

NOTES
Mayor Swisstack's Transition Team
Fiscal/Financial Team Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2008
2:00 p.m. – City Hall 3rd Floor Fiscal Services

Karen Delle Site opened the meeting by having the team members introduce themselves. Six of the seven team members were present. Five residents attended.

The following areas were identified as doing well:

- city has a healthy budget
- well educated, hardworking, dedicated staff in the Financial Department
- current budget is solid; it shows good vision and foundation
- community involvement is good

The following areas were identified as needing improvement:

- lack of communication between Councilors and staff/City Manager regarding budget
- lack of information to the public on bond issues causes them to fail
- diversification of economy is lacking
- not getting enough money back from Sandoval County
- lack of in-depth justification for some line items
- there's a sense of complacency due to past reliance on city managers

The following items were also discussed:

- GRTs are down; rely too much on development and construction; commercial development is lacking
- need balance between GRTs from builders, impact fees and retail, commercial sales
- Councilors don't receive training after being sworn in – there are no mandates for participation in committees or further education
- Councilors receive copies of the budget and then meet with Dept. Heads to ask questions
- some instability due to leadership problems and the upcoming runoff election
- last city audit passed; city is audited annually; a limited report is made to the Councilors
- GRTs from builders/development aren't enough – What other the ways to receive GRTs? Are there short term fixes?
- How does Rio Rancho compare to ABQ, Santa Fe and Las Cruces with regard to fees charged, GRTs collected

- 55% of income is derived from GRTs – need to diversify
- start budget process sooner to give Councilors more time for review and questions
- concrete goals are there {ex. Lions Gate studio where is it?}
- marketing of Rio Rancho is important

The following comments are from the public in attending the meeting:

- impact fees have risen from \$3K to \$11K causing builders to leave the market
- have residents be involved with on-going committees with input to the Mayor and Councilors
- Buckston Report should be reviewed again and possibly updated

Questions asked by Team members:

- compare fees from other cities in New Mexico
- need to know current infrastructure available
- what is Rio Rancho's bonding capacity
- what is the city's debt structure; can any of it be refinanced
- what does the Mayor want to build around city hall
- what do residents want and will they pay {most citizens feel overtaxed with the UNM ¼% tax, Rail Runner tax, inclusion of northern Rio Rancho into CNM district}

For the next meeting:

- Mark Valenzuela will bring tax comparisons from other cities in New Mexico
- Marilyn Salzman will invite Judy Dolley to attend our next meeting to answer questions and set-up a brief presentation on the city's bonding capacity

The next meeting for the Fiscal/Financial will be Tuesday, April 8th from Noon until 2pm. Lunch will be provided for Team members only.