

Transition Task Force Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes Thursday, June 14, 2012

Present:

Jenny Crumiller
Chad Goerner
Adrienne Kreipke
Liz Lempert
Roger Martindell
Kathy Monzo

Patrick Simon
Scott Sillars
Sandy Webb
Eugene McCarthy (NJ Dept of
Community Affairs)
Danny Kossow (Monzo intern)

Absent:

Heather Howard

Meeting was called to order at 8:30am.

Meeting Agenda Items:

- (1) Minutes from May 31 were approved.
- (2) Update on Transition Task Force activities:
 - a. Open Space Tax Finance Subcommittee recommendation of 1.7 cents was not approved at the June 13 TTF meeting.
 - b. Repercussions of this “no” vote on the open space tax were then discussed by the Subcommittee. It was understood that the matter will be taken up at the next joint meeting of the governing bodies on June 26, in spite of the lack of a recommendation by the full TTF. DCA will consider further what would happen to the current open space tax/fund, and the impact on levy and spending caps of moving costs currently charged to the dedicated tax into the operating budget, in the event that this ballot question is not approved in time for the November 2012 elections.
- (3) Status of near-term tasks by working group of subcommittee
 - a. Pro-forma savings calculations: Pat Simon is working on a second version of the savings calculations, using original CGR data to verify what the subcommittees estimated savings to be. The goal is to have this ready for review at the June 26 joint meeting.
 - b. Transition Costs:
 - i. Adrienne Kreipke provided an update on the subcommittee chairs who had responded to the 5/21 request for information on transition costs. Two committees have responded that they have no other costs to report (Personnel and Outreach); two committees have given some feedback but not final (Public Safety and IT); and the other subcommittees have not responded.

- ii. Scott Sillars reported that the subcommittee chairs were told at the June 13 TTF meeting that the CFOs will move forward with working with department staff to flesh out transition costs. He noted the frustration of some of the TTF members with the level of detail of the transition cost spreadsheet and the predicament of choosing to spend money on a temporary solution for unifying the two municipal operations as opposed to a permanent solution to overhaul operations to deliver service differently, which would have to be a decision of the new governing body.
- iii. Eugene McCarthy pointed out that some of Public Safety's upcoming equipment costs have to do with compliance with new FCC requirements, not consolidation. He encouraged a near-term meeting between a Finance Subcommittee rep, mayors, and DCA to resolve the question of what are allowable transition costs. It was agreed that this meeting should be delayed until there is a comprehensive list of all contemplated transition costs so that the meeting can be more productive.
- iv. Pat Simon asked what approvals the towns would need to secure for spending outside of State-approved transition costs. DCA answered that spending not allowed by emergency appropriations would need to be approved by the Local Finance Board.

(4) Followup List of Other Items Subcommittee is keeping tabs on:

- a. Emergency Appropriations: the necessity for and options for establishing emergency appropriations were discussed. It is desirable to establish emergency appropriations in each municipality, for transition costs, as a municipal "best practice" so that the towns don't continue to spend money on transition without a formal appropriation for such spending. However, deciding the level of the appropriations has been an obstacle. Since a robust update on transition cost estimates is likely to be still several weeks away, the options of using either the original JCSSC estimate OR the spending and commitments ytd were mentioned, with a subsequent emergency appropriation made later in the year. No action was by the Subcommittee.
- b. Operating Budgets: Chad Goerner expressed interest in being on the working group to analyze operating budgets for various departments. Sillars, Kreipke and Crumiller also expressed interest.
- c. Other:- there was no discussion of other followup items.

Adjournment