

Oak Bluffs

Community Development Council

Meeting #94

Minutes of 04.15.2009

9am Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance:

Nancy Phillips, Terry Appenzellar, Renee Balter, Priscilla Sylvia, James Westervelt and Alison Shaw (recorder)

Members absent:

Iona Pressley, Richard Westcott

Item: Minutes

Minutes of the 04.01.09 meeting were read, amended and accepted.

Item: Cost of Services

Terry reviewed the COS report. There was discussion about the process going forward now that we are ready to release the report. **Terry** thought it should go to the Finance Committee before going to the Selectmen. **Priscilla** suggested giving it to Paul Manzi and Michael Dutton prior to going to the Finance Committee. **Terry** offered to email it to Thad Harshbarger (Fin Com chair) and cc it to Paul and Michael. **Renee** said to make it clear that it is only a draft. Have the Finance Committee review it and ask for their input. Maybe arrange for a joint meeting. There was discussion about our methodology vs. methodologies used in COS analysis by other towns. **Jim** pointed out that our whole process has been so thoroughly discussed and analyzed – we want input from the FinCom, but not on the methodology. He pointed out that the report might appear to be a little confusing at first, but that if they look at the bar graph, the information will be distilled down into something that is very clear and understandable. **Terry** offered to go and present the report to the FinCom.

Nancy noted that it was pointed out at Town Meeting that grants are an important source of revenue for funding Town projects.

Terry noted that revenue in the COS is attributed to each department. It's not perfect – we may have missed some sources of revenue, but it's a tool. With any given department, it can give you a quick idea of how much money is coming in vs. expenses – in any given case, maybe we could be charging more fees for a particular service. As a town we should be asking if services are paying for themselves and if not, *should* those services be paying for themselves.

Jim pointed out that we are unique because of the seasonal nature of our economy. We have larger departments *because* we have the summer residents. With some departments extra staff is hired during the summer, while in the case of other departments, they have more personnel year round so that they are prepared for the summer residents.

Terry noted that we are still trying to figure out the personnel situation in Fire and Ambulance. In the Ambulance reserve fund, there is a line item for \$117,000 called "salaries" – who is it for? **Jim** said that it still needs to be broken down further and that we need more detail. Both the Fire and Ambulance should have a list of employees and what they get paid.

Ron DiOrio reported that the Town is going forward with the Waste District. He also told the committee that we are now generating income out of the Leonardo property for parking – Andy Farrissey was the first in with ten trucks. **Ron** noted that the white house abutting the landfill is in foreclosure and that it might make sense for the Town to purchase the property and give the unfinished home to the IAHF. **Ron** said that it was obvious from Town Meeting last night that we need to look at new revenue sources. Maybe the Parks commission could have a revolving fund, which they could use to hire lifeguards – the revenue could come from the rental of the Mainstay. **Ron** also reported that that an ethics and conflict of interest bylaw is being drafted by town counsel Ron Rappaport.

Priscilla expressed some concern that some of the projects we've done for the selectmen are not being followed up on – i.e. the home business bylaw.

Meeting Adjourned 10:15am

Next meeting 05.06.09, in the Town Hall