



Amesbury Council on Aging

AGENDA FOR COUNCIL ON AGING

Board Meeting: January 8, 2015
4:30pm

ROLL CALL

Sue Ballard Excused

SECRETARY'S REPORT

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

- Greenleaf update

NEW BUSINESS

- Name badges
- Conflict of interest
- Tufts Grant ended 12/31/14
- Welcome Andy Gilmore

ADJOURN

COUNCIL ON AGING MISSION

To advocate for older adults, to identify their needs, to meet their health, economic, social and cultural needs, to encourage maximum independence and to improve their quality of life.





Amesbury Council on Aging

Amesbury COA Board Meeting

Directors Report

January 8, 2015

Report Submitted by: Annmary I. Connor, LICSW COA Director

November

- Vicky became the coordinator and her hours increased. Russell will pick up the remaining hours.
- 5 interns started in September: they each have over 10 + clients they are working with.
- Greenleaf: Over \$7k has been deposited and we have started to use this money-staffing, training. Contracted with ESMV, no referrals to date.
- Stats attached for November.
- Over 22 people for our wonderful veteran luncheon, thank you Cynthia and friends.
- No closures

December

- December 6th Christmas fair: raised over \$2,500 for FCOA
- December 11th annual Christmas dinner holy family parish hall. Over 180 in attendance. Many new faces, did not lose money this year.
- Tufts grant ended 12/31/14
- No closures

Upcoming:

- January 14th Who's coming to lunch?
- Sustain programs not growth. Discussion.
- NISC groups-will be sending this request in 2 weeks for assistance.
- January 23rd legislative day at Tewksbury COA: looking to increase formula grant funding
 - **Needs:** We need to assist the FCOA in recruitment for the fcoa board. They do not need to be Amesbury residents.

8 school street, Amesbury ma 01913

68 elm street, Amesbury ma 01913

January 7, 2015 for the record correspondence to the council on aging

Re: Mayor's statement for the new year, and fy2015 operating budget, the fiscal 2015 tax recapitulation sheet, **2a1 appropriations including 710 debt service, 2b11 and 2c1, 3a1 and 2, 3b1 local estimated receipts, 3b2 offset receipt potential, 3c1 free cash, 3c2 available funds restricted, 3d1a free cash on or before 6/30 to reduce tax levy, and 3d1b free cash on or after July 1 to reduce the tax levy** -> "by the way if your property bill went up this year.....(which for most is a good thing)

To the Amesbury Council on Aging: chairperson casey, axten vice chair, costello, ford, rogers, m Gilmore, varnel, lallemand, ballard, Thomas, and a gillmore

I am a member of the friends of the council of aging, and so, I receive the monthly newsletter which I enjoy reading. But this issue I read the mayor's statement, and I disagree with his misleading statement that I do not enjoy reading such as the following:

A lower tax rate with a higher tax burden which I resent because it does NOT have to happen, and especially when I READ THE NEWBURYPORT DAILY NEWS and the 'legal notices' with 'mortgagees sales' two to one generally in Amesbury's disfavor. That tax rate may be still be top ten, we will see, but the burden to value ratio is only 5 hundredths less, still might be the highest in the 53 community region!

Within appropriations 2a1, 710 debt service, there are two bond issues rolled over amounted to over 811k more in new issues of tax exempt bonds, where does this extra money being used, unappropriated, I might add, over five bonding events.. The question is, can you buy the tax exempt bonds, as the tax burden rises? Looking over the bond issue, reveals **250k** in restricted available funds interest applied to defray, unappropriated, it appears, to reduce debt service again, without appropriation.

In my recollection, I have never seen the language noted in the bond issues specifically noting the use of interest on restricted available funds to affect downward the cost of the a portion of an issue whether it be water, sewer, or other monies like appropriated monies for debt service till the auditor noted it in 2013 annual municipal audit. Nowhere do we reduce the operating budget or not the debt service budget or integrate its **potential impact on certified "free cash"** which I know is not free. The interest on restricted available funds is over 250,000 dollars and not noted in debt service, and not used in available funds to reduce the operating budget 0617/2014, fy2015budget public hearing. The rollover bonds amounted to more than 800k more in amount and "tax exempt" opportunities for the Amesbury investor, again where is it spent?.

2b11 DIRECT EXPENDITUES IS LESS LIKE 2C1 IN AGGEGATE WHICH ARE BOTH LESS THAN LAST YEAR A WINDFALL that reduces the total gross appropriation.

On the revenue side, we receive slightly more state revenue 3a1, school building assistance remains the same, 3b1 local estimated receipts, were underestimated over 300k from actuals; and 3b3, as we know water bills will go up January 1 annualized over a full year it will cost an average single family with value of 311k, and additional 300+ dollars with a slight increase in sewer, two of our enterprise funds.

The failure to apply expiring fy14 free cash to reduce the tax rate an appalling action that will lead to more receivables foreclosures and more liens!

Finally, the refunding and the additional expense to refund, so too, in recent history, actual local estimated receipts were used to estimate local estimated revenues for the next fiscal year. By not estimating actuals, our revenues were understated by 300,000 plus. Water enterprise appears to run short so too the impact of the water sewer rate increase the full impact will not felt till July 1 2015 or fiscal 2016. I make note that items affected by the refunding go back to 1999.

In addition, the increase tax burden caused by the additional 1,3million operating budget expense as per bond issue rising by 288 dollar to an annualized increase of 6389 is much closer to Newburyport's tax burden, than 3800 Salisbury' tax burden, as noted in the Newburyport Daily News, which has higher single average value, I might add.

The aforementioned, combined with a classification hearing calendar that should be closer to July 1 must be reevaluated, as well as, the promulgation of a 'preliminary tax rate' subsequent to the close of business July 15 not revealed till they promulgate the tax rate recapitulation sheet in December.

All of the above are legitimate issues that affect the pocketbooks of every Amesbury city resident as well as the local economy. This calendrical process must happen earlier than the current version. Remember, we have 18 months expense against 12 months of "receipts and revenues" as it is right now!

The fact that this administration does not 'disclose the close of business as others, is not in the best financial interests of the taxpayers! Not fulfilling my freedom of information request from my perspective, continues the lack of transparency, and now this very misleading statement I remind you tax increment financing created a tax credit as well as "brownfields and historic overlays, in addition to the millions in tax exempt bond issue well over 11 million." Not everyone can afford you financial and fiscal policy, which I find unconstitutional "putting people's property in peril!" with this property tax policy.

I consider the mayor's comment "by the way if your property bill went up this year..... (which for most is a good thing) as callous and inconsiderate, misleading, tell the mortgagees, you will and hear what they think! I request a retraction! I find your policy subjective and aimed at providing happiness to the local investor with credits and tax exempt generating short opportunities in real estate. Your 'net income' approach to local governance as inappropriate and debilitating to the local taxpayer sending their monies to city hall.

Again, that 462K of fiscal 2014 free cash was not used to reduce the tax levy 3d1and or 3d1b, and let expire. I know your appointees but this is one person's feeling towards this statement which I feel is very misleading.

My issues with this administration and its direction too numerous to address within this letter to the council on aging objecting to the mayor's misleading statement.

Thanks for the council members service,

James N Thivierge, an interested lifelong Amesbury resident,

and participant with a lifetime interests this area,

and citizen of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Since 1973 as lifelong resident who worked at taxation and corporations, programs and analysis, attended labor school on my own dime, as union steward and senior computer programmer at the time, then a state manager with banking and loan agencies, as a MIS manager, with both agencies over 70 courses taken from 10 to 16 week to one day, a master's degree in public administration, a bachelors in American studies, 90 hours of lifelong learning, filing and testifying state legislation, that has become law of the commonwealth, a veteran of the united states navy discharged honorably with good conduct and national defense medal and service on many appointed and elected committees, one chairman of the board of selectmen five times, and a member of the finance committee, the bylaw, minutes and the school committee amongst others

Backup data will follow

