

Lavertu, Karen

From: DeDe, Douglas
Sent: Wednesday, January 14, 2009 1:16 PM
To: Myers, Scott
Cc: Joyal, Michael; Lavertu, Karen
Subject: legislative report

In lieu of a written report, perhaps you could introduce this email from me?

In Re HB106: This bill would allow municipalities to continue treating multiple land use violations as multiple violations (one fine for each day) even if the amount of the fines were in excess of the \$27,500 limit. This key amount is the amount beyond which cases move from District Court to Superior Courts. The impact is that the fines levied by Superior courts go to the County, while those administered through District Court go to the municipality. In one case last year the State Supreme Court said that if the intent of the statute is to accept multiple infractions as individual instances, the statute should say so, and HB 106 does exactly that. We need to put our support behind HB106.

Non-bill action: In the Governor's inaugural he mentioned that he would ask the legislature to reduce the State Contribution to the New Hampshire Retirement System, and it was stated that there would be no impact on the municipalities. It is doubtful that this will have NO impact on the municipalities; if not this year then probably the next year as the NHRS seeks to get up to fulfilling its unfunded GASB mandate.

HB 223 seeks to delay (but not eliminate) the 'SPIKING' legislation passed at the 11th hour of the 2008 legislative session. NHMS supports such a penalty only in cases where the municipality has provided a 'severance' payment that is not the result of accrued benefits. (the real solution is to exclude all but W2 wages from retirement calculations, a move that would require action by the State legislature, and would be vigorously opposed by the unions, particularly in Group 2).

HB 135 is a bill which would change the court's direction in deciding on upholding or accepting the rulings of any municipal board, committee or commission if any of the posting requirement had been compromised in any way. Presently the courts have that power but it is left to the discretion of the court as to whether the public interest would be served by such an invalidation. HB135 could become very difficult if any of our volunteer boards had missed a deadline by as little as one second, and the ability of the court to 'decide' on whether or not the public interest was being served by such action would be lost, and instead mandator invalidations could take place clogging up the activities of key boards, and having very negative impacts on the municipalities, as well as applicants who need actions to proceed with additions, buildings, and so on. This bill should be opposed.

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1/14/2009

**TITLE III
TOWNS, CITIES, VILLAGE DISTRICTS,
AND UNINCORPORATED PLACES**

**CHAPTER 47
POWERS OF CITY COUNCILS**

Section 47:5

47:5 City Property. – The city councils shall have the care and superintendence of the city buildings, all city property and all public squares and streets; and the power to sell or let what may be legally so disposed of, and to purchase property, real or personal, for the use of the city, whenever the interests or convenience of the city shall require it.

Source. 1846, 384:18. 1855, 1699:18. GS 44:5. GL 48:5. PS 50:5. PL 54:5. RL 66:6.

Non Reappointment of Vice Chair DUC

The Council is the appointing authority and should be made aware of any details that should be considered before making the decision to appoint.

The vote to not recommend Vice Chair Rick Hebbard for reappointment was two to one, I opposed.

The Vice Chair was re-elected to the position by a DUC unanimous vote on July 21, 2008.

The Vice Chair has served on the DUC for approximately 6 years.

The Vice Chair has met the criteria in the DUC Rules of Order for attendance to regularly scheduled meetings. (DUC Rules 1-3.4)

At the January 7, 2009 Appointment Committee Meeting the DUC Chair, representing himself, did neither endorse for reappointment or request that the Vice Chair be not be reappointed.

DUC Chair stated that in the past there were situations where the Vice Chair was problematic and gave examples of those to the Appointments Committee. The DUC Chair did state that since March 17, 2008 the Vice Chair has been much better.

The other Appointment Committee members offered hearsay opinions from other DUC members who demeaned the Vice Chair.

When I requested the Appointments Committee request that the DUC as a body render an opinion on the matter, the motion failed 2 to 1 with me opposed.

When I requested a meeting with the City Attorney on the matter to be sure we were not making any mistakes that could be a problem, the motion failed 2 to 1 with me opposed. But it was offered to occur after the vote.

I urge fellow councilors to consider all this information, and perhaps listen to the recording of the meeting that is on the city website before rendering a decision to appoint the new members to the DUC.

There is not enough tangible evidence to not reappoint the Vice Chair.

Not reappointing the Vice Chair for reasons alleged is an slanderous act that defames the character of the incumbent.

We heard the Deputy Mayor claim last week that there are not enough volunteers to fill all the positions on the various boards and commissions. Now we turn a veteran volunteer away?

I will not be supporting the appointments to the DUC and request you all ~~do~~ the same at this time.

1/8/09

Strafford County Cooperative Extension

Working to strengthen youth, families & communities, sustain natural resources and improve the economy

Strafford County's UNH Cooperative Extension office is part of a network of county, state and regional outreach education offices, bringing the University of New Hampshire resources directly to the people who live and work in Strafford County. Strafford County's Extension staff, along with more than 30 campus-based Extension specialists, provide county residents with research-based education and information, enhancing their ability to make informed decisions that improve their lives.

For the **\$199,613** investment Strafford County makes in UNH Cooperative Extension programs, which includes salaries and benefits for two administrative assistants, employed by the county, an additional **\$319,313** of state and federal funds are invested in county staff, programming, administrative costs, and computer support for Strafford County. The average annual value of state specialists' efforts for each of New Hampshire's 10 counties is **\$335,090**. In 2008, Strafford County's investment leveraged a total of **\$654,403** to support Extension programming throughout the county, a **three to one** return on the county's financial investment.

Each county Extension program in New Hampshire is unique, based on a collaborative relationship between professional Extension staff and UNH Cooperative Extension County Advisory Council members. Educational programs that target the needs of Strafford County individuals, families and businesses benefit the lives and financial well-being of each county resident.

Ways that Strafford County UNH Cooperative Extension Educators *make a difference* in the lives of residents in Strafford County:

Forestry & Wildlife

- 1,167 landowners learned about effective land stewardship and managing forest resources in 2008 through on-site visits, phone calls, e-mails and 22 educational events on topics including forest management, current use, selecting a logger and forester, cost-share programs, forest harvesting laws, timber sales, insect and disease identification, pruning and planting trees, tree identification, water quality, firewood selection, and chainsaw safety.
- Cooperative Extension's Forestry and Wildlife Program staff continually work with private landowners to maximize the economic, educational and ecological benefits of their land, which include both direct and indirect benefits to the landowners and the communities where the land is located. In one year alone, Strafford County residents received over **\$2.3 million** of income from selling timber and other wood products and the towns received more than **\$230,000** in timber taxes (2005, NH DRED, *most recent available data*).

Family and Consumer Resources

- UNH Cooperative Extension's Family Resource Management programs focus on helping people identify and develop goals and a spending/savings plan, understanding credit and reducing their overall debt, as well as stretching their resources in troubled economic times.
- Extension coordinates the N.H. Statewide Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Alliance. The Alliance's mission is to increase the number of taxpayers getting their returns prepared free with a focus of increasing the EITC for those eligible. For Tax Year 2007, the free tax preparation sites in Strafford County filed 514 returns, resulting in a saving for these taxpayers of **\$77,100**. In addition, these taxpayers received **\$62,956** in EITC, **\$32,764** in Child Tax Credit and **\$315,674** in refunds.
- Eighty percent of Strafford County participants who attended money management programs reported they increased their money management skills and expected to decrease their debt. More than 70 percent of participants also expected to increase their personal savings.
- Multiple cost-benefit analyses in several states document that for every dollar invested in programs such as Nutrition Connections, as much as \$10.64 is saved from reduced health care costs. Another study showed for that for every dollar used to implement the Nutrition Connections program, \$2.48 is saved on food expenditures, which reduces the need for emergency food assistance.

4-H Youth Development

- Currently 214 active, screened and trained 4-H volunteers work with 336 4-H youth. In addition, several hundred volunteers also contribute to Extension work at events such as the Rochester Fair and 4-H activities that take place throughout the year.
- Through a partnership with National 4-H Council, JCPenney Afterschool, and community afterschool programs, 130 youth attended the Seymour Osman Community Center in Dover, benefiting from 4-H programs and activities offered at the center. Fifty children participated during the 2007-08 school year with a **\$25,000** grant, requiring a partnership between the afterschool program and the Strafford County 4-H youth development program. Another **\$22,500** is earmarked for 50 children to attend during the 2008-09 school year.
- The national Afterschool Alliance reports nearly nine in ten voters (89%) believe that, given the dangers young people face today, afterschool programs are important. A national evaluation on afterschool programs found that regular participation in high-quality afterschool programs is linked to “reductions in behavior problems among disadvantaged students and reduced use of drugs & alcohol.”
<http://afterschoolalliance.org/researchReports.cfm>
- One long-time 4-H volunteer noted, *“Adult volunteers, trained at the county level and supported by the County Educator, makes 4-H a great investment for the county. You pay for part of one educator as well as her office and you get a huge network of volunteers who are able to reach youth in multiple communities.”*

Agricultural Resources

Agriculture in Strafford County includes high-value commodities such as greenhouse and garden center operations, field cut flower operations, vegetable farms, orchards, and dairy, livestock and forage operations. The total value of agriculture in Strafford County accounts for **\$9,873,000**, excluding the value of landscaping operations (Census of Agriculture, 2002).

- Commercial growers increased their skills in identifying and correcting nutrient deficiency and toxicity, scouting and control of insect pests and diseases, using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) control techniques, a cost-saving measure that benefits the local environment.
- As a result of extensive Extension educational efforts, highbush blueberry growers in Strafford County learned how to monitor and control mummyberry disease reducing crop losses by 15%, saving approximately **\$18,000** in a single year.
- Strafford County apple producers who implemented Extension’s IPM recommendations and reduced pest injury are estimated to have saved **\$16,000**.
- Extension staff provided recommendations to a farm in Strafford on improving plant nutrition and ventilation, which prevented a potential loss of **\$15,000** in their greenhouse tomatoes.
- Extension staff worked with a farmer in Milton on a proposal that provided a **\$7,200** Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education grant on potassium nutrition for greenhouse tomatoes.
- 117 licensed pesticide applicators reside in and/or spray pesticides in Strafford County. Extension’s *Pesticide Safety Education Program* teaches pesticide applicators about the responsibilities of environmental and human safety and provides their private certification training.
- In 2008, Strafford County’s Agricultural Resources Extension Educator reviewed 146 soil tests results for homes and grounds, answered more than 250 phone and email questions, and identified 70 insects, diseased plants and weed specimens, providing control recommendations.

Volunteers Extend the Reach of Programs

- In 2008, Extension volunteers logged a total of **5,746 hours** in Strafford County. 4-H volunteers, Coverts Cooperators, Master Gardeners, and Community Tree Stewards work in their communities on behalf of Extension by delivering programs and assisting with public events. This time commitment represents a cost benefit to the county of **\$112,104** when calculated at the 2007 rate of \$19.51/hour for volunteer time (independentsector.org).

2. The City Manager shall recommend policies for the use, rental and lease of all City buildings. Policies and Rental fee rates shall be approved by the City Council on an annual basis.

3. Rental fees are to be paid in full prior to the date of rental