

Transition Task Force Finance Subcommittee Meeting Minutes Wednesday, February 23, 2012

Present:

Chad Goerner

Liz Lempert

Roger Martindell

Jenny Crumiller

Heather Howard

Patrick Simon

Scott Sillars

Kathy Monzo (Township CFO)

Sandy Webb (Borough CFO)

Eugene McCarthy (NJ Dept of Community Affairs)

Scott Sillars was elected to Chair the Subcommittee

Sillars reported that the TTF approved the Subcommittee's Work Statement and that the TTF approved 2 proposals to retain professional assistance:

1. CGR to provide project management and staff support to the TTF for a contract price of \$62,000 and
2. Kearns, Reale & Kearns as legal counsel for an hourly rate of \$150 with a not-to-exceed amount of \$40,000.

The Township will act as the contracting municipality for the TTF, so Township staff will prepare 2 Professional Services Agreements covering these matters and will place them on the agenda for approval by both the Princeton Borough Council and Princeton Township Committee.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to invite 3 additional citizens to join the Finance Subcommittee: Carolyn Ainslie, Zvi Eiref, and Adrienne Kreipke.

The Subcommittee discussed the likely composition of the TTF budget, which is expected only to be for professionals the TTF needs to retain separately from the 2 municipalities. So at this point in time, only the two referenced contracts comprise the TTF's budget.

The process of consolidating the budgets was discussed. It was noted that there may be some implications when combining the 'spending caps' when appropriations for Borough/Township shared services are combined into one budget. Mr. McCarthy was to begin exploring this matter with the DCA Local Finance Board.

It was noted that both municipalities were in the final steps of preparing their 2012 budgets and that both intend to introduce their budgets at the first meetings of the governing bodies in March. The need to establish a subset of this

Subcommittee for the purpose of pulling together a combined budget was noted. The adoption target for both municipal budgets is April 20.

In response to a question from Mr. Simon about a possible reassessment this year, Ms. Lempert reported that the Mercer County Tax Administrator Marty Guhl had indicated that a reassessment would probably not be required this year in preparation for consolidation. Mr. McCarthy indicated that the DCA had previously reviewed this question for the Consolidation and Shared Services Study Commission and determined that a reassessment would be required under state law. He offered to review this question with the DCA and with Mr. Guhl and report back to the mayors and the administrators of the Borough and the Township.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, a member of the public, Kate Warren, asked about the costs of actuarial work related to any early retirement incentive program. Mayor Goerner indicated that an early retirement incentive program may be considered by the personnel subcommittee of the TTF, and Mr. McCarthy indicated that if such a program were to be proposed, any actuarial cost would be a relatively small portion of the overall cost, and it would be included in the overall cost estimate.