

**Ed Edelson
First Selectman
Town of Southbury
Testimony before the Planning & Development Committee
February 1, 2013**

- **HB-5530, AN ACT PERMITTING THE POSTING OF LEGAL NOTICES ON MUNICIPAL WEB SITES.**
- **SB-143, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF NOTICE IN NEWSPAPERS.**
- **HB-5532, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PUBLICATION OF LEGAL NOTICES.**

My name is Ed Edelson, First Selectman of the Town of Southbury. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of mandate relief measures.

As towns continue to face very difficult budget years, it is more important than ever that we look for ways to relieve towns of the costs and burdens associated with unfunded mandates.

I therefore support the above-referenced proposals that will allow municipalities to publish legal notices on the Internet rather than in newspapers. Below is a chart detailing the amounts that the Town of Southbury has spent to publish such legal notices.

Although the numbers are not dramatic, the point is that we are duplicating the work we do on our website that is more effective at providing information to the residents and interested parties. WE have the ability to do an electronic mail to all those interested in being informed about Legal Notices. So we are being forced to use an older technology that is less effective and more expensive. This is just unproductive; government needs to strive to be more productive in its use of resources. We did not require automobiles used in government service in the 1920's to carry buggy whips!

| Fiscal Year | Actual Expenditure |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 2003 | \$ 14,425.00 |
| 2004 | \$ 14,713.00 |
| 2005 | \$ 14,759.00 |
| 2006 | \$ 19,800.00 |
| 2007 | \$ 14,469.00 |
| 2008 | \$ 16,000.00 |
| 2009 | \$ 12,039.00 |
| 2010 | \$ 12,689.00 |
| 2011 | \$ 13,682.00 |
| 2012 | \$ 16,589.00 |
| 2013 | \$ 6,975.00 |

Over 7 years that comes to \$100,000. Those taxpayer dollars could have bought two new police vehicles; or replace outdated computers and software for our staff to better serve residents or update an outdated playground.

Municipal governments must strive to improve productivity while delivering the necessary services; in this case we need your help to remove outdated restrictions while assuring that we continue the commitment to transparency.

In addition to these proposals, I also urge the committee to continue to initiate proposals to reduce cost burdens on our municipalities.

Thank you.