

Minutes – Joint Cost-Savings Subcommittee
Town Hall, Room 121
December 15, 2009
7:30 PM

Pursuant to a notice duly posted with the Town Clerk and with a quorum of members present, the Acton Finance Committee Subcommittee on Cost Savings convened at 7:30 p.m. on December 15, 2009 to review various matters.

Members present for the meeting: Finance Committee members Mary Ann Ashton and Steve Noone, Selectmen Mike Gowing and Terra Friedrichs, and School Committee member Xuan Kong.

Mary Ann Ashton called the meeting to order. There was no public participation.

Mrs. Ashton distributed copies of the agenda and minutes from the December 7 meeting. Steve Noone moved to approve the minutes and Xuan Kong seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously, with Ms. Friedrichs abstaining (not present at December 7 meeting).

Mrs. Ashton distributed copies of a spreadsheet which showed the remaining cost-savings suggestions which individual members had assigned to four different categories as previously described. Mr. Noone suggested that the group should concentrate on achieving agreement about those items where only one person viewed it differently to see if after discussion there could be agreement. This process resulted in identification of all but seven suggestions, which were held for further discussion at a future meeting.

The group agreed that the items in Group B, service reduction or budget items, would be turned over to the Town Manager and Schools Superintendent, as well as to the Board of Selectmen and the School Committees so that these ideas could be considered as part of their budget deliberations. Those items in Group D would be removed from the list; Mrs. Ashton agreed to draft a brief summary of why the items were being removed and the draft would be circulated to other members.

The subcommittee will focus its efforts on Groups A and C, which contained cost-savings ideas (Group A) and revenue enhancement ideas (Group C). At our next meeting, the group will assign team members to work on developing these ideas further. To move forward each cost-savings idea needs to have the sponsorship of a member of the Board of Selectman, a Finance Committee member to work on the idea, and a staff member assigned.

Ms. Friedrichs moved to adjourn at 9:00 p.m., and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Ann Ashton