

Roadmap to Fiscal Health

The clock is ticking while taxes keep rising. We must stop the constant residential property tax increases. As your Selectman I will provide leadership toward that end.

The Selectmen's meeting on March 18th was a glaring example of why we need strong leadership in Hopkinton. Whether you support an override or not, no one could have come away from that meeting feeling confident about our town's current and future fiscal health.

As selectman my focus will be to move the town to a position of positive cash flow in a way that preserves the educational, social, and environmental character of the community. The way to get there is to establish a comprehensive plan with specific actions that will bring our fiscal situation into balance.

We must look at the road to financial health as a ten-year plan to address tomorrow's problems today. The Board of Selectmen must set clear goals and objectives for the Town Manager which address two areas - raising revenues and managing expenses responsibly.

I propose a comprehensive series of strategic initiatives focused on revenue enhancement and expense control. The ideas developed by the financial plan working group spearheaded by leaders of the Appropriations and School Committees are a great starting point for an integrated strategy that will move us toward this goal.

Key actions are to develop Legacy Farms in a revenue-positive manner consistent with the character of the town and to strengthen our commercial tax base by building up our infrastructure. I am a strong advocate of "green" development. We must take a thoughtful approach to development, but we must proceed expeditiously. The clock is ticking.

I have many years of executive experience. I am confident that I can provide the real leadership we need for the challenges and opportunities ahead.

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

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