

Town of Green Mountain Falls Economic Sustainability Committee/ “ESC” Meeting Summary

Wednesday, January 4th, 2012

6:07 to 7:50 p.m.

Mucky Duck Restaurant, Green Mountain Falls

1. Welcome

The meeting was opened at 6:07 pm by the Committee Chair, Katharine Guthrie.

2. Attendance

Katharine Guthrie, Cameron Thorne, Kay Bachus, Rob McArthur, David Shaw (minutes), John Morgan, Amily Beidelman-Almy, Joe Hanke (Facilitator), Don Ellis (Alternate), and Dick Bratton (Guest)

3. Review of Agenda

The agenda was approved as stated in the documentation disseminated to committee members prior to the meeting.

4. Approval of Meeting Summary and Discussion

The meeting summary from the prior meeting was approved as submitted. It was noted that the correct spelling of Ms. Guthrie's name is "Katharine." **Rob McArthur motion, Amily Beidelman-Almy 2nd, all in favor.**

5. Discussion of Mill Levy Increase Recommendation

The Board of Trustees for Green Mountain Falls requested in their previous meeting that the Economic Sustainability Committee offer a suggestion regarding specific recommendations for a future mill levy increase. The ESC then established that a 1 Mill Levy increase would yield \$8,713 in additional revenue based on numbers received from the town clerk for 2012. The ESC recognized that projections for 2012 will not ultimately determine received revenue from the mill levy increase because revenue collected from such an increase would not be received until 2014.

Cameron Thorne restated his belief that a mill levy increase should not be viewed as a short-term budget stop-gap measure, but should be viewed as a method for providing a long-term revenue base for the municipality. The committee unanimously agreed with this sentiment. Guest Dick Bratton suggested that the ESC assist the Board in potentially selling the idea of a mill levy increase to the citizens of Green Mountain Falls. This was later discussed (see below).

It became clear through the course of conversation that a mill levy increase would need to be on an April, rather than a November ballot because it is only a local matter. The committee was then asked to state their preference for the amount of mill increase to recommend to the Board. Five voting members suggested a 3 mill increase. One voting member suggested a 2 mill increase. One voting member did not suggest any increase. **Motion then put forth by Rob McArthur to recommend a 3 mill increase to the Board, Cameron Thorne second. Six in favor, one opposed.**

Discussion then turned to the methods by which a mill levy increase would be marketed to the citizens of Green Mountain Falls. It was suggested by the committee that the Board of Trustees couch any conversation or promotion of a mill levy increase around the themes of maintaining the heritage, quality of life inherent to, and character of Green Mountain Falls. Additionally, the committee believes that the Board would do well to stress the need for continued essential services within the municipality.

Amily Beidelman-Almy moved that the ESC provide the Board with a list of “sales pitch possibilities” in order to assist the Board in marketing a mill levy increase. Rob McArthur second, all in favor.

Sales Pitch Possibilities

- Mill levy increase will maintain the heritage, quality of life, and character of Green Mountain Falls.
- 28 years since last mill levy increase.
- Potential cut in services (Example: Parks and recreation/pool) without an increase).
- Mill levy increase will serve as a hedge against inflation.
- Average property tax bill will increase only about \$16 per year per 1 mill increase.
- Explain what a property tax increase could buy in terms of services.
- Provide mill levy comparison with other neighboring municipalities (see attached).

The ESC, now feeling that it was time to move to other topics, closed the conversation regarding a mill levy increase until such time as the Board asks for further input.

6. Update by Committee Members on Previous Topics

A brief conversation was held regarding the appropriate time to invite Ms. Tina Burdett of the Oklahoma City Community Foundation/ Kirkpatrick Family Fund to attend a future ESC meeting. Conversation will continue at the next meeting of the ESC.

7. Discussion of next steps

With the mill levy question set aside, there was little remaining time to discuss next steps. Next steps will be discussed at the next meeting of the ESC.

8. Other business/questions/public comment

A brief conversation was also held regarding a \$5,000 donation from the County Regional Building Department. The committee believes that discussing the implementation of a new website with the Board is appropriate. Katharine Guthrie will lead this conversation at the next Board meeting.

9. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at 6 pm on January 18th at The Church in the Wildwood. Cameron Thorne will perform secretarial duties.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 pm.