

On May 15, 2009, there was a letter to the editor written by a prominent Dover citizen entitled "Dover's city employees are worth the investment." After reading the article, I decided to spend some time studying the budget and have come up with some very important questions that I would like all of you to investigate.

Our city manager has been applauded, in this article, for about \$70,000 worth of savings but in fact, I find that he gave himself and many of his associates raises for next year totaling about 50,000 to 60,000 dollars to cushion the 70,000 in so-called cuts. It appears that these are not cuts at all folks, but actually agreed to no pay raises. In addition, I find that the City Council in a 5-4 non-public vote gave the City Manager a significant increase in his deferred annuity, changing the employment contract, which I believe cannot happen in the future. I thought we had an agreement not to do these things. Does this budget become a PLAY ON WORDS?

It is time for the City Council to BEGIN discussing and debate the Municipal Budget. Time is running out and pretty soon, the Managers budget will become law, AS IS, with no discussion by any of you. We have listened to debates about School spending, state spending, county spending and stimulus but there has been NO debate on the City

spending going up as much a 3.4% when the taxpayers can least afford it.

Please refer to C6-3 of OUR city charter and you will find that the last sentence states: "The City Council may examine AND AMEND the recommended budget on a line by line basis" which seems to be in opposition to the comments made by the City Manager at the last Council meeting. It was through a Municipal Election on 11-05-2005 that the citizens passed this right to permit the Council full control over the budget. Why was the City Attorney not called upon to offer a written opinion on a question of line by line amendments to the budget?

The following are questions I have raised for you to investigate:

- 1. Why do most administrators in the city get huge raises next year BEFORE their salaries are reduced?**
- 2. Those city employees that receive raises on their anniversary.
How does this impact the so called cut?**
- 3. Why has the newspaper reported that the City Manager's salary this year and I quote "bringing his annual base salary up to \$113,681.11 but I cannot find this amount in this budget book.**
- 4. In the City Council's portion of the budget, there are grants listed to various tenants at the McConnell Center. Why are there**

over \$91,000 in subsidies for schools and general fund in the city Council's budget for the McConnell Center.

- 5. Will the City Manager state for the record, that the amounts he and his management team will make for wages in FY10 will be the base for their pay in FY 11 ? Or will the administrators possibly get a double raise in FY 11?**
- 6. All administrator's salaries that are listed in the budget book show the prior year, current year and the manager's proposal. I might ask, why cannot I find this same comparison in the Budget Book in the listed City Manager's and Human Resources Director's salary?**
- 7. Why does the City Manager get a \$7000 raise before he takes what appears to be an \$8000 cut?**
- 8. Could you, as City Councilors, provide me with exactly how much the manager and his administrators will make in wages next year in this proposed budget? (without benefits**
- 9. Could someone explain to me why under Personal services 4110, page 137 of the Budget book that the City Manager and the Human Resources Director show a decrease of working hours**

from 40 hours per week to 35 hours per week?

- 10. Furthermore, why are administrative positions based on hourly wage?**
- 11. It appears on this same page that the city manager's total salary with deferred Comp of 6%, and his car allowance will total \$131,852. Could you tell me if these are the true figures?**
- 12. Why is the City Attorney rewriting the term sheet for the Dover Housing authority? Is he paid through their budget or ours? Could it be conflict of interest and does that mean that the original term sheet, voted by our Council is null and void? A question I believe that you need to research BEFORE May 31.**
- 13. The term sheet indicates that IF there is an extension, there is a charge of at least \$10,000 to be paid to the city. Will this be paid?**
- 14. Under what revenue fund can I find the Comcast monies? I am not able to find these monies listed.**
- 15. Why are you considering spending 2.4 million dollars on energy when we should be putting these monies back in the road system.. Belknap County turned the same proposal down.**

It has been mentioned that you, the Council, will be passing this Budget you now have in hand, on next Wednesday, June 3

Folks!!!! You are spending 107 million dollars of taxpayer's money and have only 7 days to debate it. How could you possibly do this to your constituents without doing line by line discussion? 107 million dollars? Remember the figure as we, the citizens, will remember it forever. We will reward you in November

REVIEW & OUTLOOK

Golden (State) Opportunity

California voters sent a blunt but welcome message Tuesday about runaway government. By rejecting by nearly two-to-one the political establishment's \$16 billion in higher taxes, spending gimmickry and more borrowing, the voters said it's time government faced the same spending limits that the recession is imposing on everyone else.

Teachers unions, business leaders and the politicians outspent initiative opponents by six-to-one, and they still lost. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger had warned that if these initiatives were voted down, government services would have to be slashed, criminals released early and public employees furloughed. But voters decided that as painful as these cuts may be, the alternative of letting the state's tax-and-spend machine continue was worse. How right they are.

The response so far from Sacramento is typically short-sighted. Mr. Schwarzenegger, legislators and public-worker unions are now conspiring to roll out plan B: a federal bailout. The Governor was in Washington on Tuesday and, sounding like a Detroit auto executive, declared: "We need assistance." As a starter he wants a federal guarantee on California's next \$6 billion bond offering.

But a federal bailout is an injustice to the residents of other states, especially those that run their governments responsibly. Why should taxpayers in Colorado, Virginia or Ohio pay for California's incompetence? Worse, one price of a bailout could be an Obama Administration demand that California remove its requirement for a two-thirds legislative majority to pass a tax increase. Another possible political target is repeal of the Proposition 13 property tax limitation. Yet these are the only remaining restraints on the appetites of the political class.

Tuesday's vote was a voter cry that the state needs more such restraints, and now is the time to push them. First, California needs a sturdy cap on the rate of spending growth. Thirty years ago this November, when California's economy was in a similar rut, three-quarters of the voters approved the famous Gann Amendment. That limited the annual

growth rate of spending to population growth and inflation.

California voters send a message about runaway government.

The result was that California's annual average rate of spending growth after inflation fell to 2% through the 1980s from 9% in the 1970s. California's state per-capita expenditures fell to 16th in the nation in 1990 from 7th in

1979. The economy soared, growing by 121%—14% faster than the U.S. average. The Gann limits were effectively neutered in 1988 and 1990 by initiatives that exempted education and transportation from the cap.

The next step is to fix California's steeply progressive and antigrowth tax code. California's 10.55% income tax and 9% sales tax are driving businesses and high income taxpayers out of the state, depleting the tax base month after month. They also lead to overspending during the good times as revenues boom, but to budget crises when those revenues fall precipitously during the busts. A 5% to 6% tax rate on sales and income without deductions would halt the flight to low-tax neighboring states and invite newcomers who could start buying houses again.

The state's public-employee pensions also need to be overhauled. According to the California Foundation for Fiscal Responsibility, the state pension funds are more than \$200 billion underfunded. Public employees can retire after 30 years on the job in their early 50s, with lifetime retirement benefits at 90% of their final salary. Some retirees receive \$200,000 a year or more in pensions. The solution is to follow Florida's lead and require new workers to accept defined contribution pensions like the 401(k) plans now dominant in the private work force. Without such a reform, many California cities will go bust and the state's tax burden will grow inexorably.

Despite the panic from Sacramento, Tuesday's vote was the best fiscal news out of California in 30 years. It showed that the voters are paying attention to the games their elected leaders have been playing, and they have finally blown the whistle. We hope the sound was heard as far away as another out-of-control government, the one in Washington, D.C.

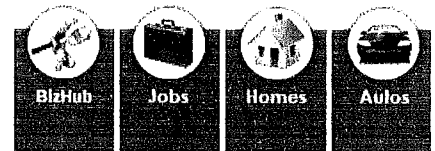
About Those 'Speculators' . . .

Remember how President Obama blamed Chrysler's bankruptcy filing

ceive value after secured-creditors were paid" Mr. Mourdock says. "In the Chrysler

Fosters.com Citizen.com Foster's Daily Democrat The Citizen of Laconia Rochester Times Sanford News

Laconia
57°F
AccuWeather.com
Forecast



Towns | News | Obits | Community | Opinion | Sports | Business | Entertainment | Lifestyles | MultiMedia | Site Tools | Classifieds

SITE SEARCH

GO CALENDAR LISTINGS Music Art Literary Events Stage Food View Complete Calendar

Print Email BOOK-MARK



Keywords Zipcode Go

County gives energy-saving measures cold shoulder

Laconia:

By JOHN KOZIOL
jkoziol@citizen.com
Wednesday, May 20, 2009

Like property managers everywhere, the Belknap County Commission is interested in energy efficiency for the buildings under its purview, but members have concluded this is a bad time to make a sizable upfront investment that may take a decade or longer to recoup.

The commission came to that conclusion on Tuesday morning following a presentation by Johnson Controls, which had been previously asked to come up with energy conservation measures (ECM's) using renewable energy sources for the county complex and nursing home, the Belknap County Superior Court and the Belknap County Jail and House of Corrections.

Brad Parsons and Jim Cotton said Johnson Controls could save the county between \$143,000 and \$227,731 annually depending on which of three options the county chose. That said, the options ranged in price from \$1.5 million to \$3.1 million to implement with payback periods ranging from 10 to almost 14 years.

Commission Chairman Chris Boothby thanked Parsons and Cotton, saying that what they had proposed could be a portion of the county's overall energy efficiency plan. He added, however, that "absent a compelling and overwhelming chunk of change" in the form of federal economic stimulus money that had to be spent right now, the county was simply fact-gathering and assessing its opportunities.

"We're going to need a little more time to get back to you," said Boothby, adding that the commission might be in a better position to know what to do after it returns from a countywide listening tour that is scheduled to begin next month with a June 1 meeting with Meredith's Board of Selectmen.

The commission has tentatively scheduled meetings in New Hampton on June 4; Alton, June 8; Barnstead, June 9; Sanbornton, June 10; Belmont, June 15; center harbor, June 17; Gilford, June 24; Tilton, June 25; and Gilmanton, June 28. A meeting in Laconia is planned for Aug. 10.

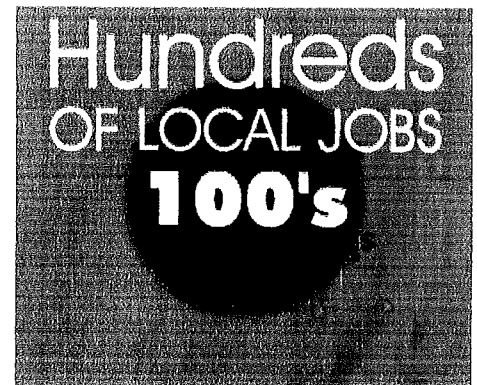
The meetings will be far-ranging in scope, Boothby said, because the commission will share what it feels its mission is while also receiving input from municipal leaders on where that mission could or should be adjusted.

Based on the commission's Tuesday meeting, it's likely that the conversation in the individual communities will include discussion of regional public health services.

As to energy efficiency and renewable fuels, the commission, led by Boothby, is leaning toward some combination of wood chips and wood pellets to power the county's boilers.

After the presentation from Parsons and Cotton, Boothby said the best options appear to be options two or three. The former would generate energy from wood pellets, save \$142,391 per year and cost \$1,752,350, which would take 12.3 years to recover. The latter option could use both wood chips and wood pellets, would cost \$4,104,583 to install and save \$227,731 per year, thus paying for itself in 13.6 years.

Under each of the options, the county could retain its existing boilers, Parsons said, adding that there



Most Viewed Stories

1. Police charge man with possession of narcotics
2. Police tackle bike patrol training
3. Students get close-up view of something really hot
4. Police identify driver killed in Rte. 106 crash
5. 'Mr. Fireplace' in default
6. County gives energy-saving measures cold shoulder
7. High-speed getaway lands man in heap of trouble
8. Specter of water pollution no longer hanging over state prison complex
9. Parade Road composting operation advances
10. School Board head chides council

Notable Passings

Dominic DiMaggio
Mickey Carroll
Donald Evans
[View All Local Obituaries](#)

Today's Featured Properties

was a major cost difference in using wood chips versus pellets as a fuel. Wood chips are about \$45 a ton, he said, while wood pellets, which are processed, go for about four times that cost, although they generate a comparably greater heating efficiency.

Overall, Johnson Controls came up with 19 energy conservation measures for the county but Commissioner Ed Philpot said he wasn't sold on what the company was selling, which to him entailed a long-term performance contract and more importantly, the cost of new, expensive equipment.

Commissioner Richard Long added that there were also a number of unknowns about the future of county-owned buildings and expressed concern about how a system-wide energy plan could affect them and vice-versa.

Boothby said the next step for the commission was to get a detailed analysis of all county-owned space to get a better idea of how to heat and cool it.

"We're thinking about very large expenditures," Philpot cautioned. "I don't want to be married to a performance contract," he said, while also facing the prospect of having taxpayers pick up the cost of bonds to buy the new or additional heating/cooling equipment.

Reader Services

-  **Advertise**
-  **Email Headlines**
-  **Buy Photos**
-  **Tool Bar**
-  **Home Delivery**

Solar Energy Solutions
We make solar simple. Full solutions installed.



Dupont's Service Center
Quality Auto repair for over 45 years in Dover NH

Ads by Google

Copyright © 2009 Geo. J. Foster Company. Site Design: Harbour Light Strategic Marketing.
Internet Services: BayRing Communications.

\$234,900



Northwood, NH
The Gove Group Real Estate, LLC
[More Details...](#)

\$299,900



Epping, NH
The Gove Group Real Estate, LLC
[More Details...](#)

[View all Featured Properties](#)

[\(What are these?\)](#)

Oddly Enough

- Arrest in 'denture heist'
- Student used biology class snake as jump rope
- City likely to make pet pig exception
- Family feud leads to dueling candy stores
- A UFO? NASA says it's a research balloon

Today's Featured Jobs

- Community Partners - Home Provider/Mentor
- Speare Memorial Hospital - Multiple Openings
- The Common Man - Kitchen Staff, Servers,