

Let's Stop Paying More to Get Less

Paying more and getting less has been our recent fate as taxpayers. Residential property taxes are up a whopping 22% in the past three years, but there is a solution. There is a way to keep class sizes reasonable, protect our kids' future, and fix our roads and sidewalks.

Hopkinton needs strong leadership on the Board of Selectmen. We need a leader with financial savvy who can fashion a plan to hold taxes in check, keep our schools strong, and maintain our public infrastructure (roads, buildings, etc.) while preserving the character of our community. I am that leader.

Every year, we have a multi-million dollar budget problem in part because revenue is not keeping pace with rising health insurance costs, energy costs, and inflation. We must implement cost efficiencies wherever possible, but these alone cannot solve the problem. Continually cutting spending to match the revenue we receive is not a sustainable solution. Since 80% of town spending is for personnel, that leads to a downward spiral of staff reductions which results in lower service levels.

The key to fixing the problem is to get more revenue. But how? Get the wastewater treatment facility that Town Meeting approved years ago up and running to attract world-class companies like EMC and Caliper, and facilitate the Legacy Farms project in a revenue-positive manner.

I will not prolong the conversation about these initiatives; I will get things done. As Vice Chair of the Planning Board, I have a record of moving expeditiously to enable revenue-enhancing development while assuring that we protect our natural resources.

I have the skills and experience to formulate a strategic financial plan for the town. I have the leadership skills to bring the plan to reality. And I have the moral character to be consistent in my message and to align my actions with my words.

Please visit my website (rjdourney.com) for more information on my positions.

I respectfully ask that you vote for me, RJ Dourney for Selectman, on Monday May 19th, 2008.