

Oak Bluffs
Community Development Council

Meeting #136

Minutes of 01.19.11

9am-Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance:

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

Also in attendance: Board of Selectmen Ron DiOrio, Finance Committee member Steve Auerbach

Minutes: Minutes of 01.05.10 were reviewed, amended and unanimously approved.

Item: Ad Hoc Fiscal Task Force

After review of the previous minutes the CDC decided that a more appropriate designation for a possible ad hoc committee appointed by the BOS. Nancy explained that a task force is for a specific amount of time and function. The CDC decided then to recommend to the BOS the establishment of an Ad Hoc Fiscal Task Force.

It was suggested that if a member emails research, reports, spreadsheets and the like that they summarize their findings. This was discussed and decided that all should get the raw data and that asking for one to also summarize in writing would be too much to ask. It was felt by most on the CDC that finding the data was very time consuming, and a summary by one person, could be subjective. It was agreed that if a large amount of documents, data etc. were found one copy be made and then multiple copies could be made in the Town Hall for those members who needed a hard copy.

Terry began discussing the need for establishing our (OB) criteria for ascertaining essential services. We need to “benchmark” our actions when discussing each department. We need accurate budget figures as we have found with our Cost of Services study that many department expenses are not accrued properly i.e. insurance, fuel, and utilities. Ron suggested looking at the personnel files to find the job classifications and job descriptions. Terry reiterated that we need reliable sources for data. Ron said it is going to be very difficult to cut expenses when 48% to 52% of the budget is mandated by state and federal governments and negotiated contracts.

It was reported to Steve that the Bill McGrath FinCom chairman thought this ad hoc task force would be a good thing but not at this budget making time of year. He also expressed the feeling that Steve should be on the task force representing the FinCom. Terry explained that we could start to lay the groundwork at this time and be ready to actually function after the Town Meeting.

Ron pointed out a problem that the CDC or the task force might have. He said the BOS have discussed and continue to discuss, in executive session, certain services or goals that might effect the discussion of what are essential services. He suggested that the CDC or task force meet with the BOS in executive session to know what is on the table.

The committee agreed that Michael Dutton needs to be the liaison to the BOS and a key player in the workings of the ad hoc task force.

Meeting was adjourned 10:32am

Next meeting #137 on 02.02.11 @ 9am

Town Hall meeting room

