

VISION 2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP
Meeting Minutes 3/27/14
Senior Center Art Room

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), David Garbarino (Co-Chair), Heather Remoff, Pete Howard (Secretary)

WATER RATES: Scott had inquired if the FRTG knew anything about the origin of the new water and sewer rate schedule. Gordon has communicated w/ Scott. We discussed the water rate situation. The change was suggested by a consultant hired by DPW. Scott has a somewhat special case: 2 residences on one meter. When his combined usage goes over the upper limit and into the third tier, he will pay more for the water used over that limit. Likewise for sewer usage. We observed that if there were 2 meters, each would pay the base fee. We also discussed the 2nd water meter warrant article. Proponents would like to have a 2nd meter that connects only to sill cock and thus does not use the sewers (except for leakage into the sewer). The BoS will recommend no action since this would be a disincentive to conserve water. It would only benefit HHs that could afford to pay to install a second meter at the cost of higher rates for everyone else. A change that is being considered at DPW would be to base sewer rates on winter water usage. This would be a more equitable way to pay for sewer usage since the sill cock gets little use in the winter.

WARRANT ARTICLE ORDER: Pete reported that the BoS did not implement our request to put the ARC articles later in the warrant. However there is only one ARC article. There are 3 other zoning articles submitted by 10 register voters. Also, most of the other 10 registered voter articles are early in the warrant as we had suggested.

LAND VALUES: Heather typed her notes on land values on Mass Ave. Since her information is 2 years old, she tried to verify them using the assessors' web site. She was not able to get what she needed. We discussed where we would like to take this. The dataset must be large enough to avoid being dismissed as anecdotal. The discussion was brief in the absence of Scott & Mike.

NEXT MEETING: Apr 17 Senior Center Art Room - Meetings held monthly, 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM