

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 2, 2022

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, February 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and via Zoom. The meeting link information can be found on the agenda.

Mayor Jim Donchess, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee, Vice Chair
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons (arrived at 7:01)
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

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

Also in Attendance: Alderman Derek Thibeault
Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director
Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Karen Smith, Business Manager NPD
Brian Sojka, Police Supervisor
Darrin Santos, Environmental Engineer
Dan Hudson, Engineer
Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director
Julie Chizmas, Long-Range Planner

Mayor Donchess

Although it's not on the agenda, our previous Clerk has been transferred to another committee so we need to elect a Clerk. Although it's not on the agenda we need to do that because Alderman Jette has transferred to another committee.

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CLERK

Mayor Donchess called for nominations for the Committee Clerk for the 2022-2023 term.

ALDERMAN GOUVEIA NOMINATED ALDERMAN COMEAU AS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CLERK

MOTION BY ALDERMAN GOUVEIA TO VOTE ON ELECTION OF ALDERMAN COMEAU AS THE FINANCE COMMITTEE CLERK FOR THE 2022-2023 TERM
MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. Is all the business I believe is new business, correct? There's no business, right?

Mayor Donchess

Correct.

Laurie Ortolano

Okay so I'll wait til the end. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Software Licensing: Benefits Administration in the amount not to exceed \$480,000 funded from 54400 Software Licensing/Benefits Internal Service Fund (Administrative Services)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD A BID TO ALIGHT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ALIGHT BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION SOLUTION FOR ALL INSURANCE PLANS FOR THE CITY IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$480,000 (\$160,000 A YEAR FOR THREE YEARS). FUNDING THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 113 BENEFITS; FUND: 54400 SOFTWARE LICENSING/BENEFITS INTERNAL SERVICE FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Good evening. Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director. I'd like to give a little bit of background for those of you that may not know about our benefits programs. Back on January 5th I wrote the Board a memo detailing the health of the benefits health fund. If any of you didn't receive it, I'd be glad to resend it. I try to do that once a year just to give you a flavor of what's happening and where we are with the fund. As of today, the fund balance is a little over \$9 million.

Back when COVID struck, we were faced with a very difficult situation within (inaudible). So historically benefits – and we manager benefits for all of the city, school, police, fire, city – we were faced with a problem where historically the benefits had all been paper enrollment. Here we are with COVID and we're struck with the idea of having to get all the paper enrollments from across the city. Now we are fortunate over at the School Department there is an HR office and they work in partnership with us to collect all the school enrollments and then bring them all to the city. All of the input is done here within three staff members. So this past year you had 2,089 enrollments. So they enter all of those enrollments into our Lawson system, and then into the Anthem system which covers our health, and then into the Delta system which is Delta Dental. So you can imagine not only is it a totally inefficient process but there's a lot of room for human error. When you're keying that amount of data, it's natural to happen.

So we knew back then that we wanted to change this and that it needed to be a priority. WBS (Workplace Benefit Solutions) is our consultant that deals with us on all healthcare matters. They recommended that we go out to an RFP through them which is commonly what we do for health products and that we look at bids from some of the top leaders. That's exactly what we did this fall. So they put out an RFP to all of their health industry leaders and we got three back – technically four when we kicked back but three that we considered. Alight and Benefit Express being the top two. The third being kind of disqualified for lack of services.

The top bidder had everything that we wanted. So Alight not only can totally satisfy the city's needs in terms of their deliverables but they have an incredible employee education package. So as many of you may know, we have been in the process of a healthcare redesign. Part of that redesign is moving our employees from what we call our old HMO 250/500 to our new HMO 1500/3000. That takes an incredible amount of education to educate employees on what these new benefits entail, what benefit package is best for them and their families who need services. This software has that capability built into it. It will model an employee's unique situation. They input key data, family size, healthcare situations, pharmacy needs, and it will walk them through what benefit plan and what their costs could look like throughout the year. That was very important to us.

The other part of this software that was very important to us is its all automatic feeds. So they will give us ten automatic feeds to vendors which will stop all of that input and what we're starting to get back from our vendors like Anthem, and Delta, and Hartford is that they're willing to kick in. So after my meeting and I wrote my memo to you, it is \$160,000 a year, a three year deal to start with. Hartford came back and agreed to kick in 20. So that I got after this we are still working with our other partners to see if they would be willing. Why are they willing? Because the data that they're going to get through these automatic feeds is more reliable, and it's faster, and it allows them to be more efficient on their end. So that's basically where we are. I tried to cover in my memo to you all of the features that I thought were beneficial to the city. So I don't want to repeat anything but certainly I'm happy to answer any questions.

Mayor Donchess

Before we go further, I didn't recognize Alderman Thibeault who's also present although not a member of the committee. Any questions from anybody?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Director Kleiner do you think the others will kick anything in and if so to what extent? Or do you

even have any idea? I can see how this would be beneficial to them.

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Absolutely. I think it is beneficial. I think especially when you're dealing with a large vendor like Anthem. It's early in our process. Generally we'll have the renewal conversations with Anthem in March. I am very hopeful that they will. It has a lot of benefits on their side and it's not uncommon in the industry for your vendors to help you with your benefits administration packaging.

Alderman Klee

Just a quick follow up. Is this a permanent help or is it just a one-shot deal to get us onto the system?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Great question. With Hartford, it's a one-shot deal for now. What we hope – now we're dealing with an incredibly short window here. So our open enrollment is mid-April. That means that our information technology team which loves me right about now for this has about eight weeks to get this implemented. Alight has assured us that that can happen and we are due to start Friday if you see it fit to approve. It does have to go to the Board of Aldermen so we won't start any initial real but we'll start putting together plans of action and things of that sort – things that we can pull until the Mayor signs the contract.

I think that we need to look not only to the benefit to the city but the benefit to the employees. It was incredibly difficult for these employees to enroll in their benefits. We heard it loud and clear that they were confused, confusion creates errors, they didn't feel well informed, and that's just not a good place to put our employees in. The benefits team is really excited about this. I think it's a huge step forward for the city.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Just one quick question. So this would eliminate the paper enrollment for the most part, correct and that would move that onto more of an online portal kind of system to enroll in the benefits?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Yes that's correct. The only time that we would have to see if someone came to us and said they didn't have access, we could supply them access to a computer. We're trying to work through now with some of our departments like DPW. Some of us going over and actually bringing laptops and doing sessions with the employees. Some that may have more challenges than others with technology. So we'll certainly put every step forward to do that but if push comes to shove and they haven't been able to sign on, then we'll always hand them a paper enrollment and walk them through it.

Alderman Gouveia

Okay, thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Anybody else?

Alderman Klee

Thank you. Just a quick question Director Kleiner. Would the employees not have access to like an electronic EOBs and that type of thing so they can see what got paid, what didn't get paid, or what portion and so on that they would have to be responsible for?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Another great question. So this software has the technology to do electronic statements, to hook onto Anthem which

provides the EOBs. It has the technology to hook them onto our vendors so that they can get statements. It's not just a modeling. It provides full self-service.

Alderman Klee

Perfect. Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Motorcycle in the amount not to exceed \$26,220 funded from 81500 Vehicles/CERF (Police)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A 2022 HARLEY DAVIDSON FLHTP MOTOCYCLE, WHICH REPLACES THE 1997 HARLEY DAVIDSON MOTORCYCLE, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$26,220. FUNDING THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 150 POLICE DEPARTMENT; FUND: 81500 VEHICLES/CERF, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

I believe I see Karen Smith from the Police Department. I'm not sure if there's anyone else.

Brian Sojka, Police Supervisor

Brian Sojka, Police Supervisor, Nashua Police.

Mayor Donchess

Could you just briefly explain the item Brian, please?

Brian Sojka, Police Supervisor

We're looking actually to replace the 1997 Harley motorcycle. It is a training motorcycle. We use it for training the guys, the new people that go into the motorcycle unit. We have two newer Harleys that are 2010s. We will be taking one of those 2010s and transferring it over to the training division. It goes through extensive training. It's really, really rough on the bike. So we're taking the new bike and putting it into service as a marked patrol vehicle.

Mayor Donchess

All right. Any questions, comments? I don't see anything.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Water Quality Testing Change Order in the amount not to exceed \$40,795 funded from 53107 Architect & Engineering Services/Solid Waste Fund (Solid Waste)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE CHANGE ORDER #1 TO THE CONTRACT WITH CHEMSERVE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSTS OF MILFORD, NH, FOR WATER QUALITY TESTING SERVICES AT NASHUA LANDFILL SITES FOR THE SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$40,795.00. FUNDING THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 168 SOLID WASTE; FUND: SOLID WASTE; ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION: 53 PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Santos may be here from the Solid Waste Department.

Darrin Santos, Environmental Engineer

That's correct.

Mayor Donchess

Could you give us a brief explanation of this item please?

Darrin Santos, Environmental Engineer

Yes, absolutely. You may recall we started the year out in a drought situation and come summer – July, August rainfall certainly picked up and we had some high intensity events that lead to some leachates stresses in our system. The DES wanted extra testing as a result of that including testing for p phos which I'm sure folks are familiar with now. This change order is to cover costs for monthly monitoring going forward for this fiscal year. We're working to try to reduce that but for the time being, I think we need to plan for the monthly monitoring until we get the go ahead from DES to drop it down.

Mayor Donchess

All right, thank you. Any comments, questions from anyone?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Interpretive Historic Signage in the amount not to exceed \$35,731 funded from 81700 Infrastructure Improvements/Bond (Engineering)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE AWARD OF A CONTRACT FOR INTERPRETIVE HISTORIC SIGNS TO PRESERVATION COMPANY OF KENSINGTON, NH, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$35,731. FUNDING THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 160 ADMIN/ENGINEERING; FUND: BOND: ACTIVITY: BROAD STREET PARKWAY

ON THE QUESTION

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Yes Mr. Mayor. Dan Hudson, City Engineer. So this is one of the last remaining items from the former Broad Street parkway project now known as Veterans Memorial Parkway. This is a commitment that was negotiated the Federal Highway New Hampshire Department of Transportation and New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources. What it is due to needing to take down some buildings as part as the buildings in the Millyard, the commitment has been made to prepare some historic interpretive signage so that visitors of the area can read about the history of the area.

This contract is for consulting services. The preservation company will design the signs and work with DHR to get their final approval of language. They have a subcontractor which will construct and erect the signs. Two signs are envisioned. With that, I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. Was this the old boiler house? Is that what this is related to?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Yes. Thank you. There are two things we're mitigating for. One was a removal of the Charles Gordon House at 40 Pine Street. That's in the French village historic district area. That's an area that's eligible to be listed on the National Register. The other was for the demolition of Millyard Waste house. The sign there will talk about the waste house but also talk about the canal and other unique features of the area.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. Just briefly. I can remember when that was a controversial decision to knock that down and basically make that parkway go through there. I remember that. It's funny that's it's taken this long to get this compromise done. I'm happy to see it.

Alderman Comeau

I just had a question for Mr. Hudson. Was this something that was bid on or was this contract just awarded to Preservation Company?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

This contract is being awarded to Preservation Company based upon their experience. There was a different entity that did the historic work for the project but he's since retired. This company I'd say is the preeminent company in the area for doing this type of work. They do nearly all the DOT related project work and DHR work. So I'll know the company is being directly awarded to them given their capability and experience with doing this type of thing.

Alderman Comeau

If I could follow up. Just so I understand the process a little bit. It seems silly to quibble over a smaller dollar amount in the grand scheme of things. When I look at the breakdown of costs associated with this, it looks like there's 65 hours of labor for an architectural historian which is over \$5,000; 30 hours for a project manager, 50 hours for a principle, and then over \$20,000 in material costs which to me seems excessive for a sign. Could you elaborate a little bit on what some of these costs are related to?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Sure. So obviously they need to design the sign so they need to develop what will go in the sign. That's a (inaudible) process. They need to do a lot of historic research through old records, looking for old photographs, old maps, and also just going through the history of the area to define what would be appropriate to put on the signs. That's not done independently. That's in full collaboration with New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources and others. It's time consuming and collaborative type of effort. I can't speak directly to the sign, design, and fabrication costs. Asked for two signs, obviously they need to erect them on a support structure. The sign could take a variety of forms but they're usually pretty attractive signs and are made to last. That is how it breaks down. We're confident that this team – they've done a lot of this. They do a lot of it so I'm confident that we'll get a good product in the end.

Alderman Comeau

One last follow up. So with this cost will they be handling the installation as well as the fabrication or is that something they're going to hand off to us and have somebody like DPW erect the signs?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

My understanding is that they will do the erection. This is a kind of a full package price is my understanding.

Alderman Comeau

Thank you.

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

You're welcome.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone else?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Re: East Hollis and Bridge Street Intersection Improvements in the amount not to exceed \$440,939.27 funded from 53107 Architect & Engineering Services/NHDOT Grant (Economic Development)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE

CONTRACT TO MCFARLAND-JOHNSON TO COMPLETE PHASES 2, 3, AND 4 FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT THE INTERSECTION OF EAST HOLLIS STREET AND BRIDGE STREET IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$440,939.27. FUNDING THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 183 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; FUND: 53107 ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES/NHDOT GRANT

ON THE QUESTION

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Yes thank you Mr. Mayor. For the record, Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development. This is a project that has been a long time coming. As I explained this memo to you, we also have with me Julie Chizmas on line the city's Long-Term Transportation Planner. I'm going to ask her to pull up some slides if I may Mr. Mayor that will help better explain this project. Essentially this is the second phase if you will of a contract that we first entered into in 2018. It was a multi-phased contract. This contract contemplates phases 2, 3, 4 and I believe phase 1 was an engineering study that we completed and now we will be continuing on with preliminary, final, and then bidding services essentially all the design work for this transportation improvement project.

This project is 100 percent funded by the State so long as we stay at the \$3.6 million level. Time is of the essence to make sure that we maintain the project schedule and the costs that we've been initially quoted. McFarland Johnson is the engineer of record that will be executing on this. We did competitively bid this through an RFQ back in 2017. We just recently received approval from the State to proceed with the project. I'll stop my comments there and I'm just going to ask Julie to quickly walk you all through the slides that she put together. I know some of you are newer to this body and so this might be a newer project for you even though it's been around for a few years now.

Julie Chizmas, Long-Term Transportation Planner

Thank you Mayor. Thank you Director Cummings. As was said, my name is Julie Chizmas. I'm a transportation analyst and long-range planner in the Community Development Division. Don't really have a lot to add to what Tim said. I think he summed it very well. We went through the engineer study phase of this project with McFarland Johnson and they have developed an alternative that was approved by the New Hampshire Department of Transportation also the various boards and committees of the city. You can see alternative were before you. It proposed to improve mobility and access also facilitate land use and provide an aesthetically pleasing gateway into the city as recommended in the 2004 East Hollis Street plan.

As Tim said, this is a New Hampshire Department of Transportation project. It follows the guidelines of the local public agency program which is pretty prescribed and we had followed all the applicable requirements and have received a notice to proceed with the next three phases of the project – preliminary design, final design, and bidding services. They also approved the scope and fee for the work as proposed by McFarland Johnson and the contract amount is \$440,939.27. As Tim said, it is 100 percent federally funded and the city will be reimbursed at 100 percent.

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

If I may Mr. Mayor just one last comment. Just so folks know that the design that was ultimately selected as the preferred alternative as well as the selection of the engineering firm was through a steering committee. It was a grass roots initiative where we had local property owners in and around the area. Also members of the Board of Aldermen particularly Alderwoman June Caron from Ward 7 participating, a couple city staffers that ultimately helped steer and help make the recommendation both on the engineering firm and this preferred alternative design that is before you.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Mayor and thank you Director Cummings. I just kind of a quick question. I do remember these conversations that we've been having ongoing. If we were to miss this window, things are going up and so on and we go over that cost. What would be the effect to the city? Right now we don't have to pay anything out of pocket. It's not affecting the taxpayers and so on but if we delay this, what would be the effect? Do you know?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

I'm going to defer to Julie Chizmas. If she has that, it's a bracketed tier approach so it's not just one number but it's within a range. We have to pay a certain percentage and then after it exceeds that number, then we have to pay a little bit more. Julie do you happen to have that? I was hoping to delay it long enough that she was going to be able to pull it up. Clearly I didn't speak long enough.

Julie Chizmas, Long-Term Transportation Planner

So this particular contract will be 100 percent federally funded. It's when we get into construction if we have overruns on that project. The city currently we have 100 percent funded for \$3.661 million. If we go over that up to an amount of \$4,576,250, the portion to be shared with them, we would have to pay 20 percent of that overage. So it would be 20 percent of \$950,000. Then any amount if the project costs goes over that \$4.5 million plus, the city would have to share 50 percent of the amount over that.

Alderman Klee

Like I said, I did remember this conversation. I just didn't remember the numbers.

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

And if I may Mr. Mayor, that's why I say time is of the essence. Really keeping it on track to ensure that we do the best that we can for the taxpayers here in Nashua is really important. So that's why moving this along as quickly as possible is imperative.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone? Questions, comments?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Environmental Permitting in the amount not to exceed \$225,365 funded from 53107 Architect & Engineering Services/Riverfront TIF Fund (Economic Development)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE A CONTRACT FOR PROFESIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES RELATED TO THE NASHUA DOWNTOWN RIVERFRONT IMPLEMENTATION PROJECT WITH VANASSE HANGEN BRUSTLIN, INC. (VHB, INC.) IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$225,365. FUNDING THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 183 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT; FUND: 53107 ARCHITECT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES/RIVERFRONT TIF FUND

ON THE QUESTIONTim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Again for the record, Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development. This is essentially part of the Riverfront TIF that we have been working on for a few years now. It was before you in the fall an outline that we had achieved a certain level of design. We are now moving into the next phase. I had mentioned that we were going to be looking for permitting and then final design contracts in the coming weeks. This is the permitting contract for just over \$225,000. It was always anticipated to part of the VHB work which we competitively bid a few years ago. So we are looking to get this executed to keep the project on track. Permitting is just one element of the design phase. We will have a final design contract that we will be anticipated sometime in the next I would suggest next month or two and also a construction manager's contract. By way of background issued a RFQ from Construction Management Services and I'll be looking to bring that before this body in the near future.

My closing comments on this is this is a TIF process. So this is a little bit unique where different than our traditional procurement process. Anything that is a TIF related item not only receives a recommendation by this body, it has to go on to the Board of Aldermen for the Board of Aldermen's full approval before the contract can be executed. So this is just one of a multi-step process. I will leave my comments there Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Discussion? Questions?

Alderman Klee

Thank you again. Director Cummings I realize this has to go through this Board and this committee and then the full

Board. This obviously went through the TIF Committee as well and they're aware of and have they given it their blessing as well?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Not officially. This was anticipated in the preliminary design elements because you have to do permitting as part of your design so it was always understood that VHB would be executing a preliminary design and the permitting. The cost was just recently arrived at. So the 225 figure wasn't necessarily officially approved by the TIF Advisory Committee.

Alderman Klee

And they have within the TIF funds this money is there?

Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Yes they do.

Alderman Klee

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone?

MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Klee

Mr. Mayor point of procedure I think. When we did the election of the Committee Clerk, I think the procedure was supposed to be open the nominations, then we close the nominations, and then we voted on him. I think we kind of skipped some steps. I don't know if it truly matters in the grand scheme of things but I believe that's the way the process is supposed to go.

Mayor Donchess

Well it does go that way sometimes but I think in this instance with only one nominee, it doesn't really matter in the scheme of things. We wanted to make sure that he didn't withdraw his volunteering before we acted so we acted quickly.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

RECORD OF EXPENDITURES

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE RECORD OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 14, 2022 TO JANUARY 27, 2022

MOTION CARRIED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. Just quickly. I would like to understand the TIF program that was just discussed. How do we justify what goes into the TIF program and why would like a road project go in there? I think we should understand how we grow that and what goes into that because I'd like to understand that.

Also I think we should address eventually the policy on COVID sick leave. I did get some financial numbers that I couldn't fully understand that showed about \$133,000 went into paying for employees that got ill and didn't have to use their sick time because they were vaccinated. As you know, I think I've expressed that I think that policy was a mistake and we should follow up on that and determine what impact that had on vaccination and what the overall costs are going to be because \$133K for just over really a month of sick time I think is pretty enormous.

I'd like to ask that Mr. Mayor you tighten the reins on City Hall and you try to get employees particularly managers back to work in the building. I think this COVID remote work has been going on too long and there is a lot of management that isn't here for like a year. Sue Lovering is rarely in. Lisa Fauteux is rarely in. The finance office is rarely in. Usually if you ask somebody if they're in, they'll tell you they don't even know. They don't know if they're in or out. They don't know if they're working at home or they're here. Go run around City Hall and see if you can find them. I mean to me it's like the love boat in here and I think we've got to tighten it up a lot. I think citizens deserve to have their employees working in the building and I think it's time to get back to that and not allowing very long work from home programs particularly for upper management.

Also I'm concerned about the barrier issue. I think that that's been pushed away from the public view and eye that it was supposed to be set up. We had this crisis mode in December. I've been given some insight information that it's being developed and worked on internally but nobody on the outside knows anything about it. I got very incomplete barrier data in my Right to Know request. It looks like all of the surveys that were talked about for months really nobody actually saw them or knew what they looked like. It was just random information that was put out there. I still think there's a lot of frustration on that.

Finally...

Alderman Comeau

30 seconds

Laurie Ortolano

...I received an e-mail today from the Clerk's office that I think is very disturbing and you know Mr. Mayor I responded with an e-mail to a nonprofit organization over a very hostile response I had received from an Executive Director and the Executive Director is no longer working in that position. That was a month ago and I feel the e-mail I got today is equally as horrendous. It would be up to you to respond and I know that you're not going to do that. This is ridiculous was what written here and beyond out of line. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Well it is not accurate that these people aren't working or not in City Hall. Sue Lovering is here all the time. Lisa Fauteux does not work in City Hall. She works at Public Works.

Laurie Ortolano

She's never here.

Mayor Donchess

She's rarely in City Hall but she's at Public Works and I forget who else you mentioned. John Griffin – he was ill for a little while but he's always here.

Laurie Ortolano

You're very wrong on that. You don't know where your people are.

Mayor Donchess

And you do?

Laurie Ortolano

I do. I come and I ask. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Yeah, okay.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Klee

You'd think after five years I would remember. I just want to make a comment for everybody safe with the upcoming storm that's coming on Friday. They even cancelled meetings in the State House in Concord. We probably won't get hit as hard but most meetings I think if not all have been cancelled up there. So just please stay safe and off the roads if you can. It kind of helps DOT and so on kind of clean up those streets.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

ADJOURNMENT

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

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Alderman Alex Comeau
Committee Clerk