

## BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

JUNE 7, 2022

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 7:18 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and via Zoom which meeting link can be found on the agenda and on the city's website.

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman, presided.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. If you are participating via Zoom, please state your presence, reason for not attending the meeting in person, and whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

Members of Committee present: Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien  
Alderman Ernest Jette  
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman John Sullivan  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

Members not in Attendance: Alderman John Cathey

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons  
Alderman Derek Thibeault  
Alderman Alex Comeau (via Zoom)  
Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director  
Dan Hudson, City Engineer  
Byran Conant, Superintendent of Parks/Recreation  
Jon Ibarra, Superintendent of Streets  
David Boucher, Superintendent of Wastewater  
Jeffrey LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste  
Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Financial Manager

### ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

### COMMUNICATIONS

**Without objection, Chairman Dowd suspended the rules to allow for the introduction of two communications that were received after the agenda was prepared.**

From: David R. Heath, Treasurer, Nashua Airport Authority  
Re: Summary of Financial Position and Operating Results

From: Fred S. Teeboom  
Re: The Tax Rate and the Spending Cap

**There being no objection, Chairman Dowd accepted the two communications and placed them file.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

### TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE R-22-035  
MOTION CARRIED**

**R-22-035**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
 Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
 Alderman John Sullivan  
 Alderman Patricia Klee  
 Alderman Thomas Lopez  
 Alderman Alex Comeau  
 Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
 Alderman John Cathey  
 Alderman Derek Thibeault  
 Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, SPECIAL REVENUE AND GRANT FUNDS**

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEWS OF THE PROPOSED FY23 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA

<u>Dept. #</u>		<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>
	<b><u>Public Works and Engineering</u></b>		
160	Administration and Engineering	39	157
161	Street Department	39	161
177	Parks and Recreation	40	165
168	Solid Waste Fund	222	223-227
169	Wastewater User Fund	231	232-236

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

All right. Tonight we're going to be reviewing for the Budget Committee the Public Works and Engineering Departments - Departments 160, 161, 177, 168, and 169. And on the agenda, you'll see the pages of the revenue and the appropriations. Before we do that, just want to announce that Monday night we are going to have a special meeting of the Board of Aldermen, not the Budget Committee, the Board of Aldermen to discuss the spending cap. That's the only thing on the agenda, correct Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Correct.

Chairman Dowd

And it is after Human Affairs. So there'll be a meeting before, but it should be over by the time we get to 7:00. Okay. So the Mayor, Attorney Bolton, and Mr. Griffin at a minimum will be here to discuss the calculations for the spending cap. So I just wanted to announce that.

Okay. So the first item is the Department 160 – Administration and Engineering. Revenues on page 39. Appropriations on page 157. Director Fauteux do you want to come up and...

Laurie Ortolano

Are you doing first public comment?

Chairman Dowd

We've already gone by public comment.

Laurie Ortolano

Well the audio wasn't working. I guess I missed that.

Alderman O'Brien

No, I looked at that screen. I didn't know who you are? I know your name is not "Right to Know NH" but that's the title you use. The computer showed you were lacking bandwidth and there was no hand up.

Chairman Dowd

We'll have another one at the end.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Thank you very much Alderman Dowd. Good evening. Chairman Dowd and members of the Budget Committee. As Alderman O'Brien mentioned, my name is Lisa Fauteux. I serve as Director of Public Works. You mentioned everybody who's joining me this evening with the exception of Carolyn O'Connor who is our Senior Financial Manager. So I just also wanted to recognize that she's here given that she put this together for us.

So we're here to present the budgets for the Division of Public Works are increased from Fiscal Year '22 is 4.8% for our general fund departments, which include Administration, Engineering, Streets, and Parks and Recreation. Solid Waste and Wastewater have larger increases due to the cost of operating facilities and regulatory requirements. The total Fiscal Year '23 DPW budget before you tonight is \$57,635,779. \$27 million or 47% of that is wastewater. \$17 million or 29% is Solid Waste. \$8 million or 14% is Streets. \$3.8 million or 7% is Parks and Recreation. \$1.7 million or 3% is Administration and Engineering. As you requested Alderman Dowd, we'll only present the changes in each budget and of course answer any questions that you may have. So with your permission, we will begin with Administration and Engineering. I'd like to turn it over to Dan Hudson our city Engineer.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Thank you Director Fauteux and Mr. Chair. I'm going to start by going through revenue and then all of the expenses. So I'm on page 39 of the proposed budget. I do not have any changes in proposed revenue for this year.

Moving to page 157 of the proposed budget. Just a couple items I'd like to highlight. We have a reduction in line 51300. That's overtime and that's just based upon historical usage. A lot of our overtime we charge back to utility companies and that sort of thing. So we haven't found a need for quite so much going forward.

Wages on next line 51400. I would like to add an engineering intern for the summer.

Changes in in benefits are per contracts.

Skipping down a line 53107 - Professional Technical Services seeking a \$10,000 increase in that line. That is a fund that enables us to secure outside engineering support for whatever may come up this year. We had an emergency issue at a bridge in Mine Falls Park and were able to quickly contract that work because we had an engineering line available.

Utilities, electricity, gas, all those sorts of things are for historical usage and purchasing guidelines. I think that's those are the major items. I'd be happy to address any questions.

Chairman Dowd

Okay by the way going forward, the fringe benefits portion and is calculated by city itself. So those aren't - you can't change those. Those are all done by finance. So it's based on the number of people you have in there. All right, questions?

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. On the revenue line for towing due to snowstorms, I noticed that the revenue through 430 seemed to fall pretty short of the revenue expectation by about \$20,000. Given that it was through the end of April, how do you square up that \$30,000 in revenue is where it's gonna come in seeing as I hope it doesn't snow anymore?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

That's actually the Street Department but we can answer that.

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Financial Manager

That's an estimate because that is for the towing snow towing. So sometimes we might have more snowstorm so it's higher. So we just average out.

Chairman Dowd

You have to pull the microphone very close. They're very directional.

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Financial Manager

Sorry. So that's for the snow tows and that directly offsets the expenses of the towing.

Alderman Sullivan

Follow up. Do you have a two to three year revenue track on that? Has it been over and above 30,000? Has it been under that?

Chairman Dowd

Yes every time you speak because there are so many people, please state your name again so the transcriptionist knows who's talking.

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Financial Manager

I can get that for you.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

It really depends upon the amount of snow. This year we had a lot of ice. We didn't have a lot of snow. So we didn't have as many snow emergencies as we normally do. So you would see a fluctuation year to year for that.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Sullivan?

Alderman Sullivan

I did have one question for Mr. Hudson.

Chairman Dowd

Okay.

Alderman Sullivan

You mentioned line item 531007. Did I hear that correct? I just could not find that on page 157. Am I looking in the right place?

Chairman Dowd

I think you're referring to 53107 Professional services – middle of the page.

Alderman Sullivan

Got it. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions for this area? All right. The next department is 181 Street Department. Revenues on 39 and the appropriation 161.

Jon Ibarra, Street Department Superintendent

Jon Ibarra, Superintendent of Street Department. As you said, 39 of 312 is our revenue. There are no forecast changes there. It's season to season on the snow towing and Carolyn will provide you with that information as you said.

Sale of vehicles and equipment. That's if we auction off old pieces of our old equipment.

On page 161 of 312 under wages 51400, we'd like to propose adding an interim fleet for intern. So we added \$8,160 in the wage line for them. It will help inventory our fleet items.

54114 in Property Services- heating gas. That was increased based on usage and purchasing guidelines. Water again through purchasing guidelines. We increase that by \$8,402. Also due to our brine making.

Line 54200 janitorial services. We increase that due to the COVID. We added some extra cleaning keeping the facility sterile.

54207 snowplowing services. To meet the budget guidelines, we were able to cut \$25,000 out of that. So we reduced that from \$75,000 to \$50,000.

Building and grounds maintenance 54280. We were able to trim \$5,000 out of that to meet the budget directive.

54492 AVL monitoring service. We were able to trim \$4,968 out of that line. That was based on a reduction in the contract price.

Vehicle repairs and maintenance 54600. We actually had to increase from \$240,000 to \$271,637. That's due to the increase in the vehicle parts.

Moving through supplies and materials 61300 fuel unleaded. That's contractual. That went up \$7,932.

61307 fuel diesel. That went up \$18,001 in that line. It's a very volatile market these days.

6151 for salt. We increased that line. That was due to the last contract. The prior year, we were at \$49.50 a ton for salt and now we're at \$72 a ton.

61542 signs. There's a lot of signs that we're looking to replace. We added \$3,000 to that line.

61560 construction materials - \$4,000 increase in that line.

61705 tires. There was a \$7,520 increase in that line and that's an increasing of the pricing of the tires themselves.

In equipment 71228 computer software. We raised that \$3,000 from \$15,750 to \$18,750. That's to improve our tactics software. It controls our signals. That's about all my changes for the budget and I'm happy to answer any questions you might have.

Chairman Dowd

Any questions for Streets?

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. On the heating gas and the water. You had mentioned that the appropriation was going up because of buying guidelines. Could you explain that a little bit more?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

I would look for Carolyn's assistance in the explanation to that as our Finance Manager.

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager

Purchasing gives out guidelines based on if they've contracted prices for fuel or if they're just buying from the back and then we have to factor that in and do an analysis based on the historical usage.

Alderman Sullivan

So this is fuel essentially. That's the increase.

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

Yes.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. All right. I didn't know if it was equipment or what?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

Oh no, heating.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you.

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you Mr. Chair. I just was wondering if I could ask through you Mr. Ibarra. You mentioned that the cell phone budget is reduced to make up for some of the other increases. What would happen if you have a heavier than normal winter this year and you go over that budget?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

Well based on a historical usage, I think we would be fine. That's why we decided we could afford to cut the \$25,000 out of that. Now if we had a more severe winter, we would probably have to go into the trust fund to supplement that line.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

The line that he cut was for contractors and we have had great difficulty finding contractors in recent years. So that's why we felt comfortable cutting that line and we can do the (inaudible) on staff.

Chairman Dowd

Okay. And again as a reminder, we have an expendable trust fund. If we have a light winter and we have money left over, we always transfer that money into that expendable trust because there are winters that we get clobbered with snow and that's where they get their extra money without having to re-appropriate money out of the budget. Any other questions?

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So before I became an Alderman and when I first became an Alderman, one of the things that I noticed was, you know, a lot of the roadways, the sidewalks, the islands. They were overgrown with weeds. Since I've become an Alderman, there's a lot of other things that get my attention. So I'm not sure if that's still the case and I'm wondering do

you feel that we're taking care of our public properties to the extent that you'd like. Let me ask you that question first. I mean, do you feel we're keeping up with that?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

So to the extent possible, yes. To the extent possible with our staffing, yes and every year we do go out and remove the weeds, and the sand, and the garbage on all our main thoroughfares. All the islands are taken care of annually if not twice.

Alderman Jette

Okay and so you say to the extent possible with your staff, do you feel that you're adequately staffed?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

The islands are all gone through. Yes, Sir. We do that and completion.

Alderman Jette

Okay. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I had a couple of questions if I could. The first one, I was actually looking at your overall objectives and I assume it probably connects directly but I was interested to see that linear feet of sidewalks. Last year was 2,500 but we're only are looking at about 1,000 this year. Can you discuss why?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

That's to date?

Alderwoman Kelly

Oh that's to date. Are we going to do more than that?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

All right. Great. I love that.

And then my other question was...I lost it so you can come back to me.

Chairman Dowd

Do you want to hold while we get another question or you want to (inaudible).

Alderwoman Kelly

You can get another question.

Alderman Thibeault

So thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to clarify the snowplowing. So you said this was just contractors. I believe we already went over where for our own people to do what comes out of the general fund. Is that correct?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

Yes.

Alderman Thibeault

So we have plenty of money in there for a normal winter. This was just in excess. We have to hire contractors for certain things. That's where this money is from, right? Okay. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I remembered. I need to write my notes down these days. So my question was around the different types of trucks that are in your fleet. With diesel going up, would you consider potentially, you know, putting one that's a diesel on hold or is that a good portion of your fleet? Are there ways that you can kind of finagle that as the market goes up and down?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

Are you referring to the fuel itself or the trucks?

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah so like diesel is higher right now than unleaded. So I was just wondering what our fleet looks like and how that's going to impact us?

Jon Ibarra, Streets Superintendent

Well I believe we're locked in for the season, at least at this time. It is a volatile market so moving forward, that could be subject to change but we should be set at this time.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions for Streets? Seeing none. The next is 177 Parks and Recreation. Revenue on page 40; appropriations on 165.

Bryan Conant, Parks and Recreation Superintendent

Hello everyone. Bryan Conant, Superintendent of the Parks and Recreation. I want to speak to the changes on page 165 out of 312. Account Number 51400 is going to be increased by \$12,647. That's wages and seasonal temporary wages. It's an increase rate for seasonal staff. We found that we had to go from \$15 an hour to \$17 an hour and able to get people in our department. So that's where that came from.

Account number 54100 electricity is being increased by \$13,455. It's estimated increase due to historical usage and purchasing guidelines.

Account Number 54141 water is going to be increased by \$7,720. Again, increased due to historical usage and purchasing guidelines.

Account Number 54821 Equipment Rental is going to be increased by \$9,000. That's due to the additional port-a-potties we're going to be renting next year.

Account number 55307. It's mileage reimbursement. It's going to be increased by \$500. That mileage reimbursement is for the pool coordinators.

Account Number 61156 Pool Chemicals is going to be increased by \$2,500. It's just increased by the cost of the pool chemicals. Everything's gone up this year when it comes to supplies. It doesn't matter if it's athletic field paint, you name it, everything's going up.



Miscellaneous supplies account number 61299 is going to be increased by \$2,500. This is increased again due to the cost of supplies.

Account Number 61300 Fuel Unleaded. This is going to be increased by \$1,635 due to historical usage and purchasing guidelines.

Account number 61307 Fuel Diesel is going to be increased by \$4,072. Again due to historical usage and purchasing guidelines.

Account number 61799 Vehicle Parts and Supplies is going to be increased by \$25,000. And, again, is due to the increased cost of supplies or parts. I'd like to answer any questions if there are any.

Chairman Dowd

Questions of Park and Rec.?

Alderman Thibeault

Are we going to go over revenue as well? Thank you by the way Mr. Chairman or can I ask questions on the revenue piece of it?

Chairman Dowd

Did revenue change or because you can ask a question on revenue.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay. So I have a couple questions on revenue. So the first one is I see basketball, baseball, and swimming all going down this year and part of that was swimming definitely was COVID related. I think the hit on local baseball, local basketball has gone down. Kids playing less after the COVID years. Do we think we're going to get back up to those rates of 20,000 and 7,000 playing those sports?

Bryan Conant, Parks and Recreation Superintendent

I would like to think so moving forward. I would hope so to answer your question.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up please. So how do I get a rake at Ledge Street field? I just need one more rake. Just kidding.

So field rental fees I see went up quite a bit even though it seems like less kids are playing these sports. We charge the local leagues for that. Do we charge Cal Ripken? Do we charge the Little League? I know Cal Ripken lets AAU teams play there. Do we collect money from them or?

Bryan Conant, Parks and Recreation Superintendent

Anyone that uses the fields is being charged as I'm concerned.

Alderman Thibeault

Because I ran Cal Ripken for two years and I don't remember ever giving any money to the city. I'm not part of that organization anymore. Thank God.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

So there are probably two fields where that that may not be the case. So Cal Ripken maintains Dube Field and then Little League maintains LaJoie. Thank you. We do not maintain those fields so they may be allowing other organizations to use their fields and we may not be getting revenue from that. But they maintain everything. They maintain the fields, they maintain the concessions, they do everything.

Alderman Thibeault

That is correct but Murray Field, which is probably one of our most diamond fields right in front of Holman Stadium there's concessions. I know there's AAU teams playing there and those teams charge, you know, \$2,000, \$1,200 for their kids to play. So if they're using those fields for free, we should be receiving some of that back.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Lisa Fauteux Director of Public Works. So the best of my knowledge, they're being charged for Murray Field. That is a field that the city maintains. Cal Ripken they did use to maintain that field. No longer the city maintains that field. The only two are LaJoie and Dube that are being maintained by outside organizations.

Alderman Thibeault

Just one more follow up on that. Do we know why the field rental fees went so far up and now they're going to come down for this year as far as budgeting?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

That's more of an estimate. The facility rentals are the same.

Alderman Thibeault

The estimate of the \$19,000. That's an estimate?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

No, that's an actual.

Alderman Thibeault

Well we think we're only gonna - so the \$12,000 is the estimate but we're way over that estimate, right?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

That's correct.

Alderman Thibeault

We wouldn't want to bake that in?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

I think that that, and again, I don't have the numbers but I think that that's based on historical revenue that we've received.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay, thank you.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you, Chairman. Bit of a selfish question but I did hear you say that you're going to add more port-a-potties in the city. As a runner, I'm curious to know if you know where these port-a-potties will be?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

We'll be putting one of the library. There will be one near Bagel Alley. There's already one on Spine Road. There's are actually being strategically placed for our homeless community. That's why we're adding some to try to help out that situation. We're working with community outreach workers and they will be helping us find out the best place for the port-

o-potties. I think another site was that was mentioned was behind the Pheasant Lane Mall where one was needed. I can give you an update as I've learned more about that.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

All set?

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Sullivan asked my question.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. Director Fauteux directed to you. I'll give Mr. Conant a break here since he's new. I, too, going to speak a little selfishness. I am at large position but as you know, I live in Ward 9 and I would like to talk about St. Andrew's field. It occurs to me, and I may be incorrect, but most of the parks have - and we're talking about the tot park have been upgraded. It seems that this particular park has not I understand we're on a waiting list and satisfied with patience. But however, I've been through a couple of Directors and haven't seen it. Looking at the budget, I think we're a little short for this. Am I correct?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Yes, that's correct Alderman O'Brien. We're about \$75,000 short to be able to put in a playground for that community.

Alderman O'Brien

Follow up if I may. So probably the best thing for us to do is maybe at the wrap up session but I say it for the education of all the members of the Board. I would be correct in assuming that if we could some way appropriated additional funding towards this because I think you want to do a quality job not just put any less than you know unsafe, or cheap, or something like that equipment for the kids. That meant when we have our wrap up session, that maybe we can try to see if we could do something because I am correct this is the last park that needs to be done – tot park in a way.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

The only other one that comes to mind Alderman O'Brien is Greeley Park. That playground badly needs to be updated. But yes, St. Andrew's Park is one of the last parks that really badly needs updating.

Alderman O'Brien

All right. Thank you. Just a follow up to the Board. You know what I'm gonna be advocating for so.

Chairman Dowd

Just so we get it on the record as Alderman Comeau pointed out, there's a lighting problem at the baseball field at Fairgrounds middle school. I know that we've got an estimate for fixing those lights, replacing the poles and everything. Evidently right now it's a safety problem but the new estimate is...

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

About \$275,000.

Chairman Dowd

Okay, so people know and that.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

I just want to clarify that is for poles and lights.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you. I actually was going to ask if Greeley Park and the band shell was under Parks and Rec. So my question is around - the sound system has really been having trouble the last few times I've gone to an event there. The mics have cut out and so I'm wondering if that is something that's been addressed or are you looking at additional budget to fix?

Bryan Conant, Parks and Recreation Superintendent

To answer your question, the speaker showed up at Greeley Park today and we're going to move ahead with replacing the speakers and the lighting at the band shell. That should happen within the next couple of weeks. So all the materials are in.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you very much.

Bryan Conant, Parks and Recreation Superintendent

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions from Parks and Rec.? Just for a public announcement. Again, the entire site at Pennichuck Middle School, including the field in the back because we've had a discussion on it, it's going to be closed for the entire summer. There will be signage up shortly and they will be fencing in including the bridge across Henri Burque. There will be a sign on the far side that says it's closed because we have so much construction going on. It would be a danger for anybody to be in that area. A lot of heavy equipment. A lot of work going on. So thank you.

Okay, the next item is Department 168 Solid Waste Fund. That is revenue and 222 and appropriations on 223 through 227.

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Jeff LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste. Move over the revenues page 222. State made reimbursements going down a little bit. That's from our State aid. Cover material revenue is going up a little bit - \$250,000. We use all the cover material that's coming into the landfill. We're using that for covering our trash at night which is DES regulated. So we've been taking in enough for that.

Any other big changes – interest income, miscellaneous revenue that's down. I'm assuming that's from our loans and everything for bonds.

General obligations are going up. That's for our capital improvements. You might hear about that at the end of my talk.

If you want to go over to page 223 for my appropriations. Wages full time, overtime 551, that's all contractual fringe benefits. That's all contractual 5200; 5300 53107, that's going up a bit there because of my NH DES testing requirements from anything that happens at the landfill. We have to do reporting and everything. So my engineers Sanborn Head usually work on all that to give us some answers.

Accounting and auditing - that's historical debt usage.

54487 equipment repairs and maintenance. That's going up. That's because of our big equipment. Same thing as all the other departments that have already spoken about the parts are going up, increasing in price.

54600 vehicles, repairs and maintenance. That's all of our trash trucks and everything. That's our parts that are going up in that.

Page 224, 55699. That's going up a little bit there because of our potential for grinder rental to crush up our demo. It's also for some groundwater maintenance that we do through the State where we have to do some we have to put in occasional wells for groundwater monitoring.

61560 construction materials. That's going up a bit for repair to some of my outbuildings there. I have buildings that are, you know, 40 - 50 years old that needs to be repaired. Roofs have to be fixed. Some walls have to be repaired. Also that's going to be in that amount, there's also for gas well repairs. We're doing a lot of gas well replacement repairs. We're adding more wells to the landfills so having those wells we have to do a little bit more maintenance to them.

71228 computer software. That's my scale software. That's a contract that we have with them to make sure that we're up and running and taking in our pricing at the scale which makes the money for the landfill.

Page number 226 my last or one of my big ones here is 89701 transferred to closure Trust Fund. That's a DES requirement and it's estimated by our engineers. Sanborn Head has to do an estimate yearly for us telling us how much we have to put away for closure funds. So when the landfill finally closes, we'll be able to cap it, do all our maintenance to it.

My capital improvements, which I spoke to before, is \$7,050,000 a request. That's a big one but this is for our - I'm asking for a GPS landfill compactor and dozer system. That will help me compact the trash properly and make sure that we're not overfilling areas. It will tell me where I can do my side slopes and everything. Five million of that is going to be for my landfill Phase 3 zigzag design. This is going to gain us some more airspace in the Phase 3 area, which I'm going through right now with DES to permit. We're expecting to be able to start construction of that very soon.

Then soil wall - as some of you know and some of you might not know, we had to build a soil wall at one point to delineate the trash from the residence of Nashua. We have to have a 500 foot setback. This money is here is also going to help us gain some more airspace. As I built the wall, we gain airspace within the inside of the landfills. So that's going to be about \$1.8 million to potentially complete the whole project when needed. If that's all my appropriations, if there's any questions I can answer them.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. Mr. LaFleur we recently raised the construct construction debris rates. Can you just give a brief update and how that applies to this budget and how we're doing with that? What was the goal is to save the landfill for future use. So if you hit those points please.

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Absolutely. We increased the rate from \$90 to \$300 a ton in the hopes that we would deter people from bringing the C&D to the landfills. It actually worked very well. That's going to show in our revenue at some point that, you know, we raised it up high enough to deter the people from bringing the construction and demolition into landfill which doesn't compact as well as trash saving airspace every year. So we as a group, we all decided that raising the cost to eliminate that amount would save us airspace. We're down below half of what we've taken in before. So it's working out perfect. We've seen a really big decrease in taking in C&D.

Alderman O'Brien

Excellent.

Chairman Dowd

Director Fauteux do you have a response?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

I was just going to add. I just have some numbers. Forty days before the price increase, we took in about 1,200 tons and the average tonnage per load is about 160, 1.63. The revenue was \$112,000. Forty days after the price increase, we took in 347 tons and averaged \$108,000 or almost \$109,000 in revenue. So our revenue remained fairly stable but the tonnage went way down. So the program has been very successful so far.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. So sale of recyclables. I know the recycling is something we've been talking about for a long time. China didn't want it. You have the same revenue projection. I wonder if you could speak to that.

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Absolutely. That \$220,000 there is actually just for the sale of our recycling totters. So we just did a historical estimate on that. We project that's how much we'll take in over that.

Alderwoman Kelly

If I could follow up? Can you talk to how recycling is going and if it's still costing us money and where that hits your budget?

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Absolutely. Recycling last month, we actually we're on the right side of it. We were making money. Made \$1.34 a ton. Not a lot of money, but we're making money. But again, that's a very volatile system right now. It could drop right off again and we could be paying this month. Gradually, it's been going the right way but, you know, \$1.34 is still a positive and we're happy with that.

Alderwoman Kelly

I know it's volatile but do you feel like it's headed towards starting to make revenue again?

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Yeah, I believe that will. In fact, we just went to contract with the vendor that we've been working with for a lot of years and they feel that we're on the right side of it. Unfortunately, I have to budget for the worst case scenario. Hoping for the best and right now we're doing well.

Alderwoman Kelly

I have one other question. Thank you. License and permit fees you have them as appropriation. I would expect it to be under revenue. Am I misunderstanding under 55 the line is 55514.

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

That's our air permits. Like our Title 5 permits for the landfill, we have to pay for those. Some are groundwater permits we have to pay for. So that's why it's in appropriations.

Alderwoman Kelly

Follow up. Where did the fees that people pay to get their stickers if they want to - where does that come in?

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

That I believe that would be the disposal fees. It would be under that under General.

Alderwoman Kelly

Okay 44514.

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. Okay.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have three questions around revenue and these might be general just city budgeting questions. My first question goes around line 49100. When you transfer money into the general fund, you're showing it as revenue. Why? Is that really revenue or is that just moving money around?

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager

That is the transfer from the general fund into the enterprise fund to true up so that we cover the full expenses. So it is a transfer because it's coming from the two different funds.

Alderman Sullivan

So just to press on that a little bit more from what I understand going to page 226, there's the appropriations of \$17 million less revenues, \$11 million amount subsidized by the general fund is \$5.8 million. So next year are we going to see 5.859 transferred into the general fund? Is that how that works?

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager

It's coming from the general fund.

Alderman Sullivan

Correct. So next year when we do the budget again, are we going to see that amount as an interfund transfer show up as revenue?

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager

Yes. If you go back to page 222 on the revenues the actual to date is \$5,188,908 and that was the transfer for the current fiscal year.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay.

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager

So there's \$5,859,969 will be there.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. Thank you for explaining that. I have two more questions. Line 45207 on interest income. It's dropped a bit. What is that? What is interest income on what exactly?

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager

That is on if we are holding bond money or money in the bank.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. And finally, general obligation bond proceeds 48300.

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager

That is when we sell our bonds and then we have to show the revenue that comes in from it.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay, great. Thank you very much for those explanations.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions?

Alderman Kelly

Thank you. I was wondering - you talked about the capital improvements and what that money is for. Just wondering if you could give us a little bit more background. It's a big number for some people. So I know you said it's going to give you more space. Does that give us more time in our landfills?

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Yes the \$5 million for the zigzag that gains us airspace which is time in our landfill how much trash can actually go into the - to the area that we're building up. When we first went out to bid for the Phase 3 landfill, we were looking at a certain amount of airspace. I had to hold off on the zigzag. There was a sticking point with DES. They didn't like it that the design or they just didn't have a good feel about it. So we got rid of the zigzag part of it just to get us going so we have airspace. This \$5 million, we were originally at \$10 million for the first phase of but we backed it off. So we only did about \$4 million to do the first phase. This is the second phase of the landfill and this will gain us - I want to say it's going to gain us at least four more years of airspace.

Alderman Kelly

If I could follow up? Can you just give us a general sense of - so four years of airspace like what are we looking at in terms of when we have to cap our landfill?

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

That's a little...

Alderman Kelly

That's a big question.

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Well it is a big question because capping the landfill, we already have the monies set aside for that. That's the closure fund that we're already doing. So we don't have to - let me say that if I have a certain amount of area that's already filled and we can't put any more in there, I have to cover it with an intermediate fill. I don't have to cover it technically with I don't have to cap it right away if that's the question you're asking. So I can buy time legally through DES to do this. I'm not quite sure if I answered your question 100% or not.

Alderman Kelly

If I could clarify. I'm just wondering. I think it's an asset that we have in Nashua that not many cities have. What's the longevity of our landfill as you're going into these phases? Like how long do you think it's going to be around?

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Oh, absolutely. Right now I'm looking at about seven years left with the Phase 1, 2, and 3 landfill that we're working in. We just actually got good news that DES gave us – we're administratively complete for the Phase 4 permit, which would gain us another 40 years of airspace. So we're hoping to get that completed this year by October/November timeframe, get a blessing from DES, and that'll secure 40 years of airspace for the City of Nashua so we're looking good for a bunch of years right now.

Alderman Kelly

Great.

Chairman Dowd



Any other questions? I have a couple. When we did the increase for construction debris, we reviewed all of the fees charged by other cities and towns. Are we looking at possibly raising other fees to be more in line with other cities and towns in the area?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

So our transfer station or recycling center really doesn't operate as most other communities operate. In most communities, you pay for whatever you bring in. If that's a mattress, you pay for a mattress. You bring in a TV, you pay for the TV. We just charge a \$5 fee and you can bring in almost anything for free. So we would have to change the way that we currently operate the landfill.

Chairman Dowd

So the stickers that you sell to residents, I think is that \$5?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

\$5.

Chairman Dowd

And we looked at raising that. When was the last time we raised that fee?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

I don't think ever. I don't remember. Certainly not during my time.

Chairman Dowd

And that might have been around for a while. So I'm just wondering whether we ought of - is there enough resident traffic that would be any kind of significant increase in revenue?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

It wouldn't be significant unless you increase it significantly. If you doubled it, it wouldn't be that significant.

Alderman Jette

Following up on that. We charge residents \$5 if they're over a certain age. Is it 65?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

65 is zero.

Alderman Jette

But what about commercial? I thought that's what you were going with that question. Have we looked at our commercial rates? How do they measure with other cities and towns? Does it make any sense to raise those rates for either for additional revenue or to discourage people, commercial people from using our landfill?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

That's a good question, Alderman Jette. So prior to raising the rates for C&D, we were getting a fair amount of commercial C&D, which was a problem. So raising the rate from \$90 to \$300 seems to so far at least have solved that problem.

But the other major item that we get from commercial is trash – MSW. So we don't get much of that. Our fee for trash is \$80 a ton. The average is probably around 65 or so at other facilities. Also, a lot of the major haulers have their own transfer stations so they will tend to bring trash to their own transfer station. So really the bulk of what we're getting for trash is for the residential credits that we have. That's for the condominiums of the apartment buildings that are picked up

and we give credits for those places. The revenue that we do get from commercial does help support the facility. So I would probably continue to do what we're doing as far as that goes.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

The other question I have is those 18 wheelers that we're there for meetings are coming in left and right. What's in them?

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

There's a combination. We're taking in the contaminated soil which we spoke about before to cover the trash at the end of the day in the landfill. There's also a lot of clean fill that I'm starting to take in right now. If it's good material and good clean material, I'll take it in because we're going to need a lot of material to build the zigzag and I don't want the city to have to purchase any soils. So if I can get anything in that's decent or usable, I'll take it in. So my Environmental Engineer at the landfill has been looking at all these soil packages and everything from people coming in. We're taking in quite a bit and it's going to help out the city in the long run.

Chairman Dowd

So we're looking at the new building, which is progressing well. You were talking about additional monies for maintenance of your current building. Is that the duct tape to keep it together for a few more months?

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Yes it is. A lot of duct tape and a lot of fans to keep the wind blowing through there.

Chairman Dowd

Any Alderman that hasn't been there for a tour, it's worth every penny. I think that was basically my questions. Any others?

Okay, then we'll move on. By the way, I think we've always said that the solid waste was always subsidized by the general fund. So that's where the money came in that we're talking about. So the one that's sort of self-sufficient - wastewater user fund. Department 169; revenue on page 231; appropriations on 232 to 236.

David Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent

I'll start with revenue - page 231. There is a reduction. Main contributors lines 43530 State aid reimbursements adjustments as well as 48300 - the general obligation bond proceeds. This is due to adjustments in the capital improvement requested projects in FY '23.

I'll go on to the appropriations. In the 51 account, we have increases due to contract obligations in the wages and salaries as well as the fringe benefits section. The Professional and Technical Services, there's a small increase. Some due to postage increases, billing increases, as well as the audit contract increase.

Moving down to Property Services have increased. Mainly in our disposal services, we have a new contract with RMI who's the company we use to haul our sludge and we apply it - we got a new three-year contract. The cost for hauling has significantly increased so we see a larger increase there. We do have an overhaul on one of our pumps in our wet weather facilities this year, which is costly. So there's an increase in the 54487 line and also we're seeing parts increases also. So we have increases in our 54600 account for vehicle repairs and maintenance section.

Other contracted services. We're also seeing increases. I have many increases in other contracted services the 55699. We have a company coming in to service our generators, our new energy recovery generators, as well as our new generators in our upgraded pump stations throughout the city. Also for servicing our HVAC equipment - our newer HVAC equipment at the wastewater plant.

I'll jump back here. Also increases in the 55421 account. That's the account we use for training our employees. We have a lot of employees who are licensed. Licenses are coming up for renewals. So they need to attend classes in order to gain credit hours to maintain the licenses.

Supplies and materials. Main increase there is in 61156 our chemical account. The chemicals we use to treat the wastewater, we have that. We bid that out every year. We saw some major increases this year. So we have to account for that.

Under the equipment account 71000 and 71025. Just mainly all the equipment that we purchase. We're seeing an increased cost in that and there's some new tools that we need specialty tools to service our equipment at the wastewater facility that we built in there in order to purchase. Those are the main increases in the debt service. We have obligations there. I'll be happy to answer any questions if you have any.

Chairman Dowd

Questions?

Alderwoman Kelly

I have no questions. I actually just wanted to say that I appreciate all the work you've done. You've definitely brought our wastewater treatment plant up to - we've seen a lot in finance and all that and it's self-funding. So that's great. Thank you.

David Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent

Thank you. I give tours as well.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Around the State aid reimbursements on the revenue side, how does the city find out, when does the city find out that we will not be getting as much money in this fiscal year as the prior fiscal year? How does that happen and what can we do about seeing as we have a sizable State or city representation at the State level? Is there anything we can do about that?

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager

These particular items are for completed projects. So we already have a schedule of - it's 20% of the cost of the project if it's been approved once it's completed. So the drop off here is that the projects that were already completed and approved, some of them they've already finished paying are grant funds.

Alderman Sullivan

Got it. So there are no new projects that would qualify for State aid coming online in Fiscal Year '23?

Carolyn O'Connor, Senior Finance Manager

Not in '23 but we continuously submit pre applications for the State aid grants and we make sure that our projects comply with the rules and regulations so that we will get the funding if it's available.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? By the way, the State has almost half a billion dollars in excess revenues that our Reps. ought to find a way to spend the cities and towns.

Alderman Sullivan

I agree.

Alderman O'Brien

Don't get me started. I wrote a Bill. You started it. Here I go. I wrote a Bill 1417 for those at home. Go research it. Basically with the State obligations to the pensions, which was 35%, they went down to zero. So Nashua had for 11 years had to pay that money. I wrote the Bill, put it in, trying to get 7 ½, one quarter. It didn't come and is a surplus. You're right. It's ridiculous how one party can really tighten up the purse strings. You think it was spread that money around. How much is it Nashua that is 7 ½ percent is \$2 million, which is 1% of the tax rate. So it is large. It's huge.

Chairman Dowd

Wasn't it on the Governor's desk?

Alderman O'Brien

That's a different one. They went to the one-time only. Well there's always November.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions for anything in Public Works and Engineering? If not, thank you very much for coming in. You guys did a great job and we fully appreciate it. Soon you'll have a new building.

Alderman O'Brien

We're working on it.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to make a motion to table R-22-035 which is relative to the adoption Fiscal Year 2023 proposed budget for the City of Nashua general enterprise special revenue and grant funds.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO TABLE R-22-035**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Dowd

The next item will be public comment. Is there anyone that wishes to be heard at public comment?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano

Yes, Laurie Orlando, 41 Berkeley Street. Okay. I just wanted to state that I thought the Public Works budget was pretty well done. I would like to ask that there be some efficiency studies done on, you know, how scheduling is being handled, rolling out trucks, setting schedules for different departments, as well as inventory on equipment. I know that was asked at the last meeting and I don't know if any Alderman got a report from John Griffin on that.

I'd also like to share a few comments about the spending cap that's going to be discussed next Monday. You know I know some of the Aldermen at the table expressed concerns that the local courts ruled against the spending cap and then the State legislative passed legislation thereby, you know, stepping on local, the authority of local control. I gave some thought to that because I, you know, filed a big Right to Know lawsuit on assessing records. And really, that was a very high risk lawsuit to take through the courts. My preference was to have legislative changes done but I couldn't get anyone in Nashua to support me because there's such a strong democratic contingency. They weren't interested in working with somebody who they viewed either as Republican or an Independent. For 2019 and 2020, I wanted to try and get legislation passed on those issues with property record cards and assessor records and I couldn't do it. So I ended up in a lawsuit. Frankly if I had lost my suit, I would be going forward to have legislative changes done and I still am going to go forward for some legislative changes because I think I'd like to see some of this broadened a little more than I got on the court ruling.

So you know, you shouldn't be so harsh and discriminatory about people using the legislative process to try and make changes because the courts don't always get it right. Complicated issues, you're at the mercy of...

Alderman O'Brien

One minute.

Laurie Ortolano

...getting the right judge, having the right circumstances. I brought a very technical case into the courts. It was enormously expensive, very difficult, and very high risk. My choice would be not to have done that but I didn't have a legislative option. I think the spending cap brought into court is, again, a very technical and heavy topic and it's easy to have, you know, a decision made that isn't exactly where you thought it should be or where it should be. So please bear that in mind. Thank you.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just wanted to say a couple things. So I've, you know, been to each of these budget meetings or at least watched them through either Zoom or after the fact I watched a three hour one from last week today. I just want to first thank Alderman Dowd. I think he's done a tremendous job of running these meetings and trying to do the best he can for Nashua and for this Board. He's been attacked a lot lately. I think I got three letters with basically the same exact thing today stating some things that just I don't agree that Alderman Dowd would do. I think, you know, he is trustworthy and he's trying to do the right thing.

And also watching those meetings, I think there's a lot of us being new and probably a lot of people out there too that aren't part of this process that think that this budget, there's a lot of silver bullets where we can just take out a million here, and two million here, and 150,000 here, and it just gives all that money back to the people and it doesn't quite work that way. This is pretty tight budget so far from what I've seen. I think the Mayor is trying to do the right thing. I think he's trying to, you know, ensure that we don't have to have the tax rate go up. I think the only thing I've seen that may be a discussion point really is that that paralegal position and even that doesn't would not do anything for the tax rate of this city. I think some of the things Alderman Dowd said last week that the Mayor has at his disposal to bring their tax rate down is a good idea.

I think some of the other things we have to look at is bringing more revenue into the city. Everything is going up in the world, including Nashua. So I would expect the tax rate to go up as much as I don't want that. I was laid off for a year. So, you know, I don't have tons of money to give to the city but we have to find other ways to bring in money to the city to kind of affect that tax rate because I don't think there's going to be tons and tons of stuff we can cut in this budget. It's actually going to make that happen. I'm finding that it's tremendously expensive to manage the city. I didn't know any of that before coming in here. I mean I figured it but when you actually look at the numbers, it's astounding. With gas going up and all that - and I do care about the person that's trying to buy a home or trying to get by from day to day. So how else do we get money into the city so we can try to reduce that tax rate? I just don't think it's going to be chopping large bunches out of this budget without hurting either a department which will domino effect hurt citizens somewhere else in the city or hurt the people that we would be laying off, or letting go, or whatnot.

So I just wanted to make that peace because I'm not going to be here for the next couple budget meetings. My son is graduating next Monday so I will not be at that meeting but I will watch it because I do want to learn a lot about the spending cap since it's really been a bunch of, you know, a big topic of conversation. So thank you.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Chairman Dowd

I just want to make one comment. The person saying that we had a private meeting to try to and not bring forward the information on the spending cap is totally off base. We had to wait until the Mayor got back from California. As soon as he was here, I contacted Alderman Wilshire to talk to the Mayor to get the meeting set up for Monday. That's what was asked for but it requires the Mayor, and Attorney, and John Griffin all be here for that meeting. So Monday we'll have the meeting to explain the city's position on the spending cap. It's not something that can be affected by this Committee, Budget Committee, or possibly not even the entire Board of Aldermen per se because it's a legal question and legal definition. We will find out exactly how that's calculated. Anything else?

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 8:30 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Committee Clerk