
Citizens' Taskforce Minutes

Monday, November 23, 2015 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 6:00PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Rob Allen, Maxwell Rule, Dyan Bessette, Cynthia Gibson, Hugh Bevan

Absent: Lawrence SpottedBird (excused), Mary Magnuson (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Tristan Guevin

Staff: Municipal Administrator Mark Gorman, Deputy Clerk Melissa Henshaw, Utility Director Bryan Bertacchi, Public Works Director Michael Harmon, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney, Assessor Wendy Lawrence, Fire Chief Dave Miller, IT Director Ron Duvall, Human Resources Director Mark Danielson

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M - Rule/S - Bessette moved to approve the minutes from November 9, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORTS

Chair - Allen welcomed new member Hugh Bevan.

Members - Bevan told that he has lived in Sitka for 16 years and was involved to have revenues and expenditures meet. Bessette handed out a document she put together of other communities and their property/sales tax rate, average income and poverty level. She looked forward to getting on with the process after presentations and mentioned that she likes hard copies of documents from Staff.

City Staff - None.

Assembly Liaison - None.

Other(s) - None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Presentation and Discussion of Core Services Matrix

Chair Allen explained that Osborne would facilitate the process of the core services matrix. Municipal Administrator Gorman appreciated Bessette's comments and shared his thoughts on the complexity of the budget and budget process. Gorman relayed this matrix would identify the three different type of core services, explained each of them, told that

he thought the city was at the core service level, and reductions in the budget would also reduce services. He told of the General Fund Public Service Summary.

Chair Allen explained the process to determine designation and in the future the Taskforce would look at revenue, exemptions, capital budget and the operating budget. Osborne walked the Taskforce line by line of the 32 categories and voted on core designations for each. Chair Allen recused himself from the Hospital Support category.

Discussion occurred around Core Community Value (CCV) prioritizing and the economic development aspect. Municipal Administrator Gorman suggested coming back to prioritizing at a later date.

A non-decision making discussion took place on school funding with regards to funding history levels, percentages and amounts, the FY2015 increase, State funding, the core value of, teacher/student ratio, majority of the budget approximately 82% was salaries, and 10% utility cost.

B. 2017 Budget Projections – Jay Sweeney, CFAO

CFAO Sweeney came forward to tell of the fiscal forecast of FY2016 and forecasting the next 10 years beyond. He spoke of decline in State funding, Permanent Fund reduction transfer, management fees growth, collective bargaining increases, inflation growth, school funding growth, increase of amount of property tax collected, capital improvements, required maintenance, liquidity reserve, and deferred maintenance. He said that he could run the spreadsheet with different assumptions.

Gorman told of the three union negotiations. Harmon told of budget out 30 years. Sweeney gave an overview of borrowing money, of user fees, and suggested a low annual increase in fees every year for services. He told of an upper limit of user fees and spoke to elimination of services or reduced services.

C. Schedule Town Hall Meeting and Assembly Work Session

Chair Allen suggested discussing next steps for the Taskforce and mentioned capital projects, revenue, exemptions, revenue enhancements, and expenses. Discussion occurred around the scope and goal of this Taskforce and funds, taxes, exemptions, expenses, ballot propositions, and Charter changes. Chair Allen thought to look for more input at the Assembly work session.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Set next meeting date

The next meeting date was set for Monday, December 7, 2015.

M – Bevan/S – Gibson moved to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:02PM.

Attest:
Melissa Henshaw, Deputy Clerk