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(
January 17, 2010
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Dear Mayor Goldsmith-Jones and Council,

I am writing with feedback about your proposed 2.68% budget hike described in Sunday's North Shore News. I regret that I am unable to attend your meetings on Jan. 18th and 25th, due to previous commitments, but I write with my objections.

It is right that budgets should continue to be tight when our Canadian and world economies are shaky. I appreciate that our police department must stay current to be effective. But I do not believe that many of the listed "improvements" are necessary; and if over time they prove to be, I suggest their implementation be postponed for a year at least.

Please could you review your need for computer and vehicle upgrades? How great is the need for the Spirit Trail when we already have a magnificent seawall and bike trails? I do not understand what Marine Drive barrier replacements we have which must be replaced- is it possible to give that information to the public? Why do we need four railway crossings? I cannot believe that we have to have higher taxes so the Seniors' centre can have a covered link to the Recreation centre or an upgrade to the municipal phone system!

I hope that you will develop a more fiscally responsible budget.

Thank you for your consideration.

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