

Minutes 12/6/07

Attendance

Pete

Fran

George

Stu

Greg

Shannon

Dave

Naming of Room for Len

- Bob Carney suggestion: meet with Park Board, name pavilion at Round Hill – instrumental in getting it built
- Mike Gagne: room off of Mike's office not named
- Diane Gilbert: Buzzard's Bay Action Committee Room
- Motion from Jacobs, Fran second: sense of committee to support naming room in honor of Len (7-0 unanimous)

Comparative Data Analysis

- Motion: Fran moves to transfer \$7500 for funding of comparative analysis report (George seconds)
- Discussion
- Fran: people there impressed, neutral group, people suspect of in house comparison
- Pete: references?
- Mike: Ed spoke with Bernie Lynch (CAO of Lowell), thought information was very helpful, useful for providing info, components used on regular basis, data on police/fire compensation and benefits useful, same true for DTA
- Greg: one town did use for negotiations, two administrators did not think data was useful
- Ed: 1/3 of communities respond to MMPA
- Greg: comparative data between communities not good
- Mike: useful data - revenue by source, over time; comparison of debt (load, service); education (per capita v. per pupil, impact of enrollment on spending, sped comparison, technology and infrastructure spending, teaching and institutional staffing, salary break down and pay grid analysis) compensation and benefits for policy and general government employees; waste and water spending; roads spending
- Shannon: questions about quality of data in analysis
- Stu: defer to SB
- George: other people too busy to do this, give it a try; wary of using for collective bargaining purposes
- Dave: geographic comparisons – should look at SouthCoast communities
- Greg: how can this help us save money?

- Mike: infrastructure analysis; road spending
- Pete: small amount, requested by SB and town administration
- George: move question (Shannon second): unanimous (7-0)
- Vote: 7-0 unanimous

Tutorial about Recap by Ed

- recap of total appropriations from page 4
- column on page 4 – recap of what's appropriated when
- page 2 – cherry sheet offset (comes from school lunch offset, public libraries) – added in
- IId – veterans, widows, elderly etc – abatements in property and personal property (mostly property)
- can overspend in snow and ice and tax/title expense without town meeting approval
- 400K appropriated – 338K charged – what happened to rest? surplus goes back into revenue stream
- Pete: want copy of 08 even if uncertified
- foundation reserve fund = pothole money
- fire district 3: split (have business park and route 6) 150% last year; 2: single; 1: ?

Revenue Based verses Needs Based Budget Process

- Greg:
 - Westport deals with difference from year to year
 - fund mandates, obligations, reserves, stab fund
 - leftovers go to departments
 - we ask what departments need and that is whittled down
 - instead impose 2% cuts
- Ed:
 - SB identifies public safety as high priority

Quarterly Update on Revenue and Expenses including Legal Expenses

- Legal –
 - Mike: fairly close to being on target, pay Prentiss for eminent domain case (8K); matters outside town counsel: two arbitration cases; expended ~75K, have ~205 in account; have potential exposures above what is appropriated
 - Melissa: charge back water eminent domain/Prentiss to water fund?
 - Mike: in discussion with DPW on this
 - George: investigate other arbitration companies for better price
- Revenues and Expenses
 - Ed: sent July, August and September revenues – no cause for concern here; expenditures from July – September – no cause for concern here either; biggest concern = motor vehicle
 - Fran: 2% cut – how are departments doing?

- Ed: being monitored, most big departments in compliance, some small departments are not

Future Meeting 12/20 killed. Next meetings: 1/10 and 1/24

Melissa – Action Items:

- from Ed: revenue for parks v. 06 (impact of fee increase)
- from Ed: legal opinion on wind-by-law amendment? has been reviewed by counsel. Mike will verify.

New Business

- Greg: discussion of stab fund – interest on stab fund?
- Ed: money market – 5%, will look at CDs. Ed will verify interest rate on stab.
- Ed: manpower issue – a sum of money into overtime/additional hours account

Melissa moves to adjourn (Shannon second). 7-0 unanimous