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Dear Dover City Councilors &
To Whom It May Concern:

Jan. 1, 2007
SEPT. 10, 2008

Please read the attached document and remember that these facts are for a casual look at the facility. The finance department can give us the exact figures.

I ask you to remember what we want Dover to become or known for. We will not be a Portsmouth, or Newburyport, or other New England Mill Town, but we can be a successful renewed diversified destination community. There are not many that offer what we have today and I feel we should come to grips with the ARENA situation, fix the funding issue and move forward. We have a lot on our plates right now with budget time, the waterfront project, low water pressure in the north end, a new fire station, the McConnell Center completion, an upgrade of Maglaras Park, a major renovation and addition at Woodman Park School, a new parking garage, revamping the traffic downtown and more. These are all being proposed with bonding and no payback. Will they enhance the CITY ?

We can only support so much and if we have the capability to do something, lets straighten out the problems and the messes we are in and then go forward. Lets not do away with what the people have donated, their time, money and material, along with many - many hours of work. This is for the community.

Its time for a breather on more projects!

Sincerely,


Raymond H. Bardwell

Atch. Dover's Ice Arena

for more locker rooms, the sides were closed in, snack bar added, but unfortunately it did not carry all of its cost of operation, with debt load. A second insulated sheet and building and upgrades were done and now with more debt load, even more negative cash flow.

Lets look at the facility and it's use.

- It is a business run by the City that has a cash flow of 1.35 +/- million.
- It carries its own operating cost now, plus 100 K +/- for debt load.
- It is a destination facility, which the City is trying to be known for, a place to go to and spend money with other businesses.
- At present, there are 807 +/- skater's, just in the winter programs. Figure 2 – 3 practices plus 1 – 2 games per week; plus fans; parents adds up to more than 7,500 people+/-, using the facilities per week.
- Who are these users? Dover Youth Hockey – 150+/- players, with 10 teams; DYH – Ho. League – 176 +/- players, 16 teams; Great Bay Figure Skating – 100 – 125 members; Berwick Academy with varsity, JV and girls teams – 48 players; St. Thomas High with varsity, JV and a girls team; Marshwood High with a varsity team; Seacoast Ravens, a traveling team; Seacoast Spartans, a traveling team; open skating for the public; summer programs not figured in the number of use per week; the Home Show and other events.
- This past weekend, tournaments, where did these people stay and eat? In Dover! This could be the case in the future years? People from around the state use our facility. THIS IS A DESTINATION USE !!!
- If we keep talking about selling, closing (but what about the debt??), jacking the rate up, we will be forcing the existing customers under contract to look elsewhere! Every cost or price increase, if exceeded, will have a diminishing return effect and we could lose more than the planned gain.

Lets look at some other ways the City funds or charges for programs.

1. The sand/gravel money could be directed to pay off the arena loan, just like we did for the McConnell Center and the arena also did not use public works budget money for personnel, pavement, curbing, trucking of material and other items. And is the McConnell going to be SELF SUPPORTING?

What Do People Use?

[Table summarizing written reasons people use parks]

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Park Name	Percentage of Respondents That Use Park
Henry Law Park	59.2
Dover Ice Arena	43.1
Garrison Elementary School	41.4
McConnell Center	39.7
Woodman Park School	39.1
Shaws Lane Ballfields	38.1
Garrison Hill Park	34.5
Jenny Thompson Outdoor Pool	33.7
Cochecho River Walk	32.8
Horne Street School	32.8
Dover Indoor Pool	31.0
Hilton State Park	27.6
Bellamy Park	24.7
Dover Middle School	23.6
Beckwith Ballfields	23.6
Rotary Gardens & Pavilion	22.4
Maqlaras Park	17.2
Morningside Park	16.9
Guppy Park	16.1
Willand Pond Park	13.4
Willand Pond and Trail	12.6
Dover Skate Park	11.3
Long Hill Memorial Park	7.7
Canoe Launch at Henry Law Park	7.1
Fish Ladder Park at Mills	6.5
Cochecho Country Club	6.5
Southside Little League Ballfields	6.1
Other	5.2
Hancock Street Park	5.0
Park Street	3.6
Tuttle Square Park	2.9
Applevale Park	2.7
Immigrant's Park	1.1
Amanda Howard Park	1.0

Dover Arena Revenues (\$1000)

