
Citizens' Taskforce Minutes

Monday, October 26, 2015 2015 6:00PM

Sealing Cove Business Center

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Rule called the meeting to order at approximately 6:05PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Maxwell Rule, Lawrence SpottedBird, Dyan Bessette (arrived at 6:08PM), Cynthia Gibson, Mary Magnuson

Absent: Rob Allen (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Tristan Guevin

Staff: Municipal Administrator Mark Gorman, Deputy Clerk Melissa Henshaw, Utility Director Bryan Bertacchi, Public Works Director Michael Harmon, Assessor Wendy Lawrence, Municipal Engineer Dan Tadic, Parks and Ground Maintenance Specialist Jud Kirkness, Environmental Superintendent Mark Buggins, Deputy Environmental Superintendent Shilo Williams, Wastewater Operator I Dan Berlad, Maintenance and Operations Superintendent Gary Baugher

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M – SpottedBird/S – Magnuson moved to approve the minutes from October 5, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORTS

Chair – Told of Ozment's vacancy.

Members – SpottedBird told of a teleconference for the ferry system he attended and wondered if Sitka could have their own ferry authority with other communities.

City Staff – None.

Assembly Liaison – Guevin asked the Taskforce to look at exemptions, taxes, and at generating revenue. He told of a possible work session with the Assembly in December, questioned when the public presentation dates would be, and looked forward to public engagement.

Other(s) – None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Works Presentation

Public Works Director Michael Harmon began with Engineering and told of a 5-year Capital Plan with 56 projects totaling over \$116 million. He told of 2015 project highlights and went over slated 2016 through 2019 projects. He urged the Taskforce to look at the following Master Plans that has been worked on for the last 7 to 8 years: Public Works Peer Review, General Fund Efficiency Audit, Roads, Water, Sewer, Solid Waste, Airport, and Harbor.

Harmon told of ballot proposition history, a road questionnaire, and talked of overlay rather than replacement of roads. Rule questioned how other communities fund roads. Harmon stated typically with LID's and dedicated sales tax. He spoke of road growth, the Water Master Plan coming to an end and the need for a new plan, the average number of water breaks and cost per year. Gibson asked where those unexpected costs come from and if they are budgeted. Harmon told of a line item that has exceeded the projected budget every year. He mentioned that future material will be sustainable for longer periods of time.

Harmon told of the Senior Center, Marine Service Center and possible sale, Gary Paxton Industrial Park with regards to a grant for a dock, Building Maintenance and trying to find better ways to charge out for this service to sustain it, Central Garage regarding vehicle replacement issues, and Heavy Equipment and its Sinking Fund.

Harmon went over key points of the Capital Budget and of the General Fund. He encouraged the Taskforce to look at the Capital Expenditure Plan and Sinking Fund. The General Fund was in need of \$63 million for projected projects through 2035 and told of funding scenarios. Gibson asked of current bonds and Utility Director Bertacchi thought approximately 80% of the Blue Lake Dam was bonded. Rule thought to develop infrastructure that would have an economic aspect in Sitka. Harmon spoke to an Internal Service Fund and answered questions on such. He told of Federal lobbying and the idea of a regional approach for SpottedBird's question of Federal funding. Discussion occurred around the 2009 and 2011 ballot propositions on road improvements.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Set next meeting date

Discussion occurred on future presentations and agenda items for the next meeting. Agreement was reached for a presentation from Assessing and no more than 10 minute presentations from the Harbor Department, Police Department, and Fire Department. The next meeting date was set for Monday, November 9, 2015.

M - SpottedBird/S - Gibson moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:52PM.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk