

Finance Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 19, 2021

7:00 PM

Guests: Craig Deiner, Elaina Deiner, Sharon van Kooten

Committee Attendees: Anita Sears, Ron Rayl, Rex Keck, Denise Caudill, Sharon Ketner, Pat Sherman, Jay Nogan

Committee Absent: Scott Nickerson, Carrie Vavul

Brown County Advocacy Committee Attendee: Dale Sears

1) The August meeting Agenda was to review the updated spreadsheet prepared by Scott Nickerson and determine how and when changes to funding would be effective. As he was unexpectedly absent due to an emergency and no one had the spreadsheet, the following discussions occurred.

2) Water funding was discussed. Denise and Pat offered clarifying information that the CSCD operates its own water utility. CSCD buys water from Prince's Lakes and leases fire hydrants. Pat noted that CSCD residents have lower insurance rates due in part to the number fire hydrants in the District and the Volunteer Fire Department.

3) Pat shared that Brown County taxes collected from Conservancy Freeholders pay for county government, schools, library, and some equipment for sheriff deputies.

4) With respect to charging fees for rentals as an option for budget funding, the Committee asked the CLSOA guests attending, Craig and Elaina Deiner, to comment on their experience with Clubhouse rentals. They remarked that rentals are a mix of lake full-time and weekend only freeholders and that the Clubhouse is booked many days a week.

5) Dale Sears was introduced as the member of the Brown County Advocacy Committee. He asked questions and received answers about the budget and for clarification on his role on the both the FAC and the Advocacy Committee.

6) The 2022 proposed Budget was discussed.

ACTION: Jay Nogan will ask Brittany Bay to send FAC members the proposed 2022 budget.

7) Important upcoming budgeting dates:

First reading of 2022 Budget - September 21st Board Meeting. Second reading and approval of 2022 Budget - October 19th Board Meeting

8) Craig Deiner noted that agendas and minutes from FAC meetings are not on the FAC website link. Committee agreed that some of our agendas and minutes were missing from the website link for FAC

but that they exist. Jay said we do not have access to upload the documents. The Committee agreed to get the missing documents to CSCD Manager right away so that they can be made available.

ACTION: Anita Sears to provide missing agendas and minutes to CSCD Manager for uploading to website prior to September meeting.

9) Craig Deiner questioned why there was no formal leader of the Committee. The response was that the Committee agreed at its first meeting that no leader would be appointed, and decisions would be made by the Committee as a whole.

10) Pat Sherman asked how much FAC planned to propose to the board for the “Ditch” fees for the 2022 budget. Anita Sears expressed her concern about recommending raising this fee in 2022. Sears stated that FAC’s recommendations should be for 2023 budget and forward. At the end of this discussion, FAC agrees that communication and details need to be shared with all Freeholders well in advance of any recommended changes to any fees collected by CSCD to promote transparency, provide Freeholder’s time to comment, and reduce complaints and that no recommended changes should be made to “Ditch” for 2022 and ad valorem should be used as the funding method to make up any difference. Guest Craig Deiner, agreed with that comment.

11) The three guests were asked about their preference for options for funding. Sharon van Kooten offered that she had done research and that she felt we were trying to institute a “regressive tax” with the equal share method of funding and felt it would burden those off water or with lower valued properties. She commented that not all Freeholds are equal pointing out that those on water benefit from being on water. She also said she would support a small equal shared fee and ad valorem combination for budget funding. The Deiner’s also agreed with a small equal shared fee and ad valorem.

12) Sharon Ketner made the following suggestion for budget funding: use the combined budget totals for Roads and Safety which totals around \$500,000 divided by Freeholders resulting in an equal shared fee (“Ditch) of about \$310 per Freeholder, increase the boat sticker fee and make it annual and leave the balance of the budget funding to ad valorem. There was support by FAC members in attendance for this idea and from the attending guests.

13) There was a suggestion to have a meeting between the August and September scheduled meeting to review the spreadsheet and begin preparing a Freeholders’ communication. This is TBD based on availability of members, facility space and public notification requirements.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 PM.