

Morc Minutes 04/15/10

Attending: Kersteen, Marvin, Bauman, Jordan, Vaillancourt, Sherman, DeSena, Thompson, and Lynch. Also attending Chiefs Gleeson, and Williams.

Minutes from the meeting of Mar 04 and 10 were approved.

Tim Thompson wanted to move to amend the meeting minutes from the very first meeting. He does not remember any training and he wants the record to show that he does not remember the training. The minutes were not amended.

The Committee engaged in a lengthy discussion of the Right To Know Law.

Discussion of the public Comments. Mike V. thought the public hearing went well. Bill thought the meeting was laden w/ staff people and too many non-residents. Mary Ann thought there was good representation from the volunteer firefighters and the library volunteers. Dave thought it was good and wants to do it again. Dick Bauman said, since the meeting was on the draft reports, it may not have been clear what was under active consideration. Tim taped the meeting and saw that 5 or 6 people want an outside expert hired. Tim did not understand why any municipal employees are concerned for their jobs. Tim wants to know where that fear is coming from? Glenn was surprised that there were not more ideas from the public. The file cabinets were the most innovative ideas. Glenn was really surprised that we were done in an hour. Tim

wants a different format, break people up in small groups to share ideas.

Jean was surprised at how quickly we got done. Jean would like to put an article or invitation in the Courier asking people to share their ideas for what needs improvement, find out what needs to be changed. Dave said we could list the top budget items and ask people what ideas they may have, what works, what doesn't.

There was a discussion of Nancy Marshall's comments. Jean asked how do we respond. Jean and Penny agreed to write something for the Courier to elicit public comment.

Bill does not think the Committee has lived up to his own hopes. He has an empty feeling and does not feel we have gotten to the 10 yard line. Dave: We did not realize how big the job was and we are not as far along as he had hoped. Next time there is a MORC have a more focused charge. Penny said, We are working to identify opportunity areas. We have done a broad sweep, you identify big hits.

The Committee began the review of the reports. The Fire Chief is OK with the report. Dave: Why do you want to hire an expert to look at the two departments? Answer Tim), difficulty in getting the data, and the premise is that regionalization makes sense. Tim's thought is getting the Sheriff's dept to provide public safety services. Penny, wants to make a recommendation about identifying expertise across communities. Tim: my general sense is that if we have outside experts review

the dept and they conclude that we have an efficient dept, then that would be a good result. Bill: We have not looked at the equipment, The more we can get professionals to collect the data and do the research we can put together a long term plan that makes sense. Bill is looking at retirements in other towns and thinking (in the assessing dept) that retirements could be opportunities. Chief Gleeson stated that any report that calls for regionalization should also look at what we do already on a regional basis. Bill says, " We do not have the data" The Chief said you haven't asked for the data, and if you ask for the data I can provide the data.

Dave: The issue of retirement of assessors is not something a consultant can help us with.

Glenn: Third paragraph from the bottom: did you intentionally leave this broad? Yes.

The committee had a long discussion about what to do with the reports. Do we vote on them in total, or paragraph-by- paragraph? Dick feels the recommendation of hiring a consultant is just kicking the can down the road. We voted on the Public Safety report paragraph by paragraph.

#3 6-3 (Bauman, Sherman, Lynch opposed)

#4 Unanimous

#5 Unanimous, as amended

#6 1 in favor (DeSena); 3 opposed Bauman, Sherman, Lynch; Abstain, Marvin, Kersteen.
Mike V & Penny

7 & 8 - Tim: Table this, we should look at a consultant for the whole town. Voted 5 support a rewrite, 4 opposed (Bauman, Sherman, Jordan, Lynch).

Comments from the public. Tom Dunham referred to his letter. He is concerned about whether pensions are unfunded. He also thinks there will be assessors retiring, opportunities must be acted upon.

The subcommittees will explore research with other towns, for instance the public works or library.

Adjourned at 9:10
Next meeting: Wed May 19th.