

Finance Advisory Committee Meeting Notes 2/17/10

Attending: Fisher(TC liaison), Bergenfeld, Hoyer, Malek, Shute, Rich (appointment pending)
Absent: Hamtil, Van Saase

-Finance Committee mission and goals:
Revised below as per discussion.

*Mission is to seek to improve township finances without raising taxes.
The committee will seek out grant opportunities, identify ways to attract clean business, develop ideas to share services with other agencies, suggest methods of cutting government and propose other policies or projects that will result in positive cash flow for the township.*

-Review of Township Finances and Budget process:
Briefly reviewed budgetary process. Shute and Fisher to develop pie chart and 5 year rolling budget table with CFO to clarify township budget and property tax contributors for distribution to taxpayers.

-Grant Proposals submitted by Township to Federal Government:
Fisher briefly described 3 grant proposals submitted to Rep. Holt's office.
1- Improvements to George Washington Rd.
2- Installation of elevator in municipal building
3- Improve municipal building basement to house township police dept.

-Township Property, possible future uses discussed:
1-Preserve and sell 70 acres in rear of property.
2-Renewable energy project.
3-Municipal cemetery

-Possible Property Tax reevaluation and impact on tax bills
Shute described possible township wide reassessment (lower) that would result in reduction of several taxes due to fixed rates. (county, county open space, county library and local open space)
Idea initially panned by group as "circular", any benefit would be short lived.

-Other ideas discussed:
1-Enforcement of ordinance prohibiting outside parking of unlicensed trailers
2-Commercial development tax abatement
3-Use of open space trust fund to maintain township owned open space.
4-Reduction or suspension of municipal open space tax
5-Use of 'sweep' to earn interest on township account balances.

-Designation of officers:
Group decided that no titles are necessary at this time. Shute volunteered to keep notes, and Fisher will bring ideas deemed worthy to Township Committee

-Discussion of having meetings open to the public:
Group unanimous in keeping meetings nonpublic if possible. All felt that having the public and possibly the press at the meetings would probably result in reduced effectiveness of the committee.

Next meeting:
Wednesday March 17, 7:30

Submitted by Hal Shute 2/22/10