

---

---

# Citizens' Taskforce Minutes

Monday, February 1, 2016 6:00PM

Sealing Cove Business Center

---

---

**Citizens' Taskforce Members:** Rob Allen, Maxwell Rule, Lawrence SpottedBird,  
Dyan Bessette, Cynthia Gibson, Mary Magnuson, Hugh Bevan  
Tristan Guevin (Assembly Liaison)

## I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Allen called the meeting to order at approximately 6:02PM.

## II. ROLL CALL

Present: Rob Allen, Maxwell Rule, Dyan Bessette, Cynthia Gibson (arrived at 6:04 PM), Hugh Bevan, Lawrence SpottedBird

Absent: Mary Magnuson (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Tristan Guevin

Staff: Municipal Administrator Mark Gorman, Administrative Coordinator Renee Wheat, Public Works Director Michael Harmon, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney, Assessor Wendy Lawrence, Human Resources Director Mark Danielson, Library Director Robb Farmer, Centennial Building Manager Don Kluting, and Assistant Fire Chief Al Stevens.

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**M - Rule/S - Bessette moved to approve the January 18, 2016 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

## IV. REPORTS

Chair - Chair Allen relayed the Assembly work session went well. He spoke of asking for a roundtable setting for the next work session with the Assembly to encourage dialogue. He advised of dates he would be unable to attend upcoming meetings.

Members - Bessette wondered about public comments and asked for the Taskforce members to be copied on all responses.

City Staff - None.

Assembly Liaison - None.

Other(s) - None.

## V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Draft Grand Bargain Budget

Municipal Administrator Gorman spoke of three different frameworks on the table, suggested a subcommittee review the Grand Bargain and give staff direction on the final workup. Discussion occurred on performing a more in depth review of Sales Tax Exemptions. Chair Allen, Vice Chair Rule and Deputy Vice Chair SpottedBird volunteered to be on the subcommittee to make recommendations on the final Grand Bargain and Sales Tax Exemptions to the Taskforce.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Overview of Sitka School District budget**

Sitka School District (SSD) Board President Tim Fulton spoke of his years with the school board and his passion to help make kids successful. Superintendent Dr. Mary Wegner spoke to the school's mission, vision and goals. She gave an overview of collaborative partners and the district as an employer. Dr. Wegner spoke of the teacher to student ratio conveying the SSD is down to core staff. Business Manager Cassee Olin gave an overview of local, state and federal revenue sources that comprise the SSD budget. She reviewed the cost break down to run Sitka Schools using Keet Gooshi Heen as an example. Administrator Gorman pointed out the SSD was in the Grand Bargain idea. Chair Allen spoke of inviting the SSD back after the Taskforce finalizes the Grand Bargain Budget.

### **B. Overview of Sitka Community Hospital**

Chair Allen stepped down for this item. Sitka Community Hospital (SCH) CEO Rob Allen gave an overview of the budget and relayed six months into their fiscal year they were in the black. He reported on the hospital as an employer. He stated SCH employees were not given a step increase or cost of living increase in a couple years. He told of the newly organized SCH board. He spoke of the loan from the City and the plan to repay the debt. Discussion occurred on a press release of the repaying of the City loan, SCH cash-on-hand, privatizing of ambulance service, and collaboration between SCH and SEARHC on various services. SCH CEO Allen made a recommendation to ask the Assembly to create an Adhoc Committee regarding the need for two hospitals in Sitka due to the duplication of services.

## **VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD**

Shirley Robards asked for clarification on the proposal to eliminate sales tax on groceries. Chair Allen and Vice Chair Rule relayed the intent is consumable foods.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

### **A. Agenda items for the next regular meeting of February 8, 2016**

The Taskforce agreed to weekly meetings. Agenda items for the next meeting would include Sales Tax Exemptions Review and the Draft Grand Bargain. Discussion occurred to hold the Townhall Meeting the first week of March.

**M - Rule/S - SpottedBird moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:26PM.**

Attest:  
Renee Wheat, Administrative Coordinator