



# The Town of Barnstable

## Comprehensive Financial Advisory Committee (CFAC)

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### CFAC Committee:

#### Chair:

Laura Cronin

#### Members:

Robert Ciolek  
Cynthia Crossman  
Ralph Krau  
Jacqueline Michelove  
Gregory Plunkett  
Lillian Woo  
John Schoenherr

#### Staff Liaison:

Mark Milne

#### Councilor Liaison:

John T. Norman

### CFAC MEETING MINUTES

06.08.15

7:00 PM

#### Growth Management Conference Room

CFAC Members Present: John Schoenherr, Cynthia Crossman, Ralph Krau, Laura Cronin, Lillian Woo, Robert Ciolek, Gregory Plunkett

CFAC Members Absent: Jacqueline Michelove

Councilors Present: None

Staff Present: Mark Milne, Nathan Empey,

#### 1. Call to Order

Laura Cronin called the CFAC meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Growth Management Conference Room of Town Hall.

#### 2. Act on Minutes

The following minutes were approved by unanimous vote:

05.28.15

### 3. Communication from Committee Members/Councilors and Staff

CFAC presented its' review of the FY16 Operating Budget to Town Council on Thursday June 4, 2015. The report received positive feedback from council members.

Mark noted Department of Public Works and Community Services FY16 proposed appropriations remain open for Town Council approval.

### 4. Old Business

### 5. New Business

### 6. Discussion

Bob C. reviewed a list of Future possible topics to be discussed at CFAC meetings, which was sent out by Nathan:

- a. The Town of Barnstable receives \$700,000 under a license agreement with Comcast Cable Company. The revenue from the license has restricted uses for public and educational programs only. Mark noted that because of the restrictions, Town could not use the funds for other purposes such as, technology upgrades in school classrooms. This special revenue fund supports six fulltime employees. CFAC asked if there were legal constraints for the Town to seek other cable providers to stimulate competition. Mark commented that there was not and that the town uses an attorney who specializes in cable contract negotiations when negotiating this license.
- b. Cape Cod, as a whole, is experiencing annual drops in school enrolment. This has caused some towns to focus on regionalizing their school systems. For example, Chatham and Harwich have consolidated. Mark commented that Barnstable being the largest school system on the Cape would most likely result in it absorbing other districts public school systems before it was absorbed.
- c. CFAC asked if departments have a maintenance schedule for managing assets. The capital outlay and vehicle maintenance cost continue to rise. Mark commented that this is partially due to the increasing costs of equipment, for example, the Crown Vic used by the PD for marked cruisers is no longer manufactured and has been replaced by a much more expensive Ford Interceptor.
- d. Bob C. commented that Boston is asking non-for-profits to make regular voluntary payments of up to 25 percent of what they would owe if their property were not tax-exempt. This could be a revenue opportunity for the Town of Barnstable if it follows suit.
- e. Laura C. asked what the status was on the review of the town's administrative code. The Town Manager has hired an outside consultant to review the town's administrative code. Part of this report will provide feedback on consolidating, eliminating, or keeping committees.
- f. Mark commented that on average the fire districts represent about 20 cents out of every dollar spent on taxes. He added that they are often compared to police department budgets and one factor contributing to the towns 5 fire district budgets being higher than the police budget is that they have a much larger infrastructure to manage - 7 buildings as opposed to one facility for police..

Mark requested that CFAC provided ideas in order to create an 8-10 page report on what citizens moving to Barnstable would want to know.

Mark noted next meeting topic of discussion would continue on assigned project. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: CFAC will have its next meet on Monday June 22, 2014 @ 7 p.m. at the Growth Management Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, at Town Hall.