

MEMORANDUM

TO: Town Council
FROM: Nathan Poore
RE: Regional Assessing
DATE: August 8, 2013

The Town of Falmouth is working with Cumberland County on a regional assessing option. This collaboration began when the Towns of Cumberland, North Yarmouth and Yarmouth lost its shared assessor to the Town of Scarborough. Our assessor is retiring in 2014 and with the diminishing pool of assessors in the state this is an excellent opportunity to consolidate services. The Town of Windham is also participating in the process. The towns are working with Cumberland County after the County expressed an interest in regional assessing in 2007. At that time, a study revealed too many inconsistencies with different town's assessing software, levels of service, etc. However, the shared assessing arrangement with Cumberland, North Yarmouth and Yarmouth (currently without an assessor) has provided a successful model and the County is committed to continuing the service.

Our working group has developed staffing models that could serve the interested communities and there should be opportunities for cost savings. Unlike in 2007, all communities expressing interest use the same assessing and financial management software. A regional approach to assessing makes sense for many reasons. In addition to cost savings, it will be an opportunity to provide regional service delivery in a new area of municipal services. If this collaboration is successful, it could lead to additional regional functions.

I am requesting guidance from the Town Council regarding the next steps in this process. Specifically, does the Council want to join a regional assessing office? If the Council chooses to move forward with this plan, I anticipate a future meeting that will include discussions about staffing models, cost analysis, interlocal agreement language and transition planning.