

**Shared Services Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 27, 2008**

Attendees: Patricia Altomare, Chairperson Siobahn Bohanson, Cheryl Carlson, Elaine Nedder, Jim Ryan, Steve Paige, Allen Phillips

Others: Leon Gaumond, Jr., Tom Ruchala, John Westerling

The meeting convened at 7:00 p.m.

Approval of September 29, 2008 Minutes: Mr. Ryan made motion to approve minutes. Ms. Carlson seconded. All were in favor of approving minutes, with the exception of Mr. Phillips and Ms. Nedder who abstained.

John Westerling, DPW Director, had prepared information in advance of the meeting. He highlighted opportunities as outlined in his memo to Mr. Gaumond. (Please refer to memo for details.) He stated he has not worked with Boylston on projects since the start of his six-year term. He would be willing to help in an emergency situation. Currently, there is no mutual aid agreement for DPW's between towns. Questions were asked of Mr. Westerling regarding standard of cost for DPW's related to road miles, and overlap of services between the town and the state. Mr. Westerling stated that various towns may have different methods and levels of cost for similar jobs and that there is overlap with the state regarding road care.

Mr. Westerling stated that West Boylston requires seven people and Boylston requires 4 people to work per town on their respective DPW's. The DPW would need to restructure and diversify responsibilities of the employees. Mr. Ryan stressed the town DPW would not act as separate entities, but act as one DPW. The structure of the new DPW would need to be studied.

The political challenge of restructuring the DPW would be that the citizens would need to be informed by the Selectmen that there is no other choice but to restructure the existing DPW. Hiring contractors to handle things such as lawn maintenance would not be possible due to prevailing wage. In the past, West Boylston has borrowed equipment from Boylston. Mr. Paige stated he is interested in how West Boylston's DPW budget and expenses compare with other towns in the area.

At this point in time, no town is acting upon a shared DPW; however, follow-up of financial gains (or not) is needed.

Mr. Ruchala, a representative from the Town of Rutland emergency services, stated he has been attempting to form a mutual dispatch center with area towns for years. For the past 22 years, Rutland and Oakham have shared a dispatch center. He is hopeful in creating a Northern Worcester County Dispatch Center with multiple towns. In order for

towns to join, the Boards of Selectmen must state they wish to enter into agreement to change the current dispatch services. Up to this point, there has been no upgrade of equipment to the Rutland dispatch center.

Other: Mr. Gaumont spoke at a legislative breakfast with MORE. He is scheduled to meet with the new Town Administrator of Boylston.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Next Shared Services Meeting: November 24th at 6:00 p.m.