



## Item No. 3 Town of Atherton

### **CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT – PRESENTATION**

**TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
GEORGE RODERICKS, CITY MANAGER**

**FROM: ROBERT BARRON III, FINANCE DIRECTOR**

**DATE: DECEMBER 18, 2013**

**SUBJECT: PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF “OPENGOV” SOFTWARE**

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Hear the presentation from OpenGov.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Upon request from staff, a representative from OpenGov.com made a presentation to the Town’s Finance Committee at their November 12, 2013 Committee meeting. Staff had investigated the possible use of OpenGov.com’s financial transparency software for the Town and before engaging their services wanted feedback from the Finance Committee.

OpenGov.com is a silicon-valley based company that specializes in web-based software aiding in transparency of financial data for government agencies. They offer a cloud-based application program that displays government financial data in a user-friendly, visual, and intelligent way allowing users the ability to analyze and share data.

The Town produces its annual budget and goes through an open and transparent process for budget review and adoption. However, the community is often disengaged from that process and finds the governmental budget document cumbersome. Years of Town budget and financial data is available via the Town’s website. However, the information is static and unless the reader wishes to “recreate” the information, the data is not easily manipulated.

The OpenGov.com system is an additional tool that provides another layer of financial transparency. It is not designed to replace the Town’s budget but rather provide an adaptive interface for the public to manipulate and drill down on financial data. The web-based application tool would be connected seamlessly through the Town’s website.

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OpenGov.com’s software is subscription-based and staff would be required to “upload” data on a regular basis to keep it current. The upload is as simple as exporting our data from our existing financial software. Initial setup will require staff to provide an initial upload and our chart of accounts. Staff from OpenGov.com will take care of the rest. The Town’s subscription with OpenGov.com could setup parameters to upload our financial data monthly or quarterly.

Staff believes that OpenGov.com is a simple and cost-minimal way to continue to provide the community with the tools to engage and stay informed. The Finance Committee found the demonstration by OpenGov.com to be beneficial and supports staff’s recommendation that the Town subscribe. The Committee suggested that a representative from OpenGov.com provide a presentation to the Council.

Nate Levine from OpenGov.com is present this evening to provide a brief presentation to the Council.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The cost to the Town is less than \$3,000 per year (subscription) and involves the transfer of financial data to OpenGov.com who then uploads the data into their software. The financial data will be available as a link on our website. The Town decides how frequently we update the financial data.

Attachment: OPENGOV Transparency