

Colerain Township Financial Advisory Committee (FAC)

Minutes

November 12, 2013

OPENING OF MEETING

Mr. Michel called the meeting to order at 7:14PM with the following members present: John Kerr, Dennis Mason, Doug Michel and Scott Taylor. Heather Harlow, Township Fiscal Officer, and James Rowan, Township Administrator, were also in attendance. Doug Moore was not in attendance.

Mr. Rowan showed some items of what the team has been doing; including the police department's benchmarking study, against like communities. This compared five communities which are like Colerain in square miles, demographics, population, public infrastructure, etc.

He said the Center for Local Government is working on becoming a hub for data collection. He said this is in process, with the RFP for the software now. He said that collecting data from other governments is the largest problem.

Mr. Rowan said that there was a discussion of a police levy during the trustee campaign. At the town hall meetings, there was discussion from citizens about using reserves. The trustees have approved a plan to spend down some of the reserves as the township needs time to structurally align the budget. Levy discussions however, continue as an additional option to fund police, fire and roads.

Mr. Kerr said that if we can hold on for a few years, when debt rolls off in 2022, we can work in a different environment. He said we are maintaining, but not improving the road situation.

Mr. Rowan began a discussion about millage equivalent when considering a JEDDZ and Residential TIF, among neighboring townships. He said there are revenue opportunities for communities to defer the need to ask residents more levies. However, this is not apples to apples and each community is very different.

2014 Temporary Appropriations

Mr. Rowan reviewed the temporary appropriations, which are attached to these minutes. The FAC discussed the significant notes and the capital budget requests,

which are infused as needed in the budget. Mr. Rowan said there is about \$2 million double counted as transfers.

Mr. Michel made a motion: The FAC has reviewed and now recommends the adoption of the 2014 temporary appropriations, including the 2014 capital budget requests, totaling \$32,514,883.52.

Mr. Mason offered the second. All voted "aye."

MINUTES

Mr. Mason made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2013, meeting as amended, and Mr. Taylor offered the second. All voted "aye."

JEDZ

Mr. Rowan reviewed the information from the Hamilton County Development Corporation regarding a 1% JEDZ in three areas. He said there would be a residential rebate, so there would be no impact on residents. This is better than a road levy, which would hit everyone. Still, we must tackle the infrastructure issues. He feels the numbers are very conservative with the payroll. He said this must be approved by the voters and all voters can vote on all issues.

Mr. Taylor suggested study of an area on Harrison Ave., from Mullen Road to East Miami River Road and possibly the old Procter & Gamble facility.

There is a need for clarification on if a corporate business tax will be levied for future projects as well as the nursing home JEDD.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of the JEDZ.

Mr. Rowan said that he feels we are not in a position to move forward. The FAC agreed and said the study should continue, but the timeframe is not feasible for immediate implementation.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be January 14, 2014, at 7PM. Agenda items will include an investment update, police levy discussion, and JEDD update.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to come before the Committee, at 9:10PM, Mr. Taylor made a motion for adjournment and Mr. Mason offered the second. All voted "aye."

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Spaford Taylor", written over a horizontal line.

Fiscal Officer

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Douglas A. Mitchell", written over a horizontal line.

Committee Chairman