

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

CDC Meeting #148

Task Force Meeting # 7

Minutes of 07.13.11

9am-Town Hall Meeting Room

Members in attendance:

Chairman Terry Appenzellar, Priscilla Sylvia, Fred Hancock, Robert Huss, Renee Balter, Nancy Phillips, Cathy Goudy, James Westervelt (recorder)

Non-Voting members Christine Flynn (MVC)

Item: Minute

Minutes of meeting Ad Hoc Fiscal Task Force meeting #6 (CDC #145 on 06.22.11 were read and approved with one abstention.

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

The task force reviewed Terry’s updated drafted on the Police Department. It was noted that the task force must formally request through “Freedom of Information”, individual staff positions (not individual names) for information on compensation packages, pensions, and other financial information. It was also stressed that it was not the intention of the report to recommend the elimination of department positions but the Police Dept. should acknowledge their impact on the town budget (largest after the elementary and high school).

The new police union contract was discussed. It was agreed that it seemed to be a generously compensated package considering the economy and the plight of town finances. Questions about labor negotiations, who and how they are conducted arose. A professional labor negotiator (along with the BOS and Personnel Board) representing the interests of the town in all labor contract negotiations might be cost effective. It was something to review in the future.

Jim commented that it would be difficult for the task force to not recommend staff reductions going forward when all of the research we have suggests the largest expense a municipality has is its personnel costs. Fred said that the possible merger with Tisbury PD would strive to reduce police personnel costs.

Nancy discussed her experience with parking violations. She will email Terry her findings concerning “Ames” meters and parking in policies Provincetown.

Renee commented on resident parking permits and possible revenues of \$10,000 to \$30,000. Renee will email to Terry her proposals with estimated revenues and costs involved.

10:40am Cathy Goudy left the meeting at this time.

Terry will do one more draft of the Police Department review.

Item: Fire/EMS Essential Services

It was suggested at this time that the task force should put the FD & EMS on hold and review fines, fees and the collection of them at this time. All members agreed that this topic transcends many town departments. Renee commented that there are many business permits (this year and last) that are going uncollected. Renee will look into the business permitting and email her findings to Terry

Priscilla produced a law from 03.29.1991 requiring fees going to the Town Clerk. Priscilla will email this to Terry.

A discussion on the future of the task force in light of the recent political happenings in town was had. Priscilla and Jim both thought that most of the work of the task force would be ignored. Jim cited the ignored past work of the CDC. (Cost of Services Analysis, amended Home Business By-Law, Sea View Revitalization Concept Master Plan and a comprehensive parking plan. Terry said that we should proceed with our study (PD) and follow our outline including a public hearing and then present the findings to the BOS. After that we can see where we need to be with future work.

Item: Public Input-None

Adjournment: 10:23 am.

Future meetings: **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 Police Department draft of savings, reductions and or efficiencies.

Oak Bluffs
Community Development Council

Town Hall Meeting Room
07.13.11
10:25am

Members Present:

Terry Appenzellar, Priscilla Sylvia, Renee Balter, Nancy Phillips, 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 10:26 am

