

Citizen Input/Suggestions on Budgets
at 1/21/09 Public Forum and Citizen Letters through 1/25/09

(numbers in parentheses indicate # of citizens making that suggestion)

Increase Revenue

Development

1. Increase commercial development (3)
2. Don't increase commercial development; costs the town money (2)

Fort Williams

1. Institute fees at FW (9, including 1 just on non-residents)
2. Do not institute admission fees (1)
3. Have events (1)
4. Have concessions (2)
5. Increase revenues at FW in general (1)
6. Charge tour buses (7)
7. License Portland Head Light image (1)
8. Sell naming rights to FW (1)
9. Get money from Beach to Beacon (1)

Look at public/private sponsorships to fund programs (1)

Recycling Center

1. Charge fees for universal waste (1)
2. Increase fees in general (3)
3. Institute higher fees for large items and toxic waste (1)
4. Do pay-per-bag (1)

Community Services

1. Have CS movie night

Spending Cuts/Suggestions

Payrolls

1. Freeze payrolls (3)
2. Renegotiate police/dispatcher contract (3)
3. Top 5 salaried people in town/school government take 5% pay cut (1)
4. Consolidate jobs (1)
5. Make some work “volunteer opportunity” (1)
6. Have employees pay higher % of health insurance costs (1)
7. Have teacher furlough days (1)

Dispatching

1. Do not cut local dispatching (18, including 1 dispatcher, 4 on Rescue, 2 on CEFD, 2 on CEPD, and 9 others)
2. If cut local dispatching, measure quality/service (1)

Pool

1. Close it (1)
2. Make pool self-supporting (1)

Public Works/Recycling Center

1. Cut one employee (1)
2. Plow and sand less (1)
3. Charge fee for fall heavy pickup service (1)
4. Cut fall heavy pickup (1)
5. Cut costs (2)
6. Use a commercial hauler, not town employees/equipment (1)

Library

1. Close TML (1)
2. Reduce TML hours (3)
3. TML is important (1)
4. Consolidate TML with school libraries (1)

Town Hall

1. Reduce open hours (3)

Energy

1. Cut energy costs (1)
2. Lower temps in schools/town buildings (2)

Streetlights—

1. Turn out more streetlights(1)

Community Services

1. Cut CS/make CS self-supporting (8)

Fitness Center

1. Close Fitness Center (1)
2. Make FC self-supporting (2)

Schools

1. Schools are a priority (11)
2. Keep CEHS Achievement Center (2)
3. Do not let non-resident teachers have their children attend CE schools (1)
4. Check school bus routes for efficiency (2)
5. Consolidate schools (1)
6. Work for school budget to pass the first public referendum vote (1)
7. Limit/cut school spending (4)
8. Cut AP science classes (1)
9. Do Synthetic Reading program—saves money long term (1)
10. Have a school suggestion box for anonymous suggestions (3)
11. Increase school recycling (1)
12. Consolidate superintendent position with another school district (1)

Limit capital projects

1. Shore Road pathway—don't do (1)
2. Limit all capital projects (1)
3. Town Center intersection—don't do (3)
4. Make Shore Road one-way on Sundays so no need for path (1)

State mandates

1. Don't pay for them (1)

Property tax levels

Decrease or keep flat

1. Minimize property taxes (2)
2. Have a 0%/no property tax increase (10)

Increase

1. +2% school spending increase would be reasonable (1)
2. Would pay a slight tax increase to support schools (1)
3. Would pay a tax increase to save local dispatch (1)

Other

Civil Tone

1. Likes School Board and Town Council working together (2)
2. Likes civil discussion of budget issues (1)