

- b) **Jim Largess's request to the School Board to initiate a funding change** - Jim Sysko spoke of Jim Largess's attempt request to have the School Board start a committee to work on changing the school funding formula. Bonnie read aloud the resolution that was listed as item 8 on the School Board's agenda. It was pointed out that this resolution contained a condition that the Newry citizens are allowed to vote on whether or not they want to continue the withdrawal process. Gary Wight noted that the Select Board is discussing this request at their next meeting. Dan noted that the letter from Laney Cross and Marcel Polak addresses this issue, and he clarified that, according to their letter, as long as there is initiation of a warrant article, they would then take up the issue starting the cost-sharing amendment process; their condition is not contingent on that article being approved.

Dan went on to explain that in order to terminate the withdrawal process, there would need to be a referendum; it should not be just an article that goes before the open Town Meeting. Dan spoke about the timing issues, and that a special Town Meeting referendum would be needed. He believes that the vote of whether there should be additional funding can be taken at either the open Town Meeting or as a referendum question. The group continued to have a lengthy discussion on this process.

Mark asked about the possibility of the NWC suspending (or pausing) their meetings while the cost-sharing discussions take place. Bonnie felt that this would be well received by the School Board committee. The committee decided to discuss this option further in Executive Session.

- c) **Dean Richmond, Report on Cost Comparison to other Maine School Districts** – Dean, who is from Mason Township, explained that he and some other folks with varying professional backgrounds had formed a group (The Telstar Community Partners) with the intent of looking at the expenditures in SAD 44 and finding areas of possible cost savings. The group researched data on districts with similar demographics to compare SAD 44. Dean distributed a pie chart and explained the group's findings.

The group went on to discuss this research, the accuracy of the information found on the DEO's website, SAD 44's relationship (financial and otherwise) with Region 9 and the 4-H camp, etc.

- d) **Date for next meeting:** Thursday, February 25, 2016, at 5pm
- e) **Executive Session: William moved to enter executive session to consult with legal counsel regarding the legal rights and duties of the Withdrawal Committee pursuant to 1MRS Section 4056E. Gary seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.** Committee entered Executive Session at 6:06pm, and the session ended at 6:35.
- f) Following Executive Session, **William moved, and Bonnie seconded, that the NWC recommend to the Newry Selectman the following response to the latest SAD 44 School Board resolution. (That resolution by the School Board was they would form a new school district committee to possibly change the funding formula once the Newry Selectmen place a warrant article before the Newry voters to terminate the NWC). William's motion recommended that the word "PAUSE" be substituted for the word "TERMINATE". The motion passed unanimously.**

Adjournment: William moved to adjourn; Gary seconded. The motioned passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.