



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)
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CFAC Committee:

Chair:

Laura Cronin

Members:

Robert Ciolek
Cynthia Crossman
Ralph Krau
Gregory Plunkett
Lillian Woo
John Schoenherr
Joseph Mladinich

Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

Councilor Liaison:

John T. Norman

MEETING MINUTES

05.23.16

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: Laura Cronin, Ralph Krau, Joseph Mladinich, Cynthia Crossman, Robert Ciolek, Gregory Plunkett, Lillian Woo, and John Schoenherr

CFAC Members Absent:

Councilors Present: None

Staff Present: Nathan Empey, Finance/Budget Analyst

1. Call to Order

Laura Cronin called the CFAC meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room of Town Hall.

2. Act on Minutes

The following minutes were approved by unanimous vote:

05.09.2016

3. New Business

Bob C. presented CFAC's presentation to the Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) on May 18th. Bob C. iterated to the committee he felt the presentation went well, and that WRAC will create a subcommittee to focus on funding issues in collaboration with CFAC. CFAC members offered praise for Bob's presentation to WRAC. Laura C. asked if there was any follow-up from the May 18th meeting, which Bob C. responded just the creation of the subcommittee which will be headed by Philip Boudreau. Bob C. commented that WRAC should be looking to Public Works Director Dan Santos for a wastewater plan to review, but concerned that Dan Santos may be waiting for a direction from WRAC. Ralph K. questioned if WRAC will make the June 30th deadline to the Environmental Protection Agency, which Bob C. felt it was unlikely WRAC will meet this deadline. Bob C. did comment that CFAC should meet with WRAC to discuss an optimum funding methodology. Laura C. asked if CFAC's subcommittee to WRAC would still play an active role, which Bob C. replied yes.

CFAC's Operating Budget subcommittee reviewed the individual progress by members. Joseph M. commented that the school department responded to his' inquiry, which had to do with full-time employees in order to update a 5-year chart. Joseph M. commented the school department should setup specific accomplishments and goals, or some measurement criteria against benchmarks. Joseph M. also wanted to include information concerning the bus transportation costs, which are expected to increase 10%-20% next fiscal year. He felt the school department should create a task force to address this area of the budget. Cynthia C. commented that based on grade levels bus fees are charge to the parents, furthermore, Cape Cod Collaborative could help with opportunities on Cape in order to control cost. Bob C. asked why the bus transportation costs are increasing, which Laura C. commented there is only one bus provider on Cape. Ralph K. mentioned it could also be too costly for the school department to go into the bus transportation business for itself, and that maybe CFAC should invite the new superintendent to discuss the bus issue. There is concern that cost continue to rise, but school enrollment has remained level for 5 years.

Performance measures within the Operating Budget book has been noted to be erratic and in some cases inconsistent with goals. CFAC questioned if Public Works and the Police Department were continuing their relationship with the Collins Center at UMASS Boston on performance metrics since nothing was included in the booklet. Lillian W. asked if there were any known benefits from the collaboration with UMASS. Ralph K. commented that we don't know if the departments had embraced any performance metrics. Future change in administration will be needed in order for departments to embrace performance measures and goal setting. Bob C. noted this commitment must start with the Town Manager and Town Council first. Laura C. suggested this concern should be mentioned in CFAC's Operating Budget Report.

4. Other matters not reasonably anticipated by the chair

Bob C. noted that in the future CFAC should review tax deals over the last 10 years, that is, how much has been forgiven in tax breaks for development projects. What is the standard to forgo taxes? Why do some projects qualify for tax breaks and others do not?

Ralph K. indicated that CFAC should start to update its annual Financial Overview Report, and that Town Council had requested this update.

Laura C. noted that the Civic Association is looking at parking issues through an ongoing parking study for Hyannis. Ralph K. noted Director of Growth Management Jo Anne Buntich did a presentation, and that a survey is being conducted.

Another issue is the taxation on vacation rentals across the Cape Towns, and that individual property owners have not been subject to local taxes on rental income. Bob C. noted this is going through the state legislature, which has two versions of the bill. Dan Wolf, a state senator for the Cape and Islands, is introducing one of the bills, which would give local options to towns to opt in. The problem is that most communities do not have a registration list for owner-occupied rental properties. Bob C. noted this tax would be similar to an excise tax, which the state receives the funds and then distributes to local governments.

Joseph M. commented on the numerous booklets the Town creates annually with concern regarding the time and expenses involved. Bob C. noted that most communities do not have such transparency or even offer a capital budget, but Barnstable could publish a smaller version of the Operating Budget. John S. noted he enjoys the Open Budget, and the Town's initiative for transparency.

5. Discussion of topics for the next meeting

The next meeting is June 13, 2016.

6. Adjournment

List of documents handed out

1. 05.23.16 Draft Minutes