

**Board of Public Works Meeting
Meeting Minutes
January 28, 2021**

A meeting of the Board of Public Works was held on Thursday, January 28, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. via a Zoom Conference Call.

Mayor Donchess

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

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are first: Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means: We are utilizing Zoom through the City's IT Department for this electronic meeting. To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link. To join by phone dial: 1-929-436-2866. The Meeting ID is: 932 4841 1694 and the password is: 163524. The public may also view this meeting on Comcast Channel 16.

Second, providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting: We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed at City Hall and at the Department of Public Works Administration Building at 9 Riverside Drive.

Third, providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access: If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect. Fourth, Adjourning the Meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting. In the event the public is unable to access via the phone number mentioned, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. When each member states their presence, please state why they are not physically present for the meeting and also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

I. Roll Call:

Mayor Donchess

I am here and I am social distancing pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order and I am alone in the room.

Commissioner Frank Teas

I am present, I am attending remotely because of the Governor's Order. I am in my house in a room by myself and I too have something to address at 7:00 so I am appreciative of an expeditious meeting today as well.

Commissioner Tracy Pappas

I'm here, I'm at home in a room by myself. I am not physically present due to the pandemic and the Governor's orders.

Commissioner Kevin S. Moriarty

Yes, present, I am here in my office by myself, no one else is here. I am attending remotely due to the

Coronavirus pandemic.

Commissioner Shannon Schoneman

I am here and I am attending remotely due to the Governor’s Emergency Order and I am alone in this room in my house.

Also Present:

- Ms. Lisa Fauteux, Director, Division of Public Works
- Mr. Dan Hudson, City Engineer
- Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent
- Dave Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O’Brien, Sr.

Mayor Donchess

All members are present. The first item on the Agenda is to approve the Agenda as presented.

II. Motion: Commissioner Moriarty made a motion to approve the agenda as presented:

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas, Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman	5
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Nay:		0
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MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

Mayor Donchess

Next item is the approval of the minutes for the December 17th meeting.

III. Motion: Commissioner Teas made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from December 17, 2020.

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas, Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman	5
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Nay:		0
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MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

Diane Thibodeau, Public Works Executive Assistant

Mayor I also wanted to point out that Alderman O’Brien is present.

Mayor Donchess

I’m sorry, yes, Alderman O’Brien is present with us. He is the liaison for the Board of Public Works from the Board of Aldermen. Thank you Alderman O’Brien for joining us.

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

Thank you for the recognition.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman O'Brien was busy up in Concord trying to help us up at the Legislature today, so I appreciate all of his efforts.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

The motion passed approving the minutes. The next issue is public comment. Is there any member from the public who would like to speak to the Board of Public Works? (There were none.)

IV. Public Comment - None

V. Aldermanic Referrals

A. Motion by Commissioner Schoneman: R-21-106 – Authorizing the Mayor and City Treasurer to issue bonds not to exceed the amount of two million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$2,700,000) for various improvements at the Solid Waste Department Four Hills Landfill and the purchase of two refuse trucks.

Discussion

Mayor Donchess

And is that a motion to recommend the Ordinance to the Aldermen? Yes.

Commissioner Schoneman

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

Yes? Ok. Any discussion on that? Well first of all let's get a – we are going to hear from ...

Director Fauteux

Superintendent LaFleur.

Mayor Donchess

It's Mr. LaFleur. I see Mr. LaFleur is here. Can you tell us about this?

Jeff LaFleur, Superintendent Solid Waste

Absolutely; Jeff LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste. The \$2.7 million dollars comprises of a landfill gas expansion FY '21. It is going to be a three year contract or a multiple year contract at \$1.2 million dollars. I am doing it this way because of the process it takes to get all of these approvals done; it takes too long and I want to be able to mitigate any emissions or odor problems immediately as opposed to trying to wait and get all of our approvals. It is just a long process.

The Solid Waste Equipment Coverage would be a building to cover all of my equipment at the landfill. As you know all of our equipment is outside. This will be a portable system that I can set up and if it needs to be moved, I will be able to move it. Solid Waste Landfill Scale Replacement for \$400,000.00, the scales at the landfill have been there since I've been there, well before I've been there. So it is over 25 / 30 years long. I am expecting a catastrophic event with these scales, they are not made to last forever. So we are going to put this into fruition and get these moving. It probably won't happen right away, we are going to wait to see how the landfill is designed with the new DPW Building coming on. But we will be doing it in the near future, I want to have those funds available that if there is an issue with the scales I can do a quick repair to them. And then the last two would be the two refuse trucks that we are buying for \$600,000.00.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, any questions or comments from the Commissioners?

Commissioner Pappas

If nobody else has a question if I can ask a couple of questions? So I looked through and maybe I missed something but I kept looking through. We are going to get more specifics when you actually purchase this stuff because normally we will get a breakdown of costs and that sort of thing. For example, I know some of our trucks we already have through a prepaid account and we don't know what types of solid waste trucks that we are getting; whether they are just packers or whether they are the automatic ones. Unless I was missing something in my packet, I didn't see the specifics here. Can someone address that?

Mr. LaFleur

Jeff LaFleur, Superintendent Solid Waste. Commissioner Pappas, we are just approving the bond right now, the approval to sell the bond. I am not spending the monies yet this is just to approve the bond. Once I do find out what trucks we are going to buy, it will still go through the same process, I assume.

Commissioner Pappas

Do you have a sense as to which trucks you want to buy? I'm just curious because if you have a certain amount, I mean I would imagine that the automated trash trucks cost more than the packers. I've been on the Board, I remember when most of our trucks were breaking down. We did end up having a plan to go ahead and replace our trucks on a regular basis. So I just was interested in to why we weren't specifying which type of trash trucks we are getting.

Mr. LaFleur

We are Commissioner Pappas but this is just to approve the bond. We are not buying any trucks with this \$600,000.00 until we go out to bid and we get the numbers and come through the BPW and through Finance to do that. Go ahead.

Director Fauteux

I think you do what trucks you are buying though Jeff, right?

Mr. LaFleur

Yes we are buying a semi-automated truck and I am planning on purchasing another packer.

Commissioner Pappas

OK so the semi-automated are the ones that are easy to use for trash and recycling and then the packer – OK, alright. That was my question, thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Now this would, of course, be subject to Board of Public Works approval. Mr. LaFleur would have to come back with a specific proposal which would need to be approved here. This is just a recommendation to the Board that the money should be borrowed so the Board of Public Works can decide what to do with it. So you will see this again, all these items again.

Commissioner Pappas

Can I ask one more quick question, Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Yeah of course.

Commissioner Pappas

And it may be directed towards you so to that, it is great if we are not having trucks breaking down at the side of the road; I think at one point we even owned our own tow truck. But as someone who has been really paying attention through the years, one of the things I think would be interesting maybe once a year or either once every other year, I would love to know which trucks we have in our planned accounts and then which ones we bond. For example, I am not sure if we bond all of our trash trucks or if some of them are through CERF. It can get confusing because I thought most of trucks are planned purchases but I think to see a plan out for me would be – you know, I would imagine folks who, I don't know if it's the ...

Mayor Donchess

Definitely, we could get a presentation on that. So there is definitely a CERF plan; CERF means Capital Equipment Reserve Fund, which some people listening may not know, Capital Equipment Reserve Fund. And there is a schedule which sets forth this year and in future years what we hope to purchase. There would be no problem in bringing in possibly David Fredette to go through the plan. It includes all the City vehicles beyond Public Works but it also includes Public Works vehicles. He could go through the plan and just show you the details.

Commissioner Pappas

OK and it'll give if all of our trucks from solid waste, how they are purchased. I just think that occasionally that kind of information I find helpful as a reminder. But thank you so much Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

So the Director will contact David Fredette, City Treasurer and sort of set that up. I mean the basic rule is the more expensive trucks we would bond them, borrowing but paying back over a short period of time, it's still over a period of time.

Commissioner Pappas

Thank you so much, I really appreciate that.

Mayor Donchess

But maybe we can set that up for the next meeting. Any other comments or questions about the R-21-106? Alright, so the motion is to recommend passage to the Board of Aldermen. Diane, could you please call the roll?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas, Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman	5
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

A. Motion by Commissioner Moriarty R-21-107 – A favorable recommendation Authorizing the Mayor and City Treasurer to issue bonds not to exceed the amount of five million one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$5,150,000) for the city’s Sewer Infrastructure Program.

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Boucher?

Director Fauteux

Actually City Engineer Dan Hudson will be speaking to that this evening, Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Hudson.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Thank you Mr. Mayor. So this is, we’ve talked about before is the funding mechanism that we use to do our CCTV inspection of sewer mains and to our lining and pipe replacement. I have talked before about the benefits of doing that and the cost savings that we achieve by lining versus having to dig up pipes. I did want to kind of take a second here just to reiterate the importance of this work. It’s not just that we save money on replacing pipes but it is that we are properly managing and funding our 400 plus miles of sewer main. That’s is probably about a billion dollar asset and it’s important that we continue to invest and keep that system up and working.

If you want to think of the Waste Water Treatment Plant kind of as the heart of the system, well these pipes are the arteries, carrying the 12 million gallons a day of sewage flow to the plant and it’s very important that we keep that in good operating shape. We have syphons that carry under the river, we have pipes along rivers, so any problems or major problems with those systems will be very detrimental to the City and run the risk of

running afoul of the many permits that we have with EPA and others. This funding source does too cover emergency repairs for anything that we do come across, but thankfully we have avoided those through this preventative maintenance sort to speak that we do.

So I just wanted to kind of touch on those things. What we are finding is about 30% of the pipes we look in, we find out that we need to line. Granted we have focused our program to look at the pipes we expect to be in the worst shape. So it's no surprise that we are finding a number of pipes that need to be lined. But we are finding a lot to be done and this program has been very helpful in the fact that we can move straight from finding the problem to fixing the problem through doing the lining and avoiding that more costly repair. We feel it has been a great program, it's doing what we need to do in terms of keeping the system operational, running it in a sustainable way so we are looking to continue that.

Mayor Donchess

Any questions or comments?

Commissioner Pappas

If I may Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Commissioner Pappas?

Commissioner Pappas

So 30% need lining. Now my understanding is lining pipes is much cheaper than replacing them. I know that these are very expensive systems to run. So I don't know if you have off the top of your head or you can answer this at another meeting, how much are we saving by lining the pipes as opposed to dealing with them by the time they break?

Mr. Hudson

That's a great question. The multiplier from what I have calculated is about a 20 times multiplier. It is costing us on average about \$50.00 a foot to line pipes and that cost includes both the cleaning and inspection of the pipe ahead of time, lining of the pipe and then inspecting post-lining. So you multiply that number by 20 and it's a much bigger number. So it's a big number that we are saving by doing that work to avoid having to do that more costly and much more disruptive repairs. It's not just the cost, you know, if you are dig up the middle of a major street versus a truck inserting a liner from one manhole to the next. I mean that is a significant difference in disruption to the public. So it's a cost and it is a disruption factor that we are saving.

Commissioner Pappas

I think that was a great explanation, thank you so much.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone else? 20 to 1 is a pretty good ratio.

Commissioner Pappas

It is.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone else? (There was none.). OK, let's call the roll on this motion please?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas, Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman	5
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

VI. Wastewater Department

- A. Motion by Commissioner Teas:** To approve the contract with Mass Crane Corporation of Tyngsboro, MA in an amount of \$47,280 for replacing the dry well hoist in the raw sewage pump room at the Nashua Wastewater Treatment Facility. Funding will be through: 160 Wastewater; Fund: WERF; Account Category: 71-Equipment.

Discussion:

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Boucher?

Dave Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Dave Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent. So this motion is to replace a 3 ton hoist crane at the Wastewater Facility. The crane is beyond its useful life, it is currently, parts are inoperable. Because of its age, it is difficult to find parts for it, to repair it. So this crane is used for lifting our 200 horse powered pumps from our dry well. It is also used to disassemble our pumps for inspection and repairs. So we put it out to bid, Mass Crane was the low bidder. We have used Mass Crane to install hoists in our facility in the past. They currently do our inspection on our hoist and safety equipment. We have been very happy with their services, so we'd like to move forward with them doing the upgrade to our crane hoist.

Mayor Donchess

Commissioners, anyone?

Commissioner Pappas

I don't know if this is directed towards Mr. Boucher or the Director, we clearly see that this stuff is very expensive and we know the corrosive nature of everything that the process of managing wastewater and having that go through all the pipes. So I understand that this stuff has to be done and I understand we are under a consent decree order. If someone might explain what this and what that means and what would happen if we kind of got tagged for stuff that we didn't keep up in the Wastewater Department.

Director Fauteux

I am going to take a stab at that Dave, or do you want to?

Mr. Boucher

I think this is separate from the consent decree but the importance of this is we do have to service all of our equipment in a timely fashion to maintain it because the equipment is required to stay running. It is important that we have equipment that helps us maintain this equipment. And this equipment because of its size, it can't be moved easily. It is just important equipment we need operable in order to do our job. But yes, I guess in the grand scheme of things, there's the EPA, the State requires us to keep our equipment running or we could be fined if the equipment is not running, if any of it fails and causes a backup in the system. These pumps that this hoist is servicing, if they fail, the sewer will back up into the system and into the streets, because there are the pumps that push the wastewater to a higher level in our facility to be treated. I don't know if that answers that Commissioner Pappas.

Commissioner Pappas

I understand that this isn't necessarily what we are under for consent decree order, but I think that wastewater is very expensive. But if someone can just explain what a consent decree order is, we are under it for something and just to explain the consequences if we don't keep things running properly.

Director Fauteux

So many years ago, Commissioner Pappas, we the City, this is probably going back 15 years, the City was forced to make a decision as to whether to separate all of our collection system or develop some combined sewer overflows. The combined sewer overflows are basically holding tanks that only overflow in sort of extreme weather conditions and hopefully we get to a point where we have minimal overflows. But, of course, the City decided that we were going to do the combined sewer overflow, the CSO Program. We spent almost \$100 million dollars on our CSO Program. And that was under the consent decree. We are close to the end of that now, we were in the testing phase and we have our Wet Weather Facility running; we just really need to test it at this point which will probably happen in the spring when we start to have heavy rains again. And the hope is that we will have sewer, CSO overflows, now that wet weather is running to capacity and then we will hopefully only have to separate maybe in areas where we are still having CSO overflows if we have any.

So there are definitely some next steps, but until we fully test the system, our full collection system with wet weather running, we won't know what those next steps are. But I will certainly bring the Board any new information that we have as we move forward.

Commissioner Pappas

OK this might be a stupid question, Mr. Mayor, if I may.

Mayor Donchess

Go ahead, please.

Commissioner Pappas

These projects do they impact our wastewater fees?

Director Fauteux

Yes, absolutely.

Commissioner Pappas

OK, alright thank you.

Mayor Donchess

I think more on what consent decree is, it is basically a Court Order that was entered by consent. But were the City to violate the consent decree the EPA could seek administrative fines against the City for each day of violation. So I think we are making the decision that it is a lot better to invest our money in trying to keep the equipment in good shape and keep the plant running properly, you know, rather than to pay fines to the Federal Government.

Commissioner Pappas

Agreed, thank you everyone for that clarification.

Mayor Donchess

Alright. Any other questions or thoughts about Item A? (There were none.) Could you please call the roll?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas, Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman	5
Nay:	0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

B. Motion by Commissioner Schoneman: To approve the contract with Woodard Curran to prepare plans and specification for the Phase II Pump Station Upgrades rebid in an amount not to exceed \$42,500. Funding for this contract will be through Department: 169 Wastewater; Fund: SRF Loan, Activity: Pump Station Upgrades Phase II.

Discussion:

Mayor Donchess

OK you've heard the Motion. Mr. Boucher?

Mr. Boucher

I could speak to it. Thank you Mr. Mayor. Dave Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent. So we are just about to complete Phase I of the pump station upgrades; that's the first (inaudible) pump station. So we are getting ready to put the second phase out to bid, hopefully in April which will be 6 pump stations and one CSO site to upgrade those. And because we broke it out into two separate projects, we have to modify the plans, the original plans before we can put it out to bid. It is a requirement by the State that the plans be stamped and so we are utilizing the original design engineer for this project. We do have some revisions to make on the plans with the specifications and some things that we saw that we needed that weren't on the original designs. So Woodard Curran is the original company we are utilizing for that. This is an SRF Project so that is why the State requires a certified stamp on plans before we put out to bid. I'll take any questions if anybody has any.

Mayor Donchess

Commissioners? (There were none.). Could you please call the roll?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas,	
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Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

VII. Engineering Department

A. Motion by Commissioner Moriarty: To approve the Residential and Commercial Wastewater Service Permits and Fees as submitted.

Mayor Donchess

Any discussion? (There was none.). Could you please call the roll?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas,
Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

B. Motion by Commissioner Teas: To approve the following Pole License Petitions: PSNH # 21-1336, PSNH #21-1555, PSNH # 21-1558, PSNH # 21-1559.

Mayor Donchess

Any discussion? (There was none.). Could you please call the roll?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas,
Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

C. Motion by Commissioner Schoneman: To approve a Drainlayer’s License for Emergency Sewer & Drain Repair, LLC, of Newton, NH in accordance with Nashua City Code §255-19 Issuance of Drainlayer's License.

Mayor Donchess

Any questions or discussion? (There was none). Could you please call the roll?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas,
Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

D. Motion by Commissioner Moriarty: To approve a Drainlayer’s License for Sequel Development and Management, Inc. of Nashua, NH in accordance with Nashua City Code §255-19 Issuance of Drainlayer’s License.

Mayor Donchess

Any discussion? (There was none.). Could you please call the roll?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas,
Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

E. Motion by Commissioner Teas: To approve the hardship waiver request from Liberty Utilities to excavate in moratorium streets for Grade 2 leak repairs through Calendar Year 2021.

Discussion:

Mayor Donchess

And I think we are going to need an explanation on this from Mr. Hudson, I assume?

Mr. Hudson

Yes, thank you Mr. Mayor. So last July we brought forth a similar request and it was approved through the end of the calendar year. But what it does is it enables Liberty Utilities to make Grade 2 gas leak repairs in moratorium streets before first coming to the Board. These Grade 2 Leaks that are discovered need to be repaired within six months of the same calendar year as their discovery. They are not quite as severe as Grade 1 Leaks which are emergencies and they can go do those right away without even talking to us first.

What Liberty is asking again for this year is this approval, in the interest of time basically so they don’t potentially have to wait a month or so for the approval to be able to go make these repairs. And then we work with them, we permit it, and what we have established last year is reporting to the Board monthly so you would have a full assessment of what repairs are made. But they are not coming forward with each individual approval request. So that’s what the request is and I’d be happy to address any questions.

Mayor Donchess

Commissioners?

Commissioner Pappas

If I may?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, please

Commissioner Pappas

So I am just wondering, so I will tell you given how much we have spent on paving, I think that, I don't know if I voted against this or not. But if we could at least have, if possible, a heads up the month in advance. I mean a lot of it is just if people, if residents see their road getting cut into, I know that we are usually pretty good about identifying those and giving them, you guys are very good about giving it to us the month after. But if there's any way that we can let folks know the month in advance, you know, just so folks know and say why did you dig into my street when it's just been paved. Don't know if it's possible; just a suggestion.

Mr. Hudson

That is something we can think about, if there's a different way we can provide a notification. I mean oftentimes our Public Relations person Lauren Byers will tweet out there if repairs are happening and if we are aware of it, that sort of thing. But certainly if anybody calls with a question we know what is going on out there and how we want to report to the Board on it is I guess is the pleasure of the Board. But right now what we have been doing is, as I said, I've been summarizing ones that happened in the previous month. But anytime anybody has a question they can reach out to us and we can tell them what is going on.

Commissioner Pappas

Mr. Mayor, if I may?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, please.

Commissioner Pappas

Instead of tweets is there any way if any of us, I know I would be interested in getting an email when we have those in advance just to have that information, I would certainly appreciate that rather than the form of a tweet.

Mr. Hudson

OK it is duly noted, we can take that under advisement and see what we can do.

Commissioner Pappas

Alright, thanks a million.

Mayor Donchess

Anybody else? Commissioner Schoneman?

Commissioner Schoneman

Yes please. I know I've asked this before, but I guess I really don't grasp if the City provides a list of streets being paved and Liberty goes in and inspects ahead of time for leaks on those streets why are they going back and finding new leaks after the paving?

Mr. Hudson

I don't pretend to fully understand the issues that revolve around gas mains but all I can do is confirm that they are doing the pre-inspections as you noted. You know, issues occur and I am not sure why all the time, I mean

there's freeze/thaw things and you know and other things that occur. I know last time when this was brought up they did speak to that and I guess we can go back and look at the minutes of that meeting. But yeah things happen, I mean it's unfortunate to have any of these situations and we have, similarly we have water leaks occasionally. I think if we looked at the total number of miles we are paving and the number of these issues, it's a fairly low number. But still, any of these issues is unfortunate. I don't know how we completely avoid it. They are looking and they are doing the best they can to repair any that they find. Because the restoration requirements are significant. They don't want to go back and dig up and have to do upbuild the roadway and all that either. The restoration isn't prohibitive and so they do do everything they can to address the issue ahead of time; it's just sometimes things happen and we just have to deal with it.

Commissioner Schoneman

Yes I see that. I think it is on Liberty to, I don't know what would be the explanation? Do better inspections to find leaks before the paving happens? I think it's, I agree with Commissioner Pappas, it is wrong to go into these streets, you know, 6, 7, 8 months after they've been paved and you know, now we found a leak. Oops, we didn't find it six months ago when we inspected it. I don't think that's professional and I don't think it is fair to the taxpayers, so I can't support this. I think they need to be brought to accountability to do a good job and to get the leaks repaired before the roads are paved. It's so expensive and it's like you said, it is a hassle for them to have to go back and dig again. But I can't see this as a good thing for the taxpayers.

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Hudson did you say that Liberty had come in the past to kind of talk about this situation?

Mr. Hudson

Yeah, I don't know if anybody is on tonight but they did attend that meeting last July and addressed some of the questions that the Board was raising. We did put this item as an annual approval so that each year the Board has an opportunity revisit whether this process is working or not working and wants more answers or anything like that. So that is why we bring this up annually and I am sure they would address that. I know they do look for leaks ahead of time and they find a number of them and fix all of the ones that they find. But they do discover additional leaks occasionally afterwards. I don't know if that's fully preventable.

Mayor Donchess

Is it important that this pass tonight? Or could it wait a month?

Mr. Hudson

I am not aware of any situation that they need to repair now, pending this approval, so I believe it could wait if that was the Board's pleasure.

Mayor Donchess

Well why don't we, can you invite them to come to the next meeting and if you wish, I forget, motion to table would take precedent. So if Commissioner Schoneman you'd like to table this and talk to Liberty before voting on it we could do that.

Commissioner Schoneman

Yes.

Motion by Commissioner Schoneman to table until the next meeting.

Mayor Donchess

Alright and Mr. Hudson will ask Liberty to come in. The motion is to table. Any discussion on that motion? (There was none.). Please call the roll.

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas, Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman	5
Nay:		0

MOTION TO TABLE CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

F. Motion by Commissioner Schoneman: To approve the engineering services contract for tasks required by the EPA MS4 Permit with Hazen and Sawyer, PC of Manchester, MA in an amount of \$187,550. Funding will be through Department: 169 Wastewater; Fund: Wastewater; Activity: Storm water Abatement.

Discussion:

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Hudson?

Mr. Hudson

Thank you Mr. Mayor. So we have talked here before about a number of permits we operate under. There is a permit that's called a Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System permit, an MS4 Permit as most people refer to it. This is the permit that allows us to discharge storm water to the waterways. This permit requires a number of efforts in the interest of storm water quality. Those include things such as trying to remove elicit discharges from the storm water which is anything except rainfall. But it is an extensive permit that you need to comply with and the effort to do that is fairly significant. This permit every year has different objectives that need to be met. The early permit years under this permit involved some mapping and other things which we were actually well on the way of. But now we are getting into needing to do a lot of outfall sampling and things like that to find out where we have issues and then to work to address them. This Engineering Company has helped us file our annual permit reports that we need to file as well as staying in compliance. And this effort here will continue to do that.

Mayor Donchess

Any discussion or questions? (There were none.). Could you please call the roll?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas, Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman	5
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

G. Motion by Commissioner Moriarty: To accept as finally complete, Federal paving project Nashua 41049 - Paving Amherst Street, Somerset Parkway, Broad Street, and Kinsley Street.

Discussion:

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Hudson?

Mr. Hudson

Thank you Mr. Mayor. So this is a paving project. It was federally funded as noted, completed by Newport Construction. It involved work on Amherst Street, Somerset Parkway, Broad Street and Kinsley Street; fairly extensive program. Paving was complete a couple of years ago but then this last year we needed to go back and do a bunch of ADA ramps; 38 ramps were done this year in the Exit 6 and Exit 7 area making for safer crossings. But anyway, all that work has been complete, we've completed all our final checklists and are seeking our final reimbursement for the work, you know, review and approval and acceptance basically of the work by this body and with that we will be able to finalize the paperwork and close the project.

Mayor Donchess

Questions, discussion? (There was none.) Would you please call the roll?

A Viva Voce Roll Call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas, Commissioner Moriarty & Commissioner Schoneman	5
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED 5 – 0 – 0

H. Informational: Street Opening Permits issued for Streets in Moratorium.

Discussion:

Mayor Donchess

Do you wish to speak to this, Mr. Hudson?

Mr. Hudson

Yeah as noted earlier on the other item, we report on the permits issued in moratorium streets, emergency repairs don't require permitting ahead of time. But those are listed as you can see there were a couple of water leaks that Pennichuck had to deal with. And then there was a couple Grade 1 gas leaks which Liberty had to deal with. So that's the summary for December for that work.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, thank you very much. We are now onto Administration.

VIII. Administration Department

A. Informational

i. DPW Facility Update

Mayor Donchess

Director Fauteux?

Director Fauteux

Thank you Mayor. As far as a DPW Facility update, I did hear from Director Cummings that the sale of Burke Street has been postponed for one month. So it will be occurring at the end of February and he is confident that will happen. A deposit has been provided to the City. So I will certainly update you next month again but that's all I have for that. And then Diane if you could pull up...

Commissioner Pappas

If I could ask a question?

Director Fauteux

Oh I'm sorry, of course sure.

Commissioner Pappas

Do we have a date?

Director Fauteux

I don't know the date. I've been told it is the end of February, Commissioner Pappas, but as soon as I do know a date, I'll definitely let you know.

Commissioner Pappas

OK, thanks a million.

Director Fauteux

Sure.

Mayor Donchess

Ok, now we are going to get the Director's Report.

ii. Director's Report

Director Fauteux

My first slides are the City's ice rinks. It's been a very challenging year due to the sustained warmer temperatures. But this past week has been cold enough to finally get the rinks up and coming. On the left is Sergeant's Ave; the middle is Legacy Park near Fairgrounds Middle School; and on the right is Roby Park. Roby Park is the only park that we have the chiller so that one is a little bit better but the chiller is very old so it doesn't work as efficiently as a new one would.

We have started a gaming league which is pretty exciting. It's online gaming and ranges in age from 8 to 40 years. Of course it is broken down into appropriate age groups. We have 91 players registered; we were hoping for 40 and we are at 91 so we were very pleased with that. At the end of the season, players will participate in a single elimination tournament to crown the championship. And Leagues will be played against local town players or other gamers from New Hampshire through our New Hampshire Recreation Department.

This is just some sidewalk clearing. This is after the storm on December 16th. The DPW clears over 50 miles of sidewalk after each storm. This is a picture of an employee loading brine in our brining unit to apply brine to the streets before a storm. We did get some questions about applying brine this last storm. It was actually too cold to apply brine so that's why we didn't do that and you saw us out using regular salt.

The Street Department crews picked up Christmas trees this year between January 4th and the 15th and then we chipped them at the landfill. The chips are used then for cover at the landfill. We said a very sad farewell to one of our Public Works family members, Andre Pelletier, who had been with the Street Department for 46 years and we had a really nice parade for a final farewell past the Ancil Rochette Funeral Home and Andre's family looked on. We do have a video of that that we will show directly after my Director's Report.

The Solid Waste Department employees are repairing the wall near the residential trash dumpsters, that's always a challenge keeping that wall in decent shape but that has been repaired. We have advertised the 2021 Household Hazardous Waste Collection Schedule and it is available on our website and on Facebook and also hard copies at the Solid Waste Department.

We want to remind everyone to please make sure that their trash barrels are clear of snow. We can't pick up totes that are buried in a snowbank or covered with snow. So please make sure that all barrels are dug out and cleaned off. The Four Hills Landfill will be closed on Monday, February 15th for President's Day so curbside pickup for all routes will be delayed by one day that week. And that's it. Diane could you show the video of the parade, please?

Video of parade for Andre Pelletier plays.

Director Fauteux

So although this was very sad and given the pandemic, this was just a really nice way for staff to be able to say goodbye to Andre in a safe manner. That's all I have for this evening, Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you Ms. Fauteux.

IX. Commissioner's Comments:

Mayor Donchess

I would like to say that the passing of Mr. Pelletier, Andre Pelletier was a very sad event. He had worked for the City for 46 years and if you go all the way back that means he worked at the so-called “barn” that was on East Hollis Street. Then he moved over to Riverside Drive and did a lot of different jobs during the course of his tenure. And he was well-liked and a good worker, well-liked by everyone, you know, management, all of his employees. The idea of having the parade was a very good one and I think the family did appreciate it. And, of course, for them our thoughts are with them, our prayers are with them because it was a very sad passing. It’s a tragedy for them and, of course, COVID-19 struck home in this instance which it does, which it can and in this case, unfortunately it did. So we all I know just give us our best and our hearts are out to Andre’s family. With that, any other Commissioners have comments?

Director Fauteux

Sorry, go ahead Commissioner Pappas.

Commissioner Pappas

No it sounds like you see someone else, I am going to have someone else go first.

Director Fauteux

Oh I was just going to mention, we talked about this Commissioner Pappas that there is a Go Fund Me Page for Andre’s family. His wife has some mobility issues and he was her sole caretaker and so they have set up a Go Fund Me Page in case anybody wanted to donate I did want to just mention that.

Mayor Donchess

Commissioner Pappas?

Commissioner Pappas

Where would one find that?

Director Fauteux

You know, I don’t have the exact - but if you just type in Go Fund Me Andre Pelletier, his name it will come up.

Commissioner Pappas

Ok Andy or Andre?

Director Fauteux

Andre.

Commissioner Pappas

Ok, alright because I know his family called him Andy. Ok, thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Commissioners, does anybody have comments? Commissioner Moriarty?

Commissioner Moriarty

Yes, Mayor. First of all, I'd like to also say that was a very awesome parade and sign of support by the City, very touching. I did want to mention also though something about the pension plan, employees of Public Works use and Alderman O'Brien, please step in if there's something you want to add. But I wanted to let the Commissioners know that the current pension plan is not in compliance any longer with the IRS Regulations. So we will need to make it in compliance. So the Trustees of the Pension Plan have moved to hire an attorney to that affect. The City Attorney said that it is out of their specialty to do that. So it looks like the cost may be somewhere in the range of about \$20,000.00. That would come out of the pension plan that the employees contribute to. So the Board is hoping that the City take some responsibility for that \$20,000.00 cost and help out. It is quite a benefit to the City.

Mayor Donchess

And the plan is 88% funded, right? Isn't it something like that?

Commissioner Moriarty

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

That's a very good job, you know, having testified the last couple days about the State Pension Plan which they allowed to go down to 50, now 60%. The Trustees have done a very good job here in Nashua. Any other Commissioner's comments?

Commissioner Pappas

Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, Commissioner Pappas.

Commissioner Pappas

So I fully agree that it was a terrible loss and I would concur with Commissioner Moriarty, it was a really beautiful tribute to Mr. Pelletier.

What I wanted to hit on, at our last meeting in December, we were presented with increases of, I want to say in the first two years 30% to the wastewater fees. Now I was sworn in to this Board I want to say in November 2007 because I was filling in for someone. I had always voted for the wastewater increases because we had more information than we were given at that last meeting. I did happen to watch the Personnel & Administrative Affairs Committee Meetings regarding this. I kind of see it as part of my job, when I can, I really try to view the meetings that handle some of the Public Works issues. I do recognize as Mayor that you are covering a whole City. That's part of what I like about being on this Board, it's just one division that we are taking a look over.

But if nothing else, having been on the Board for a long time, I've experienced some things and I want to say in circa 2007 to 2009 we almost ran out of money. We didn't have enough money in reserve for this fund. And

we did try to fix this by whether we had to increases or not, by having yearly reports in July to both our Board and to the Board of Aldermen. And I remember asking, I don't think we had done this since 2016 and I get that you can't pound your fists on the table, you are through all these meetings and you say, hey did we ever receive that or not. And as I said, I fully understand Mr. Mayor that you are in charge of a whole City so it's hard to remember, you kind of get lost in the weeds and thinking, when is the last time we visited that.

So I did want to say that I was disappointed that we didn't get the same information and I don't think it's on the Director, I think it was more Financial Services, that we didn't get the information needed. But I am just thinking in terms of if all of us were to fall off the face of the earth and we have to remember every single year, we need to take a look, I'm not saying every single year we need to raise the sewer fee rates, but we really need to see how much money we have in reserve, how much money we have for our expensive facilities. I am wondering if it makes sense, because obviously none of the Commissioners, we don't have the authority to amend or write Ordinances. But we know every year when the Budget is occurring. So I am wondering if it might make a lot of sense, I don't know if you can sponsor Legislation or get someone from the Board of Aldermen to sponsor Legislation. We just visit this issue at the same time we do the Budget because then when you get sick of being in office and you're not in office, your predecessor doesn't have to scratch his or her head to see, hey when are we supposed to take a look at this? Or if there are all new people on the Board of Public Works or if the Director decided she took another job, I am just trying to think of a vehicle in which to always make sure that every single year that we take a good look at this.

I am just thinking we know when the Budget occurs, so I am just wondering if it might make sense to amend that Legislation to make that happen at the same time. Because it is a busy time for Financial Services anyway and you kind of kill two birds with one stone. I don't know, those are just my thoughts on it. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

I think we could do it in concert with the Budget. As you know, looking past the operating budget for the Wastewater Treatment Plant along with the City Budget every year. So at that point, we could provide a report regarding assets and where the fund stands and all that. Now we may have done that with the Aldermen from time to time at Budget time but maybe not with the Board of Public Works. But I think you're right that it would be best to do that on an annual basis.

Commissioner Pappas

Thank you so much.

Mayor Donchess

So next Budget season we will, as part of the presentation on the next Budget season which is coming up pretty soon, we will report again on the fund, the Wastewater Fund and its status. While I am mentioning the Budget, I am going to propose the Budget later this year than I have in the past because there are some State issues which are going to put a lot of pressure on the City Budget. You know they have proposed to increase the pension cost by \$4.4 million dollars and reduce School Aid by \$7.4; the \$11 million dollar hit to the taxpayers of Nashua. So I am probably going to wait until early May to propose the Budget because we are trying to work with the Legislature to see if we can get some relief on these things. So the Budget will be coming, you know, we will be, of course, coming to you with the Public Works Budget but it may be a little later than in the last few years.

Commissioner Pappas

Can I ask one question not related to Public Works regarding the Budget?

Mayor Donchess

Yeah, of course.

Commissioner Pappas

And again this is kind of more for you to put on the back of your mind for when we are doing the Budget. So I know, for example, one family that does – my kids go to Catholic School through 8th Grade and then we sign up to go to the High School. But I don't think you can sign up for the spring so I know that we've had decreased enrollment but I don't know if there's anything that the folks in the State like Alderman O'Brien can do to say, what happens if everyone starts registering for school in May or April?

Mayor Donchess

Well there are various bills in the Legislature to try to equalize the school aid to last year. Part of the decrease, part but I think its \$1.4 million out of the \$7.4 million dollar decrease is related to an enrollment decline. But the School Department suggests that they think it is temporary in the sense that the number, the reduced enrollment is like 800 and they think like 600 and some are in the K and Pre-K. So they are thinking that those are just families that rather than try to do Kindergarten or Pre-K remote, they just haven't signed up but that they will bring the kids back when schools are fully opened. The School Department, of course, which is independently run, as you know, by the School Board, they think that the enrollment decline may be of short duration.

Commission Pappas

I don't know if they have previous numbers of say kids from – there are kids who just go to ASB through 8th grade and there are kids who just go to private schools through 8th grade so I am just wondering, I don't know how much contact or control you have over them. If we look at historical numbers because those will be other folks that may be added unless you can let them enroll earlier, I don't know, just a thought. And I don't want to belabor the point, I know that the game starts at 7:00 and people have stuff to do. I just wanted to plant that seed.

Mayor Donchess

OK.

Alderman O'Brien

Mr. Mayor, if I may?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. I think the Governor is looking at this. Part of the issue too is the COVID, I hate to blame that old virus for all the issues but it does lead into a lot. Some of the computations of the numbers is affected by the COVID. I think what it is the mathematical like you say Commissioner Pappas some of the historical numbers that they have used in the past, aren't really that germane right now with the COVID experience. So the problem has been identified, I agree with the Mayor there are several bills pending. Fortunately we do have a Governor that seems to be aware of the issue, so hopefully that will come to a quick resolve because education is very important to just not Nashua but all communities in the State. So hopefully he'll come to a quicker solution. Thank you.

Commissioner Pappas

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Any other comments from Commissioners? (There were none.)

XI. Non-Public Session

Non-Public Session – Motion by Commissioner Teas to go into non-public session by Roll Call pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 2B; the hiring of any person as a public employee.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas,
Commissioner Moriarty, Commissioner Schoneman 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Mayor Donchess

One minute before the ... thank you very much. Just made it under the wire. Commissioner Moriarty.

Commissioner Moriarty

I thought we missed on the Personnel A, I don't remember doing that but that's maybe not

Mayor Donchess

I think we unsealed the minutes. I think we moved on that. I think we did that.

Commissioner Moriarty

The meeting of December 17th, ok.

Commissioner Pappas

I'm not sure that we did.

Mayor Donchess

Well we will check the tape. We want to get this 7:00 deadline, so we will check the tape and if we didn't do it.

Commissioner Teas

We did not do it, I did not have that motion, I did have the minutes though unfortunately.

Mayor Donchess

So you think we – are you saying we did or did not move to unseal the minutes from December 17th.

Commissioner Teas

We did not move to do that, I only had the motion for the – unless I failed to print it correctly I just had the motion for the (inaudible).

Mayor Donchess

I think we did it, because it was on the Agenda. Alright we will check and if we didn't do it we will put it on the next Agenda.

Adjournment:

Motion by Commissioner Moriarty to Adjourn

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Mayor Donchess, Commissioner Teas, Commissioner Pappas,
Commissioner Moriarty, Commissioner Schoneman 5

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

5-0-0

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00 P.M.