

Municipality of Anchorage

Joint meeting of the Budget Advisory Commission and School Budget Advisory Commission.

February 2th, 2011

Present:

Tam Agosti-Gisler, SBAC
Tony Cange, BAC
Andy Clary, BAC
Greg Gurse SBAC
David Alexander, SBAC
Steve Hartung, BAC (Teleconference)
Heather Ireland, BAC
Shirley Nelson, SBAC
Jim Ricks, BAC
Adam Trombly, BAC (Teleconference)
Liz Vazquez, BAC
Marilyn Banzhaf, OMB Staff
Marie Laule, ASD Budget Director
Chad Stiteler, ASD CFO

Excused:

Jim Bailey, BAC
Bill Webb, BAC
David Stratton, SBAC
Cheryl Frasca, Muni OMB Director

There were some corrections to the list of members present at the January 2010 meeting. With those corrections, the minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved.

Marilyn Banzhaf attended on behalf of OMB. She informed the group that the proposal regarding the calculation of the tax cap did not receive the Assembly's approval to be on the April 2011 ballot. All bonds brought before the Assembly, including those from the school board, were approved by the Assembly and will be on the ballot in April. OMB is still reviewing the year end information and is in the early stages of the First Quarter Budget Revision process.

The proposed ordinance to merge the BAC and SBAC was deferred until April or May. There was some confusion about how to move forward in the mean time. Specifically, the Assembly is anticipating a report regarding the proposed Anchorage School District Budget. The group agreed that the SBAC members would take the lead on completing the report. BAC members may participate, as time permits. The group began discussing the proposed ASD budget, especially with regards to

expenses being transferred from the Municipality to the School District – such as the School Resource Officers.

Tam Agosti-Gisler will compile the report with feedback from SBAC and BAC members. Email comments to tamag@gci.net ASD staff will forward responses to questions asked during the ASD budget presentation. Please forward additional questions to ASD staff. The SBAC and available BAC members will meet on February 10th at 11:30 to discuss the report further. Marilyn will secure meeting space and inform the clerk's office to ensure public notice. The final draft will be presented and discussed at the March 2nd BAC meeting. The report will be submitted to the Assembly at a joint work session with the School Board (date unknown).

The group discussed how the community school budget dialogue feedback was incorporated into the proposed budget. Staff reviewed the feedback and evaluated the impact and prioritized various programs. While not all the suggestions were used, the proposed budget reflects the overwhelming sentiment not to increase class sizes. In addition, ASD is looking into a trial for contractual snow removal.

The Municipality and ASD may collaborate on an “audit” of the Anchorage School District in the coming months.

The next BAC meeting is scheduled for March 2nd. Agenda items will include an update about First Quarter Budget Revisions and the SBAC report to the Assembly. In addition, the group requested that the Mayor's office clarify the purpose of the proposal to merge the SBAC and BAC, including how this will be implemented. Both commissions may choose to comment about the proposed ordinance change.

Adjourned at 12:35.