



**CITY OF DOVER**

## CITY COUNCIL - MINUTES

Meeting Type: Workshop Session  
Meeting Location: Council Chambers, City Hall  
Meeting Date: **Wednesday, August 4, 2010**  
Meeting Time: **7:00 pm**

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

### 2. MOMENT OF SILENCE

### 3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilor Cruikshank led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### 4. ROLL CALL ATTENDANCE

**Present:** Mayor Myers, Deputy Mayor Trefethen, Councilor Carrier, Councilor Cheney, Councilor Cruikshank, Councilor Garrison, Councilor Hooper, Councilor Nedelka, Councilor Weston.

**Also present:** City Manager Joyal, City Attorney Krans, and City Clerk Lavertu.

Mayor Myers asked the Council to flip Items #5 and #6, because County Commissioner George Maglaras and Charles Reynolds were present from the County, along with Police Chief Colarusso and Fire Chief Plummer, to discuss regional services and County dispatch proposals.

### 6. REGIONAL SERVICES and COUNTY DISPATCH PROPOSAL

City Manager Joyal started the discussion on regionalization of dispatch services with the County. He said this would include dispatch services for police, fire, and EMS services. He discussed other areas for regionalization, which included assessing and purchasing. He said the Police Chief and Fire Chief have been focusing on two key objectives in considering the regional dispatch proposal: cost savings, and ensuring the same or better level of service to Dover residents. He invited Commissioner Maglaras to speak to the Council. He said former Dover Police Chief Charles Reynolds will be speaking afterwards, in his capacity as an international consultant on police matters, who chaired the research committee that put together the preliminary report. He said Police Chief Colarusso and Fire Chief Plummer were also present to outline some considerations that they have come across that they feel need to be addressed.

Commissioner Maglaras referred to the July 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting that discussed the regionalization of services in Strafford County. He said regionalization would have to reduce municipalities' costs while maintaining quality service. He said they would take on easily managed non-controversial services first. He said the general consensus from the meeting was that the County would maintain the leadership role in the process. He said the group discussed 24 issues where they could look at regionalization, but only 6 or 7 would be pursued initially: health and human services, prosecution services, dispatch services, assessing, special education, and centralized purchasing. He gave an overview of the regional dispatch services proposal. He said the federal government does not do business with a single municipality, but will consider doing business with the State or a regional entity. He said they have already lost chances to get federal funding.



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Councilor Garrison said Dover, Rochester, and Somersworth are the largest cities in Strafford County. He said Somersworth has already opted out of this program. He asked if there was an impact to this plan if Dover or Rochester also decided not to join this program.

Commissioner Maglaras said the most economically feasible plan is to have both Rochester and Dover. He said Somersworth will still have to pay their share of the County tax. He said Dover will have to override the tax cap every year to continue its level of service, which will have political consequences. He said Dover's cost per capita was \$23, while the County's was \$14. He said if the County was to take on the entire system the costs would go down to \$11 per capita. He said it was realistic to believe that Dover would save \$4 to \$6 million as a result of regionalization.

Councilor Cheney asked about CALEA Standards and if the County dispatch met the standard already.

Commissioner Maglaras said they were going to meet the CALEA Standards this month.

Councilor Cheney asked about missing out on federal money, and asked if they could get federal funding to build a new building for dispatch.

Commissioner Maglaras said the idea for a separate building came about because of emergency management. He said there are federal funds available for capital investment in emergency management. He said it could be used to unified communications and equipment, Mayor Myers asked for Mr. Reynolds to present the regional proposal to the Council.

City Manager Joyal told the Council that there were still a lot of details that need to be worked out. He said at this point it was still a concept, and that the actual operations and all the details have not been determined.

Mr. Reynolds went over the highlights of the Preliminary Report on the Regionalization of Dispatch Service with the Council.

Councilor Cheney started a discussion regarding communities not joining and causing fragmentation.

Councilor Carrier spoke about his concern with GPS monitoring system and small towns expecting Dover to assist instead of enhancing their own departments.

Mr. Reynolds said it is already happening to some extent with the fire departments. He said it would have to be up to the Police Chief when he would allow his officers to assist other towns.

City Manager Joyal said this can be done, but the City wants to be sure we can protect the quality of services that are provided, and they weren't at that point right now.

Chief Colarusso spoke about the program. He said he was not for or against the program. He said they already have regionalized tactical teams, SWAT teams, and some prosecution services. He went over his handout, Unresolved Issues to be Considered or Studied, with the Council.

City Manager Joyal again said that this can work, but the Council had to decide if they wanted to move forward, and then get some answers to Dover specific issues. He recommended that the City engage an independent consultant to work with the County, the City's staff, as well as other communities, to come up with the answers to these issues of how it will work, what are the cost estimates, and what will be different.

Councilor Hooper said she liked that this would be cost effective and the County could receive federal money, but she did understand Chief Colarusso's concerns. She asked how much the independent study would cost the City.



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City Manager Joyal said it would cost \$125,000, but he would talk with the County about how to pay for it.

Councilor Weston started a discussion regarding updating to the 700 MHz system.

Councilor Cheney started a discussion on costs, and asked for an amortization schedule. She spoke about the security cameras and the difference between Dover dispatch and the County monitoring those cameras.

Chief Colarusso said this was an example of an issue that could be addressed by the independent consultant.

Chief Plummer said he was for regionalization, but his concern is that it is done right. He said there needed to be more homework up front so the transition works and makes sense. He said the City has a system that works, and they want that same level of efficiency with the County. He said they were nervous about giving up control, because of the issues they have with 911 Dispatch, which is run by the State.

Councilor Cheney spoke about assessing and welfare, and asked if the City is looking at regionalizing these services.

Councilor Nedelka continued the discussion on the costs to update to 700 MHz.

Mayor Myers asked if there was consensus to have the City Manager work with the County towards a regionalization proposal.

There was consensus.

### 5. NEW HAMPSHIRE LEGISLATIVE POLICY PROPOSALS FOR 2011-2012

Mayor Myers referred to the handout, General Government, Revenue, and Intergovernmental Relations (GGRIR), and went over the background. He asked the Council to treat it like a Consent Calendar and only pull items that the Council has questions on. He started with the first section.

Deputy Mayor Trefethen asked to pull Items #2 and #8.

Councilor Hooper asked to pull Item #5.

Councilor Garrison asked to pull Item #6.

Councilor Nedelka asked to pull Item #1e. and #7, #10.

Item 1e. Councilor Nedelka asked for clarification on the wording.

Mayor Myers said it would be shared 50/50.

Item 2. Deputy Mayor Trefethen asked for clarification.

Mayor Myers said it would eliminate the \$3 millage rate for registering cars, making the lowest millage rate \$6 per thousand.

Item 5. Councilor Hooper asked what happened with the current gas tax revenue.

She said she wouldn't support raising the gas tax.

Item 6. Councilor Garrison asked about "specificity."

Mayor Myers this is trying to recoup the costs in supplying Right-to-Know request.

Item 7. Councilor Nedelka asked what level of government this referred to.



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Mayor Myers said it could be State or Local.

Item 8. Deputy Mayor Trefethen felt the old method of posting public notices in the newspaper still needed to be done.

Mayor Myers said it was meant for smaller communities who no longer have a local newspaper.

Item 10. Councilor Nedelka asked about non-profit organizations.

Mayor Myers said it was not dealing with non-profit organizations.

Mayor Myers asked for a consensus vote.

1. There was consensus
2. There was no consensus
3. There was unanimous consensus.
4. There was unanimous consensus.
5. There was consensus.
6. There was consensus.
7. There was unanimous consensus.
8. There was consensus.
9. There was unanimous consensus.
10. There was unanimous consensus.
11. There was unanimous consensus.
12. There was unanimous consensus.
13. There was unanimous consensus.
14. There was unanimous consensus.
15. There was unanimous consensus.
16. There was unanimous consensus.
17. There was unanimous consensus.
18. There was unanimous consensus.
19. There was unanimous consensus.

Mayor Myers referred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> section, and asked if the Council wished to pull items for discussion.

Deputy Mayor Trefethen asked to pull Item #3.

Councilor Nedelka asked to pull Items #8, #9, and #15.

Councilor Cheney asked to pull Item #12.

Mayor Myers asked for a consensus vote on the remaining items.

There was unanimous consensus on the remaining items of the 2<sup>nd</sup> section.

Item 3. Deputy Mayor Trefethen asked what kind of lien this was, and what was the source of the debt.

City Manager Joyal said the Welfare Director can place a lien on the welfare recipient's real estate property, and they will pay it back with the sale of the property. He said this legislation moves the lien's priority to after property taxes.

There was unanimous consensus.



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Item 8. Councilor Nedelka asked for clarification.  
Mayor Myers said this just requires that someone be registered to vote in order to run to office.  
There was unanimous consensus.

Item 9. Councilor Nedelka asked if this referred to Dover.  
Mayor Myers said no, it did not.  
There was unanimous consensus.

Item 12. Councilor Cheney asked if this just eliminated stacking exemptions.  
Mayor Myers said if you're a senior and you own property with your child, then you would get a partial elderly exemption.  
There was unanimous consensus.

Item 15. Councilor Nedelka asked if this referred to Dover.  
Mayor Myers said it pertained to Towns.  
There was consensus. One abstained.

Mayor Myers referred to the 3<sup>rd</sup> section, and asked if the Council wished to pull items for discussion.

Deputy Mayor Trefethen asked to pull Item #2.

Mayor Myers asked for a consensus vote on the remaining items.

There was unanimous consensus on the remaining items of the 3rd section.

Item 2. Deputy Mayor Trefethen asked for clarification.

City Manager Joyal said a person can file one appeal to address decisions by both the Zoning Board of Adjustment and the Planning Board.

There was unanimous consensus.

### **7. CITIZEN'S FORUM**

*Citizens are invited to speak on the subject matter of the Workshop. Statements shall be limited to five minutes.*

Mayor Myers, seeing no one wishing to speak, closed the Citizen's Forum.

### **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Deputy Mayor Trefethen moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilor Weston.

Vote: 9/0.

Handouts have been archived with the Minutes.