

PAD Meeting 04/08/26

- I. **6:10 Welcome**
 - A. **Recognize** elected officials
 - 1. Heather Baldwin, Sallie Fellows, Charlie Chandler, Jerry Stringham, Joyce Weston, Katie Hedberg, Janet Lucas, Deb Reynolds, Karen Liot Hill
 - B. **Recognize** town committee members
 - 1. many
 - C. **Recognize new members.**
 - 1. Adam Burt from Sandwich
- II. **Minutes** (motion; discussion; all in favor; opposed)
 - A. passed
- III. **Treasurer's report**
 - A. YTD Income \$1757.12
 - B. YTD Expenses \$1620
 - a. Net \$137
 - C. Bank Balance \$8766.89
 - D. Could use more support as campaign season is upon us.
 - E. Donors
 - a. 22 on ActBlue
 - b. 15 recurring
- IV. **Other Business**
 - A. Vacancy for tech/communications position as Oscar has had to step down due to graduation and inability to remain in the area.
 - B. Hospitality/Potluck Committee
 - a. Thank you to Lara and the rest of the crew.
 - C. NHDP
 - a. Looking for ballot inspectors
 - i. At least two ballot inspectors/clerks from each party is elected to serve a two year term
 - ii. Town moderators give directions
 - D. Justin Glenzer- from Our Economy, Our Future
 - a. Looking for a counter-protest over supposed support for an income tax.
 - b. 3 pm at Concord State House on April 15 at 3 pm
 - i. Looking for support and testimony
 - E. Central NH Indivisible
 - a. Planning a May Day visibility event on May 1, 4-6 on the DiCenzo Bridge
 - b. Looking for food, clothing, essential drive
 - c. Hope is to have people collect items in the Senior Center parking lot
 - d. Things will be solidified shortly as we move closer and get approval from higher ups.

V. Upcoming events

A. Next meeting

1. Wednesday, May 13 (second Wednesday of the month)

VI. 6:30 Main Program- Karen Liot Hill on Property Taxes

- A. Karen Liot Hill represents 81 cities and towns on NH Executive Council District 2. She is a former City Councilor for 20 years.
 1. Thank you for your support in the recent impeachment ordeal.
 2. The court unanimously threw it out.
- B. Why are Property Taxes so High in New Hampshire?: Understanding the System, the History, and Who's Responsible
 1. NH Public Service Funding
 - a. NH property tax 65%
 - b. US average 30%
 2. % of property taxes go to public schools with 10% or less coming from the state.
 - a. NH is last for state support in both public schools and universities
 - b. The citizens pay for the high cost of public education through property taxes
 3. Why are they so high?
 - a. Towns once had more taxing tools
 - b. State eliminated many local taxes and replaced with revenue-sharing
 - c. State ended revenue-sharing which increased property taxes
 - I. Republicans ended that
 4. History
 - a. Before 1970,
 - I. property taxes covered more than homes
 - II. Included business equipment and inventory, agricultural assets
 - III. State relied on narrow taxes
 - b. After 1970,
 - I. state created business taxes
 - II. Rooms and meals taxes created
 - III. Local business/ag taxes removed
 - IV. Revenue-sharing created
 - V. BTW- Republicans were in charge
 5. 1970s-80s
 - a. Pledge to avoid income/sales tax
 6. 1990s
 - a. Claremont ruling requiring state to fund an adequate education
 7. 2000s
 - a. Rising property tax reliance
 - b. Ayotte is asking the Supreme Court to overturn the Claremont decision
 8. Pressures on Local Budgets
 - a. Rising Costs

- I. Special Education
 - a. 25% of school budgets
 - b. Average cost of \$30K/IEP in 2023 v \$20K in 2017
 - c. State/fed provide about 18% of spec ed costs
 - II. Inflation
 - a. One dollar today can buy about 53.15% of what is could in 2000
 - b. Aging Infrastructure
 - I. School building
 - II. Road and Bridges
 - III. Water and Wastewater Systems
 - IV. Much of our infrastructure is about 100 years old with deferred maintenance
 - c. State and Federal Revenue Down
 - I. Moratorium on School Building Aid
 - a. 2010-2020 (60/40 split)
 - b. Underfunding of Rooms and Meals
 - i. 60/40 split, average was 80/20
 - 1. Never gave the 40% even in the first year
 - ii. Loss of \$600M since 2010
 - c. Revenue Sharing (BPT)
 - i. Supposed to be 60/40
 - ii. Loss of \$400M since 2010
 - d. Retirement System
 - i. State promised to pay 35% of costs for firefighters, police and teachers, eliminated in 2010
 - ii. Since 2010, the state has paid 0%
 - iii. Loss of \$2B since 2010
 - e. No adjustments for inflation
 - II. Flat or declining state aid= more local burden
 - d. All pressuring local government because services like fire/ambulance doesn't go away
 - e. State Revenue
 - I. Reductions to Business taxes
 - II. Elimination of Interest and Dividends tax
 - III. Removal of income cap for school vouchers
 - IV. Decreased state revenue means less funds available for spec ed, roads and bridges, environmental grants, and retirement= higher property taxes
 - V. About 1/3 of our budget is from federal grants, then Business Profits tax, Liquor Commission, Lottery, Meals and Rooms Tax, Business Enterprise Tax, other State Revenue
9. What does it mean for homeowners and renters?
 - a. Property taxes are regressive

- b. Poorest 20% of households pay about 6% of their income to property taxes; wealthiest 1% pay less than 2%
- c. COVID exacerbated the situation because more affordable housing prices have increased disproportionately.

C. In summation

- 1. Republicans created our property tax crisis
- 2. Now they are blaming select board members, city councilors, and school board members.
- 3. Republicans will continue to raise property taxes. Fire them in November.

D. How to win in November

- 1. Advocate for non-partisan discussions. Focus on the economy, on property taxes, and drawing for accountability.
- 2. Make life better for the people of New Hampshire
 - a. Affordable Housing and Healthcare
 - b. Fairly funded public schools
 - c. Property tax relief

E. Questions

- 1. What are the Republicans ultimate goal and how can we communicate it to the people?
 - a. The current mindset is to destroy the state government.
 - b. The main difference used to be about the size of the government; now it is about whether government should exist at all.
 - c. Expose the issues; spread the word about the Free State movement and what they do.
 - i. Expose what elected officials are actually voting for as they are often the opposite at home
 - ii. Take Lang- he is writing much of the anti-trans bills and causing property taxes to go up
- 2. Comment from Sallie Fellows- free markets sounds great but the current Republicans are about removing regulations entirely.
- 3. What about the gambling money being redirected to other organizations other than schools?
 - a. Has not thought about that particular issue but brought up other issues.
- 4. [Andru Volinsky with the 3/3 tax scheme](#)? What are your feelings about it?
 - a. Not as familiar with it but has some info like on a Homestead exemption.
 - b. Income taxes are not popular in the state; often a conversation stopper
 - c. Advocates for fairness in the state
- 5. The state has a huge revenue and revenue-sharing issue. How do we shift the conversation? Who gets taxed and how do we unite around a message?
- 6. Compliment from the floor. Karen, you are doing a good job.
- 7. Will all candidates get these talking points? We need all candidates to talk about the same things. Who will coordinate these issues?
 - a. Kate W-H answered.

b. The NH Democratic Committee is crafting messages and consistent messaging. Hopefully more information in May.