
Citizens' Taskforce Minutes

Monday, October 5, 2015 6:00 PM

Sealing Cove Business Center

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Rule called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Maxwell Rule, Lawrence SpottedBird, Dyan Bessette, Cynthia Gibson (left the meeting at 6:49pm), Mary Magnuson, Assembly Liaison Tristan Guevin

Absent: Jack Ozment, Rob Allen

Staff: Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney, Deputy Clerk Melissa Henshaw, Administrative Coordinator Renee Wheat, Human Resources Director Mark Danielson, Utility Director Bryan Bertacchi, T & D System Manager Anthony Bird, Contract Coordinator Retha Winger, Assistant Fire Chief Al Stevens, Public Works Director Michael Harmon

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M - SpottedBird/S - Magnuson moved to approve the minutes from September 28, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORTS

Chair - None.

Members - None.

City Staff - Sweeney told that he answered questions via email to Taskforce members from the last meeting.

Assembly Liaison - Guevin told of end product goals and read the Citizens' Taskforce goals.

Other(s) - None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Personnel Overview by Human Resources Director Mark Danielson

Human Resources Director Mark Danielson told of City and Borough of Sitka history, the Charter, mission, departments and services. He stated that the Assembly approved all positions and that all positions have a job description. Danielson told of collective

bargaining units and exempt employees which went through a salary study, that wages were adjusted in 2014 and told of benefits. He answered that there has been about a 40% turnover in the last couple years and that there are 157 employees. Employee replacement costs range from from \$500 up to over \$5,000 depending on the level.

Sweeney told of the history with regards to the turnover factor, our combined city and county/borough government and that the Parks & Recreation Manager position may or may not be filled. Bessette thought to to apply for less grant funding on infrastructure as there are long term costs with that and possibly not rehire if a position was vacant. Danielson commented that rehiring was looked at every vacancy. Sweeney had concerns with citizens regarding degrading and degree of services. Gibson stated that she doesn't want to micromanage those decisions and thought that staff was efficient in their work.

B. Electric Department Overview by Utility Director

Utility Director Bryan Bertacchi introduced Tony Bird, T & D System Manager from the audience. Bertacchi told of his 5-year plan beginning with key distribution challenges. He told of three substations without redundency and that the Marine Street substation services 80% of the customer base which had 35 year old transformers along with the need of a new substation at Kramer. He went over key generation challenges such as fuel release, tanks, a 35-year old Green Lake plant, and three Fairbanks diesels that are over 36 years old. Lastly the key transmission challenges with regards to the transmission line from the Blue Lake Power House to the Blue Lake Substation. He told of more aggressive tree trimming that was needed.

Sweeney stated \$28.5 million was needed for this 5-year plan and told of options for the fiscal challenges with regards to total available working capital, unspent bond proceeds, undesignated fund balance and the projected additional working capital. He stated the Electric Department does not have a master plan like many of the other funds and told of the dam project consuming the department. A discussion occurred around tree removal and trimming, the dam project with regards to capacity, consumers, a rate study and rate increase.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Set next meeting date

Agenda items for the next meeting would be a Public Works presentation. The next meeting date was set for Monday, October 26, 2015

SpottedBird moved to adjourn, seeing no objection, the meeting adjourned at approximately 7:58pm.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk