

***Approved by a vote of the Committee – September 19, 2012***

**CMRPC Legislative Affairs Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 14, 2012**

**Present:** Shaun Suhoski, Kristen Garza, Kristin Wood, Leon Gaumond, Adam Gaudette,  
Sherry Patch (Quorum - yes)  
**Staff:** Trish Settles  
**Absent:** Tom Gregory

**1. Call to order - 1:40pm**

**2. Review of the Minutes:**

***A motion was made, seconded and all presented voted to approve the minutes of June 27, 2012.***

**3. New Committee members.**

Sherry Patch our new committee member introduced herself and the other members introduced themselves to Sherry. Trish explained that Tom Gregory, Delegate and Assistant Town Administrator in Shrewsbury was appointed but was unable to attend due to a prior commitment.

**4. Committee roles and responsibilities**

Trish shared the “Subcommittee Responsibilities” developed by the Executive Committee. There was discussion that the committee would like to invite Larry to attend a meeting in the future to have a conversation about his hopes regarding committee direction, priorities, and activities.

**5. Unfunded Mandates**

Trish shared a summary of her conversation with Tom Gregory, regarding the multi-town conversation on unfunded mandates and their proposed strategy to use Home Rule Petitions to make changes. Sherry shared some documents regarding similar concerns from towns in the western portion of the region. Adam shared specific examples of his concerns.

There was a sense that home rule petitions might be appropriate to address some mandates, but that some simply need to be addressed state wide with new legislation.

Initially the committee discussed focusing on three priority mandates (education, prevailing wage and unemployment insurance) later a focus on education-related mandates was discussed.

The committee continued its discussion regarding a fall legislator breakfast that would focus on local mandates and their plan to invite State Auditor Suzanne Bump and staff from the Office of Local Mandates to attend. The proposed format is to have a short presentation from local municipal leaders regarding their experiences with the topic, in this case local mandates; offer opportunity for a response or comments from invited guests, such as yourself, and legislators; and then open the floor to questions and answers.

Timing of the event was discussed, particularly in relationship to the national and state elections, and

eventually a preferred of November 16<sup>th</sup> was arrived at. Trish will reach out to State Auditor Bump to invite her and work with her schedulers. Others dates may be considered if needed to accommodate her schedule.

Sherry and Trish will share the results of their meetings.

**6. WRTA Legislator Appreciation Breakfast**

Shaun and Leon will attend the event.

**7.** Next meeting date: Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in Conference Room at CMRPC.

***Approved by a vote of the Committee: September 19, 2012***