

**NEWRY WITHDRAWAL COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING (Not Recorded, summarized by Jim Sysko)
Thursday, May 28, 2015**

Present: Committee members: Jim Sysko (Chair), Bonnie Largess, William Andrews, Gary Wight

Legal consultant: Dan Stockford

Educational consultant: Dr. Mark Eastman

Community members: Steve Wight, Alison Aloisio, Gary Drown, Tama Drown, Doug Webster

Open Session Proceedings:

Meeting was called to order at 5:02 PM by Chair, Jim Sysko.

The minutes of the April 8th meeting were reviewed. William moved for approval of the minutes; Bonnie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Citizens' Comments: Jim informed those in attendance that comments may be made at any time as long as they are not disruptive.

Old Business:

a) Jim informed the committee that he checked the Maine.Gov. website and that the status of LD 1082 was it is now being worked on by the education committee. Steve Wight and Alison Aloisio both added that the bill is being changed into a resolution and that reference to SAD 44 will likely be removed.

b) Legal Counsel, Dan Stockford's indicated he would again ask the Maine D.O.E. for another 60-Day Extension. The current one ends in early June.

New Business:

a) The committee was given Dan and Mark's answer to SAD 44's legal counsel Mr Spencer's opinion stating that a town's real estate taxes are actually the property of the school district in which the town is a member. Dan's document will be discussed in executive session.

b) The committee was given Dan's example of how the stabilization fund will work as submitted in our latest counter-proposal to SAD 44. This example was done at the request of William Stockmeyer, another legal counsel for SAD 44. Committee discussion on this document was also moved to executive session because it is still a negotiating item.

c) Mark Eastman answered Deb Websters email question about use of public school facilities and programs by private school students. There are policies already in place at SAD 44 that may cover this situation but this issue may be a topic for negotiation.

d) Executive Session Withdrawal Plan Discussion:

Bonnie moved to go into Executive Session to consult with legal counsel in accordance with 1-MRS Section 4056E; Gary seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session:

a) The committee entered Executive Session at approximately 5:36pm. Executive Session ended at approximately 6:25pm.

Issues for vote:

a) The committee voted unanimously to revise the response to Mr Spencer's view on town taxes and submit the revision as a letter to the editor to the Bethel Citizen in next week's paper. The committee chair Jim Sysko will sign this letter.

b) The committee also directed Dan and Mark to simplify the stabilization example requested by SAD 44's lawyer William Stockmeyer and distribute it to the committee members by email before sending it to SAD 44 on Monday, June 1st.

Adjournment – William moved to adjourn; Bonnie seconded. The motioned passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:35 PM.

