

Town Government Study Committee Minutes

Date: Wednesday August 26, 2015

Time: 7:00 PM, Duxbury Senior Center Weyerhauser Room

Minutes Approved:

Committee Members Present: Anne Ward, Ted Flynn, Gene Blanchard, Gay Shanahan, Marty Desmery, Susan Curtis, Alex Chin, Kathleen Glynn

Committee Member Absent: John Tuffy

Town Official Present: Brian Cherry

Other Citizens Present: Elizabeth Lewis

1. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 by Gay Shanahan, Chair
2. Brian Cherry, the Town's Facilities Director, was introduced and discussed his role with the Town. He pointed out that he was responsible for all Town and School buildings, and supervises 28 employees, including custodians. He is actively involved in capital planning for the Town's buildings. His intention is to keep operating and capital costs for his department level from year-to-year, including a \$300,000 annual capital budget. When asked if he had any suggestions for changes in the operation of his department and the Town in general, he had none.
3. Elizabeth Lewis then raised the issue of increases in the number of Town employees and salaries over the last few years. It was the general feeling of the Committee that any substantial growth was in upper level managerial positions, and that the Town had been well-served by the addition of a Finance Director, Human Resources Manager and Facilities Manager in recent years. Although those positions had added substantially to the salary level, the positions were needed with the growth of the Town budgets and complexity of modern life, and that the Town now ran more efficiently, with fewer chances of losses from lawsuits.
4. Subcommittees. Gay then made a brief report regarding the Town Meeting review subcommittee, and Gene reported that Kathleen had joined him on the By-law review subcommittee, which had begun to review the Town By-laws.
5. Susan then led a discussion regarding the Survey subcommittee, and the Committee reviewed and commented on a draft survey form the subcommittee had prepared based upon several surveys conducted in other towns. The survey form will be revised based upon the discussion.
6. Kathleen raised the issue of the proposed consolidation of IT services for the Town and the School Department.
7. Anne then raised the issue of whether the Town could provide any form of public health services in the areas of mental health and substance abuse. The issue was briefly discussed, but no conclusion was reached..
8. It was then moved and seconded to adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Gene Blanchard

List of Documents:
Draft survey form.

Approved on September 23, 2015, by vote of 7-0, with one abstention.

Gay Shanahan, Chair