

ED B/101
4/23/08

I have spent a great deal of time studying the City Budget and I must tell all of you that:

It was with amazement that I viewed the proposed City Budget submitted by Mr. Joyal to city Councilors last week. The amazing part of the budget is the way the City Manager is attempting to punish the children of the City of Dover with the lame excuse that the spending cap requires the cutting important city wide services provided to the youth of Dover.

Take time to observe budget cuts throughout the county, state and surrounding municipalities .It is not called TAX CAP, it is called RECESSION..

It is the outrageous salaries and huge retirement benefits to high officials that is squeezing and placing children's programs in jeopardy. I would be ashamed to make cuts in recreation and leave the children with no place to go in the summer.

There are many areas of this budget that could be cut or eliminated in order to finance the \$85,000 necessary to operate the outdoor pool, the Arts Festival and produce fireworks next year. These are functions that are open to all of our citizens.

The pool and ice arena bring in many, many dollars of revenue to the businesses of this city. Just go by the arena and pool on weekends of competition and you will observe what I am saying. Let's talk about some of areas of concern:

The payouts, in millions of dollars , could pay for the pool and much more.

What will become of the \$90,000 economic development money from last year's budget?

Do we really need to fund this empty position for \$130,000 this year??

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What is the true cost of our Horse Patrol? Is it a real need to the City of Dover? Do we really need the special trucks, the feed bill, the veterinarians, the expenses and salaries ?

It is nice to see Dover horses in Keene, Boston and Manchester to show off but who pays for that?

The City Manager endorses $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million dollars for the Children's Museum but won't recommend \$85,000 for community wide events that bring in revenue to all of our city businesses. The museum will pay the city only \$1.00 for this accommodation.

The \$650,000 plus foundation fix for the museum would pay for ten years of pool time.

Fire Department overtime alone would pay for several years of pool time. Of the top 39 employees earning over \$100,000--19 of them are firemen at a total cost of approximately, 2 million dollars.(1,997,543.60)

Mr. Joyal, take a look at the gasoline savings we could experience by requiring all non-essential employees park their City owned cars at 4 P.M. That would reduce thousands of gallons of gasoline consumption.

We need to institute a salary, wage and hiring freeze and then there will be money enough to finance programs that have wide Community support.

If the City Manager would institute a salary and wage freeze there would be money enough to finance 5 pools and other Arts programs.

The City Manager needs to offer the City Council fewer threats, show less anger and provide this community with Better ideas.

