

From: jmcnair3 <jmcnair3@comcast.net>

Sent: Sunday, August 6, 2017 8:04 PM

To: Robert Tarlov

Subject: The role of BOF

Rob,

Good day. I am writing a post about the role of the BOF. One aspect is if one role is a watchdog. Spending versus budget. Efficacy of spending. Minimizing risk. Planning for future. I'd love to get your thoughts. Thx

From: Robert Tarlov [<mailto:BOFChair@colchesterct.gov>]

Sent: Monday, August 7, 2017 12:25 PM

To: jmcnair3 <jmcnair3@comcast.net>

Subject: Re: The role of BOF

I have some time free tomorrow morning or after 3:00. Wednesday after 5:00. Then not again until Friday, up to 5:00.

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance

860-608-4293

From: James D McNair III <jmcnair3@comcast.net>

Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 7:13 AM

To: Robert Tarlov

Subject: cancelling call today?

Rob,

I rethought my approach. My thought is addressing the following to the entire Board. That way it gets past your comments being seen as not speaking for entire Board. I'll send the document to you for comment prior. The genesis of this query comes from common comments I keep hearing. The gist is:

People are busy struggling to meet the day to day and have no time to stay on top of the finances of Town. The follow up is that is why we elect our Boards. When I ask by "being on top" do you mean spending versus approved budgets or how well. The common answer is both. There is no doubt the BOF stays on top of spending versus the adopted Budget for Town. They have no authority over spending versus Budget for the BoE.

The issue then to me is if it is the role of the BoF to address how well for the Town? If so, how is that done by the BOF? The other follow up is when the BoF sets spending recommendations for BOE budget referendums should they ask how well?

Now it recall a past conversation that the public may have too high expectations because the BOF members are unpaid volunteers that may or may not have the background or time to do a lot of independent digging.

I think it will serve the public to help manage expectations.

Thoughts about this approach?

Thanks,

James

From: Robert Tarlov
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 8:48 AM
To: James D McNair III
Subject: Re: cancelling call today?

We have discussed these things at Board meetings in the past, but other than minutes which partially recorded these discussions, and did so over a number of meetings, there was no concise record of the conclusions from those discussions. Since then we have added 4 new board members who were not part of those discussions, so they in addition to the citizens have no clear understanding of what prior BOF members felt their responsibilities and limitations are.

Some of those limitations are by statute, others are of practicality.

The prior discussions were part of the Board's Objectives and Initiatives. It still shows on that report as a completed item. I will reopen that item for the Board to discuss prioritization it relative to our other future action items.

Rob

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: James D McNair III jmcnair3@comcast.net
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 9:35 AM
To: Robert Tarlov
Subject: RE: cancelling call today?

Understood and several great points. Perhaps, like creating a mission statement, a one page document could be produced that addresses the lack of clarity on the parts of citizens and help new members.

From: Robert Tarlov
Sent: Tuesday, August 8, 2017 10:56 AM
To: deee bouchard
Cc: Board of Finance Members; Art Shilosky; Ronald Goldstein
Subject: Your Facebook Post

Deanna,

I do not look at Facebook unless tagged. On this post you tagged all members of BOF, including myself.

You tagged me a second time after stating that "Big Brother is watching". If you don't want Big Brother watching, don't tag me.

When I saw the misinformation in your post, I emailed the Board of Finance members, with a copy to the First Selectman, the following correct information should they be asked about the post:

I see where we were all tagged on the Facebook post below. The poster is misinformed.

Art reviewed this at our last meeting. As two members were not present, I provide the following for your information.

Gail Therrien, the full time clerk in P&Z, unexpectedly announced her retirement.

This is not the part time position that was included in the budget.

As Art stated at last week's meeting, he has delayed the hiring of the part time P&Z clerk.

As Art also reported, we currently have 7 vacant positions. In situations where we have multiple positions or seasonal loads, such as Public Works, he has delayed hiring or slowed down the hiring process. In other situations, such as P&Z where we have one position that is responsible for all the work, or situations such as the Tax Collector's department, where one position cannot meet the work load, he needs to replace the positions as soon as possible. In the Tax Collector's office we are currently using a temp.

The First Selectman has no authority over the School budget or their plans. BOF has slightly more authority than the First Selectman in that BOF has authority on the bottom line of the School Budget.

As a BOF member I want to know the impacts of the bottom line number we provide to the BOE, but ultimately how they reach that number or manage to that number post referendum is solely within their authority as provided through State Statute.

The First Selectman, and the Board of Finance at our meetings, are consistently asked questions about BOE line item spending, and now BOE plans for spending reductions to meet a possible overall budget reduction. These questions should be asked at Board of Education meetings where the statutory authority and knowledge of these plans reside. I believe they are meeting tonight.

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: James D McNair III <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2017 10:22 AM
To: Robert Tarlov
Subject: "slush funds"????

Rob,

Buried in the August 8th info packet is this interesting document. How is this all being accounted so voters can properly follow the money? Why is there a surplus if district keeps stating more tax dollars are needed to fund critical needs?

Just curious about your thoughts how the BoF should be involved, if at all, in this.

Thanks,

James

From: Robert Tarlov
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 5:49 AM

To: James D McNair III
Subject: Re: "slush funds"???

After learning of this, I had already added it to our next agenda..

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293

From: James D McNair III <jmcnair3@comcast.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 9, 2017 6:50 AM
To: Robert Tarlov
Subject: color code for goals and priorities

Rob,

I am reviewing the chart and wondering if there is a color code.

Text in green, purple and blue versus black?

Shading of boxes e.g. "communications off season"

Thanks,

James

From: Robert Tarlov
Sent: Friday, August 11, 2017 5:49 AM
To: James D McNair III
Subject: Re: color code for goals and priorities

Green print, already scheduled for, or in process of discussion

Purple print or purple shading, already done.

Blue print or blue shading have had previous discussion, needs a future scheduling date for more discussion or for annual review

Shaded green - decision was made to continue the annual budget discussion (beginning in September). These items are a compilation of things that have been carried on the list since I began using it, some have been discussed already, some completed, some not. Some that never got to the discussion phase as board did not consider them a priority or we just didn't have time. Others are new items that have been added.

Rob Tarlov, Chairman, Board of Finance
860-608-4293