

East Greenbush Citizens Fiscal Advisory Committee (CFAC)
Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2014 ~ 7:00 pm
East Greenbush Library

- ❖ **Meeting Called to Order: 7:04 pm by Maura Ryan**
- ❖ **Attendance:** Sean Mulvey, Maura Ryan, Rich Hendrick, Andrea Smyth, and George Phillips (Town Comptroller).

Absent: Michele LeClair.
- ❖ **Guests:** Pete Stenson, Jo Ann Conway, Sue Mangold.
- ❖ **Approval of the Sept 15, 2014 Minutes:** Maura Ryan asked for approval of the previous meeting's minutes. Sean Mulvey, moved that we waive the reading of the minutes and accept them; Andrea Smyth seconded the motion. The Sept 15 Minutes were approved.
- ❖ **Review and Discussion on the draft recommendation to the Town Board regarding the 2010-2012 external audits:** The Committee met on Oct 9, 2014 with the Town Comptroller to gain a general overview of the Town's finances, as well as a review of the preliminary budget, but at the meeting determined that a more pressing issue related to Town Board's discussion on the reconstruction of previous fiscal records and audits required action; therefore, the CFAC members agreed that it was necessary to make a public statement about its opinion on the best use of town resources. The CFAC believed that the use of resources (both financial and personnel) being spent to re-create the fiscal history with the purported goal of producing books that could be audited would be extremely time consuming and expensive. This undertaking would also delay the ability of the Town to determine with accuracy it's current financial position and begin the process of making sound financial decisions for both the short and long-term. Additionally, the Office of the State Comptroller was not requiring the town to pursue such an effort. The Committee spent much of the meeting amending a preliminary statement drafted by Andrea Smyth and distributed on Oct 14. It was agreed that the statement would be presented to the Town Council on Wednesday, Oct 15. Therefore, it was agreed that Andrea would make the amendments discussed during the meeting, distribute those changes by midnight on Oct 14 and members would communicate electronic approval by 10: 30 am on Oct 15. Maura Ryan made a motion to accept electronic approval of the statement by CFAC members; Sean Mulvey seconded; and all were in favor of electronic approval. The final statement as distributed to the Town Council is attached for the record.
- ❖ **Discussion on Resolution 107-2014 (Monthly Dept Reporting):** At the request of the Town Council. The Council is seeking CFAC input prior to Board action. Maura Ryan will get a copy to everyone and we can put this on the next agenda.

- ❖ **Confirmation of the December meeting date** – Due to a conflict with the Comptroller’s schedule, Maura Ryan asked members if a Dec 16, 2014 meeting date would be acceptable. The CFAC members agreed to set the December meeting date to 12/16/14.
- ❖ **Budget Discussion:** The CFAC members tabled the discussion on the preliminary Town Budget citing the inability to make substantive comments given the the current state of the Town’s finances and insufficient amount of time for review as most of the Committee members were only recently appointed. the Committee did agreed to review specific questions at subsequent meetings, including a question raised about Forecasting: variance analysis v. cash flow analysis.
- ❖ **Public Comments:** Tom Grant said he thought the statement prepared this evening was an indication that the CFAC was heading in the right direction. Jo Ann Conway said she hopes the public will appreciate the effort of the CFAC and that she was appreciative of the professional tone of the CFAC’s deliberations and the standard of discourse.
- ❖ **Next Actions:** The Committee confirmed the next meeting date of November 17, 2014 at 7pm at the East Greenbush Library.
- ❖ **Call to Adjourn** – Rich Hendricks made a motion to adjourn; Andrea Smyth seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Submitted by: Andrea Smyth, November 14, 2014