

Minutes 9/8/20 meeting of the Fiscal Stability Committee

Present: Valerie Horsley, Kia Levy-Burden, Jim Pascarella, Christian McNamara, Cory O'Brien, Marjorie Bonadies, Acting Police Chief Sullivan, Public Works Director Cesare, HR Officer Brigitte Cogswell; Ex Officio: Mayor Curt Leng, Finance Director Curtis Eatman, Rick Galarza

1. Call to order 7:06pm
2. Council President McGarry and Mayor Leng gave introductory remarks
 1. Mr. McGarry stressed a few items for the committee to consider:
 1. Retirements forthcoming in finance need attention
 2. Several stressors in current budget: COVID pandemic spending and concessions from unions not yet realized
 3. Capital projects need prioritizing
 4. Maximize growth of grandlist
 5. The committee also needs a co-chair--volunteers requested
 3. Mayor Leng emphasized the commitment of the administration to the work of the committee.
4. Facilitator Burden helped us frame how difficult conversations and unfinished business can be managed
5. Chairwoman Horsley outlined the resolution
 - . Mr. McNamara suggested that we may need to create additional committees to supplement our work and incorporate outside expertise
 - a. Mr. Pascarella emphasized the need for buy-in of our work from the Legislative Council
5. Finance Director Eatman gave an overview of the current fiscal state of the town
 - . Mr. Eatman projected a 6 million deficit with 4 million in negative fund balance
 - . Deficit driven by reduction in property taxes and revenues that have not and may not be realized.
 - a. Mr. McNamara suggested that the language used should be considered.
6. Chairwoman Horsley described how we will start organizing our work
 - . We will meet every two weeks (scheduling forthcoming)
 - a. We will honor your time by limiting meeting to 90-120 min
 - b. We will provide public input through dedicated sessions including one within the first month and on a rolling basis via email: hamdenfiscalstability@gmail.com
Password: \$Hamden2020
 - c. Our goals are: (short-term) identify ways to close the deficit for FY20-21; (long-term) identify ways to promote positive fund balance and reduce long-term debt
 - d. Based on interests and our goals, we will have the following working groups:
 - I. li. Pensions (Horsley; Bonadies; McNamara)
 - II. Long-term planning and projections (McNamara; Pascarella; O'Brien)
 - III. Medical (Horsley; Pascarella)
 - IV. Town properties (Cesare; Horsley)
 - V. Town departmental organization and scope (Bonadies; Gary; Brigitte as needed).
 - VI. Contracts (O'Brien, Sullivan, Brigitte, McGarry; Cesare as needed)
- e. Prior to the next meeting, the working groups should
 - . Create goals that can address short-term budget deficit and long-term fiscal health
 - i. Outline informational sheet that we can share on the hamden website
 - ii. Identify any information or people that you need to speak with to do your work

f. Mr. McNamara mentioned that creating fact sheets for the public and our work will be helpful. Dr. Horsley supported that idea and suggested that perhaps a goal of 1-1.5 months would be appropriate.

7. Meeting adjourned

Submitted by Valerie Horsley, Chair