

## “We’re still in a hole at this time.”

– Alderman-at-Large Paula I. Johnson, explaining the ongoing budget crisis after a presentation of suggested budget solutions from Mayor Bernie Streeter and Administrative Services Director Maureen Lemieux at Tuesday’s special budget hearing.

## “The crisis is very real. They sort of trimmed a little bit off the worst predictions.”

– Alderman-at-Large Steve Bolton, *Telegraph*, April 7, 2005

“The Mayor is wasting taxpayer money and city resources at a time of fiscal stress in Nashua...” – Robert Ziegel

## “Government’s too big. We have to cut it down.”

– Ward 6 Alderman Robert Dion, urging the board to make deep budget cuts, *Telegraph*, April 6, 2005

“Difficult times require difficult decisions... Everyone suffers the same fate.”

– Mayor Bernie Streeter, *Telegraph*, April 6, 2005

After last week’s *Telegraph* article calling the city of Nashua’s projected budget shortfall a “financial disaster,” Mayor Bernie Streeter spent some time coming up with a list of recommendations to try to patch the hole.

The expected \$9.5 million gap comes at a time when Nashua is spending millions of taxpayer dollars on a hostile takeover attempt of your water utility.

Streeter’s ideas?

According to an April 6 *Telegraph* article, “Mayor suggests budget solutions,” his biggest idea was to import trash to the Four Hills Landfill to raise \$1.7, but aldermen already said no to that. After Thursday night’s meeting, the largest item on the chopping block now appears to be the elimination of a successful alternative school. Streeter’s other ideas are:

- cutting all spending increases by 1%, including a \$160,950 drop in the police department budget,
- halting some new city sidewalk construction,
- eliminating funding to the Nashua Ballet and Nashua Symphony,
- charging apartment complexes for trash disposal services, and
- refusing to pay city union workers’ increases for a year.

After all of those cuts, the taxpayers still end up with an 8% tax increase.

At [www.smartwater.org](http://www.smartwater.org), concerned citizens like you are telling the city to resolve the fruitless and already costly eminent domain battle so taxpayer money can be used where it is truly needed. Because with millions already spent on the dispute and millions more expected to follow, the mayor is right... “everyone suffers.”



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