

Town Hall Meeting at: Lower Falls Community Center

Date: 02/21/10

of Attendees: 62

of Groups: 8

Keep:

- Our seniors and young families
- 2 – Infrastructure and safe streets
- Cultural foundation for the arts
- 2 – Quality of education
- Open Space and Parks
- Residential character
- 2 – Library
- Integrity of schools
- Commercial development on a scale that protects the integrity of each community
- 2 – Preservation of parks and improvement of pedestrian access between communities
- Branch libraries
- Luxury property tax
- PILOT & SILOT- colleges
- Golf courses- investigate increasing assessments. Woodland, Brae Burn, Charles River, etc.
- Assessments on shopping malls
- Maximum capacity on buildings- rent to others
- No fees for trash
- Newton North High School -up- don't tear down- lease out
- Neighborhood integrity- have a plan for elders in the city
- Quality of life
- Teacher retention
- Parking fees at commuter rail

Reduce Costs/Increase Revenue:

- By cutting the work week to 4 or 4.5 days

- 3
 - By conserving energy in city buildings
 - By closing the gap with an override
 - By looking at the generosity of pension and retiree benefits
- 2
 - By putting an emphasis on the cost of employee and contractor quality
 - By instilling the pride of purpose and place in city employees
 - By reducing organizational redundancy
 - By cutting the budgets of schools
 - By benchmarking in performance management
 - By reducing the cost of the Metco program
 - By increasing fees for service (sports)
- 2
 - By increasing trash fees (\$250=home)
 - By having a more accurate assessment of property taxes
- 2
 - Reduce by increasing the employee contribution to healthcare costs (80/20)
 - By coming up with a cost benefit analysis for development
 - By taking a hard line on union negotiations
 - By reducing police details for roadwork
 - By changing contract to put city employees on state or most cost-effective health plans
 - By requiring city employees to pay into Medicare rather than alternate pension plans for health care
 - By reducing hours for city services, including library and city hall
 - By reducing senior rate on taxes
 - By buying health care in bulk & with MA
 - Reduce by charging for trash- pay as you throw
 - By looking at other municipal buildings- sale or lease
 - By establishing endowment for the city
 - By engaging city expertise- volunteer to help city programs
 - By increasing income taxes
 - By putting a universal cap on health care
 - By outsourcing government services
 - By lowering procurement costs- better buying decisions
 - By utilizing civilian flaggers
 - By reducing special education costs