

Meeting Date: 24-Feb-2022

Meeting Start Time: 9:14 am EDT

Meeting Location: Remote [held on Zoom]

Minutes prepared by: Paul Anagnostopoulos

Minutes approved on: 4-Mar-2022

Attendees:

CGTF Members: Chair Rebekah Vieira; Members Paul Anagnostopoulos, Brian Cruise, Kyle Dalbec, RJ Mathew (Jim Bohn and Vanessa Moroney absent)

Other Attendees: Jim Darr

Meeting called to order at 9:14 am with 5 members present: RV, PA, BC, KD, RJ

1. We approved the following minutes: **27-Jan-2022** (motion: PA, second: RJ, PA yes, BC yes, RJ yes, RV yes, KD abstain). **27-Jan-2022** (motion: BC, second: PA, PA yes, BC yes, RJ yes, RV yes, KD abstain). **27-Jan-2022** (motion: PA, second: RJ, PA yes, BC yes, RJ yes, RV yes, KD abstain). **17-Feb-2022** (motion: PA, second: RJ, PA yes, BC yes, RJ yes, RV yes, KD yes).
2. Jim Darr joined at 9:30.
3. Darr described the Carlisle budgeting process in greater detail than the email from Tim Goddard. Gave his opinion that the budget process should be driven by a citizen committee, not by employees. Noted that 70% of the operating budget comes from the schools, which are quite independent. Good working relationship with Carlisle Schools. Tougher job with CCHS, where 75% of the students are from Concord. FinCom does not deny hiring of new staff or other expenses, but does recommend a specific bottom line for each department. The town has a mix of departments and the way they operate, which is a challenge. FinCom has stability: 3 years with the same members.
4. We discussed our proposal for the budget process. RJ asked whether the Town Administrator and Treasurer could join the initial budgeting process. Darr pointed out that they participate fully.
5. RV explained our desire to give the Town Administrator more power. Also noted that most towns do what we are proposing.
6. Darr noted that every department has a liaison to the FinCom for the budgeting process. He also pointed out that nothing stops the Treasurer from having their “finger on the pulse” of all the departments and work with the FinCom.
7. BC pushed the question of consistency with other towns. He asked Darr whether anything would be harmed by changing the process to match our proposal. RV explained the path by which we got to our proposal.
8. BC mentioned that some small departments told us that they didn’t get enough attention from the FinCom. Darr did not understand why they would have this complaint; the FinCom meets with every department.
9. BC asked again about the negative aspects of our proposal. BC wanted to hear what would be the negative aspects of having the Town Administrator and Treasurer deliver an assembled budget. Darr felt that might limit the FinCom’s ability to ask detailed questions of the people who know the answers.

10. We discussed in detail what would happen if the Town Administrator delivered the composite budget, rather than the FinCom assembling the composite from the individual departments.
11. We appeared to agree that the Town Administrator could do more of the process and deliver larger chunks to the FinCom. And also take on the job of trimming department budgets if, for example, the school budgets ended up being higher.
12. RJ suggested that other issues might be more important, such as a consolidated chart of accounts.
13. KD left the meeting at 10:35.
14. Jim Darr left the meeting at 10:47.
15. We had rigorous discussion about why PA and RJ appear to have changed their minds about the finance warrant article.
16. RV and BC asserted that RJ violated the “group culture” by talking to Darr. PA and RJ disagreed.
17. We moved on to discuss warrant article 2. We worked on the wording of the summary.
18. RJ wanted it noted in the minutes that he is upset with BC’s treatment.
19. RV informed the group that she will be attending a Select Board meeting. She will answer questions about our proposed warrant articles.
20. We discussed which of our articles must involve by-law changes and which could be done by agreement. Articles 2 and 4 do require by-law changes.
21. Adjournment: motion: PA, second: RJ, PA yes, BC yes, RJ yes, RV yes.
22. Meeting adjourned at 11:42.

Task Force working documents may be viewed at this link:

<https://carlislema.sharepoint.com/sites/GovernanceTaskForce/Shared%20Documents/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=3aa29cf6%2D3e2d%2D45de%2Db88d%2D0884ed87aa0c&id=%2Fsites%2FGovernanceTaskForce%2FShared%20Documents%2FGovernance%20Task%20Force%20Public%20Documents>

Our working documents can be accessed via the Task Force webpage at the Town Website (CarlisleMA.gov) by navigating to Town Government > Committees > Town Governance Task Force