
Citizens' Taskforce Minutes

Monday, December 7, 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, Cynthia Gibson, Lawrence SpottedBird, Mary Magnuson and Hugh Bevan

Absent: Dyan Bessette (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Tristan Guevin

Staff: Municipal Administrator Mark Gorman, Administrative Coordinator Renee Wheat, Utility Director Bryan Bertacchi, Chief Finance and Administrative Officer Jay Sweeney, Assessor Wendy Lawrence, Library Director Robb Farmer and T & D System Manager Tony Bird

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

M - Rule/S - Bevan moved to approve the minutes from November 23, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. REPORTS

Chair - None.

Members - None.

City Staff - Administrator Gorman spoke of a "Grand Bargain" with the citizens of Sitka and reviewed the elements of the concept.

Assembly Liaison - Guevin relayed he would discuss dates with the Assembly for a work session with the Taskforce.

Other(s) - None.

V. PERSONS TO BE HEARD/CORRESPONDENCE

None.

VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

A. Schedule Town Hall Meeting and Assembly Work Session

Chair Allen relayed a Town Hall Meeting would be scheduled after the Taskforce has a work session with the Assembly.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Revenues Presentation

Assessor Lawrence explained the process of collecting property tax through the capped mill rate. She relayed the advantages of a budget driven mill rate which does not cap as many other municipalities use this form of taxation. Administrator Gorman conveyed the

vote to change to an uncapped mill rate had been voted down twice in the past ten years by citizens. Assessor Lawrence stated property tax had a stable and reliable tax base to help with the budget shortfall. She pointed out the inequities of property tax assessment due to lack of technology. She recommended to procure a commercial packaged system, exempt personal property, focus on real property and inspect and enter data into a new and more efficient system. CFAO Sweeney gave an overview of sales tax revenue. He relayed sales within the municipality were taxable unless exempted.

B. Exemptions Presentation

Assessor Lawrence told of mandatory and optional property tax exemptions by the City and State. CFAO Sweeney came forward and told of twenty-eight sales tax exemptions. He relayed statistics of sales tax exemptions by industry category. Discussion occurred on percent of sales tax exemption by category type. He gave recommendations on how to increase sales tax.

VIII. PERSONS TO BE HEARD

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

A. Set next meeting date

- Chair Allen gave a recommendation for the Taskforce to discuss the information presented on revenues, exemptions and core services.
- The next meeting date was set for Monday, December 21, 2015.

Seeing no objection the meeting adjourned at approximately 8:01PM.

Attest:
Renee Wheat, Administrative Coordinator