

JOINT BUILDING COMMITTEE

HORNE STREET SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 18, 2010

The Joint Building Committee of Horne Street School met on Thursday, February 18, 2010 at the SAU.

The CIP financial report was presented by Laurie Verville.

The total amount of money allotted for this project is \$6,373,041.98.

The amount of money that has been expended or is obligated to date is \$5,536,869.25 with a budget availability of \$836,172.73.

Progress to date is that the 6 room addition has the steel sides and roof in tact. The addition is now waterproof. Sometime this week, we hope to have a pipe that was not known about filled with cement and hopefully the floor to be poured.

In the renovation part of the project, 3 temporary classrooms have been built in the cafeteria so that the students can be moved from the areas that need to be renovated and abated. This will be done on a rotating basis.

The JBC has also chosen a sub-committee to investigate the type of flooring to be placed on the gym floor so that it could safely be used by the smaller children of the city and freeing up the full courts in other buildings. Our hope is that this action would possibly create more income for the district through rentals.

Councilor Carrier is on that committee and the JBC is awaiting their report.

The JBC is proceeding with the investigation of using solar panels to be used as a source of electricity.

Karen Weston, JBC Chair

To: the Dover City Council: **From:** Douglas J. DeDe, 143 Locust Street, Dover, NH
In reviewing the minutes of the recent meeting at which some of Dover's delegation came and spoke, there was a comment from one District Representative to the effect that a two-tier New Hampshire Retirement System was something he would support. Another suggested that the Dover City Council should advise the Legislature as to what the Council would ask for in the way of an amendment to the current NHRS rules.

This suggestion is one that has merit. The Dover Council should work with the representative who suggested this action and work with Legislative Services in Concord to draft the legislation that would establish a two-tiered system to ensure that some day the NHRS Pension Fund would become viable. While there is insufficient time to introduce legislation during the current session, there is time to introduce it in time for the next session, which is better late than never.

However, simply introducing it in the Legislature without other steps would doom the initiative to failure. Concord operates within a veritable cocoon. The public is quite unaware of what goes on there. So, other steps need to be initiated and the right person to do that is Dover's own Mayor Scott Myers.

Mayor Myers is probably among the longest serving, now in his fourth term, and deservedly so, since he is a great Mayor and has very strong credentials with both his peers and the New Hampshire Local Government Center where he was recently appointed to their Board of Directors.

Once the legislation is drafted, it should be introduced to the rest of the Mayors in the State at one of their regular meetings, and if necessary, emissaries from among the Dover Council to go to other communities to request that each Council and Board of Selectmen/women to solicit their support to send letters asking their delegations to support this measure.

There then needs to be a publicist to follow this issue and get it in front of the public. Even with introduction and adoption by Councils across the state it will be an uphill battle. Our legislature has many elected officials who are themselves participants in the NHRS, and are allowed to vote on these issues since the rules permit them to vote on any issue that '*...does not impact them specifically...*' even though it will impact them personally.

The voting record of every District Representative needs to be followed and publicized. The vote of every Senator has to be followed and publicized. Even then, it could fail, and IF these voting records that prevented the legislation were publicized in the next election, it could set the stage for success in a later legislative session.

It is NOT going to happen unless there is a concentrated and organized effort mounted to involve the public in this issue. New Hampshire Retirement System participants, both active and receiving retirement benefits comprise only 7% of the state's population, but the percent of that group that attends and testifies in front of the Legislature is over 90%! That imbalance of representation intimidates the legislature. Result? The 7% prevails over the interests of the 93% and it is the 93% who will see their Real Estate taxes continue to escalate to support the burgeoning unfunded mandate of the NHRS Retirement Fund.

Mayor Myers, and the Dover City Council, please accept this as your mission.

Submitted February 24, 2010

February 18, 2010

Senator Amanda Merrill
8 Meadow Road
Durham, NH 03824

Senator Merrill:

I'd like to take this opportunity to address SB492 with you. This bill extends the prospective repeal date of the local property tax exemption for wooden poles and conduits to July 1, 2014. Under current law the exemption is repealed on July 1, 2010. This exemption has been granted multiple times now, totaling more than ten years. The current proposal extends the exemption for an additional four years.

The interesting thing about this bill is that it only applies to wooden poles owned by telecommunication companies. Currently, electric utility companies pay property taxes on their wooden poles and other equipment located on the public right of way and have paid these taxes for years. Additionally, the telecommunication companies are able to charge a fee to other users to run wires on their poles, again in the public right of way and without paying property taxes.

The argument that the telecommunication companies already pay a communications tax is not accurate. They merely collect the tax from users, their customers, and transfer the proceeds to the State. This occurs regularly with other taxes in our State. For example, all restaurants and lodging establishments currently collect the Rooms and Meals tax for the State and transfer the proceeds on a monthly basis.

It is time to level the playing field for all users. As to the claim from telecommunication companies that they would have to pass this additional charge on to their customers, let them go before the Public Utilities Commissions and open their books in order to justify a rate increase. If it were approved it would mean that only users were paying for the telecommunication companies as opposed to the entire municipality subsidizing the cost as now occurs through property tax.

The Dover City Council strongly urges you to vote against extending the repeal date and therefore allow these businesses to once again begin paying their fair share of local property taxes.

Please contact me if I can be of any further assistance on this item.

On behalf of the Dover City Council,

Scott Myers
Mayor

Cc: Dover City Council
Dover State Representatives
Somersworth Mayor Lincoln Soldati
Rochester Mayor T.J.Jean
Portsmouth Mayor Tom Ferrini