



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

The Citizens' Taskforce on City Services, Revenues and Fees

The Problem

State and Federal Support are declining, costs of providing CBS services increasing, and municipal infrastructure aging and at times failing. Without adequate fund balances to maintain, repair and/or replace city infrastructure nor sufficient revenues to support CBS services including the School District and Community Hospital, our citizens are being asked to pay more in fees and taxes. These pressures are impacting an ever increasing portion of the community who is being stressed to make ends meet. There is a growing concern that Sitka will become a community only affordable to those in the upper income tiers. Further, there is low citizen tolerance for a reduction in city services as a way to balance budgets within our current revenue streams.

The Goal

Establish a Citizens' Taskforce on City Services, Revenues and Fees (CT) to:

1. Recommend what core services CBS must maintain.
2. Determine what funding is required to maintain these core services including depreciation and capital improvements.
3. Recommend what revenue streams and fees are most equitable and sustainable in order to maintain these services into the future.
4. Educate and engage citizens as to the financial challenges and seek their ideas for solutions.

The Taskforce

The CT will be appointed by the Assembly. It will be comprised of seven Sitka residents who demonstrate an interest in finding community based solutions and have experience and/or education and understanding of taxation, finance and small community economics.

The CT will be co-staffed by Jay Sweeney, CBS Chief Finance and Administrative Officer, and Wendy Lawrence, CBS Assessor.

The Process

It is envisioned that the CT will complete its assigned task within six months of being established by the Assembly. It will convene, elect a Chair and Vice Chair. All meetings will be open to the public and be duly advertised in the media. The Assembly will appoint an Assembly Liaison to the CT.

With support from the CBS staff, the CT will prepare and present a final report to the Assembly during a special work session.