

Mark M. commented that CFAC can still accomplish their goals via the Administrative Code. This would require recommendation from the Town Manager and approval of the Town Council.

Review of Financial Policy -

John C. inquired if the committee thinks this review should be during open session or via a subcommittee.

Motion made and accepted to have a subcommittee established.

Bill B., Laura C., and Stan H. volunteered to serve on the subcommittee.

CFAC Action Calendar -

Mark M. reviewed the “draft” calendar document he had provided to the committee. Mark outlined areas where the CFAC committee could focus their attention and coincided the topics to follow along with appropriate time in the

3.16.09

budget calendar where the CFAC committee's input would have the most impact. Mark noted the calendar can be expanded upon and is a "draft".

Mark volunteered to be available to meet more frequently as needed to insure enough time is available to dedicate to the necessary topics.

Motion made and accepted to add a meeting date of 30th. Agenda will include discussion of meeting schedule.

John C. noted that the Charter Commission's proposed charter does take into consideration CFAC's recommendation that the 10 Year forecast be changed to a 5 year forecast. If the charter does not pass, what are the options to have that change made anyhow.

Mark M. stated he agrees with that recommendation and will inquire with the town attorney on how the change can be pursued.

6. New Business

School Budget -

Laura C. inquired about how any stimulus money will fit in with the school budget. She also requested the current or latest enrollment figures.

Mark M. reviewed that he was not aware of any money that would be used. Many of the funds are specific to certain programs and cannot be used to supplant or re-hire teachers. Mark will provide the enrollment figures.

Tom M. reviewed some of the history of the CFAC interactions with the school committee.

John C. commented it is important to look at the school budget and advise the town council on what they might question. Also, that it is key to build a "bridge" for communication with the school committee.

The committee agreed to discuss further at the next meeting when they would have the initial FY10 School Budget information.

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday March 30th, 2009 in the Growth Management conference room.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.