

RE: Budget and Finance Advisory Task Force recommendation: Town CFO

To the Town Board and Residents of North Castle,

As previously stated, the Budget and Finance Advisory Task Force ("Task Force") adheres to policies and practices that protect its role as an independent, non-partisan body serving at the request of the Town Board. The Task Force stands behind no candidate; nor does it endorse any party or platform. It is imperative that all candidates, incumbents and their respective supporters present issues to the electorate without errors or omissions. It is with this in mind that the Task Force seeks to correct Messrs. Arden and Rice's representations of the Task Force's position on Town Administrator in their email "Task Force Recommends a Town Administrator for North Castle" dated October 4, 2011.

Recently, the Task Force presented a recommendation on the topic of a Town Administrator ("TA") that differed from the conclusions put forth by The Administrator Task Force ("ATF") in 2009. The Task Force's recommendation was that the Town create an executive position closely associated with the private sector: a Chief Financial Officer ("Town CFO") - **NOT** to endorse a traditional Town Administrator. The skill set of such an individual would fill a long-term void in our town government best illustrated by the need to create a Task Force to evaluate and advise on the Town's financial condition and prospects. A Town CFO would perform many of the more complex, in-depth financial analyses presently needed to assist the Town Board in its decision making; and hiring a Town CFO would immediately enhance the quality and timeliness of information required by Town officials to make informed decisions. In these times of economic uncertainty, New York State mandates and budget constraints, a Town CFO represents a crucial addition to the existing managerial body of Town government.

In contrast, a traditional Town Administrator - defined in municipal government handbooks as a manager of day-to-day operational activities akin to a Chief Operating Officer – would be duplicative of many current operational positions. We feel that the Supervisor, Town Board and the Department Heads are capable of performing these duties in their current roles.

Respectfully submitted,

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