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# Citizens' Taskforce Minutes

Monday, April 4, 2016 6:00PM

Sealing Cove Business Center

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

## I. CALL TO ORDER

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

## II. ROLL CALL

Present: Chair Rob Allen, Dyan Bessette, Cynthia Gibson, Hugh Bevan, Lawrence SpottedBird, Alene Henning

Absent: Maxwell Rule (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Tristan Guevin

Staff: Municipal Administrator Mark Gorman, Deputy Clerk Melissa Henshaw, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney, Assessor Wendy Lawrence, Fire Chief David Miller

## III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**M – SpottedBird/S – Gibson moved to approve the March 28, 2016 minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

## IV. REPORTS

Chair – None.

Members – Bessette brought up at a previous meeting in which the Performing Arts Center (PAC) was subject.

City Staff – CFAO Sweeney followed up with how the PAC had government bonds and that the City may be able to shut it down completely but was unsure if it could be privatized.

Assembly Liaison – None.

Other(s) – None.

## V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

## VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### A. Discussion of Grand Bargain

Chair Allen sent out a draft narrative and would like to move forward with voting on the grand bargain. Gibson thought the document was well written and clear. The following changes were made to the document:

- Include after paragraph 4 on page 3:

**M – Bevan/S – Gibson moved to recommend a future review of the personal property tax structure for possible changes to streamline the administrative demands of taxing personal property. Motion carried unanimously.**

- Quantify on page 1, last paragraph, time involved of 40 hours and 20 meetings;

- Page 3, paragraph 5 replace “Public Works spending” with “General Fund spending”;
- Page 3, last paragraph replace “cents” with “dollars”;
- Page 4 bullet 3 replace “financial” with “General Fund”;
- Page 4, bullet 5 add “as well as adding new land to property tax rolls”;
- Page 4, bullet 8 and 9 include “a total of” before “\$1.7” and “\$600,000” respectively;
- Page 4, bullet 4 add “infrastructure” after “streets”;
- The need to elaborate on the electric rate subsidy;
- Page 4, paragraph 2 in the bolded section take out “sales tax”;
- Page 4, paragraph 2 take out last sentence;
- Page 4 last paragraph bold “Taskforce recommends that the Assembly develop a public information strategy designed to educate residents about our budget and the options for balancing it.”;
- Include the grand bargain vote:

**M –Gibson/S – Henning moved to approve the draft grand bargain budget framework that was presented at the public meeting. The motion passed by the following roll call vote. Yes: Allen, SpottedBird, Bessette, Gibson, Henning, Bevan. Absent: Rule.**

- Add licensed vehicle registration tax to narrative;
- Remove “draft” from grand bargain budget and include it;
- Include the spreadsheet Gibson put together from Town Hall meeting after she makes her changes;

Discussion occurred around the above specifically with personal property tax, staff time involved with, and exemptions; appendix with motions that passed and failed; sunset clause and/or indexing for inflation of exemptions; that the work session was changed to a special meeting with the Assembly; when materials needed to be in to the Municipal Clerk; including a next steps list; Gorman asked for a recommendation to be included on an evaluation of the Taskforce; to include water sales; to include core values

#### **B. Details of Final Report**

This was discussed in conjunction with item A.

#### **C. Discussion of Community Meeting**

There will be a special meeting with the Assembly on April 12, 2016 at 5:00PM Gibson will do a 10 minute presentation. Chair Allen encouraged all members to speak for a minute or two on the process.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

None.

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

Shirley Robards reminded the Taskforce of the signature list she had which she would share with the Assembly and thanked the Taskforce.

### **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

#### **A. Agenda items for the next regular meeting of Monday, April 11, 2016**

There will be a special meeting with the Assembly on Tuesday, April 12, 2016. No further regular meetings are scheduled at this time.

Closing comments: Bevan thanked staff which was echoed by Henning and Gibson. SpottedBird appreciated the opportunity. Chair Allen thanked all the members stating that he had learned a lot through this process, thanked staff for their support, and hoped the final product would be useful. Gorman thanked the Taskforce and thought this process to be successful.

**Seeing no objection from Chair Allen, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:22PM.**

Attest:  
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk