

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Monday, April 26, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Susan K. Lovering recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Susan K. Lovering; Alderman Richard A. Dowd led in the Pledge to the Flag.

President Wilshire

As President of the Board of Aldermen, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.

To join by phone dial: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 842 8545 0609 Passcode: 999999

The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed in the Nashua Telegraph, City Hall, and the Nashua Public Library.

If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

City Clerk Lovering called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 10 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Alderman Patricia Klee, Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Alderman June M. Caron, Alderman Benjamin Clemons, Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu, Alderman Ernest Jette, Alderman Jan Schmidt, Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright, and Alderman Wilshire.

Alderwoman Shoshanna Kelly, Alderman Thomas Lopez, Alderman David C. Tencza, Alderman Brandon Michael Laws and Alderman Skip Cleaver were recorded absent.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

R-21-127 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF FIVE MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,408,000) FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 CITY'S SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

President Wilshire

I will turn the meeting over to the Chairman of the Budget Committee Alderman Dowd.

Chairman Dowd

Yes as Alderman Wilshire just stated, we are going to have public hearings tonight on Resolutions R-21-127 and R-21-128. The first resolutions is authorizing the Mayor and the City Treasurer to issue bonds not to exceed the amount of \$5,408,000 for Fiscal Year 2021 city's sewer infrastructure program. I believe that City Engineer Dan Hudson is going to give us an overview.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Thank you Alderman Dowd. I'm going to share my share. It says it's disabled.

Chairman Dowd

Donna is going to give you permission.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

I have a brief 11 slide presentation which I'll share with you.

Chairman Dowd

Donna are you all set to give him...

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

I'm trying and it's not allowing me to share the screen. Hold on. I'm going to make you co-host.

Chairman Dowd

There you go. That will work.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

All set?

Dan Hudson City Engineer

I believe so. Ok great.

So as noted, this is about the sewer bonds. Here's a picture of an old sewer plan and profile. This program addresses our collection system. So just looking through the numbers here, we have 446 miles of the collection system. It's broken down into sewer – about 82 miles. That's combined sewer where the storm water and the sewer combined. Then we have sanitary sewer – 234 miles and 130 miles of separate storm drain. Thirteen pump stations, 9 combined sewer overflow structures. That's along the rivers that if

the system gets overwhelmed then there's discharge points on those rivers. Four in Nashua and five on the Merrimack. We have 8 siphon chambers which carries storm water and sanitary flow under the rivers and those are comprised of 22 separate barrels ranging in sizes from 6 inch to 60 inch.

I'm not going to read all this on the slide but as you can see, our system dates back to the 1860s when the first sewers were installed. We have a number of large brick sewers and then sewers ranging in 6 to 100 ages. Sewer depths range from 3 to over 31 feet. So you can imagine it's problematic to replace something that that's deep. The other stats and figures are shown there. On the right-hand side, you see a picture of sewer on Canal Street – one of the brick sewers.

So under this program, we asses and then repair sewers. As part of the assessment, we need to clean the pipes and that is important. As you can see in the upper right-hand picture, there's a root ball there. So we cleaned the pipe and then we video inspect it through closed circuit television. That enables us to see which sections of pipe need a treatment. The cleaning effort in itself is valuable in that it restores the pipe to its full capacity. On the bottom right you can see that happening – a jet jetting water in a brick sewer main.

Under the program, we do rehabilitation of the pipes and structures. One of the methods is pipe repair. When we have a collapse at one location that's showing on the right-hand side, we'll go in and dig that up and just make a repair to that a small segment pipe. There's other more extensive repairs so on the bottom left you can see that's a pipe that we video inspected and it had some issues but is still of a shape that we could line it. So on the right-hand side, you can see that we (inaudible) lining so that restores structurally sound pipe that is smooth again.

In the upper right-hand side is showing an epoxy lining of a manhole looking down from the top. That just protects against groundwater leaks and stuff into the structure through cracks. It basically seals up the inside. It's another measure we do here.

Some more pictures upper left. You can see that's quite extensive root obstruction in the pipe. On the right-hand side after we cleaned the pipe and lined it, that's what it looks like. Bottom pictures are just some more of the types of deterioration we find.

Not all pipes can be lined. We do like lining. We're doing more and more of it because it's very cost effective. Much more disruptive to actually have to replace a pipe, disruptive to traffic, much more expensive. Almost 20 times as expensive as lining it. We are trying to line everything that we can but occasionally that's not possible and we have to dig up and replace the pipe. So these pictures show some of those efforts and some of the problems we found before we actually addressed them.

Just looking at a little budget history for the program going back 10 years or so. The program has escalated over the last 5 or so years and over the last few years, we've been in a similar \$5 million plus range and that's enabled us to do more and more work.

Here's some of the results of that work. Some of the older data – maybe we don't have all of the information on but our more recent data is fairly accurate. You can see replacement. We've reduced actually the amount of replacement that we've been doing and have been doing more and more lining. We're prioritizing our looking in the system at the pipes that are oldest and types of materials that are most prone to having this used. As we work through the system and find and address those and the pipes get newer and of materials that are better, we would expect over time that we would see less and less replacement need.

On the right-hand side is just a picture of some dig work, some new piping and a new structure. That's what I have. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Dowd

Before I say that, have you given Donna Graham a copy of this presentation to put with the minutes?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

I have not but I will send it to her after this meeting.

Chairman Dowd

All right, thank you.

Are there any questions from the aldermen before we open it up to public questions or comments? Seeing none, I will open the public hearing and I'll take testimony in favor of R-21-127. Is there anyone that would like to be heard speaking in favor?

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR- None

Chairman Dowd

I'll now ask for testimony in opposition to R-21-127. Is there anyone that would like to speak and provide testimony in opposition? Seeing and hearing no one.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

Chairman Dowd

Seeing and hearing no one, once again I will ask for testimony in favor of R-21-127. Seeing and hearing no one.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR - None

Chairman Dowd

Once again I will ask for testimony in opposition to R-21-127. Seeing and hearing no one.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION - None

Chairman Dowd closed the public hearing on R-21-127 at 7:13 p.m. Thank you Mr. Hudson.

R-21-128 - AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,550,000) TO PAY ADDITIONAL COSTS OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S HEATING, VENTILATION, AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEM, WINDOW IMPROVEMENTS AND LOCKER AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Mederos.

Captain Dan Mederos, Nashua Police

Yes it's Captain Dan Mederos with the Nashua Police Department. Thank you Chairman Dowd. I appreciate you and all the aldermen in giving me a chance to speak on behalf of this resolution.

At this time, I'd like to share a short PowerPoint slide presentation if that would be all right to share my screen.

Chairman Dowd

That's fine, yup.

Captain Dan Mederos, Nashua Police

So what we're looking at here is something that has come before Budget Review and the Aldermen regarding our HVAC system. At this time we are moving forward looking to request that additional funds to support the previous funding that we appropriated which was \$2.8 million back in April of 2019 for the upgrade of our HVAC system, the heating ventilation, air conditioning, as well as replacement of windows at that time. So total now for this whole project, we're looking at approximately \$4,350,000.

Just to go back and give you historical data of what led us up to this point is many of you are aware that the original police department here was built in 1977 and we had an addition built almost doubling the size back in 1999 and completed around 2001. Both those individual HVAC systems were independent systems of themselves and currently we've been able to modify them that we have one controlling system for those HVAC systems. Fortunately in 2005 we were able to secure some funds and have to cut back a project but were able to make several modifications to all the vintage 1977 mechanical systems to include pumps, heating pumps, a boiler, and modifying the exhaust system that we have here. Unfortunately at that time, we weren't able to upgrade the 1977 mechanical room as well as the ventilation system for our indoor pistol range as well as the heating systems in our fleet maintenance garage area.

Since 2005 in those modifications, we have had significant failures and issues with the HVAC system in both areas as a whole. These failures have caused multiple troubleshooting sessions with our service contractors just shown to be totally inefficient to the point where our city Energy Manager Doria Brown has made comments about our energy bills being one of the highest in the city. It was due to most of these calls and efficiencies where we were finally able to contract out to SMRT, Inc. in early 2019 to do an assessment in inventory of our whole HVAC system. With that going forward, they made several recommendations to upgrade and change our overall systems with basically salvaging very few of the mechanical that we have at this current time. We were able to receive an approximation being \$2.5 million for that moving forward. With that, we were able to go ahead and hire Yeaton & Associates to contract a design and engineer in each system for us. We were finally able to go forward and receive that funding for the \$2.8 million to also include upgrading of the windows in our 1977 portion of the building to assist with energy costs.

Unfortunately due to the pandemic and the design costs, we weren't able to get that design in until the end of 2020 and go out to bid with the city until February of 2021 of this year. At that time, we do have a proposed bid that we'd like to move forward with. It was the lowest bidder which was Turnstone Construction. That came in just over \$3.6 million. At this point, it's left us short in those fundings to move forward.

In the meantime, we've identified other areas that need improvement here at the police department which includes our locker room areas. Especially the locker rooms that have been here since 1977. There have been some upgrades when the new addition was built in 2001 but many of those lockers that we've been dealing with over time that are approximately 42 years old right now have had some sort of disrepair, rusting, mechanical issues, hinges not working just due to the overall use here. We have approximately 37 of those lockers that are totally out of service. In the past few years we've had to have our building maintenance folks attached actually shed hasps to actually be able to secure many of these lockers. As you all know here at the police department, there's many officers that don't have an office space or other places to keep their equipment. The locker room and the lockers that the folks use here at the police department for the majority of us, they are your primary office that's where you secure all your gear, including your weapon.

Just moving forward here, I'm just looking to show you a few examples because looking at lockers I know they all look the same, but we're looking at here are several of those that aren't able to close. You can see a lot of the hinges in the doors along the line don't close correctly and have problems. There's multiple rust that's occurring. As you can see on the insides, we've done our best to keep up with these lockers. We had multiple lockers repainted on the outside to keep up appearances but as we went through, and you can see here in the back locker room where multiple of the style lockers we have have just failed for the locking mechanism as the high usage that we have here.

This is a closer photo. You can see where the rusting and deterioration is starting in a lot of the seams in the metal of many of these lockers. Here's another close up of the rusting that is indicative of the majority of these lockers we have here. Again this is another example of just the bending and the hinges that have been off. That makes it tough to secure and have any issues there.

So moving forward, out of the \$1,550,000 that we are looking to secure its not only for what we believe is the necessary updating of our HVAC system to get to that point of what that bid had come in as, it's also adding some funding in there to operate our lockers which probably would be a smaller portion of the funding here that we're looking at. It's all necessary especially due to the inefficiency of our HVAC system and the priority that our folks here put on securing the gear and taking pride in where we're keeping our personal items while they're at work.

At this time, I welcome any questions about what our request is here.

Chairman Dowd

Just a couple of things. I will tell you that when we did the window work, the first time I went over to see it in the winter they had duct tape on the sides of the windows to keep the snow from piling up on their desks. That was something that was easy to get money to fix because all our energy was going right out the window.

The HVAC systems I've seen and they definitely need replacement and update. There will be a cost savings downstream with a new HVAC system through heating and ventilation of the police station. The lockers are in even in worst shape than those pictures show. We hire officers from other departments now. We don't recruit new people all the time. We do bring in experienced officers and when they get a look at the locker room, that's one of the things that sort of a downer for them. They're in need of this funding and the cost have been increasing and they have a locked in cost and we need to act on this fairly quickly. Hopefully tomorrow night we will do the second reading of the legislation.

Are there any Aldermen questions for Captain Mederos?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Captain you mentioned that it went out to bid and you took the lowest bid. How many folks responded to the bid request?

Captain Dan Mederos, Nashua Police

We were actually able to get four bids that came in. One of those vendors actually backed out and pulled their bid back. We had three bids that came in. This was Turnstone Construction that we'd like to go with. The other two bids were approximately a little over \$4 million each.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Okay thank you.

Chairman Dowd

All set Linda?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Follow up. Have you ever used them before this particular bidder? Just curious.

Captain Dan Mederos, Nashua Police

We have not used Turnstone yet. Myself and Purchasing Manager Kelly Parkinson had spoken with several of their references and they've used but here in the city they have done work recently at the Boys and Girls Club where they did do some minor renovations over there and came highly recommended.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Gathright?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Lu.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Is it about \$750,000 for the lockers? Have I got my numbers right?

Captain Dan Mederos, Nashua Police

We estimate that the lockers to be anywhere between \$125,000 and \$150,000. The remainder of the funding that is being requested is obviously we've already spent some of the money towards to the windows, spending towards the design, as well as another space needs study that we had to go through to determine whether or not it would be possible to place the new HVAC on the roof or not in case we were looking to expand someday.

Chairman Dowd

The cost increase is two-fold. One was from getting the final design and getting a bid on it and the second was that everything is going up in price because of COVID and drove the price up as well. They have a price locked in right now and that's what we're debating in this resolution.

All set Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Well no. I had another question. If you could just reiterate the two prices that were in your presentation. I don't remember them. There was an original expected quote and there was this year's quote. What were those two numbers?

Captain Dan Mederos, Nashua Police

Initially when they did an assessment of the system back in early 2019 by a separate company, they estimated it would cost us approximately \$2.5 million. When we were able to go out for design even the estimations from the company to engineer and design our updated system, their estimations were close to 2.6 and that's not withstanding the money that we've already used that was included in to update the windows as well as used to hire this design company for the engineering and the specs of our HVAC system upgrade.

Alderwoman Lu

Okay will you be providing the slides to the Aldermen as well? If I can look through the slides, I'm sure my questions will be more answered.

Captain Dan Mederos, Nashua Police

Yes I plan on forwarding them to Mrs. Graham after this.

Alderwoman Lu

Thanks a lot. I'm all set.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Seeing and hearing none, I'll now open the public hearing. Is there anyone that would like to testify in favor of this Resolution? Seeing and hearing no one.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR- None

Chairman Dowd

Is there anyone that wants to provide testimony in opposition to R-21-128?

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

Laura Colquhoun

Laura Colquhoun. I live at 30 Greenwood Drive. I just don't think this is the right time to put this kind of money forward seeing how everybody is still hurting and it's only going to increase the tax rate. I think that if you look around, there's a lot of homes that were built in 1954 that still have the original windows and don't have any air conditioning. So I'm against this. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else testimony in opposition? Seeing and hearing no one else.

Testimony in favor again. Anyone who wants to provide testimony in favor? Seeing and hearing no one.

TESTIMONY IN FAVOR – None

Chairman Dowd

Once again testimony in opposition. Seeing and hearing no one.

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION – None

Chairman Dowd closed the public hearing on R-21-128 at 7:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT THE APRIL 26, 2021, SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken to adjourn the Board of Aldermen meeting which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Klee, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Caron,
Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Lu, Alderman Jette, Alderman Schmidt,
Alderman Harriott-Gathright, Alderman Wilshire 10

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Attest: Susan K. Lovering, City Clerk