

## Charlestown Ad Hoc Chariho Withdrawal Committee

### Final Minutes from the April 29, 2014 Meeting

1. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM
2. Roll Call was conducted and committee members present were Linda Philips, Chris Sheehan, and Dan Slattery, Ron Areglado was absent.
3. Approval of Minutes. A motion was made by Chris Sheehan to approve the minutes and Linda Phillips seconded the motion.
4. Discussion notes related to the Analysis Tasks are listed in bullet form below.
  - Committee members did not have any questions on the background materials contained in the Information Packets distributed to all committee members.
  - The first Analysis Task Product the Committee reviewed was the Draft Equalization Chart. Chris Sheehan questioned if the Total Gross Assessed Value Line Item was the correct number to use for making a comparison. Dan Slattery said he thought it was the correct number but would check with Department Head Ken Swain to make sure we were indeed using the right tax number for a fair and accurate comparison. Chris further mentioned that we were consistent with the number we used for all three Towns and the math seemed correct but he wanted to make sure that what we were using was correct before we put it in final and used it in the Pipeline.
  - Another question concerning the Tax Equalization Analysis Chart was raised by Linda Phillips. She thought that the education budget funding for the three towns was incomplete. Linda noted that we only included Funding after State Aid and that she believed we should also include funding by each town prior to State Aid. Dan Slattery said he would also bring up that issue when he met with Mr. Swain.
  - Next the Committee reviewed an Enrollment and Taxing District Chart that had been produced in 2013 by the Charlestown Chariho Funding Ad Hoc Subcommittee. Linda Phillips made the suggestion that she thought the Tax Equalization Chart we were producing should be expanded to include some of the extra data elements in that Exhibit 1 Chart. Dan Slattery said he would like to talk with Pat Anderson and Ken Swain about the chart and would report back to the Committee at the next meeting.
  - The next Draft Analysis Product the Committee reviewed was the Draft Pipeline Outline and Content. The Committee did not have any suggestions for changing the outlines format at this time. However, at the next meeting when the Committee decided to start to draft the language

for the Pipeline and might decide to rearrange the sequence or change the content.

- The next topic of discussion concerned contacting other school districts to determine if prior offers to Tuition into their Distracts were still possible. We also discussed requesting data on tuition costs to make a comparison with tuition costs to attend Chariho. The Committee decided not to use a more extensive list of questions that we felt were more appropriate when or if we were in the process of leaving Chariho. The Committee believed that it would be more appropriate if the Town Administrator and this Committee's Chair, Dan Slattery, make the calls. Mr. Slattery indicated he would talk to the Town Administrator and get his feedback and report back to the Committee for further discussion before any decisions were made.
  - The Committee did not make any decisions on which documents will be placed on the Town's website as background material for the Pipeline. This will be a team project with committee members and performed at a future meeting.
  - Dan Slattery (Per Ron's suggestion) reported back to the Committee that he did speak with the Town's Attorney. He stated that their discussion centered on the legality of withdrawal and if the Committee should talk to RI State Education Officials about the issues facing the Town with Tax Equalization were to pass. Dan reported that our Attorney stated the Chariho Act does not deal with any provisions on one member withdrawing. He stated that the legal issue is unknown and it would be premature to ask anyone for legal interpretations since there is no case law in this matter.
  - Timeline for the Pipeline Report to Charlestown Residents. The Committee hopes to complete all of its tasks by the end of May 2014 or early June. At that time they will forward the report to the Town Administrator and Town Attorney for review and approval before we forward the Pipeline for Town Council review and approval if required. It is expected to be mailed to all residents in June 2014.
5. Agenda for the Next Meeting. The formal agenda for the next meeting will be submitted to the Town Clerk this week. The Committee agreed to continue its review of all Draft Analysis Products and when completed will make a decision on all information that will be contained on the Pipeline. The Committee will also review and make a decision on any background information that might be needed for placement on the Town's Website...
  6. Dates for Future Meeting. The committee agreed to meet at 7PM in the Vault Room at Town Hall on Tuesday May 6, 2014.
  7. Comment. There was no public comment.

8. Adjournment; the meeting adjourned at 8:08 with Dan making the motion to adjourn and Chris giving a second.

DS 5-2-2014