

Legislative Liaison Updates

March 10, 2010

SB492: Extending the local property tax exemption for wooden poles and conduits-

During the Dover City Council meeting on February 24th, 2010, the Council took a position to oppose this bill by voting to submit a letter written by Mayor Meyers to Senator Merrill and the House Representatives indicating that we recommend they oppose this legislation. The Council voted 8/0 to submit this letter.

The bill was recommended *Ought to Pass* by the Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee on March 3rd, 2010 and was presented to the Senate to vote on today, March 10, 2010. The bill was recommended *Ought to Pass with Amendment*. The amendment was to provide a temporary two year extension versus the typical four years. Also, to form a study committee to review. It should be noted that there have been many temporary extensions granted since the late 1990's and here we are more than 10 years later in the same position; nothing has changed. It still has to go to the House, so perhaps they will hold a different line.

Greater Dover Chamber of Commerce Government Affairs Committee Meeting

I attended this meeting on March 8th in the Chamber conference room along with Mayor Meyers. There was a round table discussion with Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter where she fielded questions from those in attendance. The two major concerns that came up were Health Care Reform and Bank Regulations. The average increase of health insurance in the state is 17% with more and more businesses choked by the rising costs and unable to bear the burden of providing it for their employees. The banking industry has stabilized and many of the bigger banks have worked on paying back the TARP monies, however, the banking "bailout" has prompted tighter regulations, fees and insurances. The local, smaller banks who maintained the tighter lending practices are feeling cheated as they are being held to the same level of fees, insurances and reserves as the bigger banks.