



**Organization: Farmington Civic Association**

**Meeting Date: April 2, 2012**

**# in Attendance: 22**

- Where do the residents go when an apartment is torn down like Harbor Square?  
*Discussed housing voucher system, which is federally mandated through Section 8. Other residents who did not have housing vouchers were harder due to lack of background checks, money for security deposits, credit checks, etc. HRHA offered a financial incentive.*
- Who does the HRHA report to?  
*HRHA is an independent body. The state can audit them. State and federal governments require localities to have a housing authority. The HRHA board is appointed by City Council.*
- What's the homeless rate in Hampton?  
*May have a higher rate than some other communities because of programs that exist within the City like the Veterans Administration hospital and other services. It's hard to keep track of the number.*
- Is there anything in place to find out and assist with veterans with mental health and substance abuse problems?  
*Hampton/ Newport News Community Services Board offers programs to deal with mental health issues and substance abuse.*
- Suggested putting together a group dedicated to look at waste, fraud, department consolidations, etc. to identify that on a recurring basis.  
*There is a two person internal audit team working in the city currently.*
- Do you use an independent agency to do city assessments?  
*No, we have an internal department that completes assessments. These assessments are reviewed by the state. If you aren't happy with your assessment, you can appeal it to a citizen review board.*
- Has the Peninsula Town Center met the city's expectations?  
*When the project started, we weren't in a national recession. But considering that we are in a national recession, it is doing exceedingly well. Our sales tax and meal tax has stayed flat instead of dropping as other cities have done.*
- What was the outcome of the online survey regarding incremental tax increases?  
*About 13-15% said they wanted to pay less taxes and get less service. About 50-55% said they want to pay the same and get the same. About 20% said they were willing to pay more taxes and build back services cut in previous years. The*

*majority of people were willing to pay up to 4 cents in more taxes, at 5 cents people were split 50/50 about raising taxes. In public polling events, people were willing to pay more in taxes.*

- Are there exemptions for taxes for those who come from other states and receive retirement? *Not sure about state incomes taxes. There is a subsidy for real estate tax for elderly with the inability to pay.*
- Does the city have good relationships with Hampton University? *Yes. The city has a handful of students to work in our government as interns.*
- How can neighborhoods stay more in the loop and find out about the things the city is doing? *We do need to be better at communicating. Marketing, Inc. was recently formed, eNews is a great resource and citizens are encouraged, Channel 47 now has a 1 hour new show that airs weekly, and there is a FaceBook page. Traditional mailings are expensive, and done much less than in previous years.*
- Has the City made a final decision about what will happen with Fort Monroe? *The states gets to determine what happens to most of the land on Fort Monroe, Hampton doesn't make the final decision. General Assembly decided to take this authority away from Hampton. Hampton has two representatives of thirteen on the Fort Monroe Authority (FMA).*

*Answers to questions are noted in italics.*