



**Association of Town Finance
Committees**

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**Consolidation & Regionalizing
Services**

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What is Regionalization?

A relationship between 2 or more communities, organizations, or agencies to provide services to the customers of those communities, organizations, or agencies.

Regionalization has many faces from the informal (exchanges of letters or verbal agreement) to the formal (formation of a District).

The State has a variety of options on how to regionalize services



**History of Reading's Regional
Initiatives**

- Conservation Commission Administration
- Elder/Human Services Administration
- Inspections and Code Enforcement
- Public Health
- Tax Assessment
- Veterans Services



Why Regionalize?

- Better quality of service
- Broader customer access to services
- Efficiency
- Cost savings
- Increased buying power



Key Factors in Success of Regionalization

- Leadership support
- Political will
- Staff involvement
- Viable Partners (like minded and compatible)
- Ability to customize
- Functions that have a common basis
- Economic Pressure
- Flexibility



Quick Stories

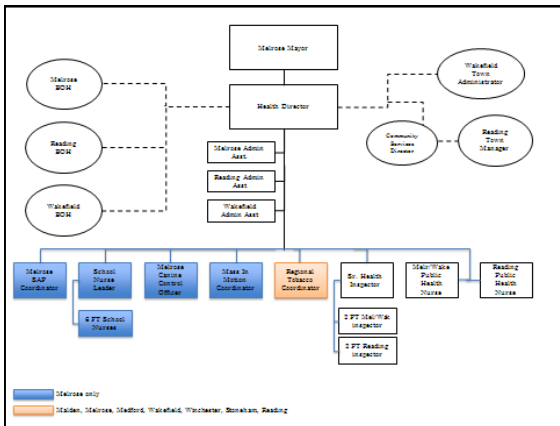
- Conservation Commission Administration
- Elder/Human Services Administration
- Inspections and Code Enforcement
- Tax Assessment
- Veterans Services
- GIS
- IT



Case Study – Public Health

Melrose/Wakefield – then Reading Staffing

- Common Director
- Communities have different arrangements for different functions





Case Study – Public Health (Continued)

Cost sharing

- Different Percentages – Melrose 43%, Reading 32%, Wakefield 25%
- Cost savings to Reading – 14.2% = \$25,700
- Benefits



Case Study – Public Health
(Continued)

Services

- Some differences among the communities
- Flexibility of moving staff as needed
- standardization of reg's, fees, etc.

Examples of Successes

- Flu clinics
- Joint meetings of Boards of Health
- Mass in Motion



Case Study – Public Health
(Continued)

Efficiencies

- Reduced Administrative costs (1 Director)
- 1 person representing 3 communities on Mosquito Control Project, Tobacco projects, etc.
- Often draft 1 set of regulations for all 3 communities
- Allows for some specialization of staff



Case Study – Public Health
(Continued)

Some of the Lessons Learned

- Managing 3 Boards of Health – not 1
- Boards enjoy working with each other
- Communities may want some differences – not everything will wind up being the same
- Quality of staff is better than any 1 community could afford
