

MORC minutes 12/09/09

Present: Kersteen, McGovern, Marvin, Bauman, Thompson, Jordan, Vaillancourt, DeSena, Lynch. Councilor Swift-Kayatta also attended

Minutes from the last meeting approved.

Comments were expressed on the DeSena written thoughts re scope. Do we agree? MAL feels most of these issues are outside the scope of this committee – they are very political and in many cases require charter changes. Dave Sherman agreed. Glenn said, “Can we go on record that this committee was not asked to do these things?” Dick said: These proposals are very substantive, we could not do this w/o a lot more heavy analysis, and we haven’t even started on the work based in the Council charge.

Mike McG: Ok to look at these issues, Mike Vaillancourt – ditto. The Committee agreed to “park” these items for a discussion at a later date.

Subcommittee work – Dave Sherman reported on the revenue subcommittee. Met 2x w/ Matt Sturgis. Nov 11 & 18. Received info on excise taxes, and property taxes.

2 other areas: Ft Williams, pay to park kiosk, earlier proposal that was voted on, and relaxing the restrictions on the park’s tenants. The subcommittee explored easing those restrictions while still maintain the Ft. as a park. Also discussed commercial kiosks, concession stands, etc. Other area trans Savings 0.5M\$ increase in revenues if there was pay per throw.

General Government operations. Charge for tennis court use, and other small ticket items. Bill DeSena: did you look at recruiting businesses to locate to town? Did you look at being more proactive in developing businesses in town? Bill wonders whether we should contract out our municipal services, like planning, code enforcement, & assessing? What about renting out our high school classroom space at night to SMCC.

General Government: Dick Bauman, Bill De Sena, Dave Sherman. Met 3 X. They learned a great deal about the work that is done in the general government and election process area. Elections have greatly increased the

work load with weeks of early voting. Tax office is busy and still provides a good level of face to face service. They spoke to Maureen about planning, codes enforcement and assessment. The committee plans to spend more time in January w/ these depts to pursue a more detailed review. They also looked at liability insurance procurement. They saw the potential for more in house efficiencies. Telephone system was identified as being woefully inadequate. A technology review is in order.

Public Safety. 1 meeting – Tim & Penny. Bill was out of town. They called the Cumberland County Sheriff to discuss consolidation, then they heard from the SoPo police dept who said they were interested in discussing this issue. The meeting, as a consequence was not exactly what they had planned.

In a perfect world, the Chief would like 2 more officers: one full time detective, and one more person to do speed enforcement and community liaison officer, and he would like to have dispatch back. Challenges with the new dispatch. They are concerned with the level of service – the relationship between the dispatch and the caller is different -and from 4 in the afternoon until 8 in the morning there is no one at the station. Service for the public is not at the same level. Eddie Hunt was kept on staff and that has helped in the transition. The committee tried to get at whether there was “non patrol” type functions that we can share across communities. The answer was no. A lot of what they have done to reduce costs has led other towns to call him to ask how they did it. The committee asked for call data. Tim said many of the people at the “school” meeting felt that we can reduce police service in the town.

How many calls does the dept get. Get information on service levels - other towns, wait times etc. We can get proxy information from other towns on the cost of the contracting out the public safety function.

Fire dept. Penny reported on this area. Chief Gleeson met w/ the committee and gave an overview of the dept. Peter Gleeson is concerned about relying on volunteers during the day. The volunteers need a significant level of training. Much discussion on the need for a certain sized truck. Three people are on call every night and are paid \$10/hr. Most equipment is repaired by the DPW. Peter Gleeson is looking at working w/ SMCC for the live in program. Fires during the day when there are fewer volunteers are very challenging. Next step, get some statistics.

DPW –Public works takes care of all municipal & school vehicles in the garage. It would cost the schools a minimum of 90/hour to get vehicles serviced outside w/ a private vendor.

We purchase salt, paving, gasoline and paper on a regional basis through GPCOG.

GPCOG also maintains a regional inventory of tools and equipment which all the members access and really benefit from.

We could contract out the mowing of the little league fields and make little league responsible for that.

Pay per bag- reduces tonnage. Transition would be challenging but it can be done. Camden Rockland has pay per toss.

Scarborough has curbside recycling but recycles only 3% more than we do! We have a 25% recycling rate, Falmouth 40%+.

If we want to achieve Falmouth's rates we have to go curbside.

When you count all our recycling, including asphalt and yard waste we are at 64%.

Pay per bag is fairer and does reduce your tonnage. To do pay per toss we would need more staff and site changes.

We eliminated heavy item pick up and Bob recommends we bring this back. We did not save much money.

Recycling at the schools is not good. Middle school recycling is particularly bad. Biggest weight at the schools is paper, and the schools are not doing a good job. The high school does a better job. HS recycling rate 36%, MS is 26%. We spend \$17,000 to haul the containers from the schools out of the municipal budget, and that does not include the cost of the weight of the trash, only the hauling.

We take care of the entry gardens at cross hill as they are in the public way. The Committee recommends that public tax dollars should not be used for

this. Any future subdivisions should be req'd to create a homeowners assoc to pay for landscaping maintenance.

Facilities: Mike V. gave the report for the committee. Fuel is purchased by Ernie's dept. Ernie's dept does the work inside the town and school buildings. They have done a lot of work on energy efficiency w/in town buildings. Can this work be privatized or contracted out? Ernie does not think so. Revenue options: opening up buildings for rentals - we need to look at how to maximize these opportunities. Ernie's knowledge was astounding.

Library. 240 staff hours a week. We talked about having 4 libraries within throwing distance. , 6900 library cards in out town. Jay does not like privatization of libraries. He wants to offer more adult programming, but does not have the resources. Jay is open to regional services, but SoPo has no interest in even having reciprocal borrowing, and their library staff is unionized and paid much more.

Benchmarking- we are not doing Skowhegan.

Next meeting. 1/14/10 @ 7pm.

Other comments: Should we do Courier articles to get information to the public. Should we do a survey monkey to ask citizens about services? Each subcommittee chair will write an article and do a survey Monkey (?).

