

Maryjane Kenney

4/23/07 (10)

From: Dore' Hunter
Sent: Saturday, March 31, 2007 12:20 PM
To: Walter Foster (office); Manager Department
Cc: Board of Selectmen
Subject: Recommended BOS letters

Walter,

I think it would be appropriate and important that the BOS fairly promptly issue three letters over the Chairman's signature:

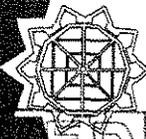
1) Letter to all our State legislators urging them to support enactment of the Governors Municipal Partnership Act - see the MMA Alert, last item in this week's Packet.

2) Appropriate letters to both the outgoing and incoming Northeastern Correctional Facility Superintendents - those folks are important neighbors and we need to remain in touch and in the good graces of the Correctional Facility management - think School Street field leases.

Regards,
Dore' Hunter
Selectman & VSO, Town of Acton, MA
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Email: dorehunter@aol.com

See what's free at AOL.com.

MMA Action



HOUSE W&M COMMITTEE TO RELEASE BUDGET BILL APRIL 11 *Please Call Your Legislators Now on Key Local Aid Needs*

The House and Senate Ways & Means Committees have completed their joint public hearings on the fiscal 2008 budget recommendation filed by Gov. Deval Patrick on February 28. The House committee is expected to release its budget bill on April 11, with floor debate slated to begin on April 23.

Fiscal 2008 is shaping up to be a very difficult and painful year, with economic growth and state tax collections slowing, and fixed costs for health care, construction and energy rising above inflation at both the state and local levels. The Governor's budget (House One) closed a \$1.3 billion state budget gap mostly by restraining spending, including in some major local aid accounts such as Chapter 70. Municipal officials are reporting that wide budget gaps are commonplace locally, reflecting a chronic structural mismatch between slow growth in tightly capped property tax revenues, generally low local aid levels, and rising costs.

It is important that you let your legislators know the impact of the House One local aid numbers on your community. Legislators are talking to the Ways and Means Committee Chairs about priority budget programs and possible increases above the Governor's budget, especially in Chapter 70 school aid.

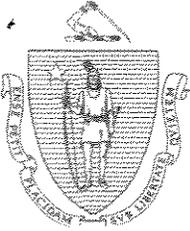
MUNICIPAL AID: Of course the best long-term solution for cities and towns is winning a permanent revenue sharing plan, but with the state facing such a large deficit, the focus for fiscal 2008 is on the existing accounts. The Governor's budget proposed a small increase in Lottery distributions (\$15 million) for the municipal side of the Cherry Sheet that reflects the very slow growth in Lottery revenues. House One would also increase the PILOT account by \$3 million. Please tell your legislators about your local shortfalls and the need for long-term reinvestment in municipal aid. Also, please ask your legislators to ensure that the state's 50 percent share of the Cherry Sheet police incentive pay program is fully funded.

SCHOOL AID: House One would increase Chapter 70 school aid by \$200 million next year, using a scaled-back plan that partially implements the important school aid and local contribution reforms adopted by the Legislature last year. Full funding of Chapter 70 would require an additional \$60 million.

- In House One, 156 of the state's 328 school districts would receive only the \$50 per student minimum aid amount, far too little to maintain services. If the Legislature fully funded the plan they set in motion last year, there would be fewer than 60 minimum aid districts, with most communities benefiting. Please ask your legislators to support the increase necessary to fund the school aid plan approved last year.
- School aid losses caused by charter school tuition payments are so deep that 30 school districts could see a cut in net school aid next year, with many more districts and communities being hard hit as well. Ask your legislators to protect all communities from further charter school losses by supporting a "true" minimum aid amount for all districts after the charter tuition payments, guaranteeing that every community sees a Chapter 70 increase.

THE LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS: The structural budget gaps facing cities and towns cannot be adequately addressed within our current system of over-reliance on the property tax, limited local aid and very restricted "home rule" authority to manage spending, which is why the MMA and cities and towns across the state are supporting the Municipal Partnership Act filed by the Governor last month (see www.mma.org for details). The bill includes vital measures that would make local government more self-reliant. Please ask your legislators to commit to support all of the provisions of the partnership legislation, and enact the measures before June 30, including local option meals and lodging taxes, closing the telecommunications property tax loophole, local option access to the GIC for health insurance for those who may benefit, and investing local pension assets with the state fund.

For further information, please visit the MMA website at www.mma.org or contact the MMA's Legislative Division.



Deval L. Patrick
Governor

Timothy P. Murray
Lieutenant Governor

Kevin M. Burke
Secretary

March 26, 2007

Acton Board of Selectmen
Town Of Acton
472 Main Street
Acton, MA 01720

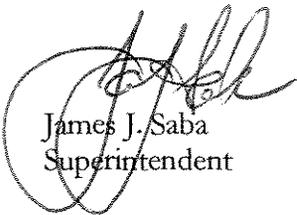
Dear Board of Selectmen:

I am writing this letter to inform you of my forthcoming transfer to Boston Pre-Release Center, Roslindale, MA as Superintendent. My last day at Northeastern Correctional Center will be Friday, March 30, 2007. With that mentioned, Paul Ruane will be assigned as the Superintendent at Northeastern Correctional Center effective Monday, April 2, 2007.

Superintendent Paul Ruane comes to the institution with a great deal of knowledge and experience with inmate reintegration, work release, and community work crews. I am confident that Superintendent Paul Ruane will continue to work closely with you on matters of concern, as well as keeping you abreast of any changes that affect your organization.

In closing, I would like to take this opportunity by thanking you for the strong partnership we've developed during my tenure as Superintendent at Northeastern Correctional Center. It's been a pleasure working with you.

Sincerely,



James J. Saba
Superintendent

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Public Safety
Department of Correction
Northeastern Correctional Center
P.O. Box 1069
Concord, Massachusetts, 01742

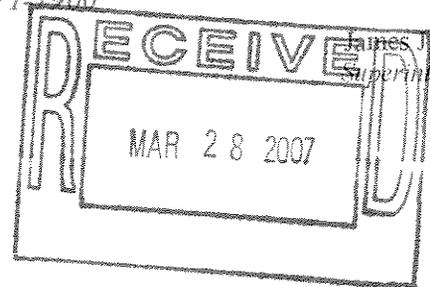
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Bos Mail
03-30-07



Kathleen M. Dennehy
Commissioner

James Bender
Deputy Commissioner



James J. Saba
Superintendent