

CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL -- MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers - 288 Central Ave, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: May 7, 2008
Meeting Time: 7:00 pm

MOMENT OF SILENCE.

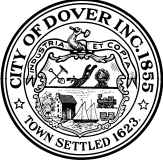
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE LED BY COUNCILOR WESTON.

Present: Mayor Myers, Councilors Weston, Callaghan, Cheney, Dede, Scott, Trefethen. Also Present: City Manager Joyal, City Attorney Krans, and City Clerk Lavertu. Councilor McCusker arrived at 7:35 pm.

1. BUDGET DISCUSSION

A. COUNTY

Mayor Myers thanked Commissioner George Maglaras and County Administrator Ray Bower for coming to discuss the County's budget. Mayor Myers provided some background information. Dover's portion is about 25% of the County's budget. Last year the amount paid to the County was \$5.9 million, and it is budgeted for \$6.8 million for this year, a \$900,000 increase or 15%. He then invited Commissioner Maglaras to speak. Commissioner Maglaras thanked the Council. He reiterated the Mayor's comments. He said the 15% increase is still in place, but there is a lot of activity to try to curb some of the costs. However, the Counties statewide are going to contribute \$98 million to help offset the State's budget. He said about 60% of the County's budget is not at the control of the County Commissioners, but for statewide programs over which they have no control. The other 40% deals with the legal justice system and other services that the County is required to provide under law. He said about 1 1/2% can be termed discretionary spending, \$700,000. The big numbers that are affecting the budget are Medicaid and long-term care. He said that with the construction of the new \$25 million county jail a few years ago, we see in this year's budget an increase in the cost of that operation, but that was offset by over \$1 million in revenue that we're receiving. It is anticipated that the facility will make \$6 million in revenue from other sources, which is the highest revenue generator for a regional prison in New England. The real issue that is driving the County's cost, not only now but into the future, is a shift that was made in State law, effective July 1, 2008, in which the County will bear 100% of the cost of the nonfederal share of Medicaid in New Hampshire. There are negotiations going on right now between counties and the state relating to the impact on property taxes. However, at present that law is in effect, and as a result in this year's budget there is a \$1.5 million impact because of that change. They are about 98% of the way there in negotiations to eliminate this, but there are a lot of legal nuances that are in the way right now. He said right now for every dollar that is spent on long-term care, \$0.50 comes from the federal government, \$0.25 comes from the State's General Fund, and \$0.25 comes from the County through the property tax. The change that becomes effective July 1st changes it to \$0.50 from the Federal Government and \$0.50 from the Counties. The Counties sued the State, stating that it was an unfunded mandate. The suit was lost last week. The Court ruled that it was not an unfunded mandate. Part of the legislation is what is known as a hold harmless agreement. It says that the Counties will not pay under this new system any more than it did under the old system for the first two years; however we already know that that is



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not the case. He said that the property tax is our broad-based tax in New Hampshire. It's not just the City tax. It's the state and county tax. He asked the Council if they had any questions.

Councilor Scott thanked Commissioner Maglaras for coming. He wanted to compliment the County on their wage and salary administration, and felt it should be a model for Dover. After discussions with Mr. Bower he found that the County's average annual gross pay including overtime is \$30,000. Dover is 50% higher. He didn't feel that the jobs were that much different. The difference from the County Attorney and Dover's City Attorney is 30%. The Registrar of Deeds is less than \$45,000. The Sheriff is at \$46,000. He said the Commissioner had done a good job at holding the line on wage and salary. Commissioner Maglaras said that the County's employees were very dedicated individuals. The average county employee makes \$14.96 per hour.

Mayor Myers also thanked the Commissioner for coming. He said he understood that the costs were coming down from the state to the county. He felt the county was very proactive and doing things to save money. He said he did a lot of research with other counties and found that two were far lower, Rockingham and Belknap, with a 3% increase, where the majority were at a double digit increase. He felt that Rockingham offers services similar to Dover. He asked what those counties were doing to come in so low.

Commissioner Maglaras said they chose not to fund run-off costs. Rockingham County recently removed 100 beds from the nursing home, and that would affect their Medicaid contribution. He said they knew the costs were coming down from the State, and budgeted for them now. He said the other counties have not funded the changes in the Medicaid plan. He felt they may be doing this to put pressure on the legislature to fund it through the State. Mayor Myers asked about Durham moving its dispatch to the County. His concern was, because Dover contributes 25% of the County's budget, was Dover in effect financing Durham's dispatch? He asked for an update on this.

Commissioner Maglaras said the agreement was moving forward. He said that three positions were eliminated to offset the dispatchers. He said that Dover, Rochester and Somersworth pay 65% of the taxes and receive 75% of services. He said it is proven that regionalized services save a significant amount of money. The County is a resource, and Durham is taking advantage of that.

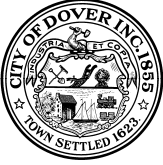
Councilor Scott asked Commissioner Maglaras if he knew how much Dover would save if the City gave the County its dispatch.

Commissioner Maglaras said he was working with representatives from the cities of Dover, Rochester, and Somersworth to determine what a dispatch service for all of Strafford County would look like, and the costs associated with it.

Mayor Myers asked if the Commissioner was comfortable with not needing additional funds for salary increases.

Commissioner Maglaras said increases are not automatically entitled. He said the average wage concession is between 2% to 3 ½% per year.

Mayor Myers asked about Riverside Rest Home, as it has been running a deficit and the County has a reserve balance. He believed the amount was \$22-\$23 million. He also felt there was another unreserved deficit, that wasn't tied to the nursing home, which was around \$5 million, and asked for an explanation of that.



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Commissioner Maglaras said the County is not required to run a nursing home, but is required to pay for it. The County chooses to run a nursing home to keep the costs down. If the County didn't have the nursing home, those people would be somewhere else being cared for at a much higher rate. He said that \$0.25 of every dollar that the State is supposed to be kicking in from the General Fund has not been showing up. The State has not been funding it, and is telling us to take it out of the property tax. This is where the deficit is coming from. The deficit is funded through the property tax.

Mayor Myers thanked Commissioner Maglaras and Administrator Bower for their time. Mayor Myers made a comment to Councilor Scott about wage comparisons. He said these are entirely different jobs and skill sets, and really shouldn't be compared. He said he was pleased to see that the County's website is under construction, because it was woefully inadequate for many years, and hopes that he it will be more informational.

Councilor Trefethen asked for further explanation about the State not contributing the money for the nursing home. Since the State will no longer be contributing after July 1st, does that mean the figure won't increase, because the County is going to be accounting for it?

Commissioner Maglaras said it makes a difference who you listen to. The State is running between a \$200 and \$300 million operating deficits. Included in that amount is Medicaid reimbursements to nursing homes, not just county ones. He can't tell how it is all going to work out.

Councilor Scott spoke to Mayor Myers regarding the justification on the different types of jobs. He said Mr. Bower told him that the County has ten people who make over \$70,000. Dover has forty.

Councilor Weston asked about the regionalization of services. She has heard all the pros, and asked if there were any cons.

Commissioner Maglaras said it depended on how you view services and where they ought to come from. The downside is the perception, which is not reality, that we somehow lose control over what is happening. He believes that there are a number of things that we could be doing regionally to save the taxpayers' money.

Councilor Cheney asked about the bonded debt.

Commissioner Maglaras said those are all projects that are approved.

Mayor Myers asked if they see any change in the County adopted budget.

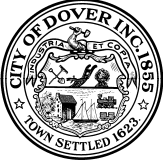
Commissioner Maglaras said he couldn't make that obligation at this point. We won't know of any changes until August.

City Manager Joyal spoke of the possibility of looking into moving dispatch to the County.

There are a considerable number of issues to be looked at. Dover's dispatch service costs \$680,000 for this coming year, which includes police, fire, and emergency public works. If the City was to be able to orchestrate an arrangement similar to Durham, that \$680,000 would come out of the budget. There would be some one-time capital expenses paid to the County to upgrade their equipment. There would be some significant savings. The City is not only looking at the financial aspects, but doing some analysis of service levels and whether or not it can be replicated at the County level.

Mayor Myers asked if one consideration is that the City provides our own ambulance.

City Manager Joyal said it was a whole host of things that are unique to Dover.



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B. HUMAN SERVICES

City Manager Joyal invited Janet Poulin, Director of Human Services, to speak regarding the Human Services portion of the budget.

Ms. Poulin spoke on the budget for Human Services, on page 398 in the Budget. The main objective that she has been looking strongly towards is coming together with a one-stop shopping center for the residents of Dover in terms of indigent financial services. The fuel oil costs were doubled last year, but she hopes that with the help of the Share Office the City will be able to maintain that level next year. The rental costs are where the greatest increase is coming. General Assistance is up 4.9%, but the bottom line is that she needs to administrate the guidelines mandated by State law.

Mayor Myers said he continues to be amazed that she is able to do what she does under the parameters and guidelines of the state. He wanted to note that the \$30,000 increase in rent was for assistance, and not for Human Services rent at the McConnell Center.

Ms. Poulin stated that approximately 97% of the money ends up back in the community.

Councilor Weston asked if there was any form of reimbursement to the City.

Ms. Poulin said last year they had a record \$70,000 collected.

Councilor Scott asked where the reimbursements appear in the budget.

Ms. Poulin replied that it is under Revenues.

Councilor Scott referred to page 402. Disbursements for rental help was \$317,000 last year, and now you're asking for \$390,000, which is a 23% increase.

Ms. Poulin said she had already expended \$330,000 this year and she has two months to go.

Councilor Scott asked how many years a person had to live in Dover to qualify for this rental assistance.

Ms. Poulin replied it was only ten minutes.

Councilor Scott asked if someone could go from town to town getting money.

Ms. Poulin said that wasn't likely due to the application procedure. She said that it does happen, but not on a great scale.

Councilor Scott asked if they were disbursing any funds for Dover residents living in subsidized housing.

Ms. Poulin said yes.

Councilor Scott asked if there was a level that is approved and goes to the City Manager, or if she approves all amounts.

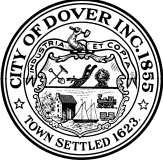
Ms. Poulin said she approves all amounts.

Councilor Scott spoke about her office space in the McConnell Center being too big and expensive. He asked if she would move, if the City could find someone to rent her space and she could move to some place cheaper.

Ms. Poulin said she wouldn't have a problem with that, but that it was up to the City Manager. She said she has moved six times in the last year and a half.

Councilor Trefethen said there were other service centers in the McConnell Center that Human Services is partnering with; correct?

Ms. Poulin agreed.



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Councilor Trefethen said it should provide some efficiency and end up providing dollar savings.

Ms. Poulin agreed. She feels the collaboration definitely adds up to savings.

Councilor Trefethen said that Ms. Poulin's offices need to be 100% handicap assessable.

Ms. Poulin agreed. She said these offices were the first that have been in the seventeen years she has been in Dover.

Councilor Scott said that the City is in unusual times and saving \$1,000 is important. He mentioned the eight phone lines for three people, \$2,700 a year. Could that be dropped to three lines and a facsimile?

Ms. Poulin said the double lines were put in to answer more than one call at a time. Human Services does a lot of talking on the phones. She mentioned that she doesn't have a cell phone, blackberry, or car rental.

City Manager Joyal said he has seen Ms. Poulin using two phones at one time.

Councilor Scott asked why there was an \$11,000 grant to Strafford County in her budget.

Ms. Poulin said there used to be six agencies. She spoke of Community Action and the benefits they provide to the City. They give it all back, so it ends up being a wash.

Councilor Scott asked if that was in revenues.

Ms. Poulin said no, that Community Action physically holds the grant. She sees the clients, makes the determination, mails the bill to Community Action, and Community Action pays the bill to the vendor. Over the last few years the City has actually received more back than we put in.

Councilor Scott asked where that was registered in the budget.

Ms. Poulin said it isn't.

City Manager Joyal said she takes \$11,000 out of her budget; she pays it to a County Agency and that where it is reflected. They administer this program, which she is able to access as the local Human Services Director.

Mayor Myers wanted to correct the rental increase mentioned by Councilor Scott. The \$317,000 is the prior year budget. This year's budget was \$360,000, and the proposed budget for next year is \$390,000, which is only an 8.3% increase.

Councilor Scott replied that he said the two year period was a 23% increase.

Mayor Myers said he would apologize if he said those words. He said he heard last year, this year and 23%.

Councilor Scott said it was last year and the new budget.

Mayor Myers said he just wanted to make sure it was understood it was an 8.3% increase.

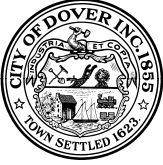
Councilor Scott said it was a 23% increase in the two years and inflation in that period is about 6%. So it is four times the inflation rate.

Mayor Myers said these services don't have anything to do with inflation.

Ms. Poulin said they run inversely. As things get worse, Human Services costs are going to go higher.

Councilor Scott asked for the percentage of applicants she turns down.

Ms. Poulin first wanted to state that they provide assistance to a lot of people without giving them money, but by giving them assistance on whom to go to. Human Services had 604 applications in April, of which 477 have been assisted. They have had direct contact with almost 4,000 people in her office since July 1, 2007. They assist about 85% of the



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population, many on a one-time basis. The average amount of assistance someone gets is 53 days right now, with an average cost of \$750.00.

Councilor Cheney asked how often people have to reapply for assistance.

Ms. Poulin said every time. There is no extended approval. This is for short-term emergency assistance.

Councilor Cheney asked if she had people that are still being assisted over the 17 years she has been director.

Ms. Poulin said no. The longest case she has right now is a year and a half. The reason is because he is under appeal for both Social Security and State Disability. There is nothing we can do. He can't work and has no family.

Councilor Cheney asked how much services have grown. Human Services had 604 cases in April; she asked how many they had last year at this time.

Ms. Poulin said 540. The increase in applicants is up 11%. The increase in contact is up 23%. We had a lot more people that we were able to refer to other sources.

Councilor Cheney asked about surplus funds.

Ms. Poulin said she should have \$30,000 to \$35,000, and that goes to the General Fund at the end of the year.

Councilor Callaghan asked about how Human Services verifies that these people legitimately need the money.

Ms. Poulin said they fill out a basic eight-page application which asks all types of financial data. Then we make the landlord verify, on a separate form the amount of rent. The employer verifies on a separate form. They have to bring in paystubs. She creates a budget that just helps with the basics: rent, oil, gas, one car and food. This process is repeated every week until they don't need it anymore.

Councilor Callaghan asked what happened if they didn't mention a second job.

Ms. Poulin said they swear on the application that the information is valid. If she finds out the information isn't valid, it is fraud. She had prosecuted people for this in the past.

Councilor Callaghan asked if she went to Social Security for information.

Ms. Poulin said it is getting difficult, because fewer and fewer employers want to provide us with the information. They don't want to get sued for what they said about a past employee.

Councilor Callaghan asked if they give the person the money or if they paid the landlord.

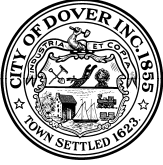
Ms. Poulin said there is no exchange of money.

Councilor Weston mentioned that she has been called to verify information. She knows they are constantly verifying their client's information.

Councilor Scott referred to Page 60, where it showed revenues of \$31,000, and you're estimating that you'll get at least \$7,000 this year. When these drafts are made, is it made obvious that this is an advance, and the City wants the money back, because this is taxpayers' money?

Ms. Poulin said there is a statute that allows this, but it requires repayment directly from the client. However, it also specifies that it has to be of no harm to them. Most of the monies that are recovered are through liens, Social Security. We have a list of ways we can recover monies. She doesn't feel it very cost effective to hire staff to get \$20 back, or a food voucher back.

Councilor Scott said she did get \$31,000 back last year.



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Ms. Poulin said that last year was unusual. She received back two reimbursements from two large civil suits. She also received some reimbursements from three different land liens. Councilor McCusker thanked Ms. Poulin for being so good at what she does. He felt this was the most thankless job the City has. Mayor Myers also thanked Ms. Poulin.

C. RECREATION

City Manager Joyal invited Mr. Gary Bannon, Recreation Director, to speak on the Recreation Department portion of the budget.

Mr. Bannon gave his presentation on the budget for the Recreation Department.

Councilor Cheney asked about the \$198,000 for travel. The seniors pay the dues and pay for the trip.

Mr. Bannon agreed.

Councilor Cheney asked how that has changed.

Mr. Bannon said that it is now a City agency and can no longer have separate checkbooks. It is run through the City's books now.

Councilor Cheney asked if the \$198,000 was already there.

Mr. Bannon agreed. It has to be in the Special Revenue Fund to function.

Councilor Cheney ask about the cost analysis for the McConnell Center.

Mr. Bannon said it is now part of the Recreation Department. There is 2,600 square feet dedicated for senior usage in the McConnell Center as part of the Recreation Department. It is not a separate entity.

Councilor Cheney asked if the Sun & Fun Program was still in place.

Mr. Bannon said yes.

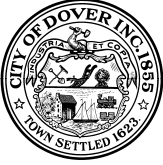
Mayor Myers said the City and the taxpayers are not subsidizing these trips. The City just acts as the agent

Councilor Trefethen thanked Mr. Bannon for his presentation. He said he was originally skeptical about the senior program in the McConnell Center, and has since come to believe that it is a remarkable program. He hears nothing but good things about it, including some of the folks at the previous senior center that were hesitant about making the change. He also commended Mr. Bannon for being the chaperone at the Saturday night basketball games, at no additional cost to the City.

Councilor Scott referred to Page 329, Expenses in 2007 were \$2.8 million and your proposed expenses in 2009 are \$3.9 million, which is a 39% increase. He asked Mr. Bannon if he could summarize the revenues so he could see the net difference. He said he took exception to the fact that included in the budget is the rent for the McConnell Center. It seemed to him that you're renting the property to yourself at the highest rates.

Mr. Bannon replied that the City's rates are higher because the other renters have contracts, and can't be raised as quickly, but the expenses have to be paid. He said the rent went up \$70,000, but his budget is down \$50,000. So his budget is really down \$120,000.

Councilor Scott asked if only the rents from third parties could be reported, to see how much is being rented out.



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City Manager Joyal said that information is on Page 72, a complete listing of revenue coming in by tenant.

Councilor Scott said he wanted the City department subtracted out.

City Manager Joyal said if the Council wanted him to dedicate staff to subtract three numbers.

Councilor Scott said it involved taking out fifteen items here. He wanted to know how much was from outside sources and inside sources.

City Manager Joyal said he would figure out the numbers for Councilor Scott.

Mayor Myers spoke on the impact of the pool and the shorter season. He said he was pleased to see the progress. He also wanted to echo Councilor Trefethen's comments on his great staff that always go above and beyond. He asked what the deadline date was for direction from the Council on the Playground Program.

Councilor Cheney asked why there wasn't a reserve fund for these programs.

Mr. Bannon went over that part of the presentation again for the Council. He has \$12,000 in the account, but needs another \$37,000 to maintain the program. The money goes in, but he needs permission to get the money out.

Councilor Scott referred to Page 349, regular and temporary employees in 2007. The City spent \$195,000. Two years later, in 2009, your request is for \$222,000. This is a 14% increase. He asked for an explanation of why it went up more than twice the rate of inflation.

Mr. Bannon said the current year is \$127,000.

Councilor Scott said he wanted to look at it for the two years.

Mr. Bannon said the reality is with the cost to run the pool and staff, we were typically in the red for those two accounts. The year before we had closures with the pool due to floods.

This current year the pool has been closed since October until a month ago. He said the budget is not an accurate figure. The \$127,000 for this year is more what we are really going to spend.

City Manager Joyal said the numbers being compared are the actual money that was spent, which reflect the actual operation of the pool, being compared with what is proposed for next year. As Mr. Bannon explained, the pool actually ran less than what was budgeted for because of various issues.

Councilor Trefethen said it was actually a three year period.

Councilor Cheney asked about the desk person who is in the McConnell Center.

Mr. Bannon said it was on Page 341.

Councilor Cheney asked if it was just one part-time person.

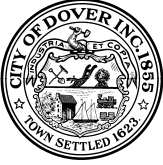
Mr. Bannon said it was two part-time people.

Councilor Scott referred to Page 332; it shows five computers and office maintenance of \$159 per computer. He asked who gets paid that amount.

City Manager Joyal said that Annie Dove went over this when she went over the DoverNet Budget. There is an allocation made to each department for their prorated share of the enterprise network. He said that Councilor Scott's home computer is not attached to the enterprise network.

Councilor Scott asked if that amount of money is subtracted from DoverNet.

City Manager Joyal said it was cost accounting. It's allocating the costs to the cost center where it is being incurred.



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Councilor Scott said the Recreation Department's costs go up, but asked if Dovernet's went down.

City Manager Joyal said it is shown as revenue for Dovernet. There is a cost center for information technology function, and that is apportioned out to the different departments based on the intensity of use that they have of the IT system.

Councilor Scott also questioned the \$50 for laser printers.

City Manager Joyal said it was not just for maintenance. It is the support of the entire information technology program. Included in that amount is a 10-year replacement schedule for PCs.

Councilor Scott said the City was building up some cash for this.

City Manager Joyal agreed.

Councilor Callaghan asked about the job title for an associate, and if it was in the employee listing.

Mr. Bannon referred the Council to Pages 463 through 467. These temporary positions are not reflected because they are not permanent positions.

Councilor Callaghan also asked about the McConnell Center being a business entity for Dover. He asked why the City is renting so much of it.

Mayor Myers said he didn't think anybody said the City was redoing the McConnell Center as a business to make money.

City Manager Joyal spoke about the beginning of the project for renovating the McConnell Center and the promises that were made that should not have been made. The McConnell Center was set up first and foremost as a City Building. According to the deed, if the City does not maintain the building, it would revert back to the heirs of the original owners who donated the property. In addition there are some restrictions on certain use. Portions of it have to be used for education. Ultimately what was decided was to make the McConnell Center a community center, a place where non-profit agencies and city agencies come together for one-stop shopping or a location where there would be a grouping of like uses. The McConnell Center Mission Statement probably reflects that. In a business plan that was approved by the Council, it showed that the McConnell Center could be renovated for \$8 million. The \$8 million was expected to be paid back by rent charged to the tenants, regardless of who the tenants are. The committee that put this together said there would be some agencies that would need to be subsidized, such as Dover Adult Education Learning and Dover Children's Center. Those subsidies never got put into the budget, so the rest of the tenants have to make up the difference. The Council went into this knowing there would be a deficit in operations for the first few years.

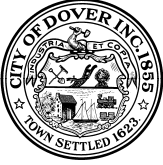
Councilor Callaghan talked about the Ordinance where the Council establishes fees and rates. He asked if it was represented in the budget presentation.

City Manager Joyal said the Council would be getting a fee schedule as part of a budget presentation.

Councilor Callaghan asked if it included the McConnell Center fee structure.

City Manager Joyal said it would.

Councilor Callaghan asked if the Council was going to change the rate or rent to a new tenant.



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City Manager Joyal said there are leases with these tenants. They have made commitments to renovate the space and occupy the space. The shortest one is five years, and some are for ten years.

Councilor Dede said that part of the subsidy arrangement had to do with the length of the time of the lease. The bonding period is slated for twenty years, yet some of the tenants will be paying into the bonding for a longer period. That was done to keep their rents low. There will be a crossover period, ten or eleven years down the road, when the money the City is receiving for the bonding exceeds what we're actually paying for the interest charges. It was never intended to be any kind of profit center. The next legatee to receive the building if the City of Dover were to abandon it is Wentworth-Douglass Hospital.

Councilor Trefethen spoke of the rent situations regarding McConnell Center versus other buildings in the City. There is no line about rent for any department in the Municipal Building. They are not really rent free. He said the Council had to get over this issue of the McConnell Center rent. We had a cost of \$200,000 to maintain the building when it was empty. We have just spent an hour on a department that is 2% of the budget.

Councilor Cheney said she felt it was good that the Council is questioning all these things. She does feel that there are some hidden costs that will never be recouped. She has no issues with personalities or the facilities that are there. She mentioned the chimney, roof and anything that Public Works did. It's the City's building, but we have to keep things in control. She feels that this should not be taken personally. It's the Council's job to scrutinize the budget.

Mayor Myers asked what she meant by additions.

Councilor Cheney said the rent did go up.

Mayor Myers said it was an increase, not an additional line item.

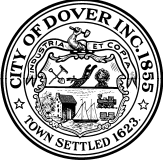
Councilor Cheney agreed.

Councilor Callaghan just wanted to clarify something with Mr. Bannon. He said his questions had nothing to do with him directly. He wanted to know how the building operated. He felt the presentation was great.

Mr. Bannon said he has been with this project since the beginning. He sees the ups and downs of the project. He said it was a unique model in a positive way. He went to New York as a guest speaker to tell them about non-profit centers. He had a call last week from Edmonton, Alberta asking him about this program.

Mayor Myers said he still felt Mr. Bannon needed direction on the Summer Playground Program.

City Manager Joyal said he believed the Council had a way to fund and sustain the continued operation of the Summer Playground Program. He has been working on some numbers in relation to the pool, but he felt that if the Council made some operational adjustments to the indoor pool, in conjunction with keeping the outdoor pool, we now have the insurance savings. We could probably realize about \$20,000 of operational savings for the indoor pool. We would still be able to use the indoor pool for programs, lessons, early morning swims, and all the self-supporting programs that run that during the summer. All the public swimming will be at the outdoor pool. It allows the Council to shift some staffing during the summer months to the outdoor pool. \$20,000 to \$25,000 would be freed up. He will be suggesting, and giving to the Council in writing, that the Council take that savings



CITY OF DOVER

CITY COUNCIL -- MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop
Meeting Location: City Council Chambers - 288 Central Ave, Dover, NH 03820
Meeting Date: May 7, 2008
Meeting Time: 7:00 pm

from the indoor pool and use it to subsidize a scholarship program for children who cannot afford to go to the Summer Playground Program. We will continue to charge for the operation of the Summer Playground Program based on the expense of the program. Councilor McCusker asked if the scholarship would help with the Summer Fun Program as well.

Mr. Bannon said Summer Fun costs \$130 per week. To subsidize that would cost a lot more.

Councilor Cheney said she would not support any changes to the current functioning and offering of services at the indoor pool. She felt that the City shouldn't be expanding services somewhere else and decreasing existing services. Why would we not offer indoor hours because the outdoor pool is open, when we have in the past?

City Manager Joyal said we will offer indoor hours.

Councilor Cheney asked how we're saving \$20,000.

City Manager Joyal said we won't need to have two lifeguards from 5:30 am to 6:00 pm, but only when there are paid programs there.

Councilor Cheney said it sounded like they were spending \$20,000 we shouldn't be spending anyway.

City Manager Joyal said there are times when those lifeguards are there that there is a public swim that is available. That public swim will be at the outdoor pool. He asked why the City needed two public swims in the City.

Councilor Cheney said if there is a scheduling conflict, the citizens can go to either pool. She asked Mr. Bannon how the children are picked for the Playground Program.

Mr. Bannon said it was first come, first served.

Councilor Cheney asked if it was advertised.

Mr. Bannon said it was in the Community News brochure. Sign-up started today, and there was a line out the door.

Councilor Cheney said she hoped the Council would feel strongly about keeping the Teen Center open. That is going to be another \$70,000 that we need to look for. She didn't know when Mr. Bannon has to know the Council's decision, but we need time to play with these numbers.

Mr. Bannon said all he is asking for is authorization to spend the money that he made from the Special Revenue Fund.

Councilor Weston asked if the indoor pool was going to be closed earlier.

Mr. Bannon said the swim lessons were held at the indoor pool. It would still have early morning swim, 5:30 am to 8:00 am, swim lessons from 8:30 am 11:00 am. After 1:00 we would have staff there for recreational swim. Very few people go there instead of going to the outdoor pool. So the City could save that money or reallocate it to this other program.

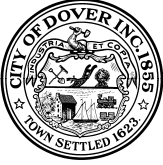
City Manager Joyal said on inclement weather days when the outdoor pool is not open, we'll let people know they can go to the indoor people.

Councilor Weston asked if the City provides a lifeguard for a pool party.

Mr. Bannon said that at \$100 per hour, that more than pays for the staff at the pool. It's profitable for the City to rent it.

Councilor Weston asked where the lifeguard would come from.

Mr. Bannon said we still have enough lifeguards on staff to rotate a few to be there.



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Councilor Callaghan said he felt that this ought to happen, and would be happy to move forward on it, provided he doesn't have to commit to closing the pool. The Council has to commit to finding the funding to make this work. He asked if this decision can be made tonight during a workshop session.

City Manager Joyal said it would be nice to give Mr. Bannon the sense of the Council. Mayor Myers said next week's agenda had a deadline of 12:00 today, and there isn't another meeting for two weeks after that.

Councilor Trefethen said he would like to see this program go forward as well. He felt that there were two messages with the passage of the spending limitation. 1. The people want the Council to spend less money. 2. The people want the Council to set some priorities. He said there will be cuts in city services. We must maintain police, fire, schools, and roads. Human services have to be paid. He said that leaves the Recreation Department and the Library. He said he keeps hearing that we're expanding services. He would like to see that list, because he is not aware of them.

Councilor McCusker said this is looking at the best way to spend \$20,000. Do we spend it on two pools being opened, or do you make it so that the Summer Playground Program stays alive and is sustainable every year. He said he was in favor of this.

Councilor McCusker made a motion to suspend the rules to go beyond 10:30 pm; seconded by Councilor Cheney.

Roll Call Vote: 6/2. Councilors McCusker and Trefethen opposed.

Councilor Cheney said now we want to pay for some kids who can't afford to go. Now we're going to take out \$20,000 from the indoor pool, which could have been taken out before this deliberation.

City Manager Joyal said it couldn't have been taken out, because the Thompson Pool was going to be closed.

Councilor Cheney said a decision by the Council can be made to use that money in another area. She said she wouldn't support that. It is \$280 for the whole summer.

Mr. Bannon said it was reasonable, but most of the clients have multiple children. Everyone will pay something. No one will get a full scholarship.

Councilor Cheney said the Council has to set a priority. This may be something that we may lose, versus the Teen Center where we keep the Teens off the streets.

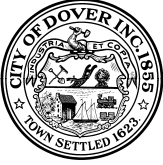
Mayor Myers said he was willing to make the commitment to using the money from the Special Revenue Fund as Mr. Bannon presented it. He agrees that the City doesn't need to open pool times in the afternoons, but he is not ready to reprogram that money. He is interested in the savings that the Council can continue to discuss.

Councilor Dede said he would go along with that.

Councilor Callaghan asked if the Mayor was saying that the Council won't commit to closing the indoor pool at this point, but would consider it later.

Mayor Myers agreed. He just didn't want to say to take that \$20,000 and put it automatically into the Summer Playground Program. In the meantime he did want to give Mr. Bannon the direction as a one-shot plan.

Councilor Weston said she doesn't know when the indoor pool will close; 12:00 or 1:00.



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Mayor Myers said he'll make a proposal and the Council will make the decision.
Councilor Callaghan asked if the Council could take a straw vote on that.
Councilor Dede said yes.
Councilor Callaghan said yes.
Councilor Trefethen said yes.
Councilor McCusker said yes.
City Manager Joyal said we will continue to take registrations for the program, and at the very least make sure there is enough money in the budget to fund the staff.

2. ADJOURN

Councilor Weston made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Dede.
Vote 8/0.