City of White Plains, New York
Budget & Management Advisory Committee
Hon. Beth N. Smayda, Chair
Edie Alfenas – Adam T. Bergonzi – Richard Hecht – Steven H. Hochman
City Staff Liaison: Michael A. Genito

Tuesday, June 3, 2014 7:00 PM, Mayor’s Conference Room

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Introduction of guests and visitors
3. Approval of April 28, 2014 meeting notes
5. New business
6. Next meeting date
7. Adjournment
City of White Plains, New York  
Budget & Management Advisory Committee

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Monday, April 28, 2014, 7:00 PM, Mayor’s Conference Room

MEETING NOTES

Absent: Edie Alfenas

Call to Order

Chairwoman Beth Smayda welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Approval of Meeting Notes

The meeting notes of March 19, 2014 were approved.


Chairwoman Smayda noted that the focus of tonight’s meeting would be the development of a BMAC statement on the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget and the preparation of a document outlining the BMAC studies and recommendations conducted in fiscal year 2013-2014. She referenced three documents that she had distributed earlier by e-mail:

1. Last year’s BMAC statement on the 2013-2014 Proposed Budget  
2. BMAC 2013-2014 Studies and Recommendations  
3. BMAC Proposal for White Plains Cable Television

Chairwoman Smayda led the discussion by noting that the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget provides that only $900,000 be used from fund balance assigned to tax certiorari to fund one-half of the total $1.8 million in estimated 2014-2015 tax certiorari payments. This is credit positive and ultimately, the City should move to funding 100% of the annual amount for tax certiorari from current funds.
In addition to the information found in the draft statement developed by Chairwoman Smayda, various suggestions and recommendations from the Committee as to what should be included in the BMAC statement on the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget were as follows:

- Over time, the City should diminish its reliance on the use of unassigned fund balance to balance the budget
- The City should consider the findings and recommendations found in various Moody’s credit reports for the City when developing the budget
- The budget should reflect a reduction in staffing expenditures as new technologies are introduced, such as automated side-loading (ASL) garbage trucks
- We should link the BMAC recommendations suggested to the fiscal performance goals

Chairwoman Smayda noted that she would prepare a revised draft of the statement and distribute it to the Committee for review and any further recommendations or corrections. Steven Hochman volunteered to read a summary of the final statement at the May 5, 2014 (7:30 PM) public hearing on the 2014-2015 Proposed Budget.

**BMAC Studies and Recommendations – 2013-2014 Fiscal Year**

Chairwoman Smayda drew the attention of the Committee to the draft BMAC Studies and Recommendations – 2013-2014 Fiscal Year document, which focused on three areas: Commercial Garbage Pickup, Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) and Cable TV. She noted that she would incorporate into a final version various recommended changes to the document. Committee members offered the following:

- As the City expands the use of automated side-loading (ASL) garbage trucks, we should see a reduction in sanitation staffing needed, as ASLs require a crew of one, as opposed to a crew of three for a standard rear-loading garbage truck.
- BMAC should continue its research into OPEB and how the City will prepare for future funding of same. While current New York State law prohibits the City from establishing or maintaining the irrevocable trust required by GASB 45, it may be beneficial if the City can establish a restriction or commitment of fund balance for OPEB until it is legal to establish an irrevocable trust.
- BMAC should follow the progress of changes to Cable TV operations and the move from 4 Martine Avenue to the Library.

Chairwoman Smayda noted that she would prepare a revised draft of the document and distribute it to the Committee for review and any further recommendations or corrections, before transmitting it to the Common Council.

**Other Business**

There was no other business to discuss.

**Next Meeting Date**
The next meeting date is to be determined and is expected to be sometime prior to the beginning of the summer months. The agenda for the next meeting will include discussion on potential 2014-2015 studies of the BMAC.

Adjournment

Having no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Genito