

Structural Change Implementation Committee
Minutes
November 7, 2023
Remote Meeting via Zoom

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TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: March 20, 2024
TIME: 10:08 AM

Members present: Vicki Amalfitano, Tim Bucciarelli, John Kolterman, Larry Link, Paul Rickter
Members absent:
Other attendees:

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Discussion on status of priority ideas

The committee discussed the approval by Town Meeting of a warrant article removing Belmont Police from Civil Service. Mr. Rickter noted that the committee's summary of [idea #33](#) (Civil Service) the Structural Change Impact Group Report, which we distributed to Town Meeting members via email, was cited multiple times during the debate, and by both supporters and opponents of the warrant article. Mr. Bucciarelli suggested that we consider creating more summaries like the Civil Service one to send to Town Meeting members when a SCIG idea is related to a subject Town Meeting is considering.

Mr. Rickter explained that Town Meeting in January would be voting on a proposal to shift the Board of Assessors to be an appointed, not elected, body. This may present an opportunity to summarize information from the SCIG report for Town Meeting members. After reviewing the ideas in the SCIG report, the committee agreed that ideas [#216](#) (Appoint All Positions except Select Board/Moderator) and [#416](#) (Appoint Member to Board of Assessors) were the most related to what Town Meeting would be voting on. Ms. Amalfitano and Mr. Bucciarelli volunteered to write a draft summarizing what Town Meeting members should know about these ideas. The committee will review the draft at our next meeting.

The committee discussed the topic of senior tax relief, which is covered by idea [#164](#) (Tax Relief for Seniors). Mr. Rickter reported that there is discussion about ideas for increasing senior tax relief. Belmont is doing essentially everything the state allows on senior tax relief, so action by Town Meeting will probably be needed. This idea wasn't prioritized by the SCIC, likely because the SCIG scored it low for financial impact, but it may be worth looking at this idea. Mr. Rickter agreed to ask Select Board member Elizabeth Dionne for an update on senior tax relief.

Mr. Rickter reported that he had talked to Taylor Yates, member of the Planning Board, on idea [#391](#) (Allow Hotels and B&Bs in Bylaws). This idea has been prioritized by the SCIC. The Planning Board would need to work on proposed zoning bylaw changes and they are currently busy with MBTA Communities and other topics.

Ms. Amalfitano noted that Town Meeting would be voting changes to zoning bylaws for restaurants and this is one piece of implementing idea [#107](#) (Reevaluate Town Zoning with Master Plan).

Next Steps

Ms. Amalfitano and Mr. Bucciarelli will bring a draft summary of Board Assessors SCIG ideas to the next SCIC meeting.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present, so there was no public comment.

Next Meeting

The committee agreed to schedule our next meeting for December 5 at 7pm.

Adjournment

The committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 7:45pm

Minutes submitted by Paul Rickter

Ideas under consideration:

- [Idea #23 - Increase Revenues from Grants](#)
- [Idea #33 - Civil Service](#)
- [Idea #101 - "Payments In Lieu Of Taxes" for Non-Profits and Private Schools](#)
- [Idea #268 - Pension Liabilities/Retirement Board Savings](#)
- [Idea #269 - Transfer Health Care Insurance to the GIC](#)
- [Idea #36 - Review Town Owned/Used Property for Best Use](#)
- [Idea #39 - Establish Budget Guidelines](#)
- [Idea #107 - Reevaluate Town Zoning with Master Plan](#)
- [Idea #275 - Real Estate Transfer Fees](#)
- [Idea #378 - Supplemental Tax Assessment on New Construction](#)
- [Idea #391 - Allow Hotels and B&Bs in Bylaws](#)