

It appears that some of the members of your council do not understand why the proposed school budget is not being questioned by those of us that are critical of municipal spending. Both Foster's and our Council Representative from Ward 4 say that the silence is quote "deafening and quite frankly confusing" Also stated that "the mantra at the podium and letters to the editor for the last two or three years has been cut spending, cut spending"

I am here this evening to clear up this confusion both for you and the community. Please **LISTEN** and then you will understand.. This is why **NOONE** has complained about the School Dept. Their Dept has done a pretty good job and I will now tell you why:

The School Dept delivered, upon request , all salary information to a citizen through the Right to Know Law, **YOU** had to be **SUED** for the same information.

The Supt. has **NOT** attempted to sign employment contracts without the approval of the School Board like the Municipal side of the budget has done, that will cost us forever.

The School Dept. has **NEVER** given away a municipal building for a dollar a year and retained the liability making a \$750,000 improvement in **the FIRST** year of the lease!

The School Dept has **NEVER** proposed a building improvement of \$3.7 million dollars **and actually spent \$8 million and more.** (No one has ever been able to get the true cost of that building. How much did you really spend? The taxpayer is now dealing with yearly debt on that building better known as the McConnell Center.

Don't forget that the School Dept, The Recreation Dept and the Police Dept are now **spending city monies** for rent to subsidize this building.

The School Dept. will only increase their property tax levy by 2% as they were asked to

do. Does your percentage look like this? *or is it 5 or 6% or can anybody tell*

The School Dept. has not spent one million dollars to build a bridge to nowhere.

The Superintendent obtains approval for hiring of School personnel and the School Board has never voted to approve \$320,000 severance or health insurance for life of someone who has not earned it.

The School Board has **NOT** proposed to build a \$12 million parking facility (that's supposed to pay for itself like the Arena, and the McConnell Center?) for a few businesses downtown. Pay for itself comments have cost the taxpayers millions!!!!

The School Board has **NOT** removed citizens that have disagreed with them from assigned committees., They treat visiting citizens to their offices like the owners of the company and special guests.

The School Dept. has not removed trees from people's private property that proved an added cost to the municipal side of the budget.

The School Dept. Has not awarded excess retirement benefits at a cost of approximately 20 million dollars.

With all of this, you are now looking at spending 2.4 million dollars for a contract with Johnson Controls with the intention of saving monies. Take time to check out the financial ability of Johnson's controls to complete any contract . The last energy contract was sold to the taxpayers THE VERY SAME WAY FOLKS Was there a Savings???

NO Cost to all of us?? YES Don't make the same mistake again!! Don't spend this money on the energy contract and this will save the taxpayers money.

There has been much discussion about the condition of our roads and the inability to

repair them. The roads will be so bad that you will not be able to run, fire trucks, police cars, school busses and private cars over them . Let's face it!!!! The **REAL REASON** IS because of the **UNNECESSARY** spending that I have just brought to your attention. As you look at your budget please consider your spending and more **unnecessary** spending. Maybe then and only then will our streets and roads be repaired. Just a suggestion!!!!!! Thank you.