

Finance Committee Meeting

Nov 13, 2012

Members Present: Steve Noone, Doug Tindal, Mary Ann Ashton, Paulina Knibbe, Herman Kabakoff, Bob Evans, Mike Majors. Bill Mullin, Absent: Pat Clifford

Meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m.

- I. Public Comment. None
- II. Approval of Minutes. None.
- III. Presentation by Doug Halley re: Transportation

Updates on things that have happened since ATM

MinuteVan Services

- Dial-a-Ride – 367 passenger trips/mo. (up 10% since last year)
- Rail Shuttle – two off-site lots; averaging 577 passenger trips/mo. (up 20% since last year)
- Road Runner – priority senior/handicapped, but allows general public; averaging 267 passenger trips/mo. – fills in gaps with general public when services are not required for two other groups (new service)

Community Challenge Grant

- Funded through Governor's office – Feb 2012
- Partners = Acton, Boxborough, Littleton, Maynard, Stow, and Clock Tower Place

Next steps:

- Complete CIC project
- Seek an implementation/expansion grant from CIC2 – second round eligible – expand partnerships with other communities, groups
- Consolidate transportation services – internal/external

Creation of TMA Will Mean

- Operate from a 501(c)(4) nonprofit status
- Serve as management umbrella for all participants
- \$5,000-7,000 per year

Implementation

- 501(c)(4) status
 - Legal documents
 - Reviewed by partners
 - Acceptance – BOS, TM, Corp decision
- Intermunicipal agreements
- Contract operations through RFP

- July 1, 2013 start of business

CIC2

- Submit grant application – Nov 30 filing deadline
- Grant will have a four-prong focus
 - Identify and seek addition public partners – Concord, Westford already committed
 - Identify and seek addl private partners
 - Advance Dispatching Technology
 - Assist in implementation of the TMA – annual budget of \$100K for TMA

Budget FY2014

- TM has set a placeholder for a \$250K budget
- Still tbd – offset from fees collected, offset from grants received (existing mobility grant ends), offset from H-901 receipts

- IV. Discussion of ALG meeting November 8th
 Current ALG plan shows a 7% increase in state aid. Recent developments indicate this is more likely to be level funded. The current ALG plan shows a significant funding / expense gap. This drop in projected funding will increase the size of that gap.

Moving forward:

- Expenses – managers will develop budgets
- Split – keep split the same
- Revenue – assume level funding of state aid
- Use of reserves – no agreement

Most recent ALG spreadsheet will be forwarded soon

- V. Focus on upcoming Budget Process
 Steve Barrett – town budget status

Budget Planning exercise has been completed.

Dept Head Budget Requests (\$38.83m)

- Operating budget: \$28.10m
- New Personnel: \$1.17m
 (4 patrolmen, 1 dispatcher, possibly firefighters ?)
- Capital: \$9.56m

Budget will be presented to BoS on Dec 17th
 No date for budget Saturday

- VI. Status Reports

- a. Morrison Farm
Dec 3rd – Final Report to BoS, BoS vote
Dec 17th – CPC vote

15 elements – plan to show a multi-year CPC funding plan
current estimates:
1st year - \$1.5 - \$1.8 million
2nd year - \$500K
3rd year - \$100 – 200K

There may be some revenue to offset ongoing expenses but this is not expected to be self-funding

Community Building:

- Support programming at Morrison Farm – not other town needs
- utilitarian, functional design

- b. OPEB Working Group

Working on developing a list of part time employees who work sufficient hours to receive benefits

Actuaries are developing a state level report that examines various scenarios. Acton will be included as one of the representative towns. This will give us a lot more information as we move forward.

Working Group is current discussing asking for \$800K for funding OPEB in FY14. Also discussing a bonding scenario. All is still tentative.

- c. Schools Regionalization
School Committees have not voted on recommendation yet.

- d. Minuteman school request re: 'marginal costs.'
Bob expressed his concern that the analysis of marginal costs and the tuition rate for students from non-member towns was flawed. It does not include the option of sizing the school substantially smaller and using tuition to fill in the gaps vs keeping the school at its current size and have a large population of students from non-member towns.

Finance Committee agreed to consider this at our next meeting. There will still be time to get comments to Minuteman on this issue.

VII. Committee Updates

- a. APS. Mary Ann Ashton.
The last APS meeting included multi-year projection of school expenses and the quarterly report.
- b. CPC. Herman Kabakoff.
West Acton Baptist Church will be asking CPC for funding for architectural plans to update their church. \$20 - \$25K

HDC will be asking for funding to start a revolving loan program for homeowners in historical areas in town. They will ask for \$150K to start the program.

Open Space Committee is considering purchasing 40 acres of land near Newtown and Arlington. This will use funds already set aside in the Open Space Fund.

Recreation is planning on asking for funds for a toddler playground near Elm Street, shed at NARA, bathrooms near the miracle field, pavilion at NARA.

- c. HIT. Bob
Health Insurance Trust will be meeting soon. Numbers are not looking as good as last year.

Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Minutes approved on Nov 27, 2012