



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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12/19/2012 Minutes

VISION 2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP
Meeting Minutes 12/19/12

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (CoChair), David Garbarino (CoChair), Heather Remoff, Scott Lever, Jonathan Haughton, Pete Howard (Secretary)

WATER & SEWER PROJECT: We reviewed what we have learned over the past six months. The cost of water is expected to increase sharply due primarily to the fact that the total of the water meter readings in residences, businesses and other buildings is 30% less than the actual amount provided to the town according to the MWRA. The Manager told us that Town buildings are metered. He thinks that the continuous water main replacement program keeps leaks well below 30%. Aging water meters are known to under report usage. A sizable one time gain could be realized by going to quarterly billing. Gordon proposed & the group agreed that we write a letter to the BoS w/ copies to DPW & FinCom summarizing what we have learned & recommending some actions. Pete to draft letter for review.

SOLAR POWER FOR TOWN BUILDINGS: Scott had suggested that this might be a sizable cost saving for the Town. At our Oct meeting, Ryan Katofsky stated that the Energy Working Group, of which he is a member, is planning to solarize many of the school buildings. He made a ballpark savings estimate of \$180+k. We agreed that the FRTG need do no more for now. Scott, who had to miss our October will call Ryan to follow-up.

MY TAX DOLLARS: The Deputy Town Manager has not called Gordon & Gordon has not yet followed up. Pete hopes that this will change in the new year.

TOWN WI-FI: The Town Planner's office appears interested. Scott will meet with her. Scott says that trend to establish local public wi-fi service seems to have tapered off.

GOOGLE GROUP FOR FRTG Gordon to arrange.

LAND VALUE TAX: Heather reviewed the concept. To try it in Arlington would require a change in State Law. In addition, she believes that land is under valued in town. A general discussion followed. More density on Mass Ave & Broadway versus more overrides. Mixed use zoning & overlays. Can we help with a Town Meeting warrant article? Gordon will invite Carol Kowalski & Alan. Manolian to our Jan mtg to discuss these matters.

HUMAN CAPITAL: Scott would like to assess what Arlington has to offer. This might be useful in attracting residents and businesses. He may get more info when he visits the Planning Department. So too when the group next convenes in the new year!

NEXT MEETING Jan 17 and 3d Thursday on subsequent months.