

Town of Clifton & Town of Fine

Efficiency/Consolidation Study Committee Meeting

Meeting #9 – 9/23/2015 @ 6:30 p.m. @ the Town of Fine Municipal Building

Minutes

1. Attendees:

Committee Members: Sue Westbrook (F), Brian Donovan (F), Roger Folsom (F), Chuck Hooven (C), Cory Perrault (C), Joe DeMart (C), Max Watson (C), Jerry Cooper (C)

Guests: Christine Cook, Steve Golden

Consultants: Star Carter (DANC), Carrie Tuttle (DANC)

2. Eighth Topic: Financial Summary - presentation by Carrie Tuttle. Comments on the presentation follow:

- Slide 2: Discussion of what Town chargebacks include: community college fees, election officials fees, real property office fees, etc.
- Slide 5: Discussion about fund balances. If the Towns decided to consolidate, they can choose to adjust their fund balances before consolidation. Fund balances could be returned to tax payers as a credit, or used to pay down existing debt.
- Slide 8: The Towns have different equalization rates: Clifton = 92%, Fine = 83%. Before or after consolidation, the Towns could work to get the two Towns on the same equalization rate, and possibly try to get both at 100%.
- Mark Hall mentioned that he thinks tax rates are difficult to compare across towns due to so many factors that go into the tax rates, assessed values, etc. Carrie explained that in the context of this Study, tax rates are important because they are part of the data the State will use to calculate the Citizens Re-Organization Empowerment Grant (CREG) tax credit.
- The take away from this presentation is that there are potential for savings from Town efficiencies/consolidation. The second phase of this study will look at the alternatives for delivery of town services and identify how services could be delivered more efficiently and quantify the savings.

3. Future meeting schedule

- Draft Existing Conditions Report will be developed in October. Next meeting will be November 18, 2015 to review/discuss Existing Conditions Report comments and plan for the 1<sup>st</sup> Public Informational Meeting in January.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Public Informational Meeting will be January 6, 2016 at 6:00 pm at the Clifton-Fine School. The committee will start thinking about the outline for the presentation and who will present which sections.

Kick Off Meeting	January 28, 2015
Demographics & Taxes	February 25, 2015
Services Provided: Highway Department Part I	March 25, 2015
Services Provided: Highway Department Part II	April 22, 2015
Services Provided: Fire Department	May 27, 2015
Services Provided: General Fund Town Services – Library, Arena, Golf Course, Dog Control, Court, etc.	June 24, 2015
Services Provided: Water/Sewer	July 22, 2015
Personnel	August 26, 2015
<b>Finances and Budgets</b>	<b>September 23, 2015</b>
Review Draft "Existing Conditions/What Exist" Report & Plan for Public Informational Meeting #1	November 18, 2015
Informational Meeting #1	January 6, 2016
Evaluation of Alternatives	Feb. 2016 – June 2016
Public Informational Meeting #2	July 2016
Recommendations & Final Report	August 2016
Public Information Meeting/Hearing	September 2016

#### 4. Other Business –

Joe DeMart asked if the committee could do anything to help the residents understand the tax impacts, perhaps by having a subtotal for the Town and Highway tax lines on the County tax bills. It's not possible to alter the County tax bill format, but Carrie showed the committee the informational tri-fold that the Village of Hermon put together to educate their residents about the Study findings before the scheduled vote. This committee could create something similar for Clifton-Fine residents.