

Colerain Township Financial Advisory Committee (FAC)
Minutes
February 7, 2013

OPENING OF MEETING

Mr. Michel called the meeting to order at 6:00PM with the following members present: John Kerr, Dennis Mason, Doug Moore, and Doug Michel. Heather Harlow, Township Fiscal Officer, and James Rowan, Township Administrator, were also in attendance. Scott Taylor was not in attendance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the November 29, 2012, meeting were reviewed. Mr. Mason made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Moore offered the second. All voted "aye."

ASSESSMENTS

The Committee reviewed the public safety assessment RFPs.

Mr. Rowan said the question is whether or not we should we go forward or not. He said the assessments could help us understand various models and give us options as well as validate best practices. It could help him understand if we are operating as efficiently as we can and doing best practices, compared to our peer group. However, we seem to have expertise, to cut funds already within department.

Mr. Kerr said that he shared these exact same thoughts. Why not leave up to in-house experts? He said while he was initially in favor of the assessment, he is on the fence with the costs submitted. He asked if we would be committed to implement the recommendations.

Mr. Rowan said the department heads are preparing reports, due by end of March. For fire, we are looking at costs and impact of changing the staffing model. We are doing what we'd said we'd do with the money, but things are different now.

Mr. Michel said that those who spoke at the town hall meeting support police and fire. He suggested we cover the deficit, structurally align the budget, and shelve this assessment. We also heard at the meeting that we should let our people decide how to cut.

Mr. Mason said that past models were projecting growth, but we don't have that.

Mr. Rowan said that everything on the table. He said that outgoing and incoming mutual aide to be tracked in dashboard. He said there is a new philosophy – cut everything before asking for new levy. Drive costs down and learn what is most important.

Mr. Moore said that it is a good first step to rely on chiefs for the assessment.

Mr. Rowan said that we must think as a township not as individual departments and we must be willing to change how we do things.

Mr. Moore said that a different set of eyes is valuable, but we should let own guys take the first shot.

Mr. Kerr introduced the following recommendation:

After listening to recent public input and reviewing the assessment proposals, we recommend to “shelve” the proposals until the departments can provide internal assessments as well as plans for structurally aligning their budgets.

Mr. Mason offered the second. All voted “aye.”

Mr. Rowan will advise each of the firms.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be March 26, 2013 at 6:30PM and include a presentation from Baird Investments.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, at 7:36PM, Mr. Kerr made a motion for adjournment and Mr. Moore offered the second. All voted “aye.”



Fiscal Officer



Committee Chairman