

Budget Advisory Meeting 11/9/2020

Attending: John Herlihy, Linda Ivers, Mark Canfield

Meeting was called to order at 4PM. John advised that Ed Culverson and Karen Waters have resigned from the committee and that we will need to find replacements.

John mentioned he did not have an agenda for the meeting.

The minutes of the Oct. 14 meeting were not read or accepted.

John requested that Corey Smith attend the meeting to answer questions.

Linda and Mark were prepared to discuss their reviews of the assigned budgets, but this was not done. A brief comment was made by Mark to Linda that the WEVD Rec Fund P&L does not include many of the overhead charges pertaining to infrastructure costs born by the WEVD and therefore we are unable to truly understand the total cost of delivering services by the Community Center and Campton Mountain. These misaligned costs are borne by the taxpayers since the "profits" produced in the Rec Fund P&L are insufficient to cover them.

Corey was asked about the role of the department leads in the budget making process. Corey stated he and the leads project the current year's income and expenditures through to the end of the fiscal period. These results are then used to project the Future Year (FY) income and expenses which then make their way into the proposed budget.

Corey stated that this year is presenting budget challenges due to COVID and closure of the facilities. Food and Beverage estimates will be almost impossible to make without the Lead having an idea of what capacity limits will be okayed. We do not know when the facilities will be opened. Once they are open there will be measurable additional costs associated with required cleaning and recleaning procedures. Corey said he does not know what we are willing to spend to be open and pointed to poor or nonexistent communication between Commissioners and the Board.

Corey was asked about the reopening plan Erika Benton has put together and the plan he was to put together for the Community Center as these would provide guidance for creating future budgets. We also have historical data that can be referred to and tweaked to recognize the challenges faced. Additionally, the street and roads and water departments should not be experiencing the same challenges from COVID closure.

A question from an audience attendee (name not captured but he lives on Weetamoo and is not a full time resident) asked why we do not know the total cost of providing services alluded to when Mark discussed this with Linda Ivers. Corey provided history on how the budget categories were separated and became the responsibility of the WEVD or the WEA. He stated that right now that is a political football. Corey stated there is sense to making a change on how these costs are assigned and funded. Personally, he opined that the costs for use of all facilities should be a flat fee paid by every homeowner thereby taking the burden off owners of homes valued higher than the average home price in the Estates. This would lower taxes required of all homeowners in order to fund the services provided and make the service costs more equitable.

John advised he is leaving the committee and Gerry Panuczak will assume the role of Commissioner participant and leader. Next meeting will be 2PM Nov 18. Sean and Steve are being invited to share with the committee their input on the future budget. The meeting was adjourned at 4:59