

Governor's Task Force on Shared Municipal Services
September 27, 2012, 1:00 p.m.
East Providence City Hall

Present: Chairperson John Simmons, Executive Director Rhode Island Public Expenditure Council (RIPEC); Mayor Donald R. Grebien of Pawtucket; Peter Grazcykowski, City Manager City of East Providence; John McJennett, Receiver City of Central Falls; and Susanne Greschner, Director of the Office of Municipal Finance

Mr. Simmons opened the meeting. The vote to approve the previous meetings minutes was postponed to the following meeting. Mr. Simmons then discussed a letter that he and Ms. Greschner sent to seven communities (Tiverton, Middletown, Newport, Narragansett, Cranston, Barrington, and East Greenwich) on the possibility of doing regional bidding for property assessment. Mr. Simmons said that he had met with service vendors and that they had expressed interest in the idea. He also thanked Ms. Greschner and Jim Savage from her office for their hard work on regional assessment.

Ms. Greschner commented that the sub-committee on regional assessment had been made up of assessors and managers from around the state. She said that the sub-committee is looking to create a couple groups for pilot programs to test the idea. She has spoken to all the communities to which the sub-committee sent letters and they all expressed interest. The letters were sent out on September 26.

Ms. Greschner then moved on to joint dispatch, a topic she said Mayor Lombardi of North Providence has been championing for years. There had been a meeting on this a while back, and now the State Police have offered to take the lead on sending out a survey to 10 northern RI communities. The group was hopeful the surveys would go out by Monday October 1.

David Clemente, Purchasing Agent for the city of Pawtucket, then discussed the progress on the idea of a joint purchasing agent for East Providence and Pawtucket. He thanked Manager Grazcykowski and Rob Eaton for providing the information he had requested. Mr. Clemente said he is reviewing the materials and beginning to put a plan together for how the arrangement might work.

Manager Grazcykowski expressed his interest in moving forward with the idea. The Budget Commission is eager to resolve the current vacancy as purchasing has increased for the city. Mr. Clemente shared his urgency and had similar concerns. They discussed the possibility of a joint RFP for an ERP. Mr. Simmons said RIPEC would be willing to help and that sending letters to users of like systems to form user groups would be a good idea.

Mr. Simmons then discussed a presentation that he and Ms. Greschner gave to the RI Legislature's joint commission on shared services, and remarked that Ms. Greschner had done a great job.

There was no other business or public comment. The next meeting was set for October 25 at 1:00pm, to be held at East Providence City Hall. The meeting adjourned.