

Minutes MORC 030410

Attending: Mary Ann Lynch, Glen Kersteen, Jean Ginn Marvin, Dave Sherman, Dick Bauman, Mike Vaillancourt, Tim Thompson, Bill DeSena, Penny Jordan, Mike McGovern

Bill Desena move to table his own recommendations. Seconded by Sherman. Tabled unanimously, until the meeting after next.

The committee took up the subcommittee reports.

Dick Bauman gave the general government report. The subcommittee is concerned that capital needs are insufficiently funded. The Committee would also like to see expenses assigned to the town and the school to more accurately depict the actual costs of municipal and school costs to the taxpayer.

They propose sharing assessing services with other towns.

Mike wanted to clarify that there is no proposal to revisit personnel decisions made last year.

Mike suggested that there not be 6 separate reports, but that the group have one final report.

Bill DeSena says the report implies that the staff is underutilized. The other two members of the committee do not agree with Bill DeSena. Jean Ginn Marvin feels that our role is not to determine whether staff is utilized or not, but to just raise questions for the manager and the Council to address. Mike Vaillancourt suggests preparation of a minority report.

Bill DeSena believes staff said they were underutilized, while the other members of the committee did not come away with that impression.

Mike McGovern stated that no town employee is “underutilized” or underemployed. The Planner is busy w/ implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. The Assessor is busy doing a lot of special projects- he has been redeployed to do other pressing needs.

Tim Thompson feels when the schools are laying off people we need to look hard at all the jobs in town hall and in municipal operations. Mike McGovern responded that there are 6 fewer municipal employees, and non union municipal employees are not budgeted for a pay increase, in contrast to members of the police union and the teachers, who will receive a 4% pay increase this year.

Mike Vaillancourt feels we need to get more information about the job descriptions for all municipal employees.

Mike McGovern met w/ the manager of South Portland. They feel there should be a meeting at the elected official level to look at regionalization.

Public Safety

Penny delivered the report for the committee.

Can we position the dept for the 21st century? If we look at merger at the chief level, would be able to maintain a call company? What are the benefits of a merged company at the senior level? The report calls for the merger of the Cape and SoPo Depts with the Cape Chief position moving to a deputy in the SoPo dept. They also recommend merging Engine 1 with Willard in SoPo.

Rescue

We need to ensure paramedic services. Eventually this town will need a full time rescue. Will we do this ourselves or merge w/ SoPo? We have to maintain the level of service. We are only asking the question, Penny Jordan stated.

POLICE

Tim Thompson thanked the chiefs for their time. Regionalization needs to be discussed. Tim Thompson stated that the Committee has had no conversation w/ SoPo, and he also said SoPo clearly is interested “based on the feedback.” The subcommittee feels the town wants 2 patrol officers on duty at all times who are EMT trained. The town does not want officers. Regionalization will provide career opportunities.

With regionalization there will be savings on buildings and space, said Thompson. Mike McGovern agreed the police dept building is underutilized, since elimination of dispatch. Penny feels we need a police presence in the town center even if there is a merger.

Dave Sherman felt “shell shocked at the specificity of the written recommendations”. If the report is only to recommend that the Council explore the regional possibilities”, Dave could support that.

Penny says this is a strategy to inform thinking and planning for the next few years. In other areas there are quick hits. Some are mid term projects.

Mary Ann Lynch delivered the public works report. The subcommittee does not want to duplicate the efforts of the council with respect to recycling, but this is the largest single line item in the budget, after education, so the subcommittee endorses the Council’s efforts to move to pay per bag. The Public works subcommittee also recommends a carrot and stick financial incentive approach to encourage the schools to recycle more, as they are not recycling as much as they could. Move money into the school budget for solid waste disposal. If there are savings, because the school increases their recycling let the schools keep the savings, if there is a shortfall, than the schools must take that out of the school budget. The schools have everything they need to recycle, except a financial incentive. Lastly, landscaping upkeep inside and along the development should be the responsibility of a development. Require all future developments, as a condition of the

permit, to have a homeowner's association take care of landscaping. Examples given, Stonegate homeowners (the norm) is done by the town. All developments should be treated like Stonegate going forward.

Bill DeSena "What would the savings be? Tim Thompson wanted to know what the basis of the statement that the school is not doing enough in the recycling area. We looked at specific waste stream figures by schools over time. Bill wanted to know whether we looked at cost of plowing per storm, and whether we looked at putting the plowing out to bid. We did not.

Mike Vaillancourt-- Did you look at regionalization? Jean-- did you look at benchmarking for possibility of savings. Bill DeSena how does the town decide when to plow? Penny – Bob Malley makes the determination of when to plow. Tim Thompson there seems to be a theme of regionalization. It surprises Tim that this subcommittee did not look at regionalizing as other committees did, especially the mechanics operations. Mike said we have looked at regionalization. Lynch – there is regionalization, RWS the single biggest item in the budget is already regional, additionally purchases are made through GPCOG, and GPCOG has an inventory of equipment so that members can lend among themselves..

Tim- at the next meeting we need to figure out when and how to get public input. Tim would like to get the public in to give us input. Mike Vaillancourt -- let's use the next meeting to polish up the reports and get input. Dick Bauman-- shouldn't the public comment on our recommendations after we issue a report.

Glen--We should get public comment earlier.

Bill wants a face-to-face dialog with the public. Tim Thompson wants a meeting similar to what the school did on the curtailment.

Dave Sherman, how about each subcommittee hears comments at a table on the subcommittee report. DeSena disagrees and wants to hear from everyone. Mike Vaillancourt agrees w/ WDS.

We will meet next week from the 6 to 7 on the 10th. At 7 pm we will take public comment.

Tim Thompson moved to bring in an outside consultant to study the entire municipal government, every position. Seconded by Jean Ginn Marvin.

After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn. The committee adjourned at 9:10

