

VISION 2020 FISCAL RESOURCES TASK GROUP
Meeting Minutes 4/23/15
Senior Center Ground Floor

ATTENDEES: Gordon Jamieson (Co-Chair), David Garbarino (Co-Chair), Brian Hasbrouck, Pete Howard (Secretary)

ASSESSMENT PROJECT: Gordon reported that the Director of Assessments will attend our May meeting (May 21st). Gordon will confirm the date & topics with him and the group and send out the meeting announcement in the first week of May so that members can be sure to attend.

REQUEST FOR FORMAL REPORT FROM RETIREMENT BOARD (CRB) TO TOWN MEETING: Gordon reported that he still has heard nothing from the CRB.

FINANCIAL PLAN REVIEW: Pete had compared our letter with suggestions based on the FY14 plan to the FY16 plan recently available on the Town website. Of the 25 suggestions each keyed to a page in the FY14 plan, only four were partly acted on. Pete will mark up the original listing with references to the FY16 plan & some indication of what kind of change was suggested. He will approach the Deputy Town Manager about how best to get improvements in the FY17 plan.

Gordon has reviewed the FY16 financial plan. He noted that the new growth estimates continue to be much lower than the actual final values. In several recent years they have been as much as less than half the actual finalized new growth value. Could the estimates be based on permits with "low ball" cost (building permit) estimates. Clarification would be useful. In a similar perhaps related issue, Gordon also notes that in recent years that the overlay reserve has greatly exceeds the annual appropriation (per long-term projections). Again clarification would be helpful.

Lastly, Gordon also questioned why the snow budget was increased. Wouldn't it be sufficient to hold snow to \$750K and to increase the Reserve Fund instead especially as the long-term plan projects the use of an additional \$500K per year? Pete suggested that the purpose of budgets is to, as accurately as possible, indicate how much is needed for a given purpose. The Snow & Ice budget in FY15 is far less that actually spent in FY15 (an outlier year)

Brian led a discussion of sanitary sewer overflows in Arlington (something different than combined sewer overflows). He asked if anyone knew of overflows other than the one west of the Mystic Valley Parkway in Precinct 9?

NEXT MEETING: May 21 - Meetings monthly - 3rd Thursdays 7:30 PM - Senior Center Ground Floor

Note: The April meeting was delayed a week because of conflict with an ARC event.