

KAREN
CITY CLERK

APRIL 23, 2008 CITY COUNCIL MEETING

NEXT WEEK'S COUNCIL MEETING WILL ENTERTAIN THE FIRE DEPARTMENT, POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE LIBRARY'S BUDGET REVIEW. THIS BRINGS TO MIND THE CITY LIBRARIAN'S RESPONSE AT LAST YEAR'S WORK SHOP BUDGET REVIEW WHEN I AND OTHERS SUGGESTED UTILIZING VOLUNTEER RETIREES OR GRANDPARENTS FOR PART TIME SERVICE IN THE LIBRARY TO REDUCE THE COSTS. VOLUNTEERS WOULD REDUCE LONG TERM DEBT FOR THE ADDITIONAL QUESTIONABLE BENEFIT PACKAGE COSTS GENERATED BY THE LARGE FULL AND PART TIME STAFF AT THE CITY LIBRARY. SALARIES FOR LIBRARIAN AND HER ASSISTANT ARE THE HIGHEST PAID OF ANY I HAVE FOUND THROUGHOUT NEW ENGLAND. OUR LIBRARIAN EARNS \$95,557.00 ANNUAL SALARY AND THE ASST. EARNS \$73,893.00 PLUS BENEFITS IN EXCESS OF \$25,000.00 A YEAR FOR BOTH. SOME EXAMPLES ARE

YOU DO THE MATH -

OUR LIBRARIAN'S RESPONSE TO USING SOME VOLUNTEER HELP FOR READING TO CHILDREN AND OTHER TASKS ASSIGNED TO PART TIMERS AND SOME FULL TIMERS WAS THAT ELDERLY RETIREES AND GRAND PARENTS OF LOCAL CHILDREN ARE NOT QUALIFIED TO READ TO THEM NOR DO THESE PEOPLE HAVE THE TRAINING IN THEATRICALS, ACTING, MUSIC ETC.

I AND MANY OTHERS TAKE THAT RESPONSE AS AN INSULT TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN READ TO BY GRANDPARENTS AS CHILDREN AS WELL AS BEING TAUGHT TO WRITE BEFORE ENTERING INTO THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM.

AD-LIB REST OF IT

Jim Bradley