



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:

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

06.27.16

7:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

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

CFAC Members Absent: Cynthia Crossman,

Councilors Present:

Staff Present: Mark Milne, Director of Finance, 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:

06.13.2016

3. New Business

Laura C. opened committee elections, which members voted to appoint a new chairperson, vice chairperson, and clerk. Bob C. and Ralph K. nominated John Schoenherr for committee chairperson, which committee members voted unanimously in favor. Ralph K. nominated Bob C. to vice chairperson, which committee members voted unanimously in favor. Finally, Bob C. and Ralph K. nominated Lillian Woo as clerk, which committee members voted unanimously in favor.

Mark M. introduced the drafted FY17 Financial Overview Report to committee members. This report offers similar information to the previous year's report, but with updated figures for fiscal 2017. Mark M. has requested fiscal 2017 tax levy data from the five fire districts to show comparisons against the town. Currently, three fire districts have responded with updated data.

Committee members offered suggestions to add and modify the report, which it was indicated that at the July 18th meeting members will have an opportunity to finalize the report. The expectation is to have the report ready for the printers by late July or early August, so that summer residents can receive the report.

Suggestions & Takeaways

- Bob C. noticed inconsistency will font use and suggested it should be the same throughout the report.
- On page 7, the picture contrast makes it difficult to read the text.
- On page 8, Bob C. questioned if the report should provide school choice data, and that maybe it should be changed to percentage of graduates attending secondary education. Mark M. replied school choice came up at the Town Council hearing during the School Departments budget presentation. Mark M. noted we could provide enrollment figures for local school, Sturgis Charter School, School Choice, and Cape Cod Regional Technical High School.
- On page 9, Bob C. noted the word "Synergetic" shouldn't be used, the word areas is spelt wrong, and the paragraph is not clear reading.
- Joseph M. commented a lot is going on within the capital improvements plan section of the report.
- Mark M. suggested making the pictures smaller on the pages to allow for clearer reading
- Laura C. questioned the Cape Cod Times employee figures on page 11 because it had been recently sold and the building is mostly empty. Mark M. responded that the treasury department collects employee figures by contacting these employers.
- John S. suggested providing open budget information within the commitment to excellence section. Mark M. responded we could change the language to put emphasis on transparency through open budget.
- John S. suggested no use of acronyms throughout the report
- Lillian W. suggested changing the grey coloration in the general fund section. Mark M. replied we'll change the picture size, so that the writing will be easier to see.
- Laura C. asked if we should be showing minimum spending requirements in cost rather than in percentage terms. Joseph M. commented this data was provided in CFAC's Operating Budget Report.
- Bob C. asked if there is trend line data available on standardized test for students in Barnstable and if it shows a positive trend. This would be valuable information for

incoming residents who would want to see local school performance. Joseph M. commented there is data available for different grade levels.

- Bob C. recommended reordering the committee members to reflect the new chairperson, vice chairperson, and clerk.
- Laura C. suggested on page 7 changing the wording to “loss of major customer” for explaining the airport budget impact.
- Bob C. suggested identifying CFAC’s vacant positions within the report.
- It was suggested the report could include advertisements for local business such as Cape Cod Beer, Cape Cod Chips, and Cape Cod Baseball League to help educate incoming resident and tourist what Barnstable has to offer. Mark M. was concern that this would single out companies. Laura C. suggested we could only add the companies that offered tours such as JFK museum or Cape Playhouse.

Mark M. announced that Town Council approved every budget as proposed in the FY17 Operating Budget. There were questions by Town Council regarding the Solid Waste landfill stickers’ price change from \$210 to \$240, and that if rates continue to increase the facility will lose customers. In addition, the recent \$2 million capital improvement project will potentially increase the cost of a sticker by \$10 to \$15. Laura C. asked what the \$2 million capital project is for? Mark M. replied project is for the redesign of the Solid Waste facility with emphasis on allowing users to empty both their recyclables and waste at the same time. Safety is also a major concern, so the project includes redesigning the entrance to the facility in order to manage vehicle traffic. Joseph M. asked if a consultant was involved with the layout design? Mark M. replied yes.

4. Other matters not reasonably anticipated by the chair

Ralph K. asked if the Solid Waste Facility administration building would be replaced because of the failed sewer system. Mark M. responded that he wasn’t aware of the issue. John S. asked if any request was in the budget for the failed sewer system. Mark M. responded that he had not received anything. John S. asked if the capital improvements project for Solid Waste is trying to encourage more recycling. Mark M. responded that safety and recycling are key points in the project. Barnstable has always scored low in recycling initiatives because of competition from outside haulers. Bob C. asked if there was any headway for pay-as-you-throw. The project is designed, so that Barnstable can opt into the pay-as-you-throw. Mark M. noted that some council members already think we have pay-as-you-throw, for example, you can pay to disposal 8 30 gallon bags each for a one-time fee without a sticker. John S. asked if there was a fee for recycling. Mark M. replied there is no fee for recycling, however, a resident must have a recycling sticker. John S. asked if there were any performance metrics being tracked at the facility. Mark M. noted they are tracking material intake. Much of the facility’s revenue comes from resale of metal received at the facility. Laura C. asked if non-residents were allowed to drop off recyclables at the facility. Mark M. noted there was no way to track nonresidents in the past, so the facility introduced the recycling sticker to prevent nonresidents from disposing material. Mark M. noted there are cost to dispose of both recycling and trash, but recycling cost less, so if we encourage more recycling at the facility, it could lower cost.

Mark M. noted that the school department has generated a lot of conversation at the council hearings. School Choice has been a major topic on how to encourage students to come back into the local school system, and questions why these students choose to go elsewhere. Bob C. commented that Barnstable offers more foreign language courses. Mark M. replied we are well

known for our theatre program, which is offered at the high school level. Mark M. noted the challenge is at the elementary level because we are limited by space. It is important to capture students at lower grade levels, which increases the chances of students staying within the local system into the future. Laura C. asked about school transportation costs. Mark M. noted the school goes through the bid and request for proposal process, however, there is no competition. There is also no coordination amongst the school districts on cape, and that, districts hold transportation contracts at different periods. This makes it difficult for districts to collaborate and find ways to manage transportation options because of different contract cycles. The cost for Barnstable to pursue its own transportation system would be significant. This could potentially require 30 to 40 employees and a large capital investment upfront.

Bob C. mentioned the committee had its first meeting with Water Resource Advisory Committee finance subcommittee, and that nothing really resulted from it.

Committee members asked about the recent incident that involved a child being hurt on school bleachers. Mark M. responded that a recent incident involved a child getting hurt at the town's high school bleachers, and that the child was with a private group permitted to use the field by the School Department. The town requires anyone permitting one of its facilities to provide a certificate of indemnification, which was received from this private group. A child fell from the school bleachers and was seriously hurt, however, it was indicated that the parent had taken full responsibility for the incident. There is currently no action being taken against the town. The schools request to upgrade these bleachers will remain in the capital improvements plan. The Community Preservation Committee also has a town wide \$130,000 for the revitalization of recreation fields including schools.

Laura C. provides closing remarks for her final CFAC meeting. She wished to thank committee members and staff for their support throughout her time on the committee. Mark M. noted that Town Council would provide Laura C. a proclamation for her years of service on the committee sometime in July or August.

5. Discussion of topics for the next meeting

The next meeting is July 18, 2016.

6. Adjournment

List of documents handed out

1. 06.13.16 Draft Minutes
2. Draft FY17 Financial Overview Report