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There are three points to make regarding the energy project.

First, the positive “cash flow” may occur, but it appears that the plan is to use the future “savings” to hire another part-timer or consultant for other energy projects. This does not seem like a savings for the taxpayers, but rather a way to have the taxpayers fund additional staff with debt. If Dover proceeds with this project, which I oppose, the saving should be applied to pay down the bond with no additional use of the money until the bond is paid off.

Second, when considering adding the additional debt, the Council needs to consider that in addition to about \$100 million in outstanding bonded debt we have an outstanding liability of \$43 million in unfunded health care to be paid to retirees. Therefore we have debt levels plus unfunded commitments of close to \$150 million – clearly exceeding Dover council debt limits. The council needs to have a vote explicitly authorizing going over the council debt limits.

Third, whether or not the project is a good idea, there is a matter of precedent that such funding would set. The project failed to be added to the current year CIP. This is a CIP project – if we use debt funding. Allowing us to begin adding CIP projects after the plan is approved opens Pandora’s box. Essentially, we will be piece mealizing our long-term projects instead of having a comprehensive plan.

Any additional debt action should be reserved for emergency projects, like for example a collapsed roof.

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