

Charlestown Ad Hoc Chariho Withdrawal Committee

Minutes from the April 21, 2014 Meeting

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM
2. Roll Call was conducted and all committee members were present, Linda Philips, Chris Sheehan, Ron Areglado, and Dan Slattery the Council Liaison to the Committee.
3. Election of Officers: Dan Slattery indicated to the group that he would volunteer to be Committee Chair and reporter. Linda Philips made a motion to formally nominate Dan and it was seconded by Chris Sheehan and the vote was unanimous. Next, Ron Areglado nominated Linda Philips for Vice Chair and the nomination was seconded by Chris Sheehan and the vote to appoint Linda was unanimous
4. Discussion of Analysis Tasks and Committee Assignments related to the Proposed Adjustment of the Chariho Funding Formula. The analysis tasks and assignments are as follows:
 - Get Copies of the most recent tax levy for the three towns that comprise Chariho which includes Charlestown, Richmond, and Hopkinton. Dan volunteered to get those documents and provide them to Amy for the information packet to be sent to all members for the next meeting.
 - Get copies of the 2015 Chariho Budget Summary for the Committee. Ron Areglado volunteered to provide that document to the Town Clerk for distribution to the Committee. Ron also volunteered to provide additional documentation that was sent to the Town Council from the Chariho Financial Sub Committee in 2013 because of the relevance to the committee's work.
 - Do a Draft Tax Equalization Analysis for the Committee using the 2015 Chariho School Budget and the 2013 Tax Levy. Dan volunteered to do this tax and forward it the Town Clerk for distribution to Committee members before the next meeting.
 - Do a draft format for the Pipeline for the review, discussion, and decision by other committee members. Dan volunteered to do the initial draft and forward it to the Town Clerk for distribution to the committee members
 - Verify if the towns of Westerly, South Kingstown, and Narragansett would be willing to accept Charlestown students to tuition-in. This will be a Committee task working together to plan for interviews and the development to question to be asked of each Superintendent. This action will be addressed in more detail at our next meeting.

- Arrange for meetings with the Superintendent of Schools in the aforementioned three towns to determine if they are able to accept are students. If so, we will ask them to provide the total cost per student if they did tuition-in to that school district. The interviews will be a team effort based on the committee members schedules.
 - Verify all numbers and cost figures that will be used in the pipeline. This will be a committee effort that we be performed at future Committee meetings.
 - Determine which documents will be placed on the Town's website as background material for the Pipeline. This will be team project with committee members and performed at future meeting.
 - Ron suggested that Dan, the Town Council liaison to this committee contact the Town's Attorney to discuss the legality of withdrawal and determine if they should talk to RI State Education Officials about the issues facing the Town with Tax Equalization were to pass. Dan indicated he would talk to the Town's Attorney and would report back to the Committee.
5. Timeline for the Pipeline Report to Charlestown Residents. The Committee hopes to complete all of its tasks by the end of May 2014 and to forward the report to the Town Administrator and Town Attorney for review approval before we forward the Pipeline for Town Council review and approval if required.
 6. Public Comment. There was no public comment at the meeting.
 7. Agenda for the Next Meeting. The formal agenda for the next meeting will be submitted to the Town Clerk this week. However, the Committee agreed to review, discuss and make a decision all draft items including Tax Equalization Analysis, Draft Pipeline format and content, and address all analysis tasks and comment on all background information forwarded to the Committee.
 8. Dates for Future Meeting. The committee agreed to meet at 7PM in the Vault Room at Town Hall on the dates and times listed below.
 - Tuesday, April 29, 2014
 - Tuesday May 6, 2014
 - Wednesday May 14, 2014
 9. Adjournment; the meeting adjourned at 7:48 with Dan making the motion to adjourn and Chris giving a second.