

HULL FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2010

FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Domenico Sestito (Selectman), Chair
Dennis Blackall (Selectman), Vice Chair
Roger Atherton, (Citizen-at-large), Clerk
Richard Kenney (Advisory Board)
Brian McCarthy (Citizen-at-large, Council on Aging) - absent
Stephanie Peters (School Committee)
Kevin Richardson (School Committee)
Charles Ryder (Advisory Board, alternate) - absent
John Silva (Citizen-at-large, former Selectman)
Charleen Tyson (Advisory Board) - absent

STAFF MEMBERS

Marcia Bohinc (Town Accountant)
Philip Lemnios (Town Manager)
Kathleen Tyrell (Superintendent of Schools)

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Sestito at 5:04 PM at Town Hall in the Selectmen's Meeting room. He led the pledge of allegiance. Sestito indicated there was only one agenda item, which is for the FPC to offer comments and suggestions to the report presented at the last meeting by Blackall for the 21st Century Schools and Budget Update Sub-Committee (S/C), and hopefully approve it - so it can be sent out early tomorrow morning to the Board of Selectmen (BoS) for their meeting Tuesday evening (4/13).

Blackall requested the opportunity to describe a number of changes he suggested be made in the report. He corrected the note of appreciation (page 3) to include Marcia Bohinc, corrected minor typo errors (pages 4 and 11), added three bullet points from the Detailed Findings Section (page 8) to the Recommendations Section (page 5), add "with" to bullet #9, and elaborated on the 58% / 42% Note 1 (page 10) on page 12. Kenney pointed out a small change on page 8 in verb tense. These changes were accepted by the FPC.

Sestito then asked Peters to reiterate her reactions in the previous meeting regarding the tone and strong wording. She stated that the wording implied the bullet points in the Recommendations Section seemed more like directives than recommendations, which she felt exceeded the FPC's advisory role. Atherton pointed out that her points were directed at both tone and content, as these should be discussed separately. The opening line "We strongly urge the BoS to take immediate action on the following" raised a number of discussion issues. Richardson raised the issue of terminology, e.g., "Direct the Town Manager..." which he believes exceeds the FPC's authority. Sestito commented that "take immediate action" and "ASAP" is overkill. After a while, Lemnios suggested the FPC do this review one bullet at a time and then go back and decide about the summary statement - all agreed. After much discussion, the following were agreed to:

- Bullet #1 -- Accepted as written.
- Bullet #2 -- Delete "Take immediate action and", start with "Set..."
- Bullet #3 -- Delete "Take immediate action and", start with "Set..."
- Bullet #4 -- Accepted as written.
- Bullet #5 -- Revise to read "Develop a policy where the Town will not incur debt without clearly identifying a means to pay for that debt and any operating costs associated with that debt."

Bullet #6 -- Accepted as written.

Bullet # 7 -- Accepted as written.

Bullet #8 -- Revise to read "Determine the feasibility and benefit of selling Town-owned real estate as identified by the Financial Planning Committee."

Bullet #9 -- Revise to read "Work with the School Department to identify department consolidation opportunities."

Bullet #10 -- Revise to read "Develop and implement, if beneficial, Regionalization opportunities."

Bullet #11-- Revise to read "Work with the School Committee to determine building consolidation plan viability."

Bullet #12 -- (New) -- "Work with the Planning Board to define and implement new by-laws that will spur new and/or replacement development and thus new tax revenue."

Bullet #13 -- (New) -- "Complete the long-term capital plan and report on this annually."

Bullet #14 -- (New) -- "Assign these tasks, set clear target dates, and monitor progress."

Page #9 -- Add to "Additional Risks" new item "Pension funding".

Under "Additional Opportunities", change "kids" to "students".

Delete "Health Insurance -Transition to Medicare for Retirees", as this is already being done.

The discussion returned to the opening statement. Dr. Tyrell said there were some items that do not lend themselves to immediate action. Dr. Silva disagreed as he believes this is needed to move the process along. A motion was made by Peters to eliminate "immediate". No second, so motion was withdrawn. Peters asked that on page 4, paragraph 4, the phrase "with the exception of the school facilities, which the School Department intends to maintain" be deleted as it is incorrect. The issue seemed to be routine maintenance (which is being done) versus major maintenance items (for which there are insufficient funds) and is true for both the School Department and the Town.

Sestito asked for a motion to approve the report as revised. Motion made by Peters, seconded by Kenney, unanimous approval. Kenney requested the report be given to the BoS as a Draft for their meeting tomorrow. Atherton and Blackall will work together to get these revisions incorporated and send to Lemnios by 9 AM tomorrow for distribution to the BoS. The FPC will have a chance to review and send comments to Sestito ASAP. The next meeting will be April 20 at 6 PM.

Dr. Silva moved the FPC meeting be adjourned; seconded by Richardson; vote: unanimous in favor. Meeting ended at 6:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Dr. Roger Atherton, Clerk