

Tele-Talk

What are the big issues for you heading into town meeting this season?

There were 12 responses to this week's Tele-Talk question: "What are the big issues for you heading into town meeting this season?"

I'd personally like to at least see an honest attempt to govern our valley and show true respect to our honorable veterans and conservatives who seek to help all of our citizens, not just the good old boy entitlement network and special interest groups. And the arrogant, 900-pound gorillas need to be put out to pasture and not re-elected.

I must admit every time I meet one of those Blue Loon Buses, there's nobody on them. I hear a big toilet flushing. And you know what that means? That means why the country is in the mess it's in — because of just wasteful government spending and also local waste by raising the money to support that stuff. It's a waste of money. Do away with the Blue Loon Buses.

The big issue for me heading to town meeting is going to be the tax cap. I understand that a lot of officials don't want this, like Joe Lentini and Mark Hounsell. I voted for both of them, but this budget is just out of control. People who live here cannot afford the property taxes and we've got to put some kind of control on it. It isn't just this town. It's happening all over the country. So let's try to get together and see if we can't control some of this spending. This is Barbara from Conway.

The big issue heading into town meeting season is health insurance! The working folks are having a hard time paying their own, and yet we need to pay for increases for teachers and town workers' health insurances. It's a major, major issue. I don't see why people should be getting raises when they are getting raises through health insurance. Good luck. Get out and vote.

The big issue is quite simple: Keep the tax rate down.

The Blue Loon bus. Talk about wasteful spending. I just love watching those big blue buses drive around empty all the time. Why not just buy a car for everyone in Carroll County. Another example of people saying they love the valley, so they move here and the first thing they do is try to change it to just like where they came from. Amtrak loses money, the T in Boston loses money, so why not lose money here in the Valley on public transportation. More government waste.

No one is facing the fact we're living beyond our means and spending above and beyond our ability to pay. We cannot be involved with red ink forever. Irresponsible politicians at all levels are killing us. Douglas Swett, East Conway.

The proposed tax cap is the biggest issue! In recent Conway Daily Sun articles the following was said: Cindy White said, "Some districts who implemented this (a tax cap) didn't have the resources for paper and other supplies," and that "families had to pay for children to ride the bus," suggesting that would happen here. Cindy, stop your fear mongering! You can serve the school and the taxpayers by voting for a tax cap, then cutting an unneeded administrator or two. Joe Lentini said, "personally, I'm offended by this" and "now this is telling us what to do." May I remind Joe he is a representative of the people. Have you heard of the constitution Joe? It's government of the people, by the people, and for the people! It's not about what you personally want! Mark Hounsell, the biggest, loudest mouth in this debate, states that supporters of the tax cap

want to "use the kids as social guinea pigs." He further states "I will not abide by this language," and that "we're taking away the American dream." You are making a fool of yourself Mark! I had nothing compared to what Kennett students have, am 54, came from very modest means, and am successful beyond my imagination; and comfortably retired! Apparently Mark thinks the American dream is not achievable with a tax cap! Oh yeah Mark, your heart doctor analogy is laughable! There is no analogy between a person getting a life or death heart bypass operation and capping a budget; please use more intellectually relevant analogies! Voters; the fear mongering has begun. We must get involved, and vote out of office every representative who will not look for meaningful ways to represent the whole community; taxpayers included! Cindy, Mark, Joe; apparently you do not want to do the people's work, and should immediately resign! PS: Would some legislator file legislation to initiate a tax for every, of age resident, regardless of whether or not they own a property; then lower property taxes. Every of age resident should support a community's financial needs!

Yes, I find it's the school budget that annoys me the most, particularly in regard to what it will do to increasing the property taxes. I don't quite understand it when I go to the parking lot, particularly of the high school, the teachers parking lot. All those late model vehicles. And then I read where we are paying for their medical insurance. Then when I talked to the town manager last year, I asked him how does he see the future of any tax increases. He said no, no, no, we'll keep it down. Another lie. It seems like it never, never ends. I don't understand it. We have less students in school, yet the school budget part of the property tax goes up, up, up and up.

The fire department. North Conway Fire Department chief Pat Preece deserves a big pay raise. He doesn't make enough money. Don't be cheap. You taxpayers can afford it. You'll be glad you forked over the dough if your house ever catches fire.

The following Tele-Talk responses were posted on The Conway Daily Sun's Facebook page:

8.99 percent increase to the school tax is outrageous. Are you getting a 9 percent increase in pay? Do you know of anyone who is? They have assistants to assistants. Even the superintendent was looking for an assistant in the recent past. One year the superintendent refused an increase in pay and the board or whoever insisted he take it. Just as if we had money to throw away. The ratio of the number of students per teacher has decreased in comparison to the past, yet the cost increases at an astonishing rate. This is a runaway train, and needs a cap. I wish the cap had come sooner or it could be made retroactive. Social Security people got a 1.5 percent increase this year, and received no increase in 2011 and 2010. How would the school board like to live within those means? Many of us have to. Please make your voice heard that this kind of increase is unacceptable. They have to hold the line on spending. What kind of increase do you think they'll want next year if they can get away with a 8.99 percent this year? Signed Upset with a capital "U".

Why people don't go to the town meeting any more.

LETTERS

Mental health services crucial to the community

To the Voters of Conway:

This year you will be asked to vote to approve a petitioned warrant article in the amount of \$10,115 to support Northern Human Services — The Mental Health Center. This money will be used to provide mental health evaluation and short term treatment to Conway residents who are in emotional crisis and cannot pay the full cost of services. In 2013, the number of uninsured Conway residents seen at The Mental Health Center increased 57 percent from 164 last year to 286 this year. In spite of this dramatic increase in demand, our request for funding remains level at \$10,115.

Town supported mental health services are not about "optional" counseling. We intervene with people who are in crisis and could be a danger to themselves and/or to others if left untreated. We provide this service 24/7. A master's level clinician is on-call at all times, backed up by a board certified psychiatrist.

These are professional services that are costly to provide, but crucial to the community. We are all aware of some of the tragic incidents in the past few years that have resulted from untreated mental illness. Please feel free to ask the Conway Police Department or Memorial Hospital about our responsiveness and the importance of having a locally available source of evaluation and treatment.

Northern Human Services is supported by every town in our Carroll County service area. We are not a state agency and we receive no state or federal funds to assist us in providing services on our sliding fee scale. Money appropriated by Conway voters will be used in Conway. We badly need your financial support to be sure we are here when you or your family need us.

Jane C. MacKay, LICSW, area director

Northern Human Services

Northern Grafton and Carroll Counties

Is Eaton next to adopt resolution corporate influence

To The editor:

Is Eaton next?

A year ago the citizens of Conway passed a non-binding resolution having to do with the influence of corporate and other moneyed interests on the political process and the corrosive effect it has on our constitutional guarantee that our government be dependent on the people alone.

A year later finds over 50 towns and cities in New Hampshire with similar resolutions on the warrant for 2014. Some communities noticed the Conway initiative and the resulting groundswell spread quickly indicating the readiness to deal with this issue.

The Newmarket Town Council recently voted unanimously to back a similar resolution. "New Hamp-

shire has been flooded with outside money from powerful special interests on both the left and the right since the 2010 Citizens United decision," said Ellen Read, Newmarket voter. She points out "For example, in the 2012 New Hampshire gubernatorial race, estimates show that outside groups spent \$19 million (almost five times what the candidates spent). In a democracy, you shouldn't need money to have a voice in your own government."

Nationwide at least 17 states have taken action by sending similar resolutions to the Congress asking for action and more are imminent.

The Carroll County towns of Eaton (Article 15) and Wakefield have resolutions on their warrants.

Dick Pollock

North Conway

Changing the descriptions of political events

To the editor:

Have you noticed the Republican's ability to change descriptions of political events by substituting different words like "death taxes" for the previously called inheritance tax. They also use Obama's "failure to lead" for their failure to follow and obstructurism. Of course, they use Obamacare for the Affordable Health Care Act, which polls well.

Some of the word substitutions come from Frank Luntz, a GOP political consultant. Luntz describes his speciality as "testing language and finding words that help his clients sell their product or turn public opinion on an issue or candidate." When Fox Channel starting calling Obama's appointments "unelected czars" instead of cabinet ministers or special assistants this was Frank's work because Americans don't like "czars."

Lutz was also Newt Gingrich's pollster in the mid 90's. He encouraged Republicans to use words like "hypocrisy," "sick," "traitors," "corrupt," and especially "socialism,"

when describing Democrat's proposals.

Lately, the Republicans are using "takers" to describe the poor. Jesus never said "help the takers." Their recent concern about the budget deficit was nowhere in sight during the budget busting Bush years, and it gives them the option of inaction during our economic crises. I hear that Luntz's newest task is to substitute words in the New Testament to make it more in line with Republicans political beliefs: "ambition" for greed and "opportunity" for fairness. If Frank Luntz worked for Pontius Pilate he would have called the Crucifixion "a chance to give Jesus a better view of the Jerusalem skyline."

Most Republicans, against any program to help the poor, describe the increase in spending as "running a deficit and borrowing money from China." In truth, the Chinese only buy about 10 percent of our Treasury Bonds.

Susan Rheault

North Conway