

**State of Rhode Island
Department of Revenue**

Municipal Fiscal Stress Task Force

Task Force Meeting Minutes – October 29, 2009

1. Task Force Members – The following were present:

Committee – Mike Embury, Gary Sasse, Malcolm Moore, Dean Huff, Peter Chatellier, Douglas Fiore, Bill Fazioli, Susanne Greschner, Cynthia Brown, Peder Schaefer, Laura Sitrin, Maureen Gurghigian, Jim Thomas

Others – Steve Whitney, Chantale Sarrasin, Richelieu Trinity, Fred Sneesby, Diane Brennan, Lincoln Town Administrator Joseph Almond, Cumberland Mayor Daniel McKee

Staff (DOR) – Jill Barrette, Marsha Crecelius, Rudy Falcone, Evelyn Moreira, James Savage, James Neary

2. Presentation

Peder Schaefer presented data relating to assessed value and the property tax in the state's 39 cities and towns. He emphasized from the data that because of tax classification and homestead exemptions the relative proportion of the levy on commercial property is higher than residential property. He summarized a number of indicators of property tax capacity and noted that in some instances indicators may be contrary. He also reviewed the wide range of property tax rates on different types of property in different municipalities.

He reviewed personal and statutory exemptions in each city and town and concluded with a presentation on full value and changes in full value by municipality over a six year period.

3. Discussion

Mike Embury discussed the need to form groups to identify selected indicators for the final report. He discussed possible reliance on the ICMA model. He tentatively scheduled a meeting for November 5.