

MINUTES
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
JANUARY 28, 1998
DOVER CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
7:00 P.M.

1. MOMENT OF SILENCE

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Landry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Councilor Landry, Mayor Pro Tem Perry, Councilor Rawding, Councilor Reese, Councilor Wilson, Councilor Berry, Councilor Jalbert, Councilor Johnson, Mayor Wil Boc

Members Absent: None

4. PUBLIC HEARING

- A. Resolution RE: Loan Authorization for Griffin Well Air Stripper Equipment. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc, by Request. (item #10C-3)

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing on this item, asking if anyone wished to speak.

Mr. Beecher stated that this is one of the remedies to assist in cleaning up the Madbury Metals area. He stated that this money will be repaid once an agreement is reached with the new purchasers of Madbury Metals.

Seeing no wishing to speak the Mayor closed the Public Hearing on item 4A.

- B. Resolution RE: Appropriation for School Kindergarten. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc, by Request.(item #10C-2)

Mayor Pro Tem Perry stated that he will be abstaining from this issue.

The Mayor opened the Public Hearing on this item, asking if anyone wished to speak.

Dr. Daley stated that he wished to voice his strong support on this item. He stated that the issue has been studied extensively. He stated that the Public/Private option has been explored and rejected. He further stated that if we act now to construct kindergarten classrooms the State will give us \$375,000 out of its kindergarten construction fund money as well as \$122,000 in excess foundation aid. He stated that 30% of that

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\$122,000 will come back to us over 5 years in building aid reimbursement. He stated that if we don't act now we will be frozen out of the 1st biennium of money. He stated that our place is reserved right now, but if we fail to act we will lose our place. He further stated that parents and providers are planning on the public kindergarten. He stated that the ongoing operating costs for the public kindergarten will be as follows:

1st year, with 240 students, the operating cost will be \$397,614 gross. Subtract out of that \$180,000 which we would receive in reimbursement (\$750 per student).

The net cost would be \$217,614, minus \$10,000 from preschool tuition for special education students, dropping it down to \$207,614.

Karen Hiller, 10 Grady's Lane, stated that she has a Master's Degree in Education (Reading) requiring her to learn a lot about early literacy and the effects on the future of children. She stated that she has taught second grade and kindergarten. She stated that she is a true believer that kindergarten is the foundation of future knowledge growth. She stated that we need to have kindergarten to allow our children to do better in future years. She stated that we have the financial resources and the space.

Lorraine Monticello, stated that she teaches Mrs. Lorraine's private kindergarten. She stated that even in kindergarten there are different levels of learning. She stated that she has served the City for many years. She stated that she does not feel that the public schools will teach better than private. She stated that she feels that she is being robbed of her livelihood and is not ready to leave.

Doris Grady, School Board Vice Chairman, stated that she has lived in Dover for over 50 years where she is a citizen, taxpayer and member of the School Board. She stated that she is here to express the 5-2 vote of the School Board. She stated that she voted against this resolution because she is concerned about the way the money is being spent. She stated that she is receiving a lot of telephone calls inquiring about the affect of this on the tax rate. She stated that the tax rate would be raised an estimated of amount \$.22 per \$1,000 for the kindergarten program. She stated that all the figures that they have are estimates, not a definite figure. She stated that we have 72 classrooms available. She stated that we need six 1,000 sq. ft. rooms, 13 first grade rooms, 11 second's, 11 third's, 11 fourth's. She stated that we need approximately 47 classrooms, all with libraries and gyms. She stated that if 47 rooms take care of kindergarten through fourth, giving ourselves 6 art and music rooms, we would need 63 classrooms, leaving 13 rooms free. She stated that some additional rooms will be needed for resources, but there should be 5 rooms left per building. She stated that she spoke

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with Bill Ewert with the Department of Education. She stated that he has offered to come to Dover and review our buildings to evaluate what the classrooms could be used for. She stated that we have not taken this opportunity. She stated that we need kindergarten, but for her it is an issue of money, not what we spend, but how we spend it. She lastly asked the council to vote their conscience and do what they feel is right.

Donna Capern, 1 Mulligan Drive, stated that she has a child ready to start kindergarten this fall. She stated that she is in favor of public kindergarten for two reasons. First, she stated that the children are ready to begin the learning process in kindergarten. Secondly, she stated that in NH and New England a public K-12 curriculum will be the new educational standard. She stated that if Dover wants to be competitive and attractive as a place to live, it can't allow itself to be below standard. She stated that it is time for Dover to put its money where its mouth is, and as a taxpayer she is willing to do the same. She stated let's go for it.

Marc Hiller, 10 Grady's Lane, stated that he has spent 20 years of his life in higher education. He stated that he chose to move to Dover two years ago because of the quality which exists within the school system here. He stated that NH is somewhat behind other states in providing kindergarten that is open to all children of kindergarten age regardless of socio-economic status. He stated that we desperately need to add kindergarten here in Dover so that we are among the leaders here in our own state. He stated that research has shown that the future success of children is dependent upon what they get between the ages of 0-7. He stated that education in Dover should be the number one priority. He stated that there is an over demand for preschool programs in Dover. He stated that there is a need for a full day kindergarten for working parents. He stated that this is where there is the need to continue private kindergarten. He lastly stated that we need to provide for the growing number of young people to get the first step of the 12 or more years of education. He stated that we should look at the economics but also in terms of the long term future of our city and our children.

Pat Brown, 9 Shady Lane, stated that she has two children in the Dover school system. She stated that she works at Dover Middle School as a Special Education Aide. She stated that she was a member of the Kindergarten Task Force. She stated that they had presented two options to the School Board, the combination of public/private and a full public kindergarten. She stated that both options have drawbacks. She stated that on the private/public side, it was how would it be monitored, transportation issues and space. She stated that for full public the biggest drawback was space. She stated that this has been addressed. She stated that she is in favor of the fully public kindergarten. She asked the council to please vote in favor of the students.

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Peter Walchek, stated he is a 12 year resident of Dover, with four children in the school system. He stated that he supports the public kindergarten proposal. He asked the council to look at and balance their role as a prudent investment but also be looking for the future of the City in more of a strategic focus.

Stephanie Dematteo, 6 Tennyson Avenue, stated that yes there are extra classrooms but just looking at the building going on in Dover the space is going to be used with all the people moving to town. She stated that she has a kindergarten student right now, but she thinks the decision needs to be made quickly because some private providers are cutting back on kindergarten, assuming that this decision is going to be made. She asked the council to please vote yes, and do it soon.

Bob Hannan, 145 Henry Law Ave., stated he did not realize we would be discussing this tonight, he thought it was a done deal. He presented two handouts to everyone regarding kindergarten costs and the school plan. He stated that he hopes the council will vote to support public kindergarten this evening.

Trudy McAtavey, 34 Mt. Vernon St., stated that as a taxpayer, and as someone who will not benefit from having children to go to kindergarten or the new middle school, she feels we can get to the point where we keep throwing good money after bad. She stated that she would hate to see us use space at the elementary schools (Horne & Garrison). She stated we will have to take 3 classrooms to make 2 of the size for kindergarten. She stated that Dr. Daley has shown that it will be less expensive to go straight to a public kindergarten.

Joseph Covert, 25 Reyner's Brook Dr. and member of the School Board, stated that the current School Board has had a lot of time to review this issue. He stated that everyone is in agreement that kindergarten is necessary and that the finances are clear. He stated that he urges you to support the plan the School Board has put forth.

Diane Day, 5 Hubbard Rd., stated that now is the time to give all of the children the opportunity to attend kindergarten. She stated that this is the year, this is the Council who has the courage to do what's right for our children. She believes that the majority supports it.

Bill McCann, 38 Park St., School Board member, and member of State Legislature, stated that he is very concerned that as a result of some of the discussion that the Council may opt not to make a decision this evening. He stated that this would be a tragedy. He stated that he was on the previous School Board who voted 5-2 on the private/public partnership. He stated he did that because they needed more time to do public kindergarten right. He stated he wanted to guarantee that the children of Dover have kindergarten in September of this year. He

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stated that there is money available for construction. He urged the council to either vote up or down but not to table this issue. He stated that either plan needs to move forward.

Dennis Daniels, 38 Redden Street, asked the Council to support the kindergarten. He stated that he would like to see both the kindergarten and the middle school move forward.

Denise Jorgensen, stated that she served on the kindergarten committee and the Facilities Task Force. She urged the Council to please honor the School Board's decision by moving forward on this item.

Linda Bolduc, 16 Piscataqua Rd., stated that kindergarten sets the foundation for children's future. She asked the Council to please support this item.

Kevin Quigley, 8 Woodman Park Drive and member of the School Board, stated his concern that he thought this was a done deal. He stated he feels that kindergarten belongs in the public school system and the State is backing this up by giving us all the funding. He stated that the time is now; we shouldn't wait; it has been studied long enough. He stated that he has a problem with regards to space needs. He stated that there is a space needs problem in Dover and that by remodeling any of the older structures we may run into problems and end up spending a lot of money. He further stated that through the year 2000 there will be approximately 105 new students coming into our system. He stated that if we don't add the classrooms on, we still won't have enough room. He stated that we did not just step into this. He asked the Council, for the students and for the children to vote in favor of this tonight.

Harold Clark, stated that he supports the 4-grade middle school but we need to slow down on the kindergarten. He asked how many teachers this would add and what the salary is per teacher?

Robert Hannan, replied that there are six teachers and six aides, and the cost is \$190,596.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, the Mayor closed the Public Hearing on Item 4B.

Berry moved to suspend the rules to move forward on this item, seconded by Jalbert.

Motion passed on a 6-1 roll call vote (Reese opposed, Perry abstained).

Mayor Boc moved to adopt, seconded by Berry.

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The Mayor stated that two years ago people spoke against this item; now people are in favor. He stated that we should support the decision of the School Board by passing this item tonight because the School Board is an elected body and they are our equals in all things except funding. He stated the School Board needs to know tonight what mechanism we are going to fund this on so that they can plan for the kindergarten. He stated that yes, the \$121,000 is City money, but it is really School Board money.

Johnson stated that he has supported public kindergarten in Dover since at least 1983. He stated that at that time we had a public kindergarten for 1 year. He stated that the kindergarten has been run, then lost, and then run again. He stated that he has not been able to support this issue over his past 3 subsequent terms. He stated that he is pleased to now be able to support it as a member of the council this year. He stated that we need it, its time and we can afford it. He stated that he agrees that we should not be telling the School Board how to arrange kindergarten.

Rawding stated that he appreciates all the people coming out tonight. He stated that he has supported this program for a number of years. He stated the question here is not whether or not we support public education, the question is how this program is going to affect the taxpayers. He stated that he supported the public/private program and he would have voted for it. He stated that when the new School Board changed this program it changed the impact to the taxpayers. He stated that he cannot support the public kindergarten program because of the affect on the taxpayer. He stated that if we add on to the elementary schools, the architect stated that he cannot guarantee that the project will be completed in time for a September kindergarten. He stated that we can use the State aid to add on to the Middle School and still implement kindergarten for September. He stated that he urges the Council to reject this program and ask the School Board to give us a public/private program and help the taxpayers out at the same time. He stated that he is also concerned about the private providers. He stated that they have filled the gap and help people have a kindergarten program so that they can move on to first grade. He stated that we can't just write a blank check, we have to keep all the citizens of Dover in mind. He stated that the costs are going to be less on the taxpayers if it's a public/private program.

Berry stated that our role is to review fiscal situations, not make decisions on how they configure their schools, their education or curriculum. He stated that our job is to approve or disapprove fiscal funding. He stated that he will support this. He stated that the money is here and we might lose it and have to wait another year. He stated that Foundation Aid are City funds but are school money. He feels that this

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is the best way to spend it. He stated that it is in the best interest of the children of Dover that we put this to bed tonight.

Robert Hannan, stated that public/private is more expensive, it has been proven. He stated that several contractors have assured them that the classrooms can be built for next September. He stated that you either support kindergarten or you don't.

Rawding stated that the buck stops here. He stated that he represents all his constituents, not just the families with children, but also the citizens on fixed income, the families with no children. He stated that he appreciates the School Board's hard work but it costs more money. He stated that he would like to use the \$121,000 to fix what we have. He stated that he appreciates the fine education system that the School Board has brought to Dover. He stated that the pot of money is not endless. He stated that we are looking at a new north-end Fire Station, a new waterfront development, streets and sidewalks that need to be fixed. He stated that we have to look at the whole picture.

Wilson stated that he feels that this vote tonight will be one of the most difficult ones for the next two years. He stated that he agrees with a great deal of what Rawding has said. He stated that he is torn over this issue. He stated our job is not to manage the schools; our job is simply to say yes or no to spending money. He stated he will support this.

Jalbert asked if the \$121,000 can be bonded?

Mr. Beecher stated that we can do that but would have to call for another public hearing.

Jalbert stated that typically when you construct something you bond matches, you don't simply fund it. He stated that these monies could be expended for maintenance of the school facilities. He stated that the money is better spent in that fashion. He stated that people are still going to go to the private providers if they are doing a good job. He stated that the public kindergarten is not going to fill all the needs. He stated that his only issue is trying to resolve that bonding issue. He stated he is going to support this issue but we need to do it correctly.

The Mayor stated we need to put this to rest tonight. He asked if maybe we could bond it at a later date.

Mr. Beecher stated that this should be approved as it stands and then if the Council wishes to bond this we could set it for a Public Hearing on 2/11 with adoption of it on 2/25.

Reese stated that he is not sure about how he is going to vote. He stated that he is not concerned about the construction cost. He stated he is concerned about the operating costs which haven't been fully

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addressed with the community. He stated that he voted against moving this up in the agenda because his vote was going to be dependent on how we do with the Middle School. He stated that the Middle School is where his priority is. He stated he has concerns about putting private providers out of business. He stated that he would like to see the private/public partnership go forward for 98/99 and have us continue applying for State aide to build the classrooms for use in September of 1999.

Jalbert stated he thinks that a lot of these issues will be resolved during the budgetary process. He stated that he does not agree with the salaries. He stated that the State is paying 30% of the Middle School cost and people need to remember that.

Johnson stated that the figures of the maintenance budget are consistent with what was given to past School Boards when we considered kindergarten programs. He stated that the ballpark has always been around \$300,000. He stated that the School Board has to decide where their priorities are when budget time rolls around. He stated he is willing to support kindergarten at this point but they need to come up with figures that we can live with when it comes down to School Board budgets. He stated that he urges Councilor Reese to support this resolution and move forward with kindergarten.

Berry stated that he would like to thank everyone for allowing this resolution to be moved up this evening.

Landry stated that he feels a \$.22 increase on the tax rate is to be a large impact. He stated that he wished that people who have used private providers would have spoken tonight so that he could get more of a feel for it. He stated that there are at least 50 children a year who do not go to kindergarten, mostly out of financial need. He stated that he wants to have everyone in kindergarten by September.

Reese stated that he is getting there. He stated he agrees with Councilor Wilson's comment that you can't have it all. He stated that if he votes yes, he would expect that the School Board be very disciplined at budget time. He also stated that once we accept this State money we are signing on to kindergarten for 20 or 25 years or we have to pay the money back.

Landry stated that he is very much in favor of bonding \$121,000. He asked the Mayor to further comment on this subject.

Mr. Beecher stated that the School Board would like the Council to pass this tonight but asked if it would be possible for them to choose to fund the \$121,000 from bond funds? He asked if a Public Hearing on this issue was held on 2/11 with passage on 2/25 if this would be sufficient from a timing standpoint?

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Dr. Daley stated that we really need a decision tonight. He stated that if we are held up we will not get the funds. He stated that once we have the commitment we don't have to tap into the money until we start needing the funds.

The Mayor stated that we should vote tonight to allow the School Department to get the \$121,000 and if we want to change this to a bond resolution that is something we can look at.

Rawding stated that the money is not going to fall from the clouds. He stated that if we bond this extra \$121,000 we are increasing the debt to the City. He stated that this will end up taking away from something else. He stated that we are running up our credit card.

Jalbert stated that you bond money for long term investments.

Motion passed on a 6-1 roll call vote (Rawding opposed, Perry abstained).

5. CITIZEN'S FORUM

Brian Stern, stated that he would like to commend the new Council for what they have done tonight. He stated that he feels that the elementary school should be K-6, the middle school should be 7, 8 and 9, and the high school should be 10, 11 and 12. He stated that as a matter of space needs we've been configuring the schools, but not with regards to educational requirements. He stated that there has been discussion about moving grade 5 into the middle school to equalize the number of grades. He stated that grade 6 is a transitional stage and it belongs in the elementary school. He stated that moving 5th graders in with 8th graders is wrong.

Mike Kazlinsky, Dover Point Road, stated that he would first like to thank the Public Works Department for doing a great job during the storm. He also thanks the line and tree crews. Secondly, he stated that he supports the middle school and hopes we can go through with that. He stated that he thinks it was great that they moved the kindergarten issue up this evening.

Seeing no one else wishing to speak, the Mayor closed the Citizen's Forum.

6. MINUTES

A. Minutes of January 7, 1998 – Special Council Meeting

B. Minutes of January 14, 1998 – Regular Council Meeting

Perry moved to accept and place on file, seconded by Berry.

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Discussion ensued to make minor corrections to the minutes.

Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

7. MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor stated that he met with Senator Gregg to discuss the issue of the Cocheco Riverfront dredging. The Mayor stated that the Senator had pledged his supported and followed up with a letter to the Army Corp. of Engineers stating that this is an important issue for the City of Dover and also for him as a Senator. The Mayor stated that he would like to acknowledge the work of the City employees during the last ice storm. He stated that he visited the Emergency Operations Center. He expressed his condolences to the Stillwagon family, who lost a family member during the storm, and also to the family who lost their home due to fire on Spruce Lane. He stated that on Monday he addressed the Police Accreditation Committee. He stated that he had passed on Bill Wilson's comment to them that the Dover Police Department is the best of any city its size in the entire United States. Lastly, he stated that he had asked the City Manager to get a legal opinion as to whether the Mayor is allowed to vote, and the opinion was that the Mayor is not allowed to vote.

Perry moved to accept the report, seconded by Jalbert.

Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

8. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES

A. Planning Board – Councilor Jerry Reese

Reese stated that the Planning Board held a meeting last night, which was very short. He stated that an application was accepted and approved for a lot line adjustment for Shirley Webb and Cocheco Country Club located at Country Club Estates. He stated that there was also a Public Hearing on the goals and objectives of the CDBG grant program. He stated there will be a public hearing before the Planning Board on 2/10 where all the agencies who want to submit a proposal will come and give their presentation. He stated that there will also be a workshop on 2/17 and the grant proposal will be before the Council on 3/11. Lastly, he stated that a resignation was accepted from Dennis Ciotti.

Perry moved to accept the report, seconded by Berry.

Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

9. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

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Mr. Beecher stated that he would like to compliment the employees of both public safety departments and the Public Works Department for doing an excellent job during the ice storm. He stated that he will have a cost estimate to give to the Council later this week. He stated that we are in the process of going around with City crews and removing as many limbs and branches as we can from roads, sidewalks and curbs. He stated they would appreciate if the public would wait until spring to bring the stuff out of their yards and not pile it on the curbs. He stated that he received a copy of a report from the Accreditation Team recommending full accreditation for our Police Department. He lastly stated there have not been any budget changes.

Berry asked what unit of the National Guard was called out last weekend?

Mr. Beecher stated that he did not recall. He stated that they volunteered to help.

Perry moved to accept the report, seconded by Jalbert.

Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

10. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCES IN 2ND READING

B. ORDINANCES IN 3RD READING

C. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution RE: Bond Authorization – Construction of a New Middle School. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc, by Request.

Perry moved to adopt, seconded by Berry, Jalbert, Johnson and Reese.

Rawding stated that he believes that this has been well discussed and it is time for a new middle school. He urged the council to approve the bond authorization.

Reese asked the JBC to be as prudent and deliberative as you can about how much we spend and the quality of product we get.

Berry stated that he believes that the JBC will do their best.

Johnson stated that the process of interviewing architects has been started, with three presentations done and two to go. He stated that the amount of money involved is a reasonable estimate.

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Perry stated that he supports the Middle School but he is a little concerned about the organization of the middle school as it fits into our entire school system, as earlier expressed by Brian Stern. He stated that we should not go into a four grade middle school just because it makes sense from a space criteria.

Reese stated that as a husband of a teacher who teaches in a school which has K-8, he has not ever heard her once say that there is an issue of mixing 5th graders with 8th graders. He stated that although this is a concern because we have never done it before, we had never put the 6th graders in the middle school until a few years ago.

Motion passed on an 8-0 roll call vote.

Paul Mauceri, Principal of the Middle School, thanked the Council on behalf of the currently enrolled 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th graders. He stated they will be the first classes to inhabit the new school two years from now. He stated that he has spoken with all the parent groups at all of the elementary schools and not one parent has expressed a concern about their children coming up as 5th graders to a reconfigured 4 grade middle school. He stated that in NH there are over 50 schools that co-mingle 5th graders with 8th graders.

2. Resolution RE: Appropriation for School Kindergarten. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc.

Discussed and adopted earlier in meeting.

3. Resolution RE: Loan Authorization for Griffin Well Air Stripper Equipment. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc, by Request.

Item postponed.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. Resolution RE: Award of Bid Request #B98035 for Miscellaneous Water Department Supplies. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc, by Request.
2. Resolution RE: Award of Purchase Order for Specialized Professional Legal Assistance. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc, by Request.
3. Tag – American Legion Post #8

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4. Tag – V.F.W. Post #752
5. Raffle – The Bell Center for Music & the Arts
6. Parade (Walk) – Dover Cooperative Ministries
7. Wetlands Application – Bradshaw C. Branch
8. Wetlands Application – Bryan & Mary-Margaret Cahoon

Perry moved to adopt 11A-1 and 11A-2, grant 11A-3 through 11A-6, and to accept and place on file 11A-7 and 11A-8, seconded by Reese.

Motion passed on an 8-0 roll call vote.

B. RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution RE: Grant Application Procedures. Sponsored by Mayor Pro Tem Otis E. Perry.

Perry moved to adopt, seconded by Berry.

Perry stated that this is intended to streamline our grant application procedures. He stated that a public hearing would no longer required before the application process can be started however, all councilors would be notified before the application is completed and request a public hearing if they felt necessary.

Berry stated that he is comfortable with changing this process.

Johnson suggested that we allow the application to go forward and then implement the public hearing at the earliest possible date.

Jalbert stated that the citizens can address the council during Citizen's Forum.

Rawding asked if we waive this, is the notification in the newspaper cancelled?

Mr. Beecher stated no. He stated that all grants require that the council approve any matching funds by resolution or ordinance and they also would require a public hearing.

Rawding asked the City Manager if he recommends passage of this?

Mr. Beecher stated yes.

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Johnson stated that he agrees with Jalbert that the public can address grant issues during Citizen's Forum.

Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

2. Resolution RE: Award of Purchase Order for an Accident Mapping-Reconstruction Device. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc, by Request.

Perry moved to adopt, seconded by Berry.

Mr. Beecher stated that this piece of equipment will aid in the investigation of serious accidents. He stated that Liberty Mutual Insurance has agreed to contribute \$2,000 towards this purchase. He stated that the staff recommends the approval of the award of bid to Laser Technology in the amount of \$5,410.00, with \$2,000 to come from Liberty Mutual and \$3,400 to come from Machinery and Miscellaneous Equipment account in the Police Department Field Operations.

Reese asked if we did not have this, what would we do?

Mr. Beecher stated that we do it now, but this piece of equipment more accurately reconstructs how an accident took place, and also reduces the amount of time and paperwork.

Reese asked if this would affect our liability, by providing more accurate information during court proceedings?

The Mayor stated that it would not affect our liability, it would assist in accuracy.

Motion passed on an 8-0 roll call vote.

3. Resolution RE: Award of Consulting Services – Financial Management System. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc, by Request.

Perry moved to adopt, seconded by Rawding.

Mr. Beecher referred the matter to Mr. Harrington. He did however state that the "Year 2000" problems in the City will begin on July 1, 1999 when our fiscal year ends.

Mr. Harrington stated that the City is in the process of identifying a new financial management system. He stated that our current hardware/software is 10 years old and non-2000 compliant. He stated that the Finance Department is looking for assistance with the procurement process due to the complexity of the systems and to keep us on track with our timelines.

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Reese asked if this is just for recommendations about software packages or hardware too?

Mr. Harrington stated that they are looking for both software and hardware. He stated that the Wang system is not 2000 compliant. He stated that they want to link their systems into the LAN. He stated that they are looking for greater access for all departments.

Reese asked if this included the School Department?

Mr. Harrington stated that we will leave room for the School on the new system.

Berry asked how many vendors came in for the conference.

Mr. Harrington stated that 8 vendors came. He stated that 9 responses were received to the RFI.

Perry asked what was the compatibility with the DoverNet?

Mr. Harrington stated yes. He stated that they delineated two operating systems that the new system would work on.

Perry asked how much of the cost of the total system is in this year's budget?

Mr. Harrington stated that the request is in the CIP.

Wilson stated that it sounds like we are hiring someone from the outside to suggest what you ought to buy. He asked if the City cannot come to that conclusion by itself.

Mr. Harrington stated they will assist us in the development of the RFP delineating the features we are looking for on the software and to help us quantify the responses by giving us pros and cons of the vendors, not to make a decision for us.

Wilson asked if a committee could be formed within the City of Dover who is knowledgeable to make this decision?

Mr. Harrington stated that we do not know it all.

Discussion continued on this issue.

Landry asked why there is a huge price difference between the two companies?

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Mr. Harrington stated that McGladrey is a national firm with a lot of overhead, seeking higher profits.

Landry commended Mr. Harrington for efforts with these problems. He asked if we will save time by using this service and when will they get going on it.

Mr. Harrington stated that during the month of February we will be looking at software demonstrations. He stated that if approved the process will start immediately.

Discussion continued on this item.

Mr. Harrington further stated that the current system is becoming functionally obsolete.

Jalbert stated that with the amount of automation we have in this community to not have a Systems Manager is foolish.

Rawding stated that this Council cannot continue adding new overhead without affecting the tax rate.

Motion passed on a 7-1 roll call vote (Wilson opposed).

4. Resolution RE: Amendment to 1998-1999 Council Rules and Regulations. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc and Dover City Council.

Perry moved to adopt, seconded by Rawding.

Rawding stated that he feels that the workshops should be televised and asked where we stand on that.

Mr. Beecher stated that they will be televised.

Berry stated that he feels that regarding item 2B that 10:00 pm should remain the time. He also stated that regarding item 13B the wording should be changed to read all present council members.

Wilson stated that the majority vote was to not change it.

Discussion continued on this item.

Motion passed on an 8-0 roll call vote.

B. ORDINANCES IN THEIR 1ST READING

1. Ordinance #01-01/14/98, Chapter 22, Code of Ethics. Sponsored by Mayor Wil Boc.

MINUTES - REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 28, 1998

Perry moved to refer to a public hearing on 2/11/98, seconded by Berry.

Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

2. Ordinance #02-01/28/98, Proposed Zoning Amendment, Chapter 170, Zoning. Sponsored by Councilor Otis Perry.

Perry moved to refer to a public hearing on 3/11/98 and to waive citywide mailing, seconded by Reese.

Motion passed on an 8-0 vote.

D. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE

12. COUNCIL MATTERS OF INTEREST

Jalbert stated that he met with the City Clerk today. He stated that she did a great job of preparing a list of vacancies for various Boards and Commissions.

Reese stated that he would like to remind the Mayor that he now has to appoint a Parking & Traffic Committee.

The Mayor stated that he and Councilor Landry have volunteered to be on that committee and they are looking for a third volunteer.

Reese stated that he would like to volunteer.

Rawding stated that he would like to thank the City Manager and all the City employees who worked hard to make the streets safe during the ice storm.

13. ADJOURNMENT

KAREN L. LARSON
CITY CLERK