

**Township of Lower Makefield
Citizen's Advisory Budget Committee Minutes
January 6, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee of Lower Makefield was held in the Lower Makefield Municipal building on Wednesday, January 6, 2010. Vice-Chairman Ken Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Citizen's Advisory Budget Committee:

Mike Landy
Joe Menard
Kenneth Martin
Roger Owen

Absent:

Ethan Shiller
Tony Spisto
Dan McLaughlin

Others:

Brian McCloskey
Terry Fedorchak

Mr. Martin opened by asking if the meeting was advertised, Mr. Fedorchak indicated that it was and brought a copy of the Courier Times showing that it indeed was advertised. At this point Mr. Martin indicated that the meeting could continue since there was a quorum present. Mr. Martin also asked if there was a vacant position on the committee, Mr. Fedorchak indicated that there was one position vacant, and that he had begun the process of filling it.

Mr. Martin then asked the committee members to think about what they felt the purpose of the committee was, so we could go around the room and come to a consensus on the committee's true purpose.

Mr. Martin then stated that he wanted to do this so there would be unity and a cohesive approach to the committee's work in the New Year. He also stated that he was frustrated in that he felt the committee's direction in the previous year was not unanimous and that the agenda's each month were not indicative of the committee's mission but more of an individualized approach to the committee's function. Mr. Martin felt very strongly that the committee should be unified, and that at each Board of Supervisor's meeting if a CBAC member was going to speak for the committee, that he/she represent the whole committee not just themselves.

Mr. Martin felt that in the past too often and remarks made during public comment from a CBAC representative did not reflect the committee's feelings but those feelings of the individual making the remarks.

Mr. Martin also wants the committee to make a monthly comment/presentation/discussion to the BOS each month and not just at budget time. The committee agreed unanimously.

Mr. Martin then reiterated his request for each of the members as to what they see the committee's function and purpose is.

Mr. Menard responded that he feels the CBAC is a 2nd set of eyes and ears for the Board of Supervisors and the Administration, and that the committee should take on tasks and activities that help the BOS and Administration do their jobs to the best of their abilities, and that the committee should review and make recommendations on the annual budget.

Mr. Landy felt that the CBAC has an advisory function for cost-savings measures and to look at statistical measures to assist the BOS in making decisions.

Mr. Owen indicated that he felt that the committee is strictly and advisory committee and the function is to support the BOS and Administration on the budget and other financial matters.

All committee members felt strongly that facilitating the inclusion of business plans was an integral part of the CBAC, and that the committee should assist other groups with these plans.

The committee discussed the need to move forward in 2010 in a constructive and beneficial manner, looking at "big picture" items where the group's impact could have a measurable effect.

Mr. Owen then nominated Joe Menard as the Chair for the coming year, Ken Martin 2nd the motion, the motion carried and Mr. Joe Menard is the Chair of the Citizen's Budget Advisory Committee for 2010.

Remarks by New Chairman

Mr. Menard stated he felt 2010 would be a very challenging year as much as 2009 and possibly more so. Mr. Menard thanked Mr. Fedorchak and Mr. McCloskey and stated that he and the committee would look to both of them on guidance as to where the Township can use assistance and guidance. He used the pension asset allocation policy that he and Mr. McCloskey had discussed back in the fall as an example.

Mr. Menard also asked the question/made the statement that, what can the CBAC do to be a unified between the BOS and the Park and Recreation Board. The recent request for more resources by the P&R committee, including the comments user groups and supporters have been somewhat divisive to the community and Mr. Menard wants the CBAC to facilitate these groups coming to the table and working together for a solution that benefits everyone from the users to the tax payers.

Mr. Menard wants to showcase the talents of the CBAC and by assisting the user groups of the Parks system in developing a business plan the group can do just that. Mr. Menard wants the CBAC to help diffuse the current situation and to also help stop the negative comments permeating through the township on the issue of parks and recreation and the user groups

Ken Martin and Mike Landy reiterated the point of unity in the CBAC's discussions or presentations at the BOS meeting.

Mr. Martin then nominated Mike Landy as Vice-Chair of the committee, Mr. Owen 2nd the nomination and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Fedorchak asked for clear direction from the CBAC on what the group wants to do in the coming year so the township can provide adequate resources in helping them accomplish their goals.

Mr. Menard stated that until completed, the group's sole focus is to work on the business plan for Parks and Recreation to see that the issue of the proposed tax increase for additional field space can be agreed upon by all constituents. Mr. Menard then discussed a planned time frame for this, and felt that the committee could have a plan finalized by sometime in March. He also stated that just because a plan is not in place now, and that the BOS has repealed the .75 millage increase to fund additional parks and recreation resources, that the issue is not dead. Mr. Menard felt that if a plan can get worked out soon, the township could move forward sometime in 2010 on that business plan.

The group agreed that they would begin meeting with the Park and Recreation director, Donna Liney and the user groups on Tuesday, January 12th, 2010 to begin the business plan.

Mr. Martin then asked Mr. Fedorchak about previous grants for the park system, specifically the grant for the Garden of Reflection at Memorial Park.

The group also planned the next meeting of the CBAC for Wed the 20th of January at 7pm, and that future meetings would most likely be on Tuesdays at the request of our Board liaison, Mr. Dan McLaughlin who has some conflicts with Monday evenings.

Mr. Martin then thanked Mr. Menard and Mr. Landy for taking the leadership roles within the CBAC and was looking forward to a productive 2010.

Motion to adjourn was made and 2nd at 8:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian McCloskey

Finance Director