

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING/ WORKSHOP**  
**DOVER CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**MAY 25, 2005 7:00 P.M.**

**SPECIAL MEETING:**

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call

Those present: Councilor Colwell-Ellis, DeDe, Mayor Pro-tem Hindle, Councilor Keays, Mayor Myers, Councilors Perry, Lewis, Trefethen along with Acting City Manager Mike Joyal. Councilor Mayberry arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Hindle moved to suspend the rules to introduce the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard resolution, Perry seconded the motion. Motion to suspend passed on a roll call vote of 8-0.

Hindle moved to adopt seconded by Perry, Hindle moved seconded by Trefethen to amend to add the entire council to the resolution. Perry verified the \$5000 is in the account and we have to do this and we should recognize the potential of the closing is very dependent on the economy. He stated we need to get together a working group of several communities that have a stake in this to work towards this endeavor. Lewis agrees but would like the Strafford County to take some leadership for the worst case scenario. Lewis wants to amend it to say instead of "invest" but "donate", Perry seconded the motion to amend. All were in favor of the amendment "donate" and all the names on the friendly amendment Hindle added Lewis suggestion of a tri city meeting to discuss this. Mayberry stated yesterday he attended a meeting of the all communities of the shipyard, they would like to have a large rally on June 1<sup>st</sup> at 1 p.m. and the BRAC will be there around 3 p.m.; they want people to line the streets with community support. Mr. Joyal told him today that the BRAC won't be there until later in the day and a more accurate time will be updated on Channel 22 to let people know. Colwell Ellis asked for a contact person. Mayberry said the web site is Seacoast Shipyard.com, motion passed on a roll call vote of 9-0.

3. Public Hearing:

A. FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS, FEES AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM. Sponsored by Mayor Scott Myers, by Request.

**Marilyn Follansbee** of 25 Dover Point Road is here to talk about the \$10,000 for hay and feed for the horses. She asked if money has been allocated from past years; she wants city money to be used only if private allocations dry up. She urged them to please not cut the whole \$10,000 so if an emergency does arise we will be covered.

**Norman Champagne** of 13 Church Street stated when Chief Fenniman was hired there was a committee of 4 people of which he was one and at the time there was a complaint that there were not enough police cars in downtown Dover and that the police were heavy handed. These were recommendations to Fenniman so he came up with the idea of a mounted patrol. People are very friendly and bring their children over to talk to the police officers. What better way to do it than to have an officer on a horse. To show that people

like it people support the mounted patrol, they donate money himself included. He does not feel \$10,000 is a tremendous amount of money to keep this going. He continued about other cuts that were threatened in the past. He feels this is a really small expense to keep the horses and they should not be cut.

**Dana Lynch** of 24 Lexington Street is here as chair of the Cocheco waterfront development committee, he gave a quick status report, (see folder of 5-25-05 for the charrette report). He stated the committee continues its efforts and by June 30th they are hoping to have several responses. Over the past year the committee has spent \$7500 mostly in printing and advertising costs but more importantly this reflects several thousand hours of work by the volunteer committee saving the city a lot of money. The next step is to review the qualifications statements as they come in to move forward with the selection of the finalists to move forward with the developers so construction can start on the waterfront. They will continue to monitor the developer's progress to ensure everything is in accordance with the city's design charrette. They recently got together and put together an outline of the tasks and determined that a lot of them required professionals to complete. The city manager has proposed the sum of \$50,000 for services; he is here to urge them to support this fund. The investment will surely yield long term investments. The RFP was mailed to approximately 400 people.

**David Scott** of 220 Back Road stated this budget is a disappointment and a license to spend. The major item in any budget is salaries, this is the area we should see a head count chart so we can see the progress over the last few years. There is the problem of wage costs and why have they accelerated over the past 5 years. He continued with comparisons and the gross payroll. He would like a cap on wages so people can pay their taxes. He questioned the proposed city manager's salary. Why is it so high; he suggests it be reworked and ask the manager to be a manager. He continued with several other concerns he has.

**Ray Bardwell** of 199 Spur Road is going along with the previous speaker; he looks at the city as the largest corporation of the City. The citizens are the stockholders. One thing has been beaten to death and that is the merit plan, he is tired of hearing the rumors of the naysayers. It has been rumored now that staffing may be too heavy. *The NHMA can take and help everybody in that area. We have good department heads and if they have been overpaid they become political pawns. We are selling aggregate to Severino Construction and he knows at one time that money was to go to soccer fields; shouldn't that amount be used to go to the general fund.* He also had an idea for the fire department and he would support a new north end fire station if the central station was closed and sold. Or what if they bought the former Moore Business Forms old building and combine everybody in one house. He does not see the horses down on Spur road monitoring the speeders. He and his wife pay \$7800 in taxes in 2005. Why are taxes going up so quickly; his increase in social security is only 3 or 4%. It appears that the naysayers are saying the retirement fund is not going up. He sees in the budget the retirement fund is going up so the pensions are tied to wages. We all hear and beat up on the assessing department. The tax burden is proportionately spread among all tax

properties. On page 34 we have a position of business associate, is that the Economic Development Director. He thought that salary went away. He continued on about different funds in the proposed budget. He tied the evaluation together from 1996 to 2006 and how much it went up. If you combine that with building permits that have been issued in 2004 it went up 55 million plus dollars, that is new assessed value that was not there; does this mean we are growing that quickly. He continued on page 63 he was looking for revenue from Community Services. He wants to take the revenues from the Severino gravel fund and divert it to the waterfront project. He says this is a monumental task but he would like to see spending under control so we know where the money is going. He continued with several other concerns regarding the budget.

**John Scruton** of 99 Sixth Street spoke about open space and traffic congestion; seems like it is all day long in down town Dover. He continued as far as the waterfront is concerned why doesn't someone ask the citizens of Dover what they want. In the past 10 years we have been promoting industrial parks and pavement, its time we have some open space. You can only market so many goods. Why not save the last green space we have left in Dover. He does not want to see the waterfront bonded out; some trails or community gardens would be nice. He continued about the middle school that should not be in downtown Dover. You hire professional to give you good information. He believes Mr. Scott has done the best job the town has seen in 40 years.

**Don Medbury** of 3 Covered Bridge Lane added the waterfront project is not doing anything for the city but burdening the taxpayers. Lets just turn it over to developers and lease the land to them sacrifice their capital. If they fail so be it and if they win we will win also.

**David Scott** again stated there is the big iceberg of the pension costs in Dover, he compared years. If this rate continues people will be getting \$75,000 for life and by 2010 it will be 15 million dollars. We must be careful and keep the cap on.

**Norm Champagne** again re: Bardwell's comments on the fire station, we once had a chance to buy the old Seaborne Hospital to create one of the most massive traffic jams. The Moore Business Form building is something he thought of years ago, the immediate access, these are opportunities that once you pass them up the opportunity is gone. The idea of having fire access at both ends is something that should not be passed up.

#### 4. OTHER

#### 5. ADJOURN

Hindle moved seconded by Perry to adjourn to workshop session with all in favor.

## **WORKSHOP:**

### A. GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

The Mayor opened the meeting asking Mike Joyal to review his handout on the budget. Joyal stated he went over the budget one last time and came up with \$63,000 in net deductions and also looked at increasing some revenues. The two areas that are changed are investment income and a mistake in the county tax; it is going to increase by more \$30,000 than in the proposed budget. The second sheet is the net increase of \$444,000 in spending so the overall net effect will be reduced to just over one half million dollars, this reduces the tax rate from the original 6.9% down to 5.9% over the prior year. Joyal wants the council to use just those sheets for the budget adoption. The Mayor verified the school budget has not changed.

Lewis says in response to the Mayor's question, the school budget has not changed and the total general fund is going up 7.9%. Joyal verified this. Lewis has a fairly long list of items to put on the table.

Hindle says tonight the Mayor had sent an email to find \$50,000 for the waterfront from specific revenues that we had received from Phillips Exeter Academy per Mike Joyal for the dredge spoils. Joyal's recommendation is until we finish the project we should not withdraw any money from this fund.

Mayberry asks so depending on what the city council does it may add up to more savings if we restructure the executive department. The Mayor says until we settle on a city manager and determine the cost of a city manager contract and what is going to happen with the city attorney there are still a number of unknowns on what can happen there is room for some movement in funding on the table. So until we know for sure, he does agree there is a potential for savings as the manager has outlined. Mayberry would like to go forward with the assistant city manager position, he would like to cut the funding in half. Perry says in the general sense with regards to negotiations that have a potential impact and the tax setting is not until September, if we have to amend the budget we would have to have a 2/3 majority to amend the budget. Myers says we are coming on board with a new manager that he hopes will come to them and say this is what I need. We can attack this budget a couple of ways Myers says, he is also against using any fund balance for this year. Also we as a group took some money out of bonding, he is not in favor of moving it back to bonding now. Perry wonders if it is possible to use the Severino money for some of the expenses associated with the waterfront.

Joyal says it is by council resolution that we would use that for soccer fields; the council would need to change that. Perry says as we are thinking about recreation opportunities on the waterfront, he does not feel this is an entire stretch to use some of these funds for the planning process.

Lewis handed out his notes. (see folder of 5-25-2005), he read his proposals.

Mayberry wants a number from Jeff on how much is left in the sidewalk account and put this amount back into the bonding; every taxpayer knows we need the sidewalks and roads; we may have to swallow one more year and put some of this back into bonding so we can fund education. He won't vote to cut the school budget by a dime. With regards to the proposal to the firefighters, we are the council that has urged the fire department to cut overtime, the \$10,000 net cost is for four firefighters. Joyal verified this amount. The actual cost without ambulance revenues is about \$75,000. Discussion continued, Joyal called on Chief Plummer to explain the cost of the four firefighters. Chief Plummer says the \$75,000 is the increase in the budget, with the increased revenue and rate increases it is \$82,000 with a net of \$10,000 when all computed out. Lewis does not see why we cannot just cut the sidewalk fund in half and not put it back; let's just take a year off.

The Mayor wants to take a consensus on a couple of items for the school board. Direction to reduce the schools by \$300,000 is there any support. Consensus vote failed 3-6 with Trefethen, Keays and Lewis were in favor. Perry says there are things on Lewis' list that are on his list, he is willing to talk about the school budget but he won't support reducing it.

## MINUTES

MAY 25, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.

Page 5

The Mayor says just for information he asked the school board to revisit their numbers, he received a response back and they have not found any savings as yet.

Keays does not think it is fair to sit here and tear the city side of the budget apart and the councilors don't want to touch the school budget. He is not going to submit his list. He won't be cutting one cent out of the city budget if you won't cut the school budget.

The Mayor has a handout for his savings all spelled out. (See folder of 5-25-2005) as he explained his handout with the deductions that he feels made sense. He had spoken to Joyal this afternoon and Joyal had some differences. Lewis asked if Joyal was OK with these deductions. Joyal wants some flexibility on what he will decrease in a particular department. Mayberry would like to retain the permanent health inspector and Mayberry is curious on what the \$6,000 would come from. Joyal feels it will come from either books or supplies; every department has a savings from insurance premiums. Cathy Beaudoin, Library Director, stated she would reduce telecommunications and also postage because they have recently changed over to email for sending their notices.

Mayberry asked about Moore Business Forms and the sale of the South End Station, is it possible to get an update on Moore Business. Joyal believes the building has been sold and will be put back into productive use. Joyal asked them to consider that the fire officials have studied the locations and he recommends at least a two station and perhaps a three station department. If they are serious he wants an outside opinion from the folks that do it on a day to day basis. Hindle followed up on Joyal's comments if he thinks it is appropriate in the coming months we should hold some informational meetings on the two stations for the public; this has generated a lot of debate in the last 20 years. As we move forward in the CIP process we should have public's comment.

Trefethen commented on the fire stations and the CIP budget and one of the proposals that we have before us; he continued we have only had a brief discussion on the firefighters in order to gear us up for a new station. If we decide to hire four fighters, we are putting this new fire station into the works, but they are not disconnected items.

Perry didn't hear all Trefethen's comments he used to live in the north end and he timed the responses; with all the population we do need more coverage.

DeDe feels we need a Sixth Street location as it will give us access to the north end. Chief Plummer provided him information and his thought process is we do need something on the south side. He also feels the central station should be sacrificed in the process.

Lewis stated he didn't see the north end fire station on the agenda; we are here to look at where we are going with the overall budget. He can't believe in a 34 million dollar school budget they cannot find something to trim. He does not agree that we can get here from here; we cannot touch contracts, they are by negotiations. All the benefits are there also. Trefethen thinks what we are doing with the fire department budget relates. He agrees with the plan to add 4 firefighters because of the increased calls, etc. he also agrees with Lewis that we need to look at the school department; when we had our straw vote a couple of weeks ago, he was on the fence, now he is on the side of cutting something from them.

Colwell Ellis agrees with some of what Lewis says, his list provides excellent ideas. She still thinks what is really important is the ability to reduce the salaries and benefits, we should give the City Manager the authority and direction to reduce personnel. Mayberry asked about Joyal's budget for sidewalks, Joyal says it was \$500,000 and he recommends this. Joyal stated with these cuts we are at 4.5% budget. The Mayor noted we haven't added the debt into it, and the consideration of moving stuff to CIP. Perry feels the school department provides the most important service in the city and he does not look at it as a contest, we have to look at this as a case of priorities.

Perry asked Joyal about the changing of youth services to the police department and is there a net gain (savings) Joyal explained there is already a structure in place and we will get a much more efficient operation by doing this and the police is looking at grants. Perry is talking about

MINUTES

MAY 25, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.

Page 6

the perception of that population of youth, the function itself is not changing; they will still have contact with the client. Joyal says physically they will not be moving. Perry asked about the arborist; Joyal stated they will now hire out pesticides and there is a new person in this place but not an arborist.

Hindle has question on the legal division and what happens after July 1<sup>st</sup> to that position. George Wattendorf has agreed to stay until the end of July or later. Joyal stated he would like to hire a city attorney and hire a city prosecutor as well. Hindle asked about the other position in that division. Hindle stated on page 155 and the line for legal services, Joyal would have to reduce it to cover the salary and benefits. Hindle wonders if they should give Joyal \$100,000 to contract out legal costs until the council decides on the direction this should go. Joyal says that is certainly an option. Hindle also commented on the assistant city manager position and when the council begins discussion on goals to reorganize it and for the time being \$0 out this budget. DeDe says the school budget was crafted with the expectation of continuity of the calculations for students with special needs in the 2006 budget; those areas were not utilized in the calculations from what the State of NH has put together. The school budget was crafted to show what it costs per student to educate. The school board and the administration have done their job and the state representatives have failed. This may go to the courts; their school budget deserves the vote of the city council.

Lewis stated he leaves here for the last time in his life this year; he wants the recreation department level funded. He also wants to cut one day out of the week at the Library; that will reduce the budget. He is looking at needs and services; he still argues that in a school budget of 34 million dollars there should be a gesture of reducing.

Mayberry wants to combine the Mayors and Mr. Joyal's reductions; that will bring the reductions up to \$700,000.

Keays stated is there any possible way to get to one million six dollars in the budget as it sits. He can't see it unless we cut city departments and if we don't cut the schools then he is voting no on the whole budget. He feels it is a shame that we are burdening 2/3 of the taxpayers of his age that are borrowing money to pay their tax bill. We need to call that school department back into discussion until they come across with some money. There has to be some wiggling room in that. He hopes people march on city hall.

Trefethen would like some consensus he has not heard anybody disagree with the Mayor's list and he has not heard anybody disagree with the manager's list that would be a \$400,000 decrease.

Joyal says the \$400,000 for sidewalks is going to be needed for a few particular street projects that are going to happen shortly or we are going to have to take money from street projects and divert the money to sidewalks.

Mayberry asked is there any consensus to move the \$400,000 back to bonding or leave it in the budget as submitted. Consensus to move \$400,000 to CIP, he continued with the reductions.

The Mayor says there seems to be consensus to move \$200,000 to bonding.

DeDe stated he has some proposals that Joyal might have to look at and some reductions in force. He is working on a recommendation to reduce the managerial aspects of the city and this will address the real issue of the city.

The Mayor stated the two big items are the 4 fire fighters, there was a consensus vote of 6-3 to have a net savings of \$10,000 within the fire department. Also there is the proposal on reducing five police vehicles to one, the Chief stated there are 9 front line vehicles, the Chief says it depends on the day of the week it can be from 3 to 8 but there are 9 line cruisers and because we use them so frequently they are down a lot. We are asking for nine new ones. DeDe asked do you maintain logs; the Chief explained how they were on a 5/4 program but it has been a

MINUTES

MAY 25, 2005 - 7:00 P.M.

Page 7

5/0/0 program in the last few years. Consensus to remove 5 cars and fund 4, passed on 8-1 vote with Keays opposed.

Mayberry wants a consensus on the hay budget of \$9550. Colwell Ellis wants to know if the Chief can raise the money. He feels he can raise the money from private funds. Trefethen says the general perception is this is funded by private funds anyway. Colwell Ellis wants everyone in the City to donate 37 cents to the horses and they will be funded. Hindle asked the Chief how much funding they have received to date and the Chief says since inception around \$100,000. Vote on the horses, the motion is split with Mayberry, Perry, Keays and DeDe voting to leave the money in.

The Mayor would like direction for next week, Lewis wants support to negotiate department head raises at a \$0 funded level; Keays stated he will go along with this. The Mayor says if the manager wants to approach it. Trefethen feels this is more in line with goals and objectives for next year and the potential reorganization of the executive department and legal department. Also this should be in the goals section of the manager's budget.

The Mayor asked if anyone had any more direction. Perry wants the additions of DeDe's component. Keays can't see going through the budget department by department because the Mayor and acting city manager gave them figures already; he is sure there is not much more in the budget that can be cut.

Trefethen asks that the two proposals be put together.

DeDe stated last year's line by line review was necessitated by Fosters that stated the budget was out of control. He feels the paper cast dispersions on the council. He needs an appointment with the city manager in the next week to go over this. He does not want to go through this again.

Hindle would like dollar figures on Lewis' proposals.

Perry moved seconded by Lewis to adjourn with all in favor at 9:40 p.m.

Judith Gaouette  
City Clerk