

Oak Bluffs
Community Development Council
Ad Hoc Fiscal Task Force Sub Committee
Task force email: obadhocfinance@gmail.com

CDC Meeting #143

Task Force Meeting # 5

Minutes of 05.25.11

9am-Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance:

Chairman Terry Appenzellar, Priscilla Sylvia, Brian Hughes, Fred Hancock, Nancy Phillips, Renee Balter, James Westervelt (recorder)

Non-Voting members Christine Flynn (MVC), Peter Martel Emergency Management Director

Item: Minutes

Minutes of meeting Ad Hoc Fiscal Task Force meeting #4 (CDC #142) on 04.27.11 were read and approved.

Item: Public Comment-None

Item: Review

Terry reviewed the goals and objectives of the task force. The goals and objectives will be read at the start of all meetings to keep the task force focused.

“To review certain aspects of Town of Oak Bluffs’ fiscal situation toward resolution of projected deficits. The examination should consider future economic expectations (growth, recession) and propose revenue increases and/or spending reductions as well as efficiencies (town and regional, including privatization). The committee report should document all opportunities reviewed, including those already implemented by the Town.

- Objective:**
- a. develops criteria for essential Town services.**
 - b. recommend efficiencies in Town operations, including cessation, privatization and regionalization.**
 - c. recommend potential spending reductions.**
 - d. recommend potential revenue increases.**

Item: Police Department-Essential Functions Grid

Terry read Michael Dutton’s answers to questions raised at our last meeting. Priscilla discussed the management reports from the CPA firm of Powers and Sullivan, which she emailed to everyone. Terry encouraged all members to read the management reports especially fiscal year 2010. A discussion followed focused on the management reports. It was noted that at least 8 recommendations have been repeatedly unaddressed.

At this time (9:15am) Peter Martel Emergency Management Director was invited to discuss the functions of the Patrol/Rescue Boat. Peter explained how the boat was procured (Homeland Security Grant) and the requirements of its operation. Peter explained that since the 09.11.2011 terrorist attacks security on cruise ships and ferries are high priorities of our federal government. He explained that at certain security levels every ferry to the island would require an armed escort (our Patrol Boat) or the Coast Guard, if available. Peter reported that cruise ships pay \$3,500 per visit to the Harbormaster. He estimates the cost for the Patrol Boat per visit is \$500; for preparation, staging, screening passengers and patrolling. Peter also explained how it was mandatory to have the police perform these functions. Peter estimates the Patrol Boat’s annual cost to be \$8,500, which comes out of the Emergency Management budget. After Peter’s report he suggested we look into a “public safety assessment” levied on the many non-profits in Oak Bluffs. Also mentioned was the need for a fuel depot on the harbor and how it would generate revenue to the town. Peter was then thanked for his report and he left the meeting at 9:46am.

Christine commented that the requirements and costs involved in operating a patrol boat would be helpful to Tisbury since they maybe seeking a grant for their own boat. It may be an eye opener referring to the annual costs and a possible incentive for cooperation or possible merger with OB. Jim said almost all year round residents; seasonal residents, tourists and freight arrive by ferry. Tourists off the cruise ship tour the island from Aquinnah to Edgartown not just OB. Jim

commented that the Oak Bluffs Patrol Boat was another function funded by Oak Bluffs taxpayers that benefits all on the island. Priscilla said that there does not seem to be a willingness by other towns to recognize that fact.

Renee said she would try an get a meeting with Scott Dario, Todd Alexander and Peter Martel and see if they can create a marketing plan for attracting more cruise ships to the island.

Terry brought the discussion back to the functions of the police department by reviewing the updated essential services chart for the PD. Nancy discussed her findings on the parking tickets issued, collections and revenues received. Fred commented that perhaps the police should not do the issuing of tickets and that the ticketing should be done from May through October. **Harvey was looking into out sourcing-we will ask him at the next meeting.**

The task force then discussed the Quinn Bill. Priscilla noted that police negotiations have been completed. It was noted that for the town to stop participating in the Quinn Bill it would have to negotiate with the union, and petition the Commonwealth after a town meeting vote to opt out the Quinn Bill benefits. There was further discussion that the task force recommends joining other municipalities contesting the Commonwealth's under funding the Quinn Bill benefits.

The Powers & Sullivan management report highlighted the staffing problem of the PD in that there are many officers who have accrued overtime, comp time and vacation time. In many instances there are not enough days in the year to take the time earned thus allowing the time to accumulate from one year to the next. Comments were made that carrying over from year to year was a problem that should not be allowed in future contracts. Perhaps paying an officer at the end of each year for unused vacation time or comp time was suggested. **Priscilla will try and get a police labor contract for our study.**

A discussion about Animal Control focused on regionalizing or outsourcing perhaps to the MSPCA. **Renee will ask** Duncan Ross about this.

It was agreed by all that tracking and collections of fines for automatic alarms needs updating and more oversight. After a brief discussion it was agreed that issuing, tracking and collecting of fines, fees, penalties, tickets in all town departments needs more centralized control.

For the next meeting Terry asked all to review their assignments, lists of questions, and to read the Powers & Sullivan management report. Terry will try and package all we have discussed in a single report. We all agreed that this is taking far more time than anticipated and that we will plan to meet in the future from 9am to 11am.

Item: Public Input-None

Future meetings will be on 6.8, 6.22, 7.13, 7.27, 8.10, 8.24, 9.14, 9.28, 10.12, 10.26, 11.9, 11.23, 12.14, 12.28, and 1.11.12.

Documents:

Updated function rating grid for the Police Department, Powers & Sullivan Management Report 2009, 2010

Meeting adjourned 10:50 am.

Oak Bluffs Community Development Council

Meeting #143
Town Hall Meeting Room
05.11.11
11:12am

Members Present:

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

Minutes:

The CDC did not conduct any CDC business on previous meeting day except the above ad hoc task force so there were no minutes to approve.

Adjournment 11:02am.

