

**State of Rhode Island
Department of Revenue**

Municipal Fiscal Stress Task Force

Task Force Meeting Minutes –January 13, 2010

1. Task Force Members – The following were present:

Committee –Gary Sasse, Peter Chatellier, Douglas Fiore, Susanne Greschner, Peder Schaefer, Mayor Avedisian, Normand Benoit, Laura Sitrin, Mike Embury, Dean Huff, Malcolm Moore

Others –Chantale Sarrasin, Laurie Brayton, Fred Sneesby, Peter Marino

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

2. Discussion

Copies of the draft report with technical revisions were distributed. Members had received the final draft report by email the previous day. Updating the report on an annual basis was discussed. Peder Schaefer indicated that an update could probably be produced in mid March when all June 30, 2009 financials should be available. Mike Embury discussed the possibility of maintaining a permanent advisory committee to monitor municipal financial condition and review the updated information.

The Task Force reviewed the report page by page. On page 5 the word “hopeful” will replace the word “confident”. Bullets 3 and 4 under item 4 will be removed. On page 6, it will be clarified that the lack of adopted education budget data is the basic problem allowing for comparability with municipal information. It was suggested that RIDE take a more active role in collecting and reviewing approved school budget information.

On page 11, the phrase “contrary to expectations” will be removed and the paragraph comparing municipal services and education spending increases will emphasize that there are variations between municipalities. On page 13, the Cranston Warwick example will be removed. The availability of OPEB information will be clarified. On page 14, Warwick’s 40 year amortization strategy for funding its public safety plan will be footnoted. In the glossary, a definition of municipal and school aid will be included.

The quintile results summary page will be moved to the beginning of the data presentation from the end. A final draft report will be distributed to the task force by Friday the 15th. The Task Force discussed arranging a time to meet with the Governor to present the report. Gary Sasse will try to arrange a time for next week.