

**Shared Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 29, 2008**

Attendees: Patricia Altomare, Chairperson Siobahn Bohnsen, Cheryl Carlson, Jim Ryan, Steve Paige

Absent: Allen Phillips, Elaine Nedder

Others: Leon Gaumond, Jr., Val Pruneau

The meeting convened at 7:05 p.m.

Approval of August 14, 2008 Minutes: Mr. Ryan made motion to approve minutes. Mr. Paige seconded. All were in favor of approving minutes.

Response from Selectmen: Previous e-mails (sent by Mr. Gaumond) received stated the Selectmen are open to sharing any town services. Mr. Gaumond and Mr. Pruneau confirmed. Ms. Bohnsen asked if any other towns have stated specific services they are interested in sharing. If so, how can the Committee address it and what would the timeline be? Mr. Gaumond stated that as of a few weeks ago, the town was anticipating a \$1.4 million budget shortfall for the '09-'10 fiscal year. In light of that, merging of any fiscal services is welcome. He is currently working with CMRPC and MORE to develop a model for sharing town services and is leery of following the state timetable. He suggested both a long and short-range view on the process. The discussion continued about how to "sell" shared services to the townspeople.

The consensus of the committee was for Mr. Gaumond to continue to work upon his "ghost plan" with CMRPC and MORE.

Mr. Gaumond reminded the Committee that Harriet Chandler did state that if given a project, she would help support the funding. He will approach her in the near future regarding shared services. The Committee proposed inviting John Westerling from the DPW to our next meeting. Mr. Gaumond stated that he would invite Mr. Westerling to the meeting to discuss the possibility of sharing services with neighboring towns. The Committee brainstormed three questions to ask of him so that he is prepared for our discussion.

Update on Joint Meeting of Finance Committee, School Committee and Selectmen on Town Finances: September meeting focused on intra-municipal as well as inter-municipal agreements. State currently has a \$2 billion deficit. As the towns are becoming more desperate for funding, sharing services is becoming more of a reality.

Next Meeting Dates: October 27 and November 24 at 6:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.