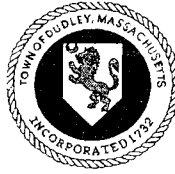


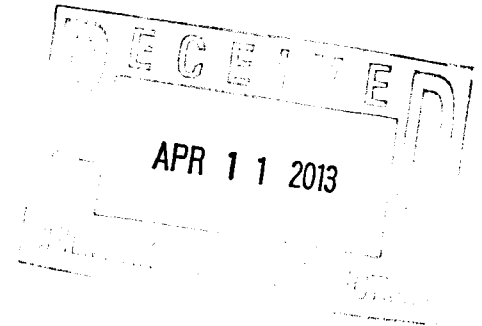
TOWN OF DUDLEY
MASSACHUSETTS
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
71 West Main St, Dudley, Massachusetts

Jonathan Ruda, Chairman
Steven Sullivan, Vice-Chair
Peter Fox, Clerk
Paul Joseph
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www.dudleyma.gov



Michelle Jervis, *Administrative Secretary*
Phone: 508-949-8001

Peter Jankowski
Town Administrator



April 5, 2013

Dear Mayor and City Council:

The Worcester Telegram and Gazette recently reported what we have all known for some time. Of 352 cities and towns in the Commonwealth, 110 communities are unable to meet the financial mandates of the Chapter 70 law-in particular, the “catch-up” provision. The reasons have very little to do with poor local government management and oversight and have everything to do with the simple fact that the “Chapter 70 Formula” is unsustainable. “Proposition 2 ½ “ makes it unlawful for us to raise property taxes to meet the Chapter 70 requirements. In most cases, the only options left are deep cuts to local services.

Recently, the Dudley Board of Selectmen, with the conceptual support of our school district neighboring town of Charlton, filed legislation through our local State Representative Peter Durant to begin the process of addressing a problem that can't be solved at the local level. We are asking for your immediate support in allowing the conversation about the unsustainable Chapter 70 formula to begin on Beacon Hill.

The text of the legislation is simple:

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

An Act relative to establishing a limit for the municipal revenue growth factor...

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 70 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 6 the following section: -

Section 6A. Preliminary local contribution shall be the municipality's minimum required local contribution, increased or decreased by the municipal revenue growth factor; provided however, that any contribution over 2.5 per cent shall require an override vote by the town at a ballot election.

If regional school district requests an additional contribution over the permitted 2.5 per cent, all of the municipalities affected by said increase shall be required to vote on the override at a ballot election.

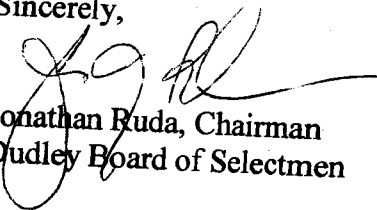
A majority of the municipalities must vote yes for the override to carry. In the event of a tie, the override shall fail.

The intent of this bill, an act that we hope will continue as a bipartisan effort, is to allow for a conversation to begin at the state level about the "man-made" economic crisis that is caused by a law that requires cities and towns to increase spending at a level that outpaces the ability for local government to raise taxes and revenue to meet the mandate. There is however a ten day cutoff for other legislators to cosponsor the bill and the Dudley Board of Selectmen is asking for and urging you to contact your state representative and state senator and request that they cosponsor the proposed bill.

This must be accomplished no later than April 19, 2013. Please do it today-this opportunity to form a coalition in address significant spending requirements that are outside our control does not come often and will disappear without widespread support.

I, the entire Dudley Board of Selectmen, Representative Peter Durant and the Dudley Town Administrator, Peter Jankowski are available to answer any questions that you may have relative to this important collaborative effort. Your support in contacting your state legislators is the only way for all of us to make meaningful change in the economic condition of our communities.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Ruda, Chairman
Dudley Board of Selectmen