

Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) Working Group

Tuesday, September 29, 2015
7:30, Conference Room 1, Town Hall

SEP 29 - 2 PM 2:54

MINUTES

Members in attendance: Liz Allison, Chris Doyle, Ralph Jones, Geoff Lubean, Richard Waring, Mike Widmer,. Guest Greg Mennis joined at 8:30.

Chair Ralph Jones called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

1. Minutes were approved with 1 typo corrected. 5 yes, 1 abstain

Reports of Members on initial assigned tasks:

2. Ralph Jones – collection of Town baseline information. Ralph Jones met with relevant HR town officials. Received report from Jessica Porter. Information on numbers of active and retired members. Still some surprising fluctuations. Problem because the town's HR and finance systems are not integrated. Ralph Jones needs to further investigate

- Follow up – meet with Town Accountant and Director of Finance and Operations, BPS

Ralph Jones has not begun information gathering on disability data; this information is currently folded into health insurance data.

Follow up – meeting with public safety on separating disability data

These data are needed as inputs for the modeling the committee will conduct.

3. Richard Waring –found information on the State's GIC program.

Follow up – create detailed chart on GIC plan(s) and compare to the Town's plans.

4. Chris Doyle – followed up with Weston and Andover. Weston did not have a committee and funds its ARC fully for OPEB. Andover had a citizens committee and Liz Allison found that report

Follow up – speak to member of Andover committee and to Weston Town administrator. Search for other Town committees to review their reports.

5. Mike Widmer – discussion of how to research other communities with better OPEB funding status . Mike Widmer described Newton report on OPEB.

Communities to scrutinize: Winchester, Needham, Wellesley, Weston, Newton
Collect data on: % of liabilityfunded,funding level (\$ and as % operating budget), # employees, # retirees, discount rate, investment approach, health plans offered.

Follow up – Mike Widmer and Chris Doyle to investigate these communities

6. Geoff Lubean and Liz Allison reported on laying the base for cash modeling of the Town's costs related to OPEB. Geoff has received data from town Administrator relating to OPEB including employees. . Model will start with "business as usual" case and then add

scenarios. Liz distributed a flow diagram identifying key data.. Inputs needed for modeling are # retirees by pre and post Medicare status, HC costs, # retirees leaving the plan via move to Medicare or death. She and Geoff will inventory the Town data received by Geoff against this model

7. Greg Mennis (Sp?), who is chairing the pension review committee provided an overview of his work and shared a data set that he had requested from the Town, and the committee shared the broad outlines of its plan.

8. Other topics – GASB 75 (need summary), Town's investment approach to OPEB funds and exploration of impact of alternative investment approach (review later in process), process improvements for Town management to review later. Agreed that a priority in terms of data collection is to disaggregate "OPEB" disability costs, separate active employees and retirees healthcare costs). Next meeting Committee to set intermediate process goals.

The next meetings were set for Tuesday, October 20, 27, November 10, 24, all 7:30 – 9:30pm .

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Doyle