

## **Running a town is like running a business**

**Submitted by Bob Higgins, Chair WEDC Communications Subcommittee**

Our schools, and rightfully so, is Windham's largest cost center. Our police and firemen preserve and protect. Our transfer station disposes of our waste. All are required cost centers to run the business of Windham. On the flip side, we only have two dominant ways to generate revenue, residential and commercial property taxes.

Residential property owners contribute 92%, while today commercial business contributes only 8% to our revenue base. However residents cost the town \$1.05 for every \$1.00 received while the town pays just \$.28 to service commercial property owners.

The solution to help fund our overcrowded schools while curbing our rising residential property taxes is to encourage the right commercial development in town. Supporting the Market Square Overlay District does just that, commercial development which is controlled and monitored by our Planning and Zoning Boards.

Take action at the polls this coming March 8<sup>th</sup> by voting YES on Planning Board Warrant Article #2.

The mission of the Windham Economic Development Committee (WEDC) is to enhance the vitality of the local economy by supporting existing business and attracting new businesses to Windham, encouraging economic development consistent with the Windham Master Plan, and promoting the spirit of the Town Motto: Old Values, New Horizons. For additional information visit our website at <http://www.windhamnewhampshire.com/updated/edc.htm>