

Mistretta, Susan

From: Bill Baber <wsbabar@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 31, 2020 11:14 AM
To: City Council - All
Subject: Addressing the City's energy needs

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Dear Mayor and Dover City Council Members,

I am writing in support of a position request for the Planning Department that did not make it into this year's budget - a new position that would have focused on the city's energy stewardship and planning for a more sustainable energy future.

While I chair the Dover Energy Commission, I am writing as an individual constituent due largely to the current difficulty in conducting formal meetings. Given that the request for this position was first made last year by a unanimous vote of the commission, and this is the second year this position has been requested, I believe my remarks can be assumed to reflect the current position of the commission.

I fully understand that this is not the year to add a new position given all the unexpected burdens that now must be addressed by the budget. However, in the hopes that a new year will bring new opportunities, I want to note some of the reasons such a position would be a valuable addition to the city.

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- The city expends somewhere
- around \$1,000,000 on energy. An expenditure of this magnitude deserves accurate data collection, thoughtful analysis, and good predictions of future needs and solutions in a comprehensive manner.
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- Given the experience of
- other communities, it is reasonable to assume, and I would suggest it should be a requisite of the position, that the cost of such a position should be more than offset by the savings it could produce.
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- Markets and the environment
- are both instructing us that future energy sources and infrastructure are rapidly evolving. Positioning ourselves to be in the best place economically and environmentally will require knowledgeable and timely professional guidance.
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- Such a position could also
- serve as a hub for the dissemination of best practices to help guide city residents, landlords, and businesses attempting to adapt to our evolving energy requirements.
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Among the many difficult decisions you are facing, I hope that next year this position that is so important to Dover's future will be retained in the budget.

Thank you for your service, especially now during these most trying of times.

Bill Baber
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