

MORCmin031010

Attending: Kersteen, McGovern, Jean Ginn
Marvin, Sherman, Bauman, Vaillancourt,
Thompson, DeSena, Jordan, Lynch

Approval of Minutes from last meeting was deferred to the next meeting.

The committee decided that they would accept public comment later in the evening, and try to answer questions. 5 minute time limits.

Library & Community Services:

Jean Ginn Marvin gave the report of the Library and Community Services subcommittee, and said the library should consider whether and to what extent we need 4 libraries in town. Regionalization and lesser hours could provide a savings for the town. For Community Services --- Registration on line and more marketing using new social media like face book and Twitter, etc. should be considered. Rental space in the Community Services building has been empty for a while and should be aggressively marketed.

Desena: could children use the school libraries after school, instead of Thomas Memorial?

Tim Thompson: What money is being spent now, how much, and where is it from, on the library project. Mike: 88K has been spent, all library trust money. They need to do more work to study the additional needs. Bill DeSena - How do you get a sense of whether people want this - It is dead on arrival he feels.

Facilities Subcommittee:

Report By Glenn Kerstin. Met on two occasions. 2 Staff people: Ernie Cane a ¼ FTE to address 40 municipal buildings (excludes schools)

Discussed the achievements of the Facilities manager. \$55m in assets includes schools, on a shoestring budget of 55K for routine maintenance, we do spend \$\$ on other, non-routine maintenance projects.

Fundraising: the town has had opportunities to rent buildings out. Committee feels outside consultants should come in to study the facilities. Convert to LED lighting. He has developed an energy management system for each building, but would like more heating and lighting upgrades.

Sale of town facilities: thought we should mention that it should be explored. The committee also thinks the town should explore fee for service in FT Williams, such as lobster bakes for cruise passengers, etc. Weddings at the Spurwink Church. We should explore charging for services as close to market price as is prudent. Gas heat for some of the town buildings. Appendix is the list of 40 + buildings. Glenn is in awe of what the town has done to control its energy costs. A credit to Ernie.

Unitel is getting the town a proposal for bringing the gas line to the center of town.

Revenues :

Glenn, Dave & Tim. They met 3X. Discussed a # of ideas that have already been discussed.

Ft Williams as a source of revenues, which is subject to a referendum vote in June.

Pay per throw, or yearly permit for the recycling station.

Undesignated surplus, TM to consult w/ bond counsel to determine the proper level. But even if lower, that is a one-time injection. Looked at "curtailment recommendations. They did not feel it was their role to discuss schools recommendations.

Bill DeSena wants to know whether the Committee looked at attracting "light industry" and businesses to the town as a way to increase revenue. Penny wants to know how much grant writing is taking place. Mike said we apply and are awarded grants and then due to a subsequent town council vote the grant is returned, like the Town Center/Shore Rd intersection improvements.

Public Safety: The subcommittee has issued a new report. They recommend that the town hire a private consultant. Their report is not unanimous. Councilor Jordan did not agree.

Dave brought up what is the next step? Should we vote on reports?

The next meeting is not until April 15th. Dave Sherman would like to have a report soon to the council. Lynch would like to address these reports sooner rather than later, because we need to end the uncertainty for town personnel.

March 25th at 7pm is the next meeting.