

# Concerned Citizens of Wilbraham

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September 11, 2003

To: David W. Barry, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen

Dear Chairman Barry,

On September 10, 2003, at the Pines School Auditorium, a significant number of people gathered at Concerned Citizens of Wilbraham's second meeting to sign up for membership and contribute money. The residents who attended are committed to becoming more involved in town matters and to encouraging the town to live within its means.

The leadership of Concerned Citizens of Wilbraham has filed a charter with the town clerk, established committees to attend a wide variety of town-committee meetings, made application to the Office of Campaign and Political Finance for PAC status, made application with the IRS for a form SS-4 (an 04 number) so we can complete our banking application, collected contributions and arranged to use the high-school auditorium for our next meeting, at which we expect several hundred attendees.

At the Pine School meeting, a strong majority endorsed this letter and respectfully request in a non-adversarial way, that you give serious consideration to and adopt the following suggested goals for year 2005:

1. Have all town departments establish a zero-based budget and provide no more than level funding for the year 2005.
2. Have selectmen take the initiative to conference with all town boards and committees and the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School District committee in order to contain costs and spending through 2005. Considering consolidation of agency functions could provide an alternative through outsourcing specialists on a bid basis.
3. Freeze all personnel contracts at current levels and suspend contract negotiations through the end of 2005. Our members suggest performance-based pay increases should be considered for the future
4. All town departments should develop contingency planning processes to prepare for future shortfalls.

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5. Continue the present town-government hiring freeze through 2005, except for essential services.
6. No new taxes, charges or fees should be enacted or requested in the foreseeable future, except for the annual 2½ percent increase as provided by Proposition 2½ .

We wish to be a positive force in our community. As might be expected, we may differ from time to time with the elected and appointed officials of Wilbraham. We will be trying to help our community to find ways to save money or ways town funds can best be spent.

The Concerned Citizens of Wilbraham respectfully request a specific written response to each of our six points in a timely manner. We have enclosed a fresh copy of our statement of principles.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Page Jr.  
Chairman, Concerned Citizens of Wilbraham.

cc: James J. Thompson, Selectman  
Kevin J Moriarty, Selectman  
William Fogerty, Administrator  
Beverly Litchfield, Town Clerk, Official Copy  
Thomas Sullivan, Town Treasurer  
JoAnne DeGray, Town Accountant  
Richard Howell, Chairman, Board of Assessor  
Mary Anne Morris, Chairman, Regional School Committee  
Paul Gagliarducci, Superintendent of Schools  
Marcia Zimmer, Chairman, Finance Committee

"Living within our means"