Milton Joint Selectboard/
Economic Development Commission Meeting
Hosting the 2014 Legislative Breakfast

December 10, 2014
8:15 a.m.
(Refreshments will be ready around 8 a.m.)
Municipal Building Community Room

AGENDA

I. **Call to Order**

II. **Introductions**

III. **Discussion with Milton's State Legislative Delegation & Other Officials**

IV. **Adjournment**

Posted **December 08, 2014** on the official bulletin board in the lobby of the Municipal Building; to the Town website; emailed to the Burlington Free Press, Milton Independent, Lake Champlain Access Television, Fox 44 News, WPTZ, and WCAX; and posted in two other places within the Town of Milton and filed with the Town Clerk.

Signed: _____
Brian M. Palaia, Town Manager

Talking Points for Reference at Legislative Breakfast 2014

Education Property Tax Reform

- School systems funded largely by 3 sources – income tax, property tax, and sales tax
- Education Property Tax Conference – outcome over 35 municipalities called for a comprehensive review/reform of the education funding system including a temporary education property tax cap while the review/reform is underway
- Milton also passed a resolution suggesting various measures as enabling cost containment and reform of system including consolidated districts, more sharing of resources, regional or state based teacher contracts, income sensitivity review, limit unfunded mandates
- Maintain/improve educational outcomes while containing costs
- Is use of education property tax for non education uses appropriate? – social services, prison system funding, etc.
- Education property tax increases potentially crowd out ability to pay for other municipal services that are just as necessary

Attachments: 1) Two resolutions passed by Milton on education property tax reform; 2) charts showing education spending per pupil; 3) Burlington Free Press article on education property taxes and article with Governor's response

Permit Reform

- Streamline Act 250 requirements on development
- Make Act 250 review more about master plan permitting than detailed technical reviews (other permitting processes already address technical review)
- Increase opportunities to have Act 250 exemptions or delegate permitting responsibilities to local government in certain circumstances where a professional staff exists or in designated areas that have been pre-planned
- Consider improvements in review process (shorter time frames for completeness check) and appeals process to reduce time and cost overruns

Attachments: 1) Regional Planning Commission Permit Reform Committee Recommendations as approved by RPC on 11/19/2014 w/ attention to highlighted sections

Alternative Economic Development Programs

- Since Legislature has capped TIF program there is no program for municipalities and the State to partner on economic development leaving no way to finance the infrastructure to support economic development at the local level
- Jobs Bill sponsored by Senator Baruth last year opened the door for another program through creation of Enterprise Zones but funding mechanism was stripped before final passage – specifically suggest funding 50% of infrastructure needed so that federal funding available for parks can be successfully leveraged through federal Economic Development Administration

- Need to take another try at last year's effort to provide funding for parks that can support value added economic development (non retail), payroll driven
- Also look at expanding opportunities through Treasurer's Local Investment Advisory Committee

Attachments: 1) See again Permit Reform Committee work – section on Economic & Community Development, specifically language on funding of parks and Enterprise Zone designation; 2) email from Palaia to Local Investment Advisory Committee.

Transportation Needs

- The Town has many transportation related projects in the works that underpin its community & economic development efforts:
    - Need to support with VTrans to see through full hourglass preferred alternative for Middle Road/Railroad Street/Route 7 Project
    - Need support for grant funding from Bicycle Pedestrian Grant program and Transportation Alternatives Program for sidewalk gap projects in Town Core

Also, attached is the proposed legislative platform for the region, assembled based on feedback from various communities.

RESOLUTION FOR SUSTAINABLE

EDUCATION FUNDING REFORM IN VERMONT:

- Education Funding is a Statewide priority and needs to be addressed at the State level.
- In the past 10 years the Vermont student population has declined by 10,618 (or 10%)
- In the past 10 years Vermont education spending has increased by $300 million (or 33%)
- In the past 10 years Vermont per student spending has increased by $6,537 (or 60%)
- In the past 10 years reliance on education property taxes has increased nearly 7%
- Nearly 70% of Education spending is funded by property taxes.

Vermont has reached its maximum capacity to support education funding through the Statewide Education property tax.

Vermont cannot ignore the current trends and the limitations of our property tax base.

Without responsible funding system reforms, Vermont schools will be forced to undergo arbitrary and detrimental budget cuts that will affect the quality of education in Vermont.

Vermont can achieve a sustainable Education future:

- Create a more diverse education funding system, sharing the costs equally between all our tax resources (income, sales, rooms & meals, and property taxes)
- Simplify the education funding system so it can be understood by the average taxpayer.

Continued reliance on the education property tax will have a material impact on local government's ability to provide vital services (police, fire, roads etc.) to residents.

Vermont Towns & School Districts support capping Education Property Tax rates at FY2015 levels for the next 2 years, to allow the Legislature to make the necessary funding reforms that will sustain our Education system into the future.

(It is not the intent of this resolution to cap overall education spending).

Be it resolved on this 6th day of October 2014, that the City/~~Town~~/ Village/ School District of Milton supports the Vermont legislature as they seek out the necessary reforms to the Education funding system.

John C Dwyer

Brenda Steadey

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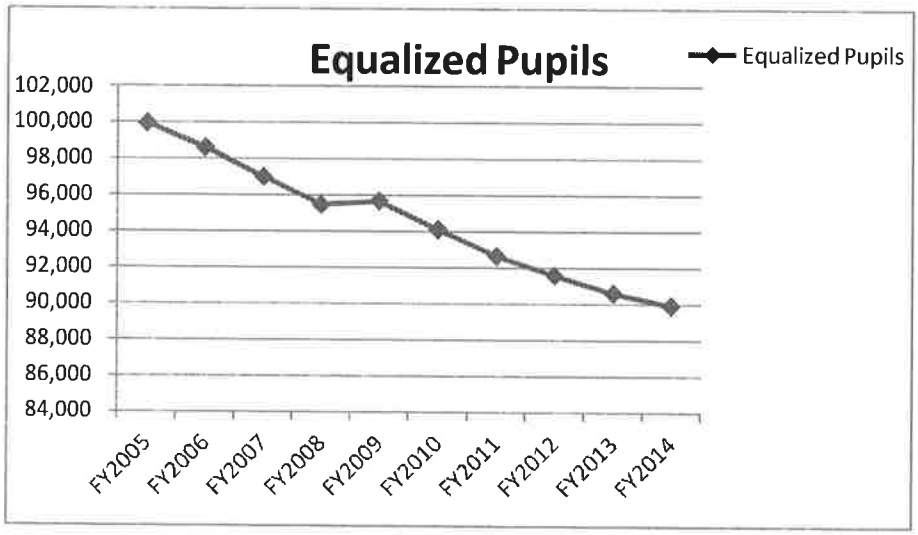
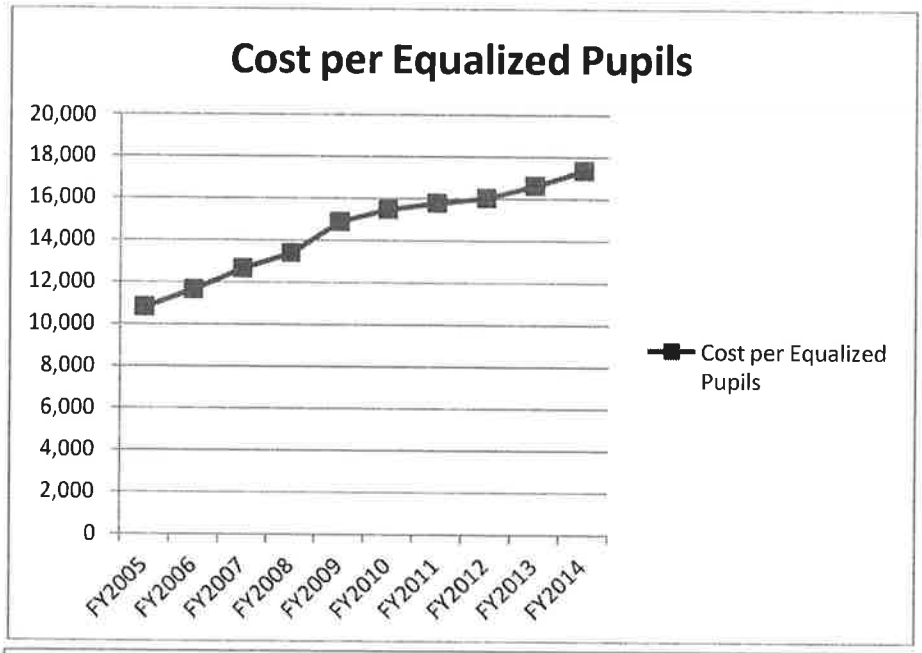
Continued reliance on the education property tax will have a material impact on local government's ability to provide vital services (police, fire, roads etc.) to residents.

Therefore, be it resolved that we support municipal and school officials, the state administration, and the legislature, beginning immediately as equal partners, to accurately analyze the issues within Acts 60/68 and then create a new education finance system that reduces and reforms the property tax burden. Until then, Education Fund monies should only be used for functions listed in 16 V.S.A. §4025(b). Further, these stakeholders must commit to action on education finance reform within 2 years with consideration given to an array of options including:

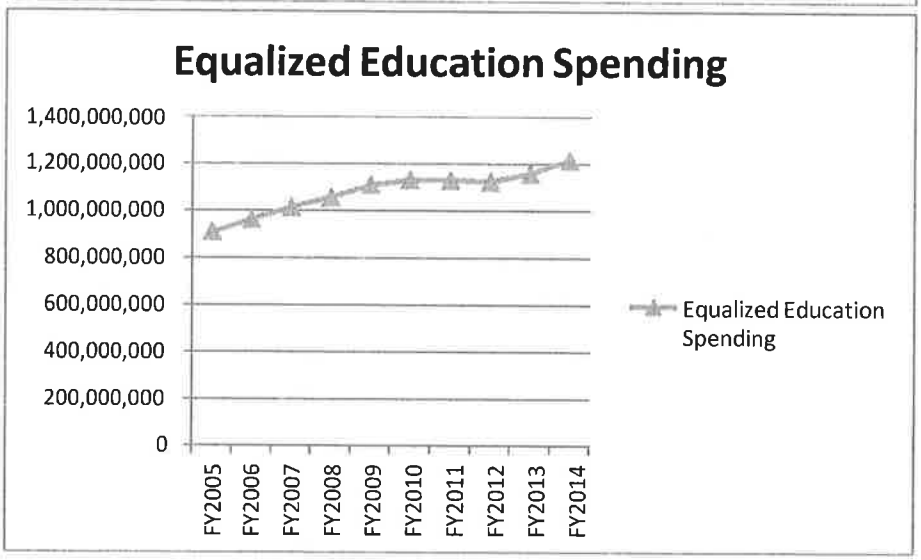
- More efficient governance and service delivery including incentives and ultimately, mandatory consolidation of schools and districts as well as enabling cost sharing among districts and municipalities.
- Statewide teachers' contracts with regional cost of living considerations
- No new unfunded state mandates.
- An evaluation of the cost shift in social service delivery to the education fund.
- Changes to income sensitivity thresholds to encourage more stakeholder participation/contribution and more sustainable funding levels.



Since FY2005 Vermont has 10,618 less students to educate



Since FY2005 Vermont's per student spending has increased by $6,537 per student

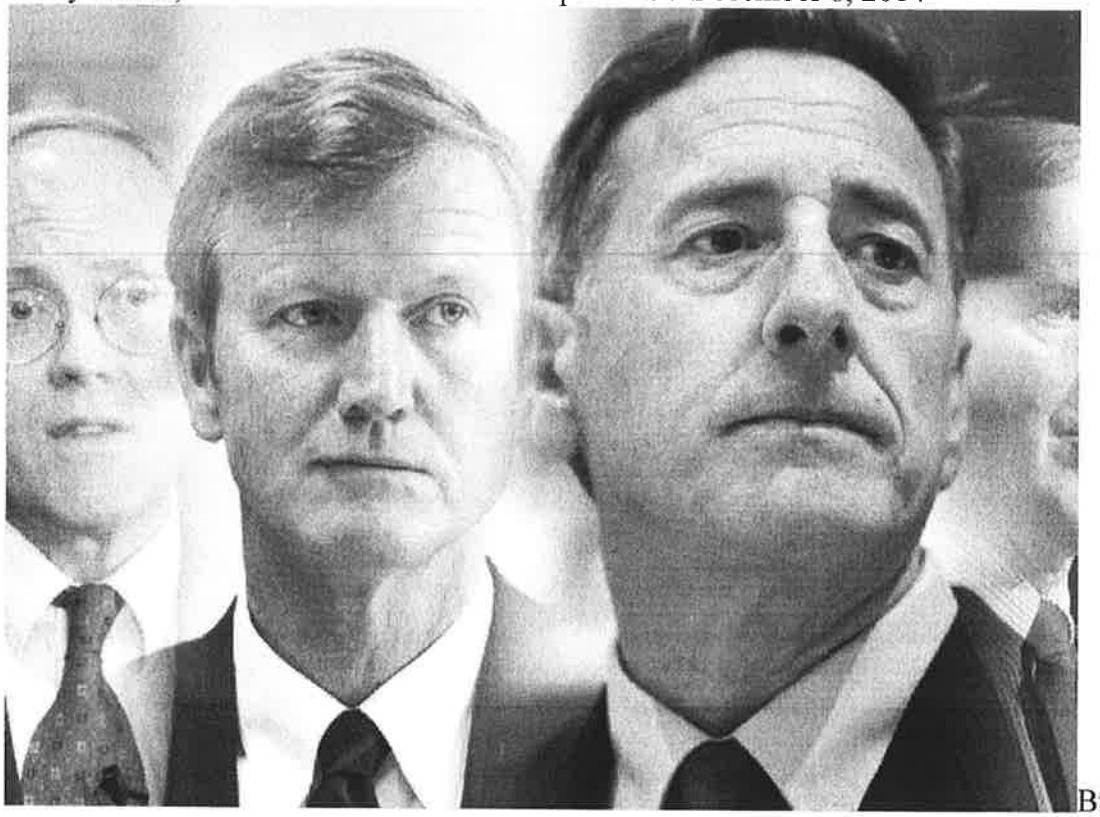


Since FY2005 Equalized Education spending has increased by $306,144,847[1]

[1] **Per pupil spending by School type, Vermont Dept. of Education:** http://education.vermont.gov/data/per-pupil-spending

Ed spending - the issue that won't go away

Molly Walsh, Free Press Staff Writer 9:03 p.m. EST December 6, 2014



Buy Photo

Education funding and spending is a perennial issue for Vermont's top leader, whether it's Gov. Peter Shumlin, his Republican challenger Scott Milne, or former Governors Jim Douglas and Howard Dean. From left: Douglas, Milne, Shumlin and Dean.(Photo: Illustration by RYAN MERCER/FREE PRESS)Buy Photo

64 CONNECT 13 TWEET 9 LINKEDIN 13 COMMENTEMAILMORE

When Gov. Peter Shumlin spoke loudly last week about the need to control education costs and property taxes in Vermont, people noticed.

His comments to curb spending echoed another public figure, Scott Milne, who came within a few thousand votes of the incumbent governor at the polls in November despite a thin political resume and the disadvantage of being a Republican in a heavily Democratic state.

Milne campaigned for property tax relief and proposed a two-year cap on the property tax rate. He went further by suggesting Vermont chop its $17,500 annual per pupil education spending tab to $12,000, and funnel the estimated $481 million in savings to provide free state college education to Vermont high school graduates.

Despite the dramatic challenge to the status quo, Milne managed to garner many votes, including in Chittenden County towns that typically give the cold shoulder to Republicans. Although Shumlin won more votes, no candidate won a majority and the Legislature will elect the governor in January. Milne has refused to concede and plans to update the press on his plans at a press conference Monday.

Education funding is a perennial issue for Vermont's political leadership and one that can be a major headache. While Shumlin's method of solving the puzzle could be changing, some observers say the current governor has approached the issue in similar fashion to his immediate predecessors Republican Gov. Jim Douglas (who served from 2003-2011) and Democrat Howard Dean (1991-2003.)

"I think they were all interested in trying to distance themselves from dealing with the property tax issue," said Steven Jeffrey, executive director of Vermont League of Cities & Towns.

All three recognized a certain "no win" political factor in the education funding and spending challenge, Jeffrey added.

"They realized that it's a really complicated thing, it's a big thing and that the chances of success and ... having a lot of people happy with the outcome is almost impossible to do in the education funding system."

Still the fact that lawmakers are exploring numerous, significant changes before the Legislature convenes is a sign that there could be substantive change, said Jeffrey, who has argued on behalf of the League that education property taxes are so high they are starving local governments.

Jeffrey noted that the Shumlin administration has delayed the implementation of the universal preschool law for a one year, a move that could indicate new sensitivity to costs.

He's optimistic about the prospect for reforms this legislative session.

"It's not going to be just rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic," Jeffrey predicted.

The outlook

Shumlin appears to be responding to concern over the property tax burden with comments such as those he made in a statement last week. He and Tax Commissioner Mary Peterson announced a two-cent increase in both the residential and non-residential statewide property tax rates to help pay for a projected 3.09 percent increase in school spending in fiscal 2016.

The governor noted that the tax increases, while substantially lower than those in fiscal 2015, were "no comfort" to Vermonters who have seen property taxes go up year after year. Changes to the funding system are not enough to fix the problem, Shumlin cautioned.

"We need to tackle this first as a spending challenge because education costs have continued to rise faster than Vermonters' ability to pay for it, even though our student count has declined," Shumlin stated.

Shumlin has dispatched his Education Secretary Rebecca Holcombe to the front lines of the offensive to address costs. She's been meeting with school boards and floating proposals including early retirement options for the estimated 600 Vermont teachers who might be deferring retirement.

Vermont's nine to one student-teacher ratio is the lowest in the nation, according to the National Education Association ranking of the states for 2013. The national average is 16 to one.

The Vermont numbers show that schools are not adjusting to demographic changes, Holcombe suggested.

"I think the starkest way to put it is, we've seen pretty much a 20 percent decline in enrollment over 20 years and no decline in staffing...That is the challenge."

Population projections suggest student numbers will continue to decline. Now is the time for school boards to make adjustments in staffing and look at partnerships among schools to possibly share faculty, Holcombe said.

"If they don't, many of them will be in situations where they just wont be able to afford to keep their schools."

Respectable results, big price tag?

There is broad consensus that Vermont posts solid education results, some would say stellar.

Vermont's four-year high school graduation rate is among the highest in the nation. It hit 91 percent and tied with Wisconsin for highest in the nation in 2010, according to the National Center for Education Statistics.

Vermont scores on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) standardized tests are often among the top five states. More Vermont students are opting to take rigorous Advanced Placement courses in high school and building the foundation for college.

Critics note that Vermont's achievement gap is not narrowing appreciably and that outcomes for low-income children are much lower than upper income children. They point to other states such as Massachusetts that have made impressive gains and spend less.

Wrestling with education costs is a challenge for every governor. Hence Vermont has traveled through four or five different funding systems since the late 1960s, as noted in a January 2014 report on the Vermont Education Funding System by economists Art Woolf and Richard Heaps.

Looking at education spending going back 20 years, the numbers go steadily up, with spikes that may have more to do with national economic trends and changes in state law than the actions of Shumlin, Douglas or Dean.

State education spending (not counting federal dollars) more than doubled between 1994 and fiscal 2015 from $554.6 million to $1.25 billion, according to the Vermont Education Department. It ramped up significantly (to the six 6 percent annual growth range) from 2000-2003 under Dean's leadership after the passage of the court-ordered Act 60 education funding law that provided property tax relief based on income, equalized property values and made it easier for many school boards to increase spending.

Spending also increased at the 5 and 6 percent rate annually for several years under Douglas and bounced to a 5 percent increase in 2014 under Shumlin, although both Douglas and Shumlin focused on cost controls in the wake of the Great Recession.

State spending actually declined slightly in fiscal years 2011 and 2012, the only time this has happened in the last two decades.

In an interview Friday, former Gov. Douglas said he tried to push cost containment measures almost every year he was in office but usually could not win at the Legislature. "The education establishment is very effective at lobbying and resisting control," Douglas said.

He felt some measure of success with Act 68 in 2003, which included a provision designed to take pressure off the property tax with new sales tax money for education.

"It worked for the first few years but then property taxes starting rising as fast as ever so we didn't put in the cost containment measure that really should have been an essential part of that law," Douglas said.

Vermont State Ed Spending FY94-FY15

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Carrot or stick?

Fiscal conservatives urge Vermont's political leaders to stop talking. They want actions that would force savings or at least slow what they see as an education tax-and-spend speed train.

The stick approach goes against Vermont's prevailing political culture when it comes to education, which has tended to support carrots, that is incentives, for change over mandates.

Still, cost-saving ideas keep circulating, some more dramatic than others. Among them:

• End the small schools grant program which funneled about $7.4 million in 2013 to Vermont schools. Defenders of the program say it keeps isolated rural schools open so small children don't have to endure long bus rides far from home. Critics say ending the grants would hasten needed much-needed school consolidation.

• Reduce tax breaks based on income. Vermont households earning up to $97,000 annually can qualify for education property tax breaks under state law. Vermont paid out approximately $158 million in property tax adjustments in 2013, according to the Vermont Tax Department. Supporters say the tax break cushions those with lower incomes and two-income families and helps make Vermont's education funding system among the most equitable in the nation. Critics say it is much too generous and that by trimming eligibility voters would be nudged to more scrutiny of school budgets.

• Reduce the cost of teacher health benefits. School districts pay on average about 86 percent of teacher health care coverage, a much higher percentage than many private sector employers pay. The most popular family health care plan for teachers costs about $20,197 and the most popular single person plan costs about $7,665, according to Vermont Education Health Initiative numbers quoted in a report called: "A Situational Analysis of Public Education 2014," by the Vermont School Boards Association and the Vermont Superintendents Association. Trimming these benefits or getting teachers to take on more of the cost could save millions, the report said. Critics say this idea is unfair.

What about the kids?

Other cost cutting ideas include withholding portions of state funding to schools that fail to trim staffing in line with a threshold student-teacher ratio close to the national average; mandating consolidation of small schools and/or school districts; and increasing current penalties on schools that spend above a pre-determined per pupil average.

Many of these proposals have been debated but failed to garner support as different constituencies present counter-arguments.

With a few exceptions, local voters have been skeptical about state incentives for district or school consolidation. And any measure that results in teacher lay-offs or erosion of teacher benefits is likely to meet opposition from the Vermont-NEA teachers union.

"We have some of the best schools in the nation, and I think it's important for us to keep that in mind," said Martha Allen, president of the Vermont-NEA.

School budgets are rising but so is everything else, and it's up to local communities to make decisions about what they want for their children in their schools, Allen said.

Local chapters of the union have fought hard against school board contract proposals that would substantially increase teachers' contributions to health care, although they have accepted small shifts.

Allen said the answer is not to go after teachers' health care benefits.

"Instead of cutting benefits or programs from one population in our state, I think we should all be working together to bring everybody up so everyone has quality health care."

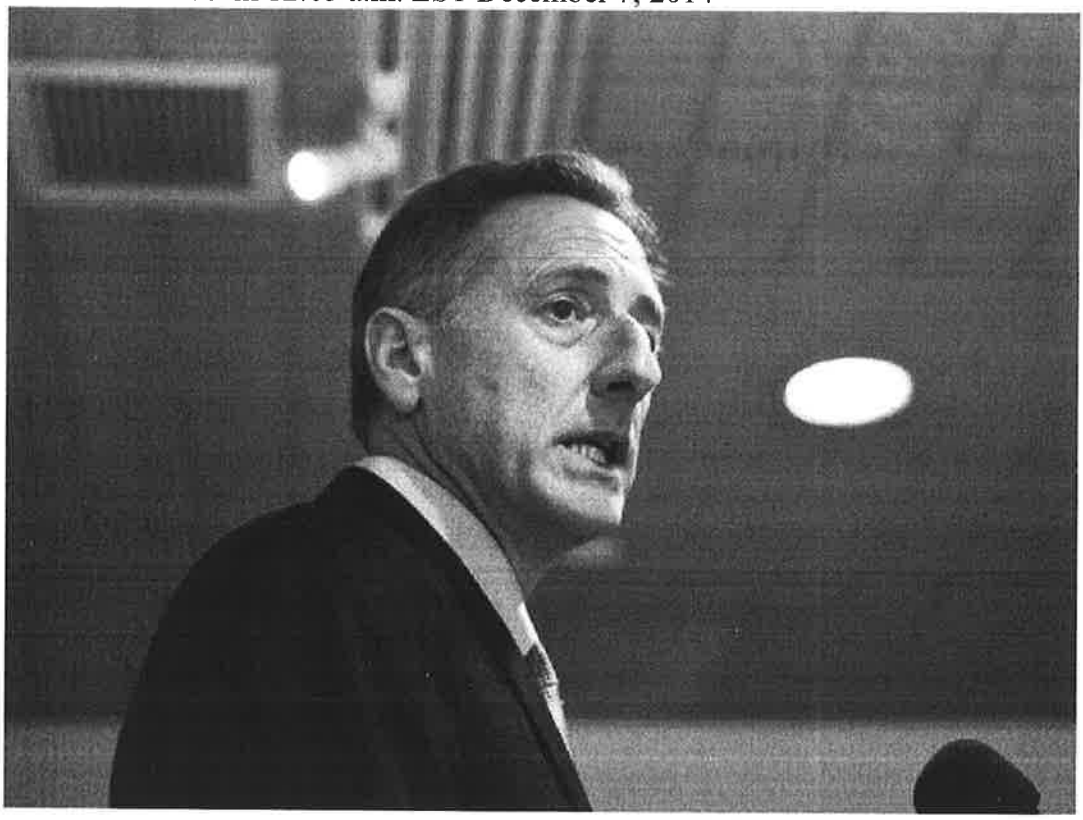
Local control is important when it comes to education, she added.

"We really believe that it's up to the local school boards and the local community to make the decisions that seem to be coming from Montpelier at the moment," Allen said. "It's up to our school boards to decide what we want for our students and what they need to be successful."

Contact Molly Walsh at 660-1874 or mwalsh@burlingtonfreepress.com Follow Molly on Twitter at www.twitter.com/mokawa

Toward real property tax relief

Gov. Peter Shumlin 12:05 a.m. EST December 7, 2014



Gov. Peter Shumlin holds a news conference at his offices in Montpelier on Nov. 12.(Photo: GLENN RUSSELL/FREE PRESS)

6 CONNECTTWEETLINKEDIN 2 COMMENTEMAILMORE

This past week, we released an estimate that property taxes used to pay for public school education will increase once again this year to pay for a projected increase in school spending. While this year's projected property tax increase of around 2 cents is half of last year's, it is hardly good news. We all know that rising property taxes to fund education have put an unsustainable burden on Vermonters. Despite a steady decline in school enrollment over the last two decades, property tax payers have not seen a decline in their property taxes. They've seen the opposite. But while rising property taxes are one clear indication of the higher cost of education in Vermont, they are only the most visible aspect of the money Vermonters spend on our public education system.

We all know that property taxes go to fund education. But what is less widely known is about 30 percent of all General Fund revenue raised for Vermont (not including property tax receipts) goes to fund education spending. Also, about two-thirds of Vermonters pay for education based on their income, rather than directly on the value of their property, because of income sensitivity in our property tax laws. Even for those Vermonters who pay based on their property values, a portion of their income tax goes to fund education in addition to the property taxes they already pay.

Then there is the sales tax. Just over one-third of all sales tax collected in fiscal year 2014 went to fund education spending. Put another way, for every dollar in sales tax that a Vermonter paid, 35 cents went to fund education spending. For those Vermonters who bought a car or truck, one third of the purchase and use taxes collected on the sale of vehicles, about $30.6 million, also went to education. And don't forget about revenue from the lottery, because every cent of the over $20 million in proceeds went to fund education this year.

The bottom line is that we support our public education system through multiple revenue sources, not just the property tax. That is why we should not assume that we can solve our property tax problem by simply shifting collection to other sources. While we should certainly continue to look at the complexity and difficulties in our financing formula, we should focus our efforts on the primary problem: education spending has continued to rise, faster than Vermonter's ability to pay for it, even though our student count has declined and continues to do so.

To bring that trend into sharper relief, consider this: Vermont had 103,898 students in 1997. Today that number is 82,523 — a decline of over 21,000, or nearly 20 percent. Underlining this trend is the fact that on average, Vermont schools employ one staff member for every 4.7 students and a teacher for every 10 students. Some schools have fewer than 7 students per teacher, even though best practices cite optimal class size at about 15 students. These low ratios substantially raise costs, without any evidence to show that ratios this low are improving student outcomes. If classes were slightly larger costing us less, how else could we invest those education dollars? On other educational opportunities? On property tax relief for Vermonters that could free them to spend for other economic activities?

All of this leads me back to one conclusion: Without addressing our spending challenge, true tax relief will elude us.

Peter Shumlin is the governor of Vermont.

802.846.4490
www.ccrpcvt.org

Recommendations for Improving Vermont's Permitting System

Approved - November 19, 2014

There continue to be opportunities to improve the permitting system in Vermont. In identifying these opportunities, we have grouped them into three categories of focus: smart growth improvements, economic development improvements, and process improvements. The following reflect statements of principles and ideas and not specific legislative proposals including all of the details necessary for statutory change.

Smart Growth recommendations:

1. In general, the state permit process should encourage development in appropriately planned places and discourage development outside of those areas. If this recommendation would result in a more efficient and timely process in designated growth areas, it may be appropriate to develop more stringent standards and thresholds for development review in rural areas.
2. Continue to encourage infill development over sprawl pattern.
3. To encourage infill and redevelopment, consider expanding opportunities for delegation of Act 250 review to municipalities that have strong municipal bylaws and enforcement in state designated areas (downtown, neighborhood, new town center, growth center). Evaluate which criteria are better handled at the municipal level. If Act 250 exemptions or limitations are approved in these designated locations, those properties with previous Act 250 permits should be granted the same benefit.
4. Revise Energy code requirement in Act 250 Criterion 9f – The current requirement to conceptually model building design to document energy code compliance 10% better than code does not make sense. It is selectively targeting only the projects that go through Act 250 and creating a disincentive for going through Act 250 in smart growth locations.
5. When Act 250 evaluates traffic impacts, clarify how credit should be given for pre-existing development so as to encourage redevelopment.
6. Prime Agricultural soils on-site mitigation should not be required in areas targeted for development in municipal and regional plans.

Community and Economic Development -

1. Target Infrastructure Planning Funds – Increase ANR funding and give priority to municipalities planning for water, wastewater, storm water, and other infrastructure to support designation/efficient land use/compact development.
2. Target, promote and install water/wastewater systems in villages/downtowns/growth centers and enterprise zones.
3. Authorize the opportunity for additional TIF districts.
4. Re-affirm support for local infrastructure financing in designated areas consistent with municipal and regional plans.
5. Create a new designation for Enterprise Zone.
    a. Zones must be clearly identified in the adopted regional and municipal plans. With RDC, confirm that the site is needed for high wage, value-added employment. Consider having Downtown Board approve designation.
    b. Expand the VEDA managed revolving loan fund for the creation or improvement of industrial parks in Enterprise Zones to include municipalities and private companies as eligible entities.
6. Have VEDA provide financing up to 50% of site planning, acquisition, and infrastructure costs for employment in any state designation. The State can either fund projects using grants, loans (to be recovered from initial lot sales) or a combination of both.
7. Authorize municipalities to put local options tax into place by a municipal vote only.

8. Expand the capacity of the bond bank to issue revenue bonds (not just general obligation) in revenue bond districts. Reduce interest rate for projects in state designations from the bond bank. Like VEDA, provide 1 % loans to be paid back with additional property taxes in the designated area until the loan is paid off; plus one additional year of the property tax revenue to mitigate risk in the pool.
9. Expand the State Treasurer's municipal equipment loan fund for more eligible uses related to municipal infrastructure.

Permitting Process recommendations:

1. Electronic submissions –
    a. Revise state statute to allow for electronic signatures and electronic file submission to be the official record.
    b. Use technology to create a common application form with basic applicant and project information for use in all applications and link databases so that all permits/applications are accessible through one portal. This should include state agency (ANR, VTrans) and Act 250 applications.
2. Review times –
    a. Consider a reasonable and timely deadline for review of applications. For major projects, consider a 15 day completeness review with a 30 to 60 day compliance review by state agencies except for Act 250. Applicants need clear guidelines as to what constitutes a complete and compliant application.
    b. Improve the system to complete the reviews in the timeframes by increasing the use of certifications and 3rd party reviews.
3. Appeals-related -
    a. There should be an option of an appeal at the administrative level first within agencies to resolve issues of consistency of review.
    b. Given the numerous permits required to develop, when one permit is appealed that should by law pause the clock on other permits.
    c. Work towards allowing an "on the record review" process at the state and District Environmental Commission levels at the choice and expense of the applicant. Then the Environmental Court can decide an appeal based on evidence developed before these review boards instead of having an entirely new trial.
4. Vesting -
    a. Clarify statute for determining at which point an applicant is vested with regards to basic zoning (use and density) compliance prior to obtaining other local and state technical permits.
5. Master Planning –
    a. Master plan permitting should rely more on conceptual plans and capacity analysis as opposed to engineer sealed plans with more detail. Master plan permit approval should include conditions of obtaining the other more detailed permits (stormwater, wastewater, etc.).
6. Integrating Municipal and State Permitting –
    a. Provide a mechanism for municipalities to issue Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Permits for connections to their municipal water and wastewater facilities without having to take responsibility for private water and on-site septic system permits as well.
    b. If Act 250 is not engaged, municipal DRB approval should include conditions that any state permits required by a project review sheet be obtained prior to construction.
7. Municipal permitting
    a. Modernize the notice requirements.
        i. Revise the certified mail requirement to allow for other options.
        ii. Develop consistent municipal notification requirements for site plan and conditional use review.

Brian Palaia

From: Brian Palaia
Sent: Tuesday, November 04, 2014 12:30 PM
To: 'Robert Giroux'; WShepeluk@WaterburyVT.com; 'Beth.Pearce@state.vt.us'
Cc: khorn@vlct.org; 'Joe Colangelo'; 'Charles Baker'; 'Dawn Francis'; Curt Carter; Regina Mahony; 'patricia.moulton@state.vt.us'
Subject: RE: State Treasurer's Local Investment Advisory Committee ("LIAC")

Thank you for the invitation to contribute to this group's work. Unfortunately, my schedule this week is a bit heavier than usual and I won't be able to dedicate the time away from Town to come down. While there are many needs for infrastructure replacement and renewal, I think with the limitations that have been placed on the Tax Increment Financing Program, and the expectation that this program will become even harder to use in the near future (last I checked there were over 40 new pages of proposed rules in addition to Statutory provisions) creates even more need for a program for municipalities to partner with the State to finance the infrastructure needed to support economic development. Last session I worked with Senator Baruth on a provision in the jobs bill to create a such a program. Little of what was proposed made into the final version, but we did get a foot in the door. We need a program to support the economic development that does not fit neatly into a designated area such as a growth center, village, etc. What we proposed last year was a program that would finance the planning and infrastructure for "business" parks in areas that are identified as enterprise zones in the regional comprehensive plan – that way the concern about secondary growth impacts can be mitigated. The program we proposed was modeled off a Connecticut program based on their Manufacturing Assistance Act that provides grant funding for 50% of the planning and construction cost of a park. The program was very successful in Connecticut and continues to provide shovel ready space for employers larger and small. Typically, the municipality would use the 50% funding from the State as leverage to get another 25% of the funding from an Economic Development Administration program grant and fund the remaining 25% itself. In some cases all of the other 50% for construction costs can be obtained from the federal Economic Development Administration. One of the ideas, the former Secretary of Commerce Miller and I discussed was using some the State's cash as patient capital to finance a program like this – over time the State would be repaid on its investment through the sale of lots as well as on the other state taxes generated.

I hope this is helpful to the Advisory Committee. Please let me know if I can provide further information.

Brian Palaia

From: Robert Giroux [mailto:bobg@vtbondagency.org]
Sent: Wednesday, October 29, 2014 9:47 AM
To: WShepeluk@WaterburyVT.com; Brian Palaia
Subject: State Treasurer's Local Investment Advisory Committee ("LIAC")

Bill & Brian:

The State Treasurer has asked me to invite you to participate as a panelist at a meeting that she is hosting to discuss Vermont's infrastructure. The LIAC has been tasked by the Legislature with identifying "local" investments the State Treasurer can make that will then spur economic development. One area identified as having a great need is municipal infrastructure replacement/renewal. Both of you have been actively engaged with Town infrastructure projects and would be able to provide valuable insight to the Committee from a municipal perspective. Other members of the panel will be Eric Blatt/DEC, Karen Horn/VLCT, John Kiernan/Phelps Engineering, Wayne Elliott/Aldrich & Elliott, Rhonda Shippee/USDA-RD, and me.

The LIAC is meeting next Wednesday, November 5th from 9:00 am to Noon in the Governor's Conference Room, 4th floor of the Pavilion Building, 109 State Street, Montpelier. The Treasurer has asked that each panelist make a very short

presentation (5 to 10 minutes) about the problems and issues that you have encountered as you try to renew your municipality's infrastructure. The balance of the meeting time will be a round table discussion and Q&A.

I hope you can make it to this meeting. I think that your participation will add immensely to the success of the meeting. Feel free to call me if you want to discuss further. Thank you.

Bob

Robert W. Giroux, Executive Director
Vermont Municipal Bond Bank
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Brian Palaia

From: Charles Baker [cbaker@ccrpcvt.org]
Sent: Tuesday, November 18, 2014 8:19 AM
To: Dawn Francis; Kevin Dorn; Dean Bloch; Todd Odit; Patrick Scheidel; Brian Palaia; Katherine DeCarreau; townhunt@gmavt.net; Geoffrey Urbanik; Bob Rusten; Richard McGuire; Aaron Frank; Joe Colangelo; Tom Hubbard; Brian Bigelow; Town Administrator; Trevor Lashua (tlashua@hinesburg.org)
Cc: Michele Boomhower; Frank Cioffi; 'Steven Jeffrey'; 'Karen Horn'
Subject: Please review

Hi Chittenden County Managers/Administrators,

Just a reminder that we are meeting for lunch today at 11:30 at the Windjammer. In preparation for our meeting, please find below a first, rough draft of our Legislative Breakfast priorities. I'm hoping you will give me your thoughts about how to improve this today. I'm planning to send to the CCRPC Board at the end of the day. We will still have time to refine this before our December 18th legislative breakfast.

Thanks!
Charlie

INTRO – High Priority Topics for 2015

In order to achieve our shared vision of Chittenden County being a healthy, inclusive and prosperous community (*2013 ECOS Plan*) these are our priorities for 2015. The ECOS Partners will support the State and our municipalities in implementing these priorities to make Chittenden County a more desirable place to live for young families. This will increase our economic prosperity, bringing resources to our community to improve our environment, education, and health.

1. Lake Champlain Water Quality –
    a. State - Enact effective legislation and funding to implement the TMDL Plan to clean up Lake Champlain.
    b. Municipalities – MS4 permittees will continue work to implement their permit requirements.
2. Smart Growth –
    a. State –
        i. Prioritize investments in areas planned for growth.
        ii. Look for ways to make the permitting system (State agencies, Act 250, and municipal) more efficient and effective for development in areas planned for growth.
    b. Municipalities –
        i. Continue to enact improved zoning in areas planned for growth to make it easier to achieve the types of development patterns called for in our municipal and regional plans, including increasing housing.
        ii. Continue to make capital investments to support this development.
3. Economy –
    a. State –
        i. Invest in improving a strategically coordinated system of workforce development to address the needs of our growing employers, particularly in the areas of advanced manufacturing and information technology.
        ii. Support and incent investments in research and development that drive product development, job retention and job creation

b. Municipalities – Implement zoning and capital investments to support employment growth in areas planned for growth.

4. Fiscal Sustainability –
   a. State –
      i. Evaluate and develop improvements to the education property tax system to reduce high annual increases in the face of declining enrollment.
      ii. Evaluate and develop methods to pay for or revise health care reforms to improve to reduce high annual increases.
   b. Municipalities – Work with school boards to control municipal and school budget increases locally.

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