

Hamilton-Wenham Regional School District Committee

Meeting of June 15, 2012

Minutes

Call to Order: R. Kuebel called the meeting to order at 8:05 am at the district business office.

Present: Roger Kuebel, Bill Dery, Kym Donnellan, Bill Wilson, Barbara Lawrence, Larry Swartz, Ann Minois, Donald Gallant and Celeste Bowler.

Absent: Sean Condon and Sheila MacDonald

Business: Discussion of Letter to DOR (Department of Revenue)
Committee members discussed an option to ask Brad Hill to intervene with DOR for an exemption/Waiver. Since the bonds will not be issued until June 21 should we vote to cancel? If cancelled of the \$7,800 total cost to borrow the district would NOT be responsible for approximately \$300 in interest and possibly \$3,000 in South West fees. We would likely still owe the \$4,500 for attorneys but could ask for forgiveness.

Bill Dery stated we need more facts. What will be waived and what will we owe.

At this point everyone engaged in discussion on who authorized the process to begin creating this liability.

Don Gallant explained in order to receive the money by June 31st Jim Powers of Powers and Sullivan told him to subtract the money out of E&D and get Bonds for end of June through July. In order to “Keep to the Calendar” the application should be filed. Don called SouthWest to begin the process. Don recalled that on the June 7th meeting Peter Gray had questions but said don’t stop the process. The understanding in the business office has been on June 18th SC would vote on the bonds and this was the cost to be ready and to keep to the calendar.

Over the next 30 minutes the committee discussed should school committee have been involved in that decision? What processes should we put in place to mitigate future exposure.

Roger suggested we continue the discussion on June 18th when Peter Gray is in attendance.

All agreed the Jim Powers letter would be a long shot and possibly would not be well received by legislators.

In summary we ended the meeting feeling we shouldn't stop the process for the potential savings. We agreed we have a policy issue and this may have been handled differently if we had prior knowledge.

No action taken deferred until Monday.

Respectfully submitted,

William W. Wilson
School Committee Secretary