

Citizens Finance & Planning Committee

Meeting #5, June 30, 2017 - Minutes

Attendance: Bob Balcom, Tim Briney, David Levow, Aven Kerr, Maria Lull, Michael Richardson, Jim Johnson, Mike Blasl (1:50 pm)

Absent - Tammy Shaw,

The meeting began at 1:10 p.m.

The June 2, 2017 minutes were unanimously approved

Issues Discussion

- **Town Board (Elected Officials) Salaries**
 - David Levow began the discussion referring to graphs he made showing correlations between the selected towns for each elected position. Chatham did not deviate substantially from the average of the towns .
 - Maria summarized the # of meetings for town board members which were in excess of 30 last year and already for some town board members this year.
 - After further discussion by the committee members the following recommendation to the town board was made: In regard to elected officials salaries, especially town board members, there is no need to increase or decrease them in the foreseeable future.
- **Member Priorities**
 - Jim Johnson began the discussion emphasizing the need for the committee members to clearly understand the results of the 2016 budget. All members were in general agreement that this was important. Jim had, earlier in the year, prepared a spreadsheet trying to show the results. Not all committee members had received it so he was asked to update and send it to the members.
 - The DA/DB budget component seems to have a large surplus however the accountant recommends a 40% unappropriated fund balance to handle emergencies, tough winters, catastrophic events, etc.
 - Through the discussion the committee members agreed that it would be a good practice for the Supervisor to prepare a short monthly summary regarding the health of the town. Maria Lull agreed and will seek assistance from the accountants and committee members.
 - The monthly Supervisor's report from the accountant will be forwarded to all committee members for their reading pleasure.

- Maria Lull then went through a laundry list of expenditures the town will need to plan for in the upcoming budget cycle including:
 - East Chatham Bridge mitigation (total cost approximately \$249,000 minus a \$100,000 member item from Senator Marchione. This may require bonding.
 - Culvert replacement - there are several culverts have failed or are in danger of failing. Cost estimates at this time not known but substantial.
 - Teamsters Union contractual raises of 2% (rough estimate, \$8,000 increase)
 - Minimum wage \$9.70 (up 7.7% and increasing each year for the next 2 years)
 - Non unionized staff raises (roughly tax cap level which will be forthcoming soon)
 - New roof on the town hall (cost yet to be determined but significant)
 - Parking lot lighting (recommended by the insurer)
 - Computers (several are out dated)
 - Replacement signs (town hall, Crellin Park, welcome to Chatham)
 - Electronic records transfer (cost unknown at this time)
 - Town hall land - appraise and evaluate
- Much discussion ensued with a need to gain more firm cost data.
- **Next meeting date** - July 19, 1:00 p.m.

The meeting ended at 2:40 p.m.