

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MAY 18, 2022

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, May 18, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and via Zoom. The meeting link information can be found on the agenda.

Mayor Jim Donchess, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee, Vice Chair
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons

Members not in Attendance: Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.

Also in Attendance: Alderman Jette (via Zoom)
Alderman Thibeault (via Zoom)
John Griffin, CFO/Comptroller
Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director
Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Cheryl Lindner, Treasury Management Officer
Karen Smith, NPD Business Office Manager
Nicole Chute, Health Promotion & Communication Specialist
Steve Buxton, Fire Chief
David L. Boucher, Superintendent of Wastewater
Jeffrey LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste
Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

PUBLIC COMMENT

Roy Tilsley

Thank you. My name is Roy Tilsley. I'm an Attorney with Berstein, Shur in Manchester at 670 North Commercial Street. I'm here on behalf of Community Media Services Group, LLC. I am joined by Dick Gagnon and Dan Young who operate Nashua's Public Access P Channel and have operated successfully for the last 10 years. I am here regarding let's see item 3 on your communications list which is the Public Access Television Operations contract as well as the letter at the bottom of that list that I submitted in response to that.

We are asking you to reject the recommendation of the Cable Television Advisory Board recommending the bid proposal from BRB TV, LLC. We're asking you to reject that recommendation for two reasons. Number one - we are the low bidder on this contract. The BRB TV contract is \$506,800 over three years. That is \$35,000 a year more than the City is currently paying my client. Our proposal at \$145,000 a year with 5% increases annually we be \$456,750 over three years - a nearly \$50,000 savings plus a transition to a new provider will involve two or three months of overlapping fees as the operation is handed off from my client to a new provider.

It's very clear from Section 5-78A of your ordinances that major purchases such as this should be purchased from the lowest responsible bidder. My client is the lowest responsible bidder on this particular contract. The ordinance Section 5-78H indicates that when a contract is not given to the lowest bidder, a full and complete statement of all reasons shall be presented by the Purchasing Manager. All I've seen is a one sentence reason in the cover letter in your packet which indicates that the vendor who best presented a proposal for channel growth was chosen. That is not a full and complete statement and as best I can tell from the bid packet, channel growth was not one of the criteria that CTAB was supposed to be looking at.

Not only has my client the lowest bidder on this particular contract, but my client has a 10 year...

Alderman Comeau

30 seconds

Roy Tilsley

...track record of providing quality public access channel to the City of Nashua. The record reveals absolutely no complaints about my client's operation of the channel for 10 years. As the lowest bidder, quality operator, provided a quality product, my client should have gotten this contract and I urge the Board to reverse the decision of CTAB and reward it to my client. Thank you.

Fred Teeboom

Fred Teeboom, 24 Cheyenne. It's been quite a while since I've been here. There's a lot of changes. It looks very nice. Comfortable seats. This Board is one of my favorites when I was an Alderman – Finance Committee.

I wasn't going to mention this, but on page 41 of your packages actually it said the spreadsheets of the costs and the attorney mentioned that he's the low bidder. Actually I looked at both proposals and the first year of the other – the topic that the Attorney represents - assumes that they'll be a City employee that actually supports the contract. So if you put into account the costs and the benefits of the City employee, it's not really the lowest contract. But you don't even have to pick even the lowest contract. But that's not why I came to speak.

I came to speak because I have a great interest in public access channel. I had a lot to do with building the studio. For those who know me, going back 15 years. I had a lot to do with bringing about the P channel that some Aldermen opposed. Now I'm a senior now so I like to sit in my easy chair, pick up my Roku, (inaudible) city because I'm streaming. I don't get Comcast. I got my Roku and picking up the streaming channel. Now they all stream but if you take a look at the videos that are posted, the Government channel has 168 – 168 venues posted of archive. Yes you look a lot younger than those. The E channel has 283 videos posted. Guess how many the P channel has? One. One archived video channel going back to 2019 - three years ago. That needs to be modernized.

What I like about the other proposal is they promised a lot of innovation and they mentioned – and I won't go through it there's not enough time – but they intent to put a studio in the Performing Arts Center. They have a news channel they propose to bring. You know, new stuff. It's true the current operator...

Alderman Comeau

30 seconds

Fred Teeboom

...is a good operator. I know Dick Gagnon very well. I've been a host on some of his programs but folks and only having one P channel and you have almost 200 or more, it's time for a change. Thank you.

Carl Seidel

Hello, my name is Carl Seidel. I came to talk about this channel 96. My address is 39 Pilgrim Circle, Nashua.

I came because I consider channel 96 the people's voice. It's a public access channel. Everybody has been very well served by the current management and we sent a number of comments to the hearing that was held by the Advisory Committee and none of them were really read because they just well skipped it. I'd like to say that in having a program for 10 years, I think it's a very important way to get out the voice of a number of people who have concerns. This is what it was put up for. I think we ought to keep it that way. I didn't hear any comments over those 10 years about why there should be a change.

Now the only thing I can see is some kind of cost estimate that's going to be evaluated. I don't know what the value of that is but whatever I think we have to keep the format the same and allow people to voice their comments. That's the only way you have. You have other channels for education, for any of the other legislative opportunities that we have in the City. So I think we at least have to have a bigger hearing because the last one was too quick, not enough people were allow to attend, and voice their choice for that. Thank you.

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkley Street. Just with regard to the contract if channel growth was in there, and modernization, and upgrading hopefully the big contract specified what you're looking for so that both parties or all parties submitted what you were looking for and that they didn't believe that the same was what you were looking for because the low bid would

be the winner. I mean I didn't see the contract and read it, but I do think that's important. I do think if modernization and upgrading was what you are looking for and you picked who you picked for that, fine, but as long as the contract specified that for all parties what the criteria was that's very important. So if channel growth, and upgrading, and modernization was part of the contract so be it.

I am concerned and I just want to state there was a bunch of information in the packet regarding how we're going to rebrand and legitimize the station, develop, diverse bilingual shows, weekly interview shows with Department of Health, DPW, NPD, NFD, BOA, Mayor, and City departments. I want to make certain that we are allowing programming that speaks to the diversity of thought in the City. That it doesn't become a single party television station. I want to make certain when boards go on, first of all if you have enough members of the Board you have a meeting. When Boards go on that they don't become a political platform. I want rules written like what happens during candidate season when we register new people to run for office in September? Do those Board members that are maybe coming back get greater access time because they're already on the Board to pitch what they've done and newer candidates aren't going to have a voice who are there? I want to make certain that we represent all the views of the City and that Republican views, Democratic views, and Independent views are accessed. If the Department of Health comes on, terrific but get some people on who speak about not wanting to vaccinate children or not believing masks are effective. Let those voices be heard. Would you entertain a program on Right-to-Know? What is open access information? What is the public need to know about that information? I just want to make certain that it doesn't become a political station for a single party. That we have plenty of City diversity in the programming that we do. Thank you.

Harvey Key

Hello. My name is Harvey Key. I live in Nashua, New Hampshire. I just simply want to tell you how proud I am to be a citizen of this great City and much of this great City started when I came here about 50 years ago. There was a welcome wagon that came to my door and welcomed us with a whole bunch of stuff from business people invited us and embraced us like we belonged here. I have felt that way ever since I've been here. I was on George Russell's Big Time Show in Downtown Nashua. We reached a lot of people saying a lot of nice things and then I got a promotion. George said he was responsible for that. I got to be with the television station which my show is called "Nashua Strong". If any of you want to see how I work hard to make this City stronger, tune into Nashua Strong with Harvey Key.

I'm so proud of this City and I just hope whatever you do with this television station that it continues to grow and make this City what I expect it to be – one of the greatest cities in the State of New Hampshire. Thank you so much and watch my show. It's called "Nashua Strong".

Mayor Donchess

Now Mr. Key could you give us your street address please.

Harvey Key

I live at 4 Tamworth Place in Nashua, New Hampshire. The zip is 03063.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you very much. Other people wish to address the Committee?

Christopher Felix

Good evening. My name is Christopher Felix. I live at 113 East Hollis Street. I'm a resident of Nashua, New Hampshire. I've worked with the Access Channel and our show is about diversity. It's about music and bringing together a bunch of people from all over New Hampshire who does music, R&B, hip hop, country, rock and we add a lot of light to the City of Nashua thanks to Dan and Dick back there of diversity with this station. We have done things were we teamed up with this girl who suffers from cancer and we have done things in the community from the station and let them speak their story and express themselves with everybody in Nashua, New Hampshire. We also have, like you said, we have the access channel with the links and stuff like that. So we've reached a lot of people and touched a lot of people from Nashua with music and giving them the insight to speak their story because we don't focus on major artists. We focus on the little guys. Guys coming from here. The rock band that plays right at Penuche's. You know what I mean. We've them down give guitar lessons on the show to teach kids and other diversities how to do music, how to go to the studio, how to make a print out of the work that they've done.

I am very grateful and I hope you guys come to a great decision whatever it is. I believe Dan and Dick have been doing a great job of creating diversity for the station and the City of Nashua, New Hampshire. Thank you guys.

Chris Stawasz

Chris Stawasz. I actually live in Hollis, but run American Medical Response which is the ambulance provider for the City of Nashua. I've been on Access TV a number of times and have always been very pleased that the folks do there to get the message out. Particularly, I'm sure you've seen me talking about opioids and other things within the City. I have also been on WSMN with George and Bob. I'm here tonight to speak to support for their bid.

What actually caught my attention the most was their proposal to put a studio, if you will, inside the new Performing Arts Center which I think is a phenomenal idea and would be wonderful for the City. Most of all I think George and Bob would bring a fresh base of ideas to a community that I've grown up in and lived in most of my life. I think that they would do a fine job in expanding the opportunities that people have to communicate in the City and be aware of what's going on in the City. Without a newspaper anymore, it's very difficult to understand when things are happening, or what's going on, and I think that their new approach would bring a wonderful way to do that. So I support their selection and hope that you do too.

Mayor Donchess

Now Mr. Stawasz could you give us either your business or your residential address just by street?

Chris Stawasz

Sure. It's I actually live in Hollis, 380 West Hollis Street here in Nashua and I hadn't retired Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. Anyone else that would like to address the Committee?

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

Good evening. My name is Steve Buxton, Fire Chief, City of Nashua - 70 East Hollis Street is the address.

So I sit on the CTAB Committee and I actually sat in on both of the interviews as a Sub-Committee of that group. During the interviews, both of the parties that bid on it brought very different energies to the table. BRB brought a what I would call a more vibrant, modern energy to the table and that is basically what I based my decision on. They brought some great ideas to modernize local access television. They brought a great energy, a lot of ideas. The individuals involved have a strong worth ethic. They were successful in resurrecting a local radio station that was down and out and they've brought it back to have quite a bit of programming that a lot of locals are allowed to go on and spread their word. I believe it would be a wise investment to afford them the opportunity they are seeking with the local access television. Thank you.

Ken Gidge

My name is Ken Gidge. I'm from Nashua - 22 Hayden Street. I've lived here my whole life so far. My family has probably lived in Nashua for 125 years - all in Ward 6, poor Ward 6! I come here with a unique experience or kind of different point of view. Probably about 10 years ago, we only had two channels. We had an educational channel and we had a government channel. Like this would be the government channel. We did not have a channel where we could give a public access. In other words, anybody could do a show and turn around no matter what it was as long as there were rules of language, etc. and topics. It was awful. The argument that took place that night is just like the Aldermen just didn't want to do it. It got so bad they turned off the sound and then they pointed the camera high away from where nobody could see what was going on. The reason quite simply was that at that very night, they were going to sign a contract to Comcast and that meant we were only going to have two channels. We wanted a third channel. There were three of us matter-of-fact and Fred Teeboom was one of the individuals. We wanted three channels. After all, Londonderry had something like six channels but for some reason the Aldermen didn't want to do it.

Finally Steve Bolton turned and said to the individual who was running the cable board at that time, anybody come to the meetings? They had three meetings and they said no. I was there twice. So Steve said, "okay let's not vote on it tonight, let's look at it". What happened was obviously Comcast wanted the contract and to give us another channel was not a big deal. They gave it to us. It took about five years to finance it and thanks to Donnalee Lozeau it was financed.

I and a few other people did one of the very first shows there. I did about 50 hours of broadcasting from that television station. I had done eight years of talk radio so thinking TV the change wouldn't be a big deal.

Alderman Comeau

Time

Mayor Donchess

You have a three minute which you just breached.

Ken Gidge

I didn't know that.

Mayor Donchess

Can you give us one more sentence?

Ken Gidge

Yes, I'll just say one more thing. If you were to give the station to the people who were most qualified and it would run properly, you would give it back to the people who are now running it. Two years of what these people have gone through trying to keep the TV station working. What they've gone through has been awful and so people have taken advantage of that. These people are more qualified than anyone to run the station. We're coming up to a point where we're going to have the Art Center and I think it's very important that we have the proper people running it. I'm sorry if I've taken up too much time. Thank you.

George Russell, WSMN

My business is located at 196 Main Street. My name is George Russell and I'm the owner and operator and broadcaster of WSMN and an owner and participant of BRB TV and our bid and proposal to help the public access TV station come to the next level. As was spoken before, we did take a dark, very dark radio station and built it into what it is now, which was a lot of work and a lot of manpower and hours which we are now FM. We have a state-of-the-art studio overlooking downtown Main Street. We thought that by participating in bidding for the public access television we could bring that to viewership that's comparable to what the radio is and it does not happen by having people sit in studio that are technically advanced more than the next to run cameras and wait for people to knock on the door to get a television show. It takes people to be on the ground like we were with the radio inviting them to come on and have a show.

We believe in education, entertainment, everything that is on that station right now will not go away. We want to increase viewership by increasing programming and that is going to take people with a tremendous amount of energy and work ethic that does not stop from 9 to 5 and we are very excited about the opportunity. Our proposal is strong. We are bringing people with experience with a 25-year retired man from NBC television in New York City. Carolyn Choate and Gordon were on Channel 13. They are on my team. They have more experience than anybody in TV next to WMUR. So it takes a team to do everything and it's all of us. I'm just the one that said let's give it a shot. We have a very strong team.

We've also let it be noted spoke way before we put the proposal in with Dick, who I have worked with, to say hey why don't you be part of the team. We could do this together. We can really make this happen because after all it's about the City and letting the people know that they have a television station that they can be on which is why we also will use the radio to promote that. By casting out that web, I'm sure we can increase programming and you'll be very proud, not that you might not be now, but even more proud when the objective is to get that place viewed as much as WMUR and I am very capable of making that happen. Thank you. We look forward to the opportunity.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. On Zoom I see Alderman Comeau pointed out that Scott McCullough has raised his hand. So you Scott come on Zoom and give your name and address and then give us your remarks limited to three minutes. Well we cannot hear Mr. McCullough. While we're working on that technical problem is there any other of the public who wishes to address the Committee?

Richard Gagnon, CMSG

My home address is 28 Rochambeau Street in Manchester. Really it's Goffstown but its Manchester mailing.

I'd just like inform the Committee what the purpose of public access is all about. You know we've heard from George and a couple others about producing shows for DPW, and the government, the Educational Channel, and so forth. That's not what public access is all about. Public Access is for us to assist the public in producing their own shows. We're not a production company to go out and produce this show or that show. We assist the public with the technical knowledge that we have in order for them to produce their show - the way they want it, the content they want because that is what public access is. For us to go and produce something for DPW, my first question is why? We have a government channel. That is what the government channel is set for. Education - for us to go and do a show about Nashua North, no. That's the education channel. Public access is strictly for the public to get their thoughts and opinions out into the world.

Just a quick note about the budget. I want to correct a good friend - Fred Teeboom. When he talked about our budget included the City hiring a studio director and taking that out of our budget. If any of you had seen our proposal and read the four budget proposals that we gave, budget proposal one was as it is now with Dan, myself, and Harlan our editor and producing the shows the way we're doing it and so forth.

Alderman Comeau

30 seconds

Richard Gagnon

That was \$145,000. That really is our lowest. There were three others options where we wanted to add a news director so we could have a news show, but listening to CTAB meeting if you go back and listen to it, they weren't for that. Having a...

Alderman Comeau

Time

Richard Gagnon

...studio director that was also kind of kyboshed as well. So therefore the number was 145. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Any other member of the public wish to address the Committee? All right. If not, we'll go on to Communications. Now before we get to those on the agenda, we did get a letter from Attorney Tilsley and I think we should just accept that and place it on file so we have it as part of the record. Is there a motion to that effect?

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT THE COMMUNICATION BY ATTORNEY TILSLEY AND PLACE IT ON FILE**MOTION CARRIED**COMMUNICATIONS

From: Bobbie Bagley, Public Health Director and Community Services
Re: Billboard designs

There being no objection, Mayor Donchess accepted the communication and placed it on file.

Mayor Donchess

Okay Miss Chute could you address the subject please.

Nicole Chute, Health Promotion and Communications Specialist, Nashua Health Dept.

So tonight we're asking to put through our contract for annual billboards with Outfront Media. The intent of our billboards is to promote health information and awareness of our services through mass communication to the public. I just wanted

to mention this was tabled last meeting in response to Alderman Moran's question of us using evidence-based messaging. I just wanted to clarify to the public that we use health promotion, social and behavioral health models that address primary prevention efforts and mass communication is one of those evidence-based methods used to communicate information to our population. All of our messaging that we use (inaudible) researched and the content is created and reviewed by our staff as well as subject matter experts for the specific topics. Included in this contract, we do have billboard locations changing each billboard message three times per year. I just wanted to mention that the first quarter will do plan to run a billboard on blood pressure and pre-diabetes risk, importance of the COVID vaccination, and lead poisoning prevention for children. All of our billboards do have a message and a call to action on them.

Mayor Donchess

All right Ms. Chute I should have asked you at the beginning. Could you please just clarify your position with the Public Health Department?

Nicole Chute, Health Promotion and Communications Specialist, Nashua Health Dept.

Oh yes, sorry. I'm the Health Promotion and Communications Specialist.

Mayor Donchess

As I understand it, this is grant funded and you were asked this question at the last Finance Committee meeting?

Nicole Chute, Health Promotion and Communications Specialist, Nashua Health Dept.

Yup. So there was a question about why there were billboards in the Greater Nashua Region. It is because we do have funding that comes down through the State that requires us to provide services to the Greater Nashua Region and that's why there is a billboard in their from Merrimack and Milford as well as Nashua.

Mayor Donchess

Any members of the Committee have other follow-up or discussion or questions?

Alderman Klee

Just a point of order here Mr. Mayor. This is one of the last items on the agenda. It was a tabled item so we really need to take it off the table. I think we just wanted to accept the communication and then later on remove it from the table. The last meeting we placed it on the table. So if you look at page 3.

Mayor Donchess

All right. Well because Miss Chute is on the call and there could be some lengthy discussion here, is it alright if you address any questions you have to Miss Chute now so that she doesn't have to wait through the whole meeting?

Alderman Klee

I just want to clarify, the Alderman who requested this get tabled is not here at the moment, but I do think that all of his questions were answered by Miss Chute. I feel comfortable with us removing it off the table first and then asking questions if that's okay? We can move it forward if you want to while she's here seeing we've already started it this way. I believe we'll probably have to because it's part of the Table in Committee. We can discuss it now, but don't we have to have the motion?

Mayor Donchess

Eventually yes. Are there any questions for Miss Chute? Alderman Gouveia?

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Mr. Mayor and this might be answered, I'm not too sure. It's more on the finance side of it not so much of what we're paying for but it says the \$51,159.30 come from grants in the 385070 that comes from the City's general fund. I'm just wondering is that money from the general fund is that needed to get these grants or how is that calculated? Because

between a \$55,000 promotion, a \$51,000 promotion is not really a big difference. I'm wondering why we need to dip into the general fund for that money?

Nicole Chute, Health Promotion and Communications Specialist

Unfortunately, I do not have the answer for that. I'm not sure if there is someone from Finance that might have that answer that worked with Bobbie on that.

Mayor Donchess

All right. Any other questions? We may be able to get that question answered between now and the next meeting. Any other questions? All right. Thank you Miss Chute. We will get to this later, but I believe all of the issues that you could discuss have been discussed, so thank you very much.

Nicole Chute, Health Promotion and Communications Specialist

Thank you.

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Audio Visual Equipment in the amount not to exceed \$35,553.68 funded from 71000 Equipment/PEIPP Trust (Fire)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO UPGRADE THE AUDIO AND VISUAL EQUIPMENT IN THE TRAINING AND SAFETY DIVISION CLASSROOM AND LIBRARY AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO CCS PRESENTATION SYSTEMS OF NASHUA, NH, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,553.68. FUNDING THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 152 FIRE RESCUE; FUND: 71000 EQUIPMENT/PEIPP TRUST

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Buxton are you here on this?

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

Please just give us a brief explanation.

Steve Buxton, Fire Chief

Good evening. Steve Buxton, Nashua Fire and this is Bill Atkinson the Assistant Chief, Nashua Fire.

So our training classroom is located at 177 Lake Street and it was opened in 1998. Soon thereafter, we received a grant that we outfitted it with AV equipment that allowed us to broadcast to the other stations so we could perform trainings and so forth. This location is utilized by ourselves for training, our Board of Fire Commission meetings, public education classes and others throughout the community. Most recently NPD has been occupying this space to hold some training and Commission meetings as well as they have an HVAC program going on over at their building. During COVID, we set-up an incident management team and this was the center for it. Very early on as we were all learning about Zoom and all these other new platforms that we use daily now, we realized how inefficient and outdated our AV equipment had become and we were unable to communicate from there with it. As we were working through it, we researched to see what would be needed to update the equipment. We eventually requested proposals, received bids, and the funding will come from the Fire Rescue PEIPP Fund. Just so you know, that fund is donations that have come from private entities from within our community to help us educate the public in injury prevention, fire prevention, and so on, and so forth. So that is the nuts and the bolts of it. If you have any technical questions, Chief Atkinson would be happy to answer them for you.

Mayor Donchess

Any comments or questions?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Re: Public Access Television Operations & Management in the amount not to exceed \$506,800 funded from 55699 Other Contracted Services/PEG Access Channels Special Revenue Fund (Administration)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT FOR THE MANAGEMENT, OPERATION AND COORDINATION OF THE CTV STUDIO AND CHANNEL 96 TO BRBTV, LLC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$506,800 FOR A THREE YEAR TOTAL. FUNDING THROUGH DEPARTMENT: COMMUNITY TELEVISION; FUND: 55699 OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES/PEG ACCESS CHANNELS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. Now Attorney Tilsley's letter raised procedural issues regarding the process that was used to consider this proposal. I know Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager, is on the call. Could you please address with respect to the Nashua Ordinances the process that was used by the Advisory Committee to consider these proposals?

Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Yes, this is Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager. We did put it out to an RFP which does allow for criteria other than purely cost to be the determining factor and we outlined in the RFP what the factors would be for CTAB to weigh and come up with the scores to who was the best fit for the contract.

We did also, in our pre-bid meeting we had quite a bit of discussion around what we were looking for the channel for it to progress a little bit and we referred both participants that were at that pre-bid meeting to go back and review the December 2021 CTAB meeting because there was pretty lengthy discussion at that meeting as well as to what we were looking for in a proposal. We did make it very clear that the cost was not the number one determining factor as to who this bid was going to go to.

Mayor Donchess

For the uninitiated, you used the term "RFP"?

Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

It's "Request for Proposal". In competitive bidding, there are several different options in how to receive proposals, how to request proposals. One is called an IFB, which is an "Invitation for Bid" and an Invitation for Bid, it is purely cost driven. The lowest responsible bidder receives that award in an IFB. In a Request for Proposal, you're really judging the proposal as a whole not just the cost. You are judging the quality of the proposal, what you are getting, what they want to do with it. You are not defining how to do something in your RFP. You're letting them come to you with how they want to do it and it is evaluation criteria is both technical and cost factors, but mostly it's a combination of both. It's not just cost.

Mayor Donchess

Is it your opinion that the Committee in considering these proposals complied with City Ordinances?

Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

It is my opinion. I was not at the CTAB meeting but I did watch it after the meeting. I was not also part of the interviews which is not at all uncommon. It's pretty common with the city that the project lead is leading the interview in vendor selection. My role is really to put out the bid and make sure that the ordinance is being followed and that we are complying as best as we can.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. Do members of the Committee have questions or comments of Miss Parkinson?
Alderwoman Klee?

Alderwoman Klee

I do not have a comment for Miss Parkinson. I have another comment for after.

Mayor Donchess

I believe while we have Miss Parkinson here on the issue of compliance and she'll remain on the call, but is there anybody wants to ask anything about that now. If not, we'll bring up Miss Kleiner I believe who will present the Committee's position.

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Good evening. Kim Kleiner, Director of Administrative Services and I'm here with Andrew Cernota who is the Chairman of the Cable Television Advisory Board. This has been a very long process. We actually started this process last summer. We knew the contract needed to be renewed. The contract had gone for a long time of yearly renewals year after year, but have not been looked at in over ten years. Community Media Services which has done a tremendous job came forward with a new proposal and asked the City to consider taking one of their employees on to the City. In changing the proposal and the contract that had previously existed quite drastically. The CTAB Board discussed that in the fall of 2021. We discussed their proposal and there was some discussion on how we should actually proceed.

In November, and again these are all public meetings, there was discussion on should we actually consider going out for a request for proposals, especially considering the length of time there have been since the initial and considering that the current vendor was bringing forward what were pretty specific changes. A letter was issued to CMSG to terminate and continue on a month-to-month agreement.

In all cases this has been a process where there has been a lot of input so there is Attorney Cernota and the Board who operate and most of the Board is your City Directors. There is Mr. Poehnert. There's Mr. Johnson that sit in and give the Board technical advice. Then we brought in Miss Parkinson for the development of the RFP. The CTAB Committee had specific weigh in on the RFP, although we had Miss Parkinson expertise. The CTAB Committee reviewed it and gave specific input before it was released. So in February, it was released and as you heard from Miss Parkinson, we had a pre-proposal meeting. We met both CMSG and BRB TV were there. We discussed vendor questions. We answered vendors' questions and ultimately proposals were due February 24th.

From there, proposals were reviewed by the CTAB Advisory Board and interviews were scheduled with each of the candidates. Interview notes from those interviews because the Interview Committees was not the whole CTAB Board and that's noted in the correspondence that came to you. That is correct. That is common when you have a board that large, it's very hard to get all the members together for the interviews. So the CTAB Committee asked members to volunteer and those members interviewed, and they made notes, and made them available to the CTAB Board.

Ultimately April 1st there was a vote of the CTAB Board to recommend to the City to accept the proposal by BRB TV. Miss Parkinson is correct when she says that this was really a look and if you go back and you look at the minutes of the CTAB meetings, you'll find that the Committee was very focused on how we move the station forward for the future. While we certainly are looking at fiscal oversight and management oversight, we were also looking at modernization and how programming really cultivates what we find important in Nashua. Is it representative of our community and BRB TV had some very innovative ways and not only was that driven in their proposal, but it's also been driven in how they have progressed in the community. It's well documented. You can see it in how they've handle the radio station and how they've handled their businesses and their relationships going forward. So all these things then the proposal was in your packet so I certainly won't go through it. I'll turn to Chairman Cernota in case he has anything he'd like to share, but we are asking for your approval of the contract with BRB TV in the total of \$506,800. That is reflected in the PEG Access budget which you'll see next week.

Mayor Donchess

Now Mr. Cernota or Miss Kleiner yeah there are the other members of the CTAB Committee so would you mind introducing them?

Andrew Cernota, Chairman Cable Television Advisory Board

Chief Buxton is a member and I think he might be the only member we have with us.

Mayor Donchess

Okay thank you.

Andrew Cernota, Chairman Cable Television Advisory Board

Nick Miseirvitch is also a member.

Mayor Donchess

Is there anything that you would like to add?

Andrew Cernota, Chairman Cable Television Advisory Board

The main thing that I would like to add that it was mentioned that developing the station wasn't part of the RFP. It was mentioned in counsel's remarks earlier. That exact language perhaps not, but it's always been a core function of the operator of the Public Access Channel to identify, recruit, and support producers of material. That is central to the idea that we're going to develop the channel. The development of the channel means having programming that is attractive to viewers. I mean it's very easy for us to quantify how many producers there are, how many programs are put on the public access at any given time. It's difficult for us to identify how many viewers we actually have, so it's a bit of speculation. But having a broad range of material that's offered and having a broad range of producers that are being recruited by the provider, it's those networks that help bring viewers in that might not otherwise be inclined to watch a public access channel. The value to the City of a public access channel is not just in providing an outlet or a forum for citizens to produce programming, but also for members of the community to see it and be present for it as viewers. So it's quite important to have that ability to engage outside of just providing technical support for existing producers or identifying the occasional producer that comes to you. While I have a great deal of respect for Community Television the incumbents, the Committee as a whole had a consensus that BRB had different networks and different capacities to be able to have that outreach. I think that's a fair assessment.

Mayor Donchess

Alright. Do Committee members have questions, comments? Alderwoman Klee?

Alderwoman Klee

Thank you Mayor and thank you both for coming and speaking here. I can tell that when I saw this contract I did reach out to Director Kleiner and asked her a number of questions. She reminded me that this was an RFP and not an IFB and therefore, the low bid did not matter which did make me feel much better.

A couple of comments that had been made - one was concerning that we shouldn't change because there would be a cost to change. I have to say that that kind of concerns me. If we're not willing to put a cost to change, then we're just basically going to stay the same-old-same-old. I don't mean this to be reflective of the current because I think they're doing a good job but then we end up with a monopoly and we've got to change because it would cost a little bit more money. I think we have to change with the way the community does, but I do have a question.

One of the comments were made about education programming. When we talk about education programming, we're not talking about Nashua North necessarily, were talking about possibly doing educational style programming. Is that what the thinking is on this either one of you?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Yes. So during the interviews, BRB TV indicated that they would like to bring some educational programming and one of the examples they used was for people that may have dyslexia, or people that are hearing impaired, or people that are – I just lost the third that they gave us, but that was the type of educational programming that they brought forward then and I believe that's what they were more interested in. They were certainly aware that we have the government channel and the educational channel. I don't think that's not to say that we don't have some form of educational programming on the Channel 96 now. So when I think of things like Director Bagley and the Public Health team get out there and they certainly do some things around vaccinations and some things about public health and that is a form of education - public health education. So I think to say education is just one channel and not the other is a little concerning.

Alderwoman Klee

Thank you. I do like to see change sometimes. Sometimes I'm a stick in the mud and I like same old, same old but when

it comes to our community, itself is changing. I think changing that the style of programming that we do. I do enjoy the programming that's there. I do watch the repeats as I had mentioned to Chairman Cernota, so I do appreciate that when I can't watch it when it's happening and I hope that does continue with the new group. But I do want to see change. I do think that new blood such as what Mr. Russell and so on will bring is a good idea. So I do appreciate that and thank you Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Any other questions or comments? Alderman Gouveia

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Just a quick question that goes back to something you said earlier. So there's real no way to track performance or ratings on these stations so it's kind of more flying blind if you will?

Andrew Cernota, Chairman Cable Television Advisory Board

Yes. The Nielsen Company doesn't rate public access. We have some visibility on who watches our streaming but it's been noted there's limited archiving of the streams public assess as opposed to government or education. So that's as I say the actual metrics are difficult on that. I think that the general expectation is its relatively low compared to professional produced programming from the networks or whatever. But there is no ratings as such. That's why the annual surveys that were discussed in the proposals provide some feedback. We do at our meetings receive reports as far as how much programming is generated and produced.

Alderman Gouveia

So you'd say that really the performance indicators are mostly off of surveys and then the programming you're putting out?

Andrew Cernota, Chairman Cable Television Advisory Board

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you Mr. Mayor. I just want to ask about something that was mentioned a couple of times earlier tonight regarding programming. It was mentioned that there could potentially be shows with the BOA, DPW and things like that. Is there any reason why they would need to use Channel 96 as opposed to the government channel to do those type of programming?

Andrew Cernota, Chairman Cable Television Advisory Board

I think that there's probably some overlap. I think certainly programs like that often are shown on the government channel or at least potentially could. We have actually increased the amount of government meetings that have been broadcast. So there is a capacity issue there. Generally speaking, there isn't a capacity issue on the public access side of things. Usually it's a matter of the providers having to seek and solicit producers. So if there are programs that might have a government tie in, they could be broadcast on the government channel. They could also be broadcast on the public channel assuming that a Nashua resident wants to sponsor them and very often the government employee who would be behind that would quality for that.

Alderman Comeau

Second question also regarding programming. Under the new contract that we are talking about, who would either a person or department, commission, or whoever would have the ultimate say on whether or not a program would be approved or. It was mentioned earlier something along the lines of topics that were appropriate. Who would be the one who decides whether or not a program would be allowed to air?

Andrew Cernota, Chairman Cable Television Advisory Board

The provider, the contractor would in the first instance be the person to decide that. The contract does restrict them so they have to follow the federal constitutional limits as far as how much interference they can have in viewpoint discussions. So obviously the First Amendment would have to apply and they're contractually required to that, so I would imagine the City would then if there were complaints that viewpoints were being discriminated against, the City would need to step in as part of the contractee to intervene if that is being abused.

Alderman Comeau

Okay thank you.

Mayor Donchess

I mean I assume in that instance that compliant would be referred to the CTAB Committee and discussed.

Andrew Cernota, Chairman Cable Television Advisory Board

I'm sure we would be involved yes. I suspect that since most people know the phone number for the Mayor's office first, you might hear about it before we do.

Mayor Donchess

Andrew I know your phone number. That's who I would call. Anyone else? Any discussion, questions?

MOTION CARRIEDMayor Donchess

Thank you very much. Before Mr. Cernota leaves, I'd like to say that he has been the Chair of the CTAB Committee for a dozen years – ten at least. He's done a great job so he deserves the community's thanks. So thank you Andrew.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Andrew.

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Generator Maintenance Agreement - Multiyear in the amount not to exceed \$277,014.06 funded from 54487 Equipment Repairs & Maintenance/Wastewater Fund (Wastewater)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE THE ENERGY RECOVERY GENERATOR 3-YEAR MAINTENANCE CONTRACT WITH SOUTHWORTH-MILTON, INC. (MILTON CAT) OF MILFORD, MA, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$277,014.06. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: WASTEWATER; ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION: 54 PROPERTY SERVICES.

ON THE QUESTIONMayor Donchess

I believe Mr. Boucher is on.

David L. Boucher, Superintendent of Wastewater

The wastewater facility recently finished an energy recovery upgrade at the facility. This upgrade consisted of the installation of two 225-kilowatt Caterpillar generators. The generators run on methane gas which is a bi-product of our sludge treatment process. The heat from these generators are reclaimed and used to heat the sludge in our 1.3 MG sludge digester. Any extra power that we have that we produce is used to offset the cost of our main facility through the net-metering program with Eversource.

So the money that is being requested is for a three year contract with Southworth Milton CAT. Over the next three years, they would do all the preventive maintenance services on the generator, all the warranty services. Some of the services

that are needed are oil changes, oil testing. They do internal inspections of the generator. This money also includes a major overhaul that's usually required in years between two and three. So I can answer any questions.

Mayor Donchess

Questions or comments? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Engineering Consulting at the Landfill - Multiyear in the amount not to exceed \$660,000 funded from 53107 Architect & Engineering Services/Solid Waste Fund (Solid Waste)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE A THREE YEAR CONTRACT FOR GENERAL ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA'S LANDFILLS COVERING FY23 – FY25 AT AN ANNUAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$220,000 TO SANBORN HEAD & ASSOCIATES OF CONCORD, NH, PENDING APPROVAL OF THE FY23 OPERATING BUDGET. THE TERM OF THIS CONTRACT WILL BE FROM JULY 1, 2022 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2025. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 168 SOLID WASTE; FUND: SOLID WASTE; ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION: 53 PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

ON THE QUESTION

Jeffrey LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste

Our engineering contract as it states for the landfill, taking care of all our closed landfill permitting. Any questions from DES they respond to. They work on some of our groundwater testing, air monitoring, and basically (inaudible)

Alderman Klee

He is cutting in and out.

Mayor Donchess

Well we can't hear you now. We kind of intermittently can hear you. I think we get the point though. Any questions for Mr. LaFleur? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

I don't have a question for Superintendent but I have a question procedurally. This contract the way the motion was worded, this contract becomes effective upon passage of the budget this year. Is that correct? Am I reading that correct?

Mayor Donchess

Correct.

Alderman Clemons

Now I hope everything goes as planned – I guess maybe this might come back so what happens if the budget doesn't pass by July 1st? Does this contract here get affected at all?

Mayor Donchess

Well I think in that instance, Mr. LaFleur would ask that the contractor agree to wait to see if the budget passes with funds sufficient to pay for it.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah so the only reason I ask is because I know a lot of times these things have a shelf life these contracts. Right? So I'm wondering if this one does, if it's July 1st or?

Mayor Donchess

Mr. LaFleur did you hear the question?

Jeffrey LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste

Yes I did.

Mayor Donchess

Can you address that please?

Jeffrey LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste

Yeah - with the landfill, I run as normal until the new contract passes. So I have monies available that if something happens to come up I can pay for it.

Mayor Donchess

His question is if the budget were not to pass by June 30, would you have any problem retaining this contractor under the terms of this contract or would they agree to extend beyond the July 1 date?

Jeffrey LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste

Yes, they absolutely would. They are our preferred engineers. They've been with us for over 12 years now 13 years and they have no problem. They understand the process.

Alderman Clemons

Okay that answers my question. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Any other comments or questions?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Software Maintenance: Cartegraph in the amount not to exceed \$110,000 funded from 54407 Software Maintenance/General Fund and 71228 Computer Software/ Wastewater Fund (IT)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE AND PLACE ON FILE THE REQUEST FOR A ONE-YEAR (1) RENEWAL REQUIRED FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF CARTEGRAPH IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$110,000. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 122 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: 80% TO BE FUNDED BY 54400 SOFTWARE LICENSING/GENERAL FUND AND 20% OF CONTRACT TO BE FUNDED BY 71228 COMPUTER SOFTWARE/WASTEWATER FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Miseirvitch are you here on this?

Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

Yes I am. Nick Miseirvitch, Chief Information Officer for the City of Nashua. Cartegraph is the software that DPW utilizes for their work order management system, life cycle management of their assets, catch basins, sidewalks, and stuff like that. Integrates with GIS and there's also a citizen input portal called "C-ClickFix" that citizens can report issues and it goes directly into the system. It also does abstractive maintenance for virtually any asset in the system. This is year three of a three year contract. It would be nice if wastewater did pay 200%, I wouldn't mind that at all. Any questions?

Mayor Donchess

Anyone? Alderwoman Klee?

Alderwoman Klee

Thank you. I am actually restating the obvious. So that we understand, 80% comes out of your budget and the 20% comes out of the DPW budget?

Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

Correct.

Alderwoman Klee

And this is common with certain departments that would be using projects like this instead of funding all out of your budget?

Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

Correct.

Alderwoman Klee

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone else?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Software Maintenance: Infor in the amount not to exceed \$292,499.58 funded from 54407 Software Maintenance/General Fund (IT)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE AND PLACE ON FILE THE REQUEST FOR THE ANNUAL SOFTWARE ASSURANCE RENEWAL REQUIRED FOR THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF INFOR IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$292,499.58. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 122 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; FUND: 54400 SOFTWARE LICENSING/GENERAL FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Miseirvitch?

Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

All right. This is the software that basically runs the City. It's all of our Finances, all of our Human Resources information, Purchasing process, payroll, etc. So this is the booking that runs the City. This item before you is our yearly support maintenance, licenses all rolled into one. I believe the original contract was signed something like 12 years ago when the software was purchased, so this is just the yearly renewal so we can continue using it.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, anyone?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Software License: Continental Resources Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$282,054 funded from 54407 Software Maintenance & 71228 Computer Software /General Fund (IT)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE, PLACE ON FILE, AND AWARD THE FOUR-YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE NEXT COMPONENT TO ENHANCE THE CITY'S CYPBERSECUIRTY ARSENAL TO CONTINENTAL RESOURCES, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$282,054. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 122 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; FUND: 54407 SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE - \$270,302 AND 71228 COMPUTER SOFTWARE - \$11,752/GENERAL FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Miseirvitch?

Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

All right. So this is the software that the IT Department has been researching since late last year. This product will help protect the City from cybersecurity attacks such as Ransomware which is a hot item as all of you are aware. It will detect things not only vertically in the network by more importantly laterally in the network, which is something that we do not have currently. So if something does get in, it will spread and it will spread quickly. This software will help protect the City from (inaudible).

Mayor Donchess

Alderwomen Klee?

Alderwoman Klee

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Two questions here. Why are some of this being funded out of yours and then some out of general fund? Is it just because it's this year or?

Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

Right. The software licensing is for this Fiscal Year and the remaining payments also come out of our budget once the budget is approved.

Alderwoman Klee

So for this year because you don't have enough in the budget it will come out of general fund?

Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

Correct. I can't pay for the whole thing up front. I have to pay for it.

Alderwoman Klee

Just one other question. Is this also tied to the I want to call it the "gotcha" software. We opened up the wrong email, or done some phishing, or something. Is that all wrapped up into this particular?

Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

This will compliment that and provide additional protection that Mimecast does not provide.

Alderwoman Klee

So they're two different types. Mimecast is the one for email and this one just kind of works with that one?

Nick Miseirvitch, CIO, Information Technology

Correct.

Alderwoman Klee

Thank you so much. I'm getting so much better.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Roy Tilsley, Jr., Esquire
Re: Bid Process for Request for Proposal RFP0718-022322

There being no objection, Mayor Donchess accepted the communication and placed it on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE THE BILLBOARD ADVERTISING IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,010 FUNDED FROM ACCOUNTS GRANTS/61250 MARKETING & PROMOTION

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Re: Billboard Advertising in the amount not to exceed \$55,010 funded from accounts Grants/61250 Marketing & Promotion (Public Health)

- Tabled at May 4, 2022 meeting

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE CONTRACT TO CREATE VINYL PRODUCTIONS AND INSTALLATION FOR BILLBOARD AD DISPLAYS IN THE GREATER NASHUA AREA FOR ONE YEAR WITH OUTFRONT MEDIA ADVERTISING COMPANY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$55,010. FUNDING THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 171 COMMUNITY SERVICES; FUND: 61250 MARKETING & PROMOTION

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Alright, you've heard the Motion. Miss Lindner are you on Zoom?

Cheryl Lindner, Treasury Management Officer

I am on Zoom. Can you hear me okay? Financing did a little bit of work after Alderman Gouveia's question and what we came up with was that the 3850 was coming from part of Director Bagley's budget. So it's not a grant match but there's a portion of this contract that will be paid out of her Community Services budget for promotions & marketing.

Mayor Donchess

What is that number?

Cheryl Lindner, Treasury Management Officer

\$3,850.70.

Mayor Donchess

Out of the \$55,000?

Cheryl Lindner, Treasury Management Officer

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

Any other questions for Miss Lindner? Alright. Any comments on anything on the Motion?

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

RECORD OF EXPENDITURES

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE RECORD OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 29, 2022 TO MAY 12, 2022

Mayor Donchess

Discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano

Hi. Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I just want to point out when you were doing the contract talk for CTV over the public broadcast, it was about BRB TV did get a unanimous vote from the Cable Advisory Board for that contract. I think there was a lot of discussion on it. I know Ernie Jette originally was concerned. He wasn't voting yes and then he switched upon getting questions answered. So I think as a Board you can at least look that there was a lot of discussion about it. I know that transition for change is hard on everyone and hopefully we'll see some of our common programming and expansions to other programming as well.

I would like to say that I am a little bit concerned about constitutional and viewpoint issues. The use of television and the broadcasting of government business on a public broadcast station. I think we need to be careful about that and I believe this City is more restrictive on First Amendment Rights on viewpoint issues because I watched that whole flag issue unfold. I supported the Save Women's Sports Flag not because I'm strongly in the person's camp who presented it because I have plenty of friends who are Democrats, Republicans, and Independents who supported the message of that flag. When I hear Board members say that it's a transphobic haters flag, it concerns me. I have a friend who is a really awesome Democratic Constitutional Attorney. I had a really lengthy discussion with them about this and they said that flag is absolutely not a transphobic hater flag...totally misinterpreted. But it concerns me because the City's interpretation is horrible and it's personalized on the person. When I heard a Board member say that this individual wanted to fly the flag had locked arms with the Satan and (inaudible) with a satanic flag, it really concerned me. I think that's very, very harsh. I think our ability to recognize viewpoints in this City has been closed way down. I don't want to see the public access station utilized with that same closure or abused to not present viewpoints that I think are representative of the community

Alderman Comeau

30 seconds

Laurie Ortolano

...so I'd like you to bear that in mind. I think I'd like to see policy developed on that – a pretty clear policy on where the lines are because the people who run the TV station know those rights well but the oversight group may cut it right off and do what we're doing with that flag and I don't support that. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. Any other members of the public wish to address the Committee?

Carl Seidel

Carl Seidel, 39 Pilgrim Circle, Nashua, NH. I was wondering is there a contract that's written up and does that get published before the final conclusion or is there any conditions in the contract? One of the things I was worried about is

continuation from the June 30th finish of the current person and the start of the next business. Is there some agreement? I tried to grab George Russell in the hall and get some statement from him, but he didn't make any. I think that should be discussed sometime.

Mayor Donchess

There is as part of the agenda here and it will appear as part of the agenda when this comes before the Board of Alderman a proposed contract.

Carl Seidel

Are there any kind of conditions or stipulations that go along with this as to the content or the...?

Mayor Donchess

We're going to have to look at the contract is 20 pages long.

Carl Seidel

Do you have the contract there because I saw the proposal but that's not a contract?

Mayor Donchess

There is a 23 per page proposed contract, but this is public comment so I don't want to take up your time. So do you have anything further that'd you like to say to the Committee?

Carl Seidel

Well I just want to know whether we are going to have a continuation? Is there going to be some continuation right there? Is there going to be a gap in the production?

Mayor Donchess

You will have to ask the CATV Committee that question.

Carl Seidel

Okay but I think before you finalize it, you ought to get that publicized.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. Any other members of the public like to address the Committee?

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Mayor Donchess

Remarks by Alderman? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

I think the last gentlemen might have been asking if - and I could be wrong, I could misinterpret what you're asking but I think he was asking if the same programming and that kind of thing was going to move forward with the new group that we just moved in. From Mr. Russell had said up at the podium there that everyone that has a show is going to continue to have a show and that's their intention. So I think if that was your concern, I think that's...

Carl Seidel

(inaudible)

Mayor Donchess

I thought the question was was there going to be – the production would stop for a period of time and I think the answer to that is no but ...

Alderman Clemons

Correct. That's my second point is that the production I don't believe is going to stop because I think that there is a period of time where the two groups are actually going to overlap. How they figure that out I think is going to have to be with some guidance with CTAB. I think the idea is that from everything I've read and seen is that it's going to try to be as seamless transition as much as possible. So hopefully that's what happens.

I just wanted to say I didn't know how I was going to vote coming in tonight. I wasn't sure if I was going to support the new group or if I was going the other way. I really wanted to hear from the public. I wanted to hear from all parties, including what we heard from the Chairman and Miss Kleiner. I wanted to hear what my fellow Aldermen had to say. So I think we made a good decision. I think it's a hard decision. I've been on this Committee in the past where we've made significant changes like that with certain groups and we've done it before - I've seen this kind of controversy before where one was with an ambulance group. It's hard when you make these kind of changes, but it needs to be looked at from time-to-time and we need to kind of look at what we're doing. We can't always stay static and the status quo. Sometimes we have to take a good hard look at what we're doing and say is what we're doing good, are we on the right track, or do we want to do something different? So for my vote tonight, I'm going with the recommendation of the CTAB Committee and I think that they did their due diligence and I was happy to support that so thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Alderwoman Klee.

Alderwoman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chair. I did speak to Chairman Cernota. I believe he said that there was a two month overlap in the transition and I think the transition was more of the management of it and not necessarily the shows, but we should get that answer for you before we vote on it at Board of Aldermen.

Unidentified Male Speaker

(inaudible) was that George would start in September and Dick was (inaudible). So I think that's something that I'm worried about because that's a key time this time of year.

Alderwoman Klee

I agree with you on that. One of the comments I think was even in the letter from the Attorney was that the City would have to bear the cost of the transitioning while we had the overlap. So I think the intention has been all along the overlap, but we do need to get that straightened out. So that you for bringing that forward. I think that is an important aspect that we need to look at.

The other thing I want to speak to has nothing to do with Finance but an issue in Ward 3 with the Shattuck Street Tot Lot. You hear me talk about the Shattuck Street Tot Lot a lot. Usually I'm talking poo. This time I'm talking teenagers that are using the park to harass the neighbors. They're using the park to harass young children who are shouting vulgar racial slurs to children across the street that I find abhorrent. I want the community to know that our Nashua PD is on it. They are looking into it. They have spoken to the parents and family members of that. I don't have all the details and it's really not my place to be asking for all the details but I know that Chief Rourke will keep me informed so that I can keep the community informed. The one thing that I'm learning more and more sitting in this seat is that often times people are afraid to come forward to the police because they're afraid of retribution. The truth is, one of the people that have come forward she does fear some retribution from those that are doing it. That can't stop us from going forward. They say "see something, say something" is extraordinarily important especially in this day and age. We have a beautiful park there that the community actually did fundraising to get this park. They helped create the park and for the community not to be able to use it for family members with small children not being to want to use it. I spoke to someone today who brings their grandchildren there and is not bringing their grandchildren there. The City has this tot lot.

I also want to put out a second message and that is do not engage with these teenagers. Call the Nashua Police Department and call them when it's happening. I appreciate people contacting me. I will reach out to the Police the moment that you contact me, but you're doing it real-time and I'm not getting that message. So my ask to the community is see something, say something, do not engage. I know one member did engage and there were threats being thrown back and forth and we don't need that level of anxiety.

There is also a Crime Watch meeting that happens at Temple Beth Abraham every other month. For any of the residents of not just of Ward 3 of Nashua, there are a number of Neighborhood Crime Watch meetings and you can go to the Nashua PD and they are all listed with the dates they're having them. Get involved in the community. I really think that that is extremely important.

And the second thing I want to say is that I work for Ward 3. I will be sending out my email requesting on two parks that I've chosen for a clean-up and one is on Sargent Street and the other one is the Salem Street Tot Lot. I think both of those need a little extra attention. As I said to the Mayor's Coffee this morning, community involvement and pride in our neighborhood is so important so thank you very much.

Mayor Donchess

Any other remarks by Alderman? Seeing none.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Alderman Alex Comeau
Committee Clerk