

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL MEETING/WORKSHOP**  
**DOVER CITY COUNCIL**  
**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS**  
**JUNE 4, 2003**  
**7:00 PM**

**SPECIAL MEETING**

The Mayor opened the meeting stating how happy he is to see so many young people that have come out to speak tonight.

1. ROLL CALL

Councilors Whitmore, Christenbury, Mayor pro-tem Dunnington, Councilors Hindle, Keays, Mayberry, Tweedie, Mayor Nossiff and City Manager Beecher were all present. Councilor Quigley arrived at 7:10 PM

2. PUBLIC HEARING

A. CITY PORTION OF FY2004 BUDGET

Richard Whitney is here representing the Board of Directors of the Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce, as Jack Story is under the weather tonight. He believes Dover Main Street has its values and that no member of the chamber has any desire to pay more taxes than necessary but they all do believe it is a great place to live with all its programs. He does not want to have to add these proposed cuts back in to the budget in the future. Some parents had made plans for the summer programs already and they will not have child care for their children. He continued about other programs in the budget including the fire and police departments. He stated also limiting the Dover Public Library hours will severely limit citizen's access. He mentioned several other programs he does not want cut. The increase will only be about equal to 27 cents per day if they support the City Manager's recommended budget.

Wes Tator of 12 Landing Way, is here as Chair of the Dover Main Street. He started by stating he appreciates the job before them. The demands for city services continue to go up; they have a very challenging job before them. The possibility of the Dover Main Street not being funded is a real danger, there would be no Main Street if that is true. He continued they have a tremendous basis for support here in the community. He feels it is exciting to be a part of Dover Main Street. He mentioned the state wide award of \$2,000 that they recently received for the best re-use of a downtown building. He mentioned several other Main Street projects. They still have a lot of work to do as they want to create downtown Dover as a destination. He is very proud of the downtown...

Karen Drapaniotis. Is vice chair of Dover Main Street, she listed all the other activities she is involved with. She does not live here but is very proud of Dover and she is happy to volunteer her time to this community. She believes that the catalyst for change in Dover is Dover Main Street. She listed the Main Street projects that are bringing a real sense of pride to the downtown. She would like the funding to continue for this program. She told them without anger that if the 3% budget is adopted they will not be funded. She feels they are either worth it or they are not. She does not want Dover to be the only Main Street community of the 20 such communities in the State of NH not to fund their program.

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Rueben Hull is here as member of the design committee for Dover Main Street. He is also a practicing Civil Engineer and he brings his expertise to the committee. He spoke on how the support goes beyond the community, he has three points. For the last 50 years we have seen the downtown evacuate to the malls. Dover has been successful at bringing some of that business back. They want to be an alternative to the malls, he has worked at another Main Street in the state and he also watched it die because of the lack of funding and personal changes. Reinvestment in the community statewide figures for main street programs show, \$40. is reinvested for every dollar that is spent. Their \$20,000 dollar investment is equal to an \$800,000 investment. The Main Street program was one of his successes from when he sat on the Planning Board for 7 years. The last two years he has not been a resident of Dover. He has been a long term advocate of the program. He now has a 30 minute drive but he still goes to meetings. The Mayor asked him to wrap it up his thoughts because of time limits. He continued he feels there is a great value from this program here in the city and all the volunteers are giving much more back to the community than what you are seeing in the budget.

Vicki Hebert of 11 Rutland Street is an 11<sup>th</sup> grader and is here along with 8<sup>th</sup> graders Emily Demetracopoulos and Jennifer Shaw who is in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year of Youth to Youth, they want Dover Youth to Youth funded, as they have been involved in so many projects. They have created 30 public service announcements and received two awards for them. Each year they go into 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms to alert the children to the hazards of smoking and alcohol use. They each continued to list their accomplishments such as they have created tobacco awareness programs. Dover students have empowered 1000's of youths nationally. They are very successful and they have the results to prove this. She quoted percentages on the reduction of smoking by kids in Dover. By not funding their program, this would all end and they are model for the whole country. Vicky also has done presentations at national conferences. She listed several things the program has given her and they would like funding of these programs to continue.

The Mayor wishes she would have said the following thing to them. We are talking about a lot of money. What kind of managers of money are you if you cannot find a lousy \$5,000 in this budget for us. He will assume she said it.

Lucinda Colburn, 6 Penny Lane stated she is the mom of one of the prior girls that spoke. She feels this out reach program is extremely important here in Dover. She understands the budget procedure here more than most. She listed city services that we all know are important, she wants them to evaluate the Dover Youth to Youth program as well, who are beneficiaries of these services. Really the only beneficiaries are those that decide they are going to participate in the program. These three girls are not the exception; they are the norm for the program. Our community gets a far bigger benefit from this program. When she looks at the program she asks is it effective. She says it has been recognized with state and national awards, they are a model for this program. She gave a personal example of her own daughter's circumstance. She asked is the program effective, yes.

Elizabeth Dunn of 123 Drew Road, a parent stated her family has been involved in the Youth to Youth since the beginning. This is a wonderful program as it has proven results, it builds character and social consciousness, it is a model for around the world.

Kimberly Dupont 57 PVC stated how you could cut something that is so important. She is not ignorant, this is your youth, and the teens today are our future tomorrow. Her brother was on the wrong path and today because of the program, he is a good guy. She commended Parker Blaney for what he has done for her and for her children as well as for your children. She feels safer knowing the children are there at youth resources. She continued how great a person that Anne

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Parsons is. People know them so well, it is so important for them to know the decisions made today are changing lives for tomorrow.

Cathy Speidal of 23 E Concord Street stated she is a Dover resident and has a child at Dover Middle School, she is afraid that heroin has just pushed cocaine aside as the preferred drug. She is not trying to push anything. Her son spends seven hours a day in the youth to youth program; it has been there for her son. Also stores now think twice about selling tobacco to kids.

Bob Marston is chair of the Friends of Dover Public Library. Over the past 50 years he has seen the library become a more polished place to be. There have been years they have made real progress. He does not use either pool but he is happy his tax money supports this. He hopes progress will continue, he called attention to the assets at the public library that will not happen if the cuts are put in force. He continued meeting places are hard to come by in the City. The 3 nights the library is open, people are able to use the rooms there, also the historical room at the library. This is a treasure that not every town has, people come from long distances to access our information; some of these people stay over night and do research. If we cut down on the number of hours the library is open, maybe they won't come. He feels these things are important for the quality of life here in Dover.

Gil Hartman of 624 Sixth Street and a member of Recreation Advisory Board spoke of the number of people that pass thru the recreation department per year. Really it comes down to the money, the advisory board has looked at their budget, and if they wiped out the whole thing it is 1.24 percent of this entire budget. The economic impact is huge; he is talking about all our parks where parents bring their children to play and where they do not take attendance. This is a quality of life issue; also the economic impact on the stores downtown is huge because of all the ball teams that spend money here. They do not have anything to do with the arena but he would like them to follow the recommendations of the private contractor they hired.

David Bamford does not wish their task on anyone. He came to talk about the Dover Main Street Program. After listening to this 8<sup>th</sup> grade girl, he is an attorney and he would like to hire her for an attorney in Durham. He would hate to go against her in a courtroom. They recently purchased property on Gulf Road, they own only property in Dover NH, and this is the only town they own property in. He will open another law office here in Dover soon, he does not feel there is another town like it in NH. We have good schools, our roads, downtown and our main street, this is really the signature of our community. He does not feel there are any rough patches along the way. The downtown is beautiful because of all the volunteers, he recently bought the downtown block and they helped him to promote the block. He knows the \$20,000 that is being requested is necessary. He has contributed financially because he believes in Dover Main Street, he feels it is an investment.

Kimberly Dodge lives on Henry Law Avenue. The teen center is the place teens can go to hang out, she gave her personal history and the impact Anne Parker has had on her. She has graduated from high school now and has a real job at the passport center.

Doug Leavitt of 113 Cricket Brook, stated the teenagers here tonight were him in the 80's, the youth resources gave him a place to go back then. Please don't take this away from these kids now.

Caroline Santaella is not a Dover resident but from Nottingham, her 15 yr old son is involved with Dover youth resources. Her kid is real borderline and because of the diversion program, he does not have a record now, this program must be available to these kids. Her son has to do

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community service, if there is no program, there will be all kinds of kids with an attitude. She knows Anne has been around forever and she feels there must have been a reason that it was created originally. Her last comment is Nottingham pays \$22,000 per year to send her kid to Dover Alt School so she felt she had the right to speak.

Anjali Race of 73 Court Street is a resident of Dover found it ironic that she has a way to save money in the budget. She had a telephone conversation with Ralph Phipps about pesticides used on the fields. She does not know what the budget is that we spend on pesticides, but if the youth group only needs so much maybe they could give the money to the youth to youth and save this pesticide money. People here are so healthy, they are running, walking, etc. She wants a moratorium on this and she wants them to take this into consideration.

Cheryl Lewis Gilpatrick, homeowner and business owner is here with her 10 year old, she is here about how many wonderful programs there are here in the City of Dover. She has a 16 yr old who participated in the youth to youth program, she is so grateful for the DARE program and the supplement they have made. Her daughter is here because she does not want these programs to be taken out of the budget. She is also grateful for the resource officers at the schools. She is a single mom right now and is more than willing to pay the tax increase to preserve these programs. She believes from a quality of life perspective and financial perspective, financially we will have years and years that we will have to pay for this. She thanked all of them.

Steve Fournier is a resident of Sixth Street and member of Ward One. He recently moved to Dover because of all the programs. He does not have any children, he came for the quality of life and it takes true leadership to not cut these programs. He explained 50 cents of the budget is the county budget of which they have no control over, he urged them to trust the City Manager.

Scott Myers is a resident of Governor Sawyer Lane and Chair of the Arena Commission. He went on the commission this year, he is a business guide. He does not have kids in skating, he understands the taxpayers concerns and he feels the council endorsed the problem when they voted to study it earlier this year and hopes it will not be shut down. They got the revised draft last night, he looks forward to spending time on this. The bond payment is ongoing whether the arena is open or closed. We need to turn it around to make it work for this community. He wants to see better use of energy and the equipment. They also need to restructure the user groups as well; he realizes the city staff wants to make changes also. He wanted to get on the board to solve these problems. They want to rewrite the job description for the Arena Director; they need someone to focus on in house problems. They plan to use this as a tool to turn this around; there is no savings in shutting it down. He feels Tweedie, as the council liaison, and he are both easy to contact. He is a taxpayer like everyone; this is set up as an enterprise fund and that is how it should be.

Amanda Cole of 31A Ham Street stated she works for Dover Youth Resources. Her experience has been very powerful so far. The staff has worked very hard over the years to establish a relationship with the kids. This program is the driving force to make positive changes in these kids' lives. There are not too many things for teens to do in Dover. This gives them a place to go, they are valued and respected there. It will be a great loss to Dover if we loose it. She thanked them for their time as she presented a petition.

Glenn Jerry lives at Wallace drive, he feels tonight is a travesty for the public to be given these few little tidbits on the budget. He feels this was planned because of these people that obviously have heart wrenching stories and they are being picked on. He feels these are good programs. He has come to most of the budget presentations. The problem is here in the City is employee

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costs and the benefits provided to them; there is \$660,000 additional in health care costs alone, also the dredging costs are prohibitive. The feds are not stupid, they are walking away from this and leaving it to the City. He feels they picked on these programs so these people would all come and take the time so there would not be time to discuss the budget. The reality is we have a lot of people in this city on a fixed income. He continued about his personal tax situation; he gave an analysis of the tax situation problem. We have a qualified city manager but he needs to attack the employee costs but not by attacking small programs that benefit this type of people. He wants Mr. Beecher to hold the budget.

Charlotte Young of 55 Littleworth Road is a recent recipient of Don Heyliger award. She grew up in Rochester and was raised by grandparents, when she was 8 yrs old she had tried alcohol and cigarettes and experienced a ride home in a police car because of shoplifting. When she was 9 someone introduced her to the Rochester Youth Program. Thanks to the values she learned by participating in sports she became a successful adult. She is a role model for her children; if it was not for recreation programs she would not be here. Tonight they have a choice the recreation program is only 1.2 percent of the budget, shutting this down would be shutting down a way to a better life.

Lisa Dudley of Glenhill Road stated she is a Dover resident; she is here about Youth to Youth. A number was thrown out, 5,000, it is between 5 and 8 officers, and they missed Officer Shaheen when he left to go to another town. Youth to Youth is not just about prevention it is about community. She listed programs that they offer; her concerns are, we will have grant funding cuts if the city cuts this program. Captain Dana Mitchell has won the law officer award of the country for this program.

Richard Hughes of 51 New Rochester Road states the current situation did not happen overnight. It was because every year there are expensive personal contracts and CIP bonding. Most of the major departments have received funding in the amount of 10% even though inflation has been 3%. He does not feel the City Manager has taken the responsibility of replacing people very seriously as people have continued to be hired. A few cents keep adding up to dollars. There were many speakers this evening, we often hear that the City of Dover provides more services than other communities; it appears we cannot afford these services. There should be no new programs, the departments should have to make due. He recommended the retired amount of \$306,000 be added to the bottom line next week.

Joe Tenuta of 262 Longhill Road stated you have heard it tonight, Dover is a great place to live. Everyone is wonderful in Dover, he is here for the Dover Soccer Association and he is a member of the Recreation Advisory Board. In the fall they will have 400 to 600 kids playing soccer on the weekends. With soccer and the recreation dept, they run their programs, they have sponsors, etc, but they cannot do it without the help of the recreation employees. Please don't cut the recreation budget too much.

Joanne Dodge of 17 Harmony Lane she is here to support the Dover Main Street Program as it supports seniors here in the community. She strongly support this program.

Tim Sheldon is here representing Cocheco Mills Partnership, and the 55 businesses in the mills, they have over 1100 employees that are finding employment and housing in Dover. The Main Street Program is a critical component of the downtown. It is often said that you need to make an investment to reap the rewards of the investment; there is no stronger economic engine than what

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you find in the mill buildings. People are spending their disposable income in the downtown; he hopes they will support it.

Stephen Tello of 6 Country Club Estates is here representing Dover baseball teams children and, parents. After listening to everyone here, he put the speech in his pocket, we have a great community, we look at our investment in people; we have a budget and a City Manager. He asked what is the value that we have got for our money, we have great value, and this is where people want to live. We are very fortunate but there is an investment that must be made, the Recreation Department is a great program, it is an asset to our community. He urged them to look at what the Dover taxpayers want;, it is the quality of life, He works for the 87<sup>th</sup> largest company in the U.S., their medical costs went up as well. It just costs more to do business; we have a great City.

Arthur Corte of Glenhill Road in Dover loves its library, they have 17,000 active cards; they circulate 1100 books a day. Today's tough economic times are when the library is used most. People use the internet to look for job, they also use the function room as a meeting room for the entire community. By closing earlier in the day would be a problem for all these groups that use the library.

Bart Jordan, of 103 Central Towers states the thing is that we have a country which we almost would not have had if not for a gentleman from England. This man was Thomas Paine who wrote "Common Sense". He gained his knowledge from libraries as he was raised on a farm. He spoke 7 languages before the age of 7; but libraries to the advantaged and disadvantaged are the same. He continued by quoting from the Romans. Libraries once gone in any degree begin the destruction forever of a culture. The man that wrote "Common Sense" owes a lot to this culture. He wants them to apply common sense when adopting the budget. The N.A.S.A. tragedies are because someone did not take enough time...

Brandi Burley of 29 Baker Street is here supporting Parker and Anne. She is here to support Parker for all his help in how she can talk to him. It would be a terrible thing if they eliminated this program. She grew up in a single family unit. Don't close Youth Resources please.

Carol Boc of Arch Street is a member of the Library Board of Directors. She hopes they will consider it; the return is far greater than average. As a member of Library Board of Trustees is far greater than they realize and the integral part they play, no one wants to see that unraveled.

Bob Carrier a Dover native is here for recreation program for the City. He knew Don Heyliger and Cova Greig; when they look at recreation, they should look real hard and watch out for cuts, the quality of life in the City in is recreation. People go to the parks, swimming pools and arena, to relax. He wants them to think about it. He is also member of the Recreation Advisory Board. He offered to help them, just come talk to them (the board); he thanked them.

Marc Hyson of 3 Coldwell Drive in Dover is on Recreation Advisory Board, he is on the board to help educate recreation makers. He urged them to keep investing in our youth. He then read a prepared statement as he described a journey he made recently about seeing all the different recreation activities here in Dover. He knows times are tight, and when times are, people turn to recreation programs. He gave numbers of usage of the facilities. More and more apartment complexes are being developed here in Dover. He urged them to please take a well thought out approach to the financial decision they will make. Please view recreation as a necessity to our future and not as a luxury. Please don't let the people down.

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Peter Schmidt is here of 53 Fourth Street and representative of Dover Wards 1 and 2 in the State Legislature. He offers a different perspective than the others, in his attempt to improve the economic development and privatization in Dover. We have 235 municipalities in NH and well over 200 do not have a Main Street Program. He was on the council that initially funded the Main Street program and has seen how much it has done for the City. This would be a foolish thing if eliminated. He was impressed with all the youths that have spoken tonight. These are the types of programs that have made the city what it is. Some of these people have had life changing situations; he deplores one of the prior speakers that said these people were here to tug at your heartstrings; that is not true. These are people from many walks of life; he has never had a child in the Dover school system. He recognizes the services the police and fire and youth to youth provide to the people of Dover, please remember this when voting.

The mayor did not hear this.

Matt Severson of 38 Horne Street and was here to talk on the Dover Ice Arena, he has been listening and has lived here 17 years. He has commuted for 15 years to work as he has 3 kids and he recognizes what he has here he cannot get elsewhere. The 3% is admirable but we have to make sure we are not destroying something in the long run. We are emerging from the dumpy Dover days, we hear about budgets being cut at the state level, what will happen here, they will trickle down. We have to make a decision, the 3% is a goal but he does not want to hold it because that is what we want to do. We should do the right thing, this is about getting value. It is obviously true because of all the people that want to move here. He does not want to throw it away.

Bart Jordan is here again to add Thomas Payne was encouraged by Ben Frankly to come here to do what he did and eventually was said by General Washington: 'on sound doctrine is unanswerable reasoning' and Ben Franklin that said something else: 'he who rises late may trot after his business all day and not overtake it by night'. Please get up early.

Rick Hebbard of 97 Spruce Lane notices there is other business on the agenda. He is curious about if Quigley will have any of the decision making over the downtown and waterfront area issues such as anything that comes up. The Mayor says it will be taken on a case by case basis and the council will accept or reject the reason. He has listened to all the budget stories and he thinks they would be doing a huge dis-service if they do not fund Youth Resources and quite frankly and Anne and Parker need a raise.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

Christenbury brought up the police investigation, he offered a motion that the council waive attorney/client privilege relating to attorney discussions held on March 18th and March 27th 2003 pertaining to Paul Street litigation, for the sole purpose of being able to discuss the content of the attorney/client discussion with investigators of the Dover Police Department and Strafford County Attorneys office, Dunnington seconds the motion.

The Mayor declared a five minute recess to clear the room.

The Mayor called the meeting back to order.

Christenbury explained his motion saying each councilor would have to answer to the Dover Police Department and Strafford County Attorney. Whitmore is not sure what the questions pertains to, Christenbury wants the minutes of both meetings to be released minutes. Motion passed an 8-0 roll call vote.

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Hindle made a proposal on next weeks meeting and is to start it at 6 PM to take care of minutes and resolutions that are on the table and at 7 PM there would be citizen's forum and then they would take care of budget. Thirdly, he would like the City Manager and Mayor and committee reports withheld even though Tweedie would like to do an Arena Committee meeting report. The Mayor understands this procedure. Tweedie agrees, Dunnington wonders if we should not have citizen's forum next week, he feels it is more important for the council to discuss the budget. Hindle agrees however we do have items that are in their second reading. Also there are public hearings. Dunnington has no problem with the public hearings, just the citizen's forum. Christenbury says let's have a 30 minute session (forum) and let the Mayor control the time. Mayberry says this may be an opportunity for people to use the internet and phone calls to let them know how they should vote. Tweedie moved seconded by Whitmore to adjourn.

**3. OTHER BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution RE: Engineering Services to prepare final design drawings, bid specifications, and construction oversight for the Cochecho River dredge disposal facility.**

Christenbury moved seconded by Tweedie to suspend the rules to bring forward this resolution. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0. The City Manager asked Dean Peschel to come forward to explain. Dean stated on April 22nd they realized they were falling behind schedule and would not be ready for this fall to start dredging. The staff tried to figure out a way to get us on schedule. Quigley is now here at 7:10 pm. The first step in that issue is in the proposal in front of them tonight. He also has John Gilbert with him tonight to answer any questions. Tweedie asked about why we the City are going to construct are we the GC. Dean clarified we will find a qualified contractor. The Mayor asked if we would select a contractor that already does this type of work. Dean says there will be an RFP issued. The Mayor tried to recall what was said last time. That is he thinks it would be a wise course of action to hire someone that has constructed a cell in the past. John Gilbert says he may have misheard something. The federal government does not maintain that type of list. Point of honor if there are any councilors that are going to abstain. Quigley stated he has a conflict; his conflict of interest is accepted. Whitmore will be voting on all matters of dredging and waterfront; she gave the reason of why she abstained. She stated she was an abutter of the wetlands application. She stated it has been determined by her attorney's that she has no conflict in this matter. For voters of Ward 2 deserve full representation. She has a couple of questions on the contract proposal. Dean stated John Gilbert has not done any design work; the Army Corp has done the design work up to this point. Whitmore asked do we have a schedule for the design proposal. Dean asked John to describe the schedule. John said the schedule was handed out two weeks ago. Mayberry then asked if the Army Corp has done design work and would it be possible for the Army Corp to release it to the congressional delegation. Dean replied he was working on that issue. Mayberry also thought there was a list of firms that have worked on dredging projects. Dean says yes but it is a federal process and it must be open to anyone. Mayberry asked for any projected savings on the GC work. Dean says we (the City) may only have to pay \$540,000 which is 20%. Keays asked about the life expectancy of the cell. Dean refers him to John Gilbert who explained the 30 years is what goes beyond the analysis. He then wondered again where the cell was going to be. Dean says it will cover the whole area of the ball field; the cell will be built on top of the soccer field and not dug down in. Dean says the NHDES has approved the design. Bob has many more questions like what is going to happen to this stuff in 30 years. Dean proceeds to answer all his questions about the liner and the cap that will be placed over this and the justification for it. Keays asked about the costs and who could do

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it cheaper, the Army Corp. Dean says 3.5 million is the current projected cost. Christenbury wants to make clear there is a silver lining to this cloud; if the federal government constructed this cell we would have little control. This way we will have full control and answers for the citizens. Also on the issue of liability of the cell, if the federal government had made the promise, that is all you have, but we will have our own insurance to cover us. Whitmore asked about a prequalification process that the federal government might have. Dean says the federal government will not have the regulation over us, the State will. She knows the city has a 20/80 split but can we use in kind value as part of our contribution and has there been an assessment done. Dean says in view of the former landfill there, the real estate would be a wash. Her last question is what kind of state overseer is there from the State; is that Geo Insight. Dean says Geo Insight is working for the City. John says under the terms of the waiver, the State will have a review of the design and Geo will be overseeing this for the city. Tweedie moved to adopt seconded by Mayberry. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

**B. Resolution RE: Bond Authorization – Construction of Cochecho River Dredge Disposal Facility sponsored by Mayor Alexander G Nossiff by request.**

Dunnington moved to suspend the rules to introduce Items 3 B and C, seconded by Tweedie. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 8-0. Dunnington moved to refer to a public hearing on June 11, 2003, seconded by Christenbury. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0.

**C. Resolution RE: Bond Authorization – Renovation of City Hall Heating System sponsored by Mayor Alexander G Nossiff by request.**

Dunnington moved to suspend the rules to introduce Items 3 B and C, seconded by Tweedie. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 8-0. Christenbury moved to refer to a public hearing on June 11, 2003, seconded by Tweedie. Motion passed on a vote of 8-0.

**D. ADJOURNMENT into Workshop Session**

**WORKSHOP:**

**DISCUSSION RE: FY 2004 BUDGET**

The Mayor opened the workshop. Christenbury thanked everyone for coming out tonight, but none of this council has wanted to cut any of these programs that people talked about tonight. These possibilities are what the City Manager has been looking at. Where these programs will end up is any body's guess. He continued, about how his son just bought a new car and someone tonight had mentioned the increase would equal only a cup of coffee a day, he sounded like a car salesman but these amounts are cumulative for people. He continued if you have a 30 year mortgage on a \$250,000 home, this is real money and a big chunk of change. The cumulative effect over time is significant, over the last year he has heard loud and clear since last years budget adoption. The fact of the matter is we are in a very tough economy this year if there is a \$400 or \$600 dollar increase again this year. He is glad to hear there are people that want to pay

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the 7% the City Manager's budget proposes. He would like the manager to open an account so those people can go donate the difference. There are significant amounts of people that are struggling to hang on to their home on a \$16,000 fixed income. He is looking at a 0% increase on the budget. A lot of people are not able to come down and speak, this is not about people that have good jobs in the community; there are other people that want to stay in Dover. We have to look at the other side of the scale; we can't break the back of these people. In this case we are asked to do everything as a government and we just can't be all things to all people. The feds and State are cutting back so we are being asked to make up the difference. He is speaking for all the people that have talked to him all year. Dunnington says what Christenbury is proposing is admirable, but it is the yoyo effect of the budget. They have all spent a lot of time looking at this budget, if we cut significant amounts out of this budget; we still have to provide core services. There will not be any room to trim any of it, the programs that were spoken about tonight may only be nickels and dimes, but we must ask ourselves do we want to take away these special groups in the community. He is not uncomfortable with the City Manager's budget. If we accept a \$0 based budget the next city council is going to pay the price and the infrastructure is going to be compromised. If we ignore it now, it will haunt us later; the budget should reflect what is going on in the community.

The Mayor jumps in and says though no one on the council can say in the last 5 or 6 years we have done exactly what Dunnington has just said. If this is true we should be hanging a surplus by now; the rule of 72 matters, they are not. He will be retiring in 10 to 12 years, is anyone prepared to pay double in 10 years. Double the tax rate in 24 years is fine; it does matter when compounded. This is what we are faced with; who's fault is it, it is absolutely our fault due to passing these COLA's and steps and so forth that are around 9% per year. Is it any wonder the City Manager comes in with 7% and that is his idea of a bare bones and it probably is to him. He pointed out last year he thought they did a pretty good job on the school side but when it came to the City, there were no adjustments on the City side. We have to hold the line right now; rents in Dover are declining, people are going from Dover to Rochester, he listed all the businesses that have closed in Dover recently, the fact of the matter is these are all red flags. The City Manager has 6 openings in the police department so there is a hiring moratorium. The 7% number is a recipe for disaster; we need to give everyone out there a break. He continued to compare us to other communities. He then talked about all these programs, there has to be a middle ground. He does not know why it takes a uniformed police officer to coordinate soccer games, can't we have a part time intern like someone from MacIntosh College to come in and assist in the DARE program. We are not talking reducing money; we are talking about keeping it the same or increasing it. There has to be some middle ground; he wants to use interns from UNH or MacIntosh. He continues on about half a million of found money from the CIP. He just does not get it; maybe there is going to be some positions lost; this is extremely unfortunate. If the school side is going to do it, maybe we should have shared pain, we need to find a middle ground; he feels they should take the inflammatory rhetoric out of this. He wants to re-deploy the six officers that have not been hired, not permanently but on a temporary basis. Tweedie says a lot of this is out of our control, 20% is health insurance, and there is a 9 ½ debt service on the school side. We are doing proactive things but some stuff is out of our control. The rhetoric about percentages is about dollars and cents; the school department has a 32 million budget. He continued on how proactive we are. This council has spent more time and energy on the budget. They have been proactive; they asked the City Manager to cut costs in this area. The City Manager has had his second cuts; they understand there was a problem at the arena, they have been proactive in that area as well in trying to solve problems. We have to protect the quality of life in this City, 3 firefighters would close the South End and reduce the quality of life. He commended the department heads on trying to keep the costs down. He agrees with Dunnington, and continued to explain on what we need to purchase. If we hold the line now, next year it will be 10 or 15%. He has a hard time with

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this 0% or 3%; we do the best we can with the money we have, this 7% is it. He feels this is a bare bones budget.

The Mayor asked a question on how is it that other communities can hold the line on their budgets. What kind of monster have we created if we go by Tweedie's logic. The Mayor says we have a structure that is doomed. Tweedie says we can look at energy. The Mayor refers to Portsmouth and York but Tweedie really does not care about them. He continued to justify the 7% City Manager's budget.

Mayberry wants to suspend the rules to go past 10:30 PM; the Manager says that we don't have rules in a workshop. Christenbury points out different items just in the City Manager's budget such as get rid of every other cell phone in the city; this situation is not over with. This is not a strictly a bare bones budget. In public works under the snow removal budget, there is \$10,000 for lawnmower blades. He could go on and on, yes the contracts that were negotiated. He takes responsibility for those. Buckley's budget has been cut; we own this whole budget, to say it is a bare bones budget is just not true. Mayberry says luckily Boston has 2 million people; sometimes we tend to only communicate by the newspaper. He wants to talk about some things that will go away, he is looking at 5 department heads, and this is their children and their fire fighters. He continued about how the fire fighters volunteer to pump your grandmother's basement out in a flood. In NH real estate increased annually by 14% throughout the state; we have created a great community to come to. There are 700 rental units that have just come on the market, it is supply and demand, and we are 9 people that want to do the right thing. The Mayor wants to make it clear that we have great city employees; what we are asking them to do is we have to look at revenue and turn that dial up. He takes issue with the fire department that has to open up peoples locked cars; this is a luxury service and we should be charging a nominal fee for this. What about the AAA and people who own garages; it is a nice service to provide when times are good but this is a lot of calls. Christenbury says again we can't be everything to everybody; the hospital is draining us with the ambulance service. We transport their customers all over creation so they can make the 100 million dollars plus. Discussion ensued on how this is not a bare bones budget. He has no responsibility to retain the quality of life for people from surrounding communities. The Mayor does not think we should instruct the fire fighters to unlock a locked car. This is not a wise deployment in these times.

Whitmore stated she had the opportunity to go over the budget with the City Manager and when she left his office she felt there may be a place to close the gap on revenues. She wondered if the City Manager has been able to look at the revenue again and will we have a revised fee schedule. The City Manager says they will have it Monday or Tuesday next week. How do we close this gap to have a discussion before any program can be cut. She is starting at 3, she does not feel 0 is possible, she also does not feels it is 7.1 either but she is not done with her analysis. The county budget which we have no control over and our county delegation, she attended their budget adoption and they could find not place to cut their budget. It is just blowing her mind this is a 22% increase; when you look at your tax bill that amount is 41cents, she wants people to be aware. Also the delegation may be coming back to augment their budget. Most of the State Reps were not there at the budget adoption and this is their responsibility. She was shocked about all the archaic programs that are still on the books; not everyone in this town is in the same financial situation and she is still weighing the situation. No one wants to cut services but they must hold the line on spending; she urged them to make telephone calls and send emails to the council. Tweedie feels she brought up a good point, their budget is a fraction of the size of ours; there will be cost overruns on the jail. We pay 28% of the county's bill. He finds it sad that our delegation did not even show up to their budget adoption.

Keays has been thru the budget with a fine comb and he agrees with Christenbury and this budget has a lot of fat such as keeping the cemetery chapel open in the winter time when there is a brand new facility on Mast Road. This is costing us between \$12 and \$15,000 per year just to heat. He continued about a tool room and how there are different tool rooms , he sees \$5,000 in salary

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increases this is not good in these financial times. He compared us to Rochester and why do we need four planners; we have a population of 27,000 people and we don't need all this. There is \$2500 for a Christmas party, he don't have a party at home, and he doesn't even get a pair of socks. He does not feel this is a good budget, this is padded. The Mayor is looking at a school board member, Linda Brennan who is in the audience and the school board took our advice, there was pain but they did it.

Christenbury moved seconded by all, all in favor of adjourning at 10:55 PM.

Judy Gaouette  
CITY CLERK

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