



The Town of Barnstable

Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)
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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

07.17.17

6:00 PM

Growth Management Conference Room

Roll Call:

- CFAC Members Present: Cynthia Crossman, John Schoenherr, Lillian Woo, Allen Fullerton, Gregory Plunkett, and Robert Ciolek
- CFAC Members Absent: Joseph Mladinich, and Ralph Krau
- Water Resource Advisory Members (WRAC) : Philip Boudreau
- Councilors Present: None
- Staff Present: Mark Milne, Finance Director, Nathan Empey, Budget Analyst

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 06.26.17

Old Business:

CFAC reviewed the Financial Overview Report for approval. The following comments and suggestions were made:

- John S. asked if anything had changed with the government organizational chart? Mark M. responded that only the Business Services Department has been added.
- John S. suggested adding brackets next to the 6% other taxes “see table below” to help readers.
- John S. suggested on page 6 changing the first sentence “government managed through funds rather than makeup of funds”.
- Cynthia C. asked if the school section numbers could be updated? Mark M. said he would ask the school department for its most recent numbers.
- John S. asked if we have censuses on user rates for Open Budget website? Mark M. noted that a month ago it had 400 unique users with a bounce rate of less than 40%.

500 copies of the report will be made for distribution

Bob C. suggested submitting the report for an award to either the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) or Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA).

Lillian W. commented the report is easy to read and inviting.

New Business:

Bob C. open discussion with Water Resource Advisory Committee (WRAC) member Philip Boudreau. Bob C. noted that WRAC has not dealt with the issue of funding the proposed wastewater plan, which he felt was the most important aspect to the plan. Philip B. responded that it is still a question if WRAC is in charge of the funding, and that its members have little expertise on the topic. Philip B. also noted the plan does not prioritize projects, and that some projects will require a unique set of permits. John S. asked has a plan been released? Bob C. responded an incomplete plan has been released, and that it is not a sufficient plan to take to the regulators. Philip B. responded that it is a general plan with four main projects, and that its time to bring it to Town Council. John S. asked when would Town Council see the plan? Philip B. noted probably late fall. Mark M. asked has council invited WRAC yet? Philip B. responded no. Bob C. noted council might not want to hear this plan without a funding plan, which is a decision they will have to make. Philip B. noted this plan will have to go to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for approval, and that the council cannot pick and choose projects. Philip B. also noted the plan does not include West Barnstable, which will need testing, and that those taxpayers deserve water quality as well.

Bob C. noted the WRAC might want to have a few sewer projects ready to go in case potential state or federal infrastructure project funding becomes available. Philip B. agreed that if we do not have a shovel ready we are not going to get the funding. Bob C. also noted that regulators might put a lot of pressure on Cape Cod to move faster on a plan. Lillian W. asked who is going to put this cost in place, and that Phase I of the plan costs \$167 million, but doesn't include interest on debt or cost to tax payers. Bob C. noted that Public Works would have to get financial expertise externally if they do not have it internally. Bob C. also noted that the plan does not include aquaculture, which may reshape the discussion on how to pay for this. Philip B. noted there are already potential funding sources available through the Sewer Construction and Private Way Maintenance and Improvements Fund, and if the Cape Tech debt override vote is approved but the school project does not. This approved debt override is another source of funding. Bob C. responded that he would not vote in favor of an override without a viable wastewater plan. Philip B. noted that the entire plan only sewers about 50% of the town, and that Phase 3 might not have to be done. Bob C. responded that if the feds get in they are going to want more than less.

John S. asked would CFAC be sending their funding principals to WRAC? Bob C. responded that the committee should vote on it before sending, as well as ensure WRAC will review it. John S. noted the WRAC plan is not divided into managed pieces, and that CFAC should review the principals as a committee to include to this. Philip B. also commented that the principals do not include funding sources for non-traditional projects, such as privatization.

Matters not reasonably anticipated by the chair:

Mark M. noted a council member questioned the subject matter on pay of lieu of taxes, and asked if CFAC would be interested in exploring a pilot program again. This voluntary program cannot force entities to pay taxes. Boston has the largest pilot program in the country. John S. noted that Cape Cod Hospital doesn't pay taxes, but its economic benefit is enormous. Bob C. referred the state cherry sheet, which Barnstable receives funding for state owned lands in town. Bob C. noted the town receives much less than if they were paying taxes. Bob C. also asked how aggressive is Barnstable at selling land through receiverships to regenerate taxes? Mark M. responded that most of the lands acquired are small parcels, which owners have no incentive to pay taxes on. Mark M. also noted the town is looking into opportunities to sell those small parcels to land abutters.

Discussion of topics for the next meeting:

None

Adjournment:

CFAC's next meeting will be Monday August 21, 2017 at 6:00pm.

List of documents handed out

1. 06.26.17 Minutes
2. Drafted Financial Overview Report