

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

MAY 2, 2023

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Tuesday, May 2, 2023, at 7:02 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Vice-Chair Patricia Klee presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Patricia Klee, Vice Chair
Alderman Alex Comeau, Clerk
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons

Members not in Attendance: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.

Also in Attendance: Cheryl Lindner, Treasury Management Officer
Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager
Dan Hudson, City Engineer
Jeff Lafleur, Solid Waste Superintendent
David Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent
Jon Ibarra, Street Department Superintendent
Jill Stansfield, Parking Manager
Mike Rush, Fleet Manager
Matt Sullivan, Community Development Division Director

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager
Re: Purchase of additional pay stations in the amount of \$29,200 funded from 55699 Other Contracted Services/Parking Expenditures ETF

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF FOUR ADDITIONAL PAY STATIONS FOR SCHOOL STREET AND WEST PEARL STREET FROM FLOWBIRD, FORMERLY CALE AMERICA, INC., OF TAMPA, FLORIDA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$29,200. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 166 PARKING; FUND: 55699 OTHER CONTRACTED SERVICES/PARKING EXPENDITURES ETF

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Klee

Thank you. We have Miss Stansfield. Just for clarification for Alderwoman Timmons, this is for pay station not PlayStation. Thank you very much now that we have that clarified. Miss Stansfield if you could.

Jill Stansfield, Parking Manager

Thank you. This is to purchase four additional pay stations. Same machines we have on Main Street two of which will go over on School Street for the new parking that will be under the flats building and two of them will be going onto West Pearl Street after the redesign of that street has been completed. They are same price as we've been charged for a number of years. They've kept the pricing the same on these so we're good with that. Any other questions on it?
Chairman Klee

Any member have questions? Alderman Gouveia.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you, Madam Chair. I do have a quick question. The ones on West Pearl Street make sense to me and when we're talking about the ones on School Street, I guess the question is, is it needed that there are two there? What kind of went into that decision making instead of going one to two?

Jill Stansfield, Parking Manager

So there's going to be two pedestrian entrance ways to that parking. So two should be perfect for that.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you.

Jill Stansfield, Parking Manager

You're welcome.

Chairman Klee

Are there any other questions?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

Re: Task #7 for engineering services in the amount of \$37,519 funded from 53107 Architect & Engineering Services/Capital

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE THE ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A CITY OWNED BRIDGES CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN WITH HOYLE, TANNER & ASSOCIATES, INC. OF MANCHESTER, NH, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$37,519. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 160 ADMIN/ENGINEERING; FUND: 53107 ARCHITECT & ENGINEERING SERVICES/CAPITAL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Klee

I think Mr. Hudson is here for that one?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Yes, thank you Madam Chair. So this proposal is to develop a bridge capital program. We have 16 vehicular bridges that are on the State's list. The State although DOT looks at them every couple of years as an inspection, the information we get back is kind of category rated. So we may have one that's a condition 4 out of 5 and that sort of thing. Just gives us some indication of what is needed to be repaired but what Hoyle Tanner will do is they'll review all those reports. They'll go out and physically inspect each bridge and they'll give us a much better plan for exactly how much money we need to expend now and in the future to keep the bridges in good condition. So that's the proposal and I welcome any questions.

Chairman Klee

Thank you. Are there any questions? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

Re: Trash & Recycling Toters in the amount not to exceed \$145,000 funded from 71630 Toter/Solid Waste Fund

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF RECYCLING AND TRASH CARTS AND CART LIDS FOR CURBSIDE COLLECTION FOR FY23 FROM TOTER, INC., OF STATESVILLE, NC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$145,000. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 168 SOLID WASTE; FUND: 71630 TOTER/SOLID WASTE FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Klee

And I think Mr. Lafleur is here to speak on that on.

Jeff Lafleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

Yes, thank you. This is exactly what it says in the motion. It's for \$145,000 worth of toters. We probably won't spend that much but I want to order a couple loads before the end of the fiscal year to have some in stock. Our toters are over 24 years old and they're starting to break down so we just want to replenish what we have in stock.

Chairman Klee

Thank you very much. Are there any questions? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

Re: Amendment 1 to Construction Phase Services Contract-Pump Station Phase II Upgrade project in the amount not to exceed \$110,191 funded from 53107 Architect & Engineering Services/Wastewater Fund

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE AMENDMENT 1 TO THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES CONTRACT WITH WRIGHT PIERCE FOR THE PHASE II UPGRADES PROJECT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$110,191. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: 53107 ARCHITECT & ENGINEERING SERVICES/WASTEWATER FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Klee

I see that Mr. Boucher is here, would you like to speak on this?

David Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent

Yes, thank you. Dave Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent. This is for the engineering oversight of our pump station phase two upgrades. The original completion date was to be this June however due to the supply chain shortages, mostly for electrical components, generators, and transformers, there's been delays. So the project has been extended out for a substantial completion in January of 2024 with a final completion of April of 2024.

Some of the engineering oversight costs was used up during the first portion of phase two due to extra design effort, due to changes in design so we were running short on covering to June. This amount would take us to the end of the substantial completion or actually the final completion in April. I can answer any questions.

Chairman Klee

Are there any questions? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

Re: Secondary Clarifier Drive Assembly in the amount of \$55,588.41 funded from 81200 Buildings & Improvements/Wastewater Fund

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A FULL DRIVE ASSEMBLY FOR CLARIFIER #2 FROM EVOQUA WATER TECHNOLOGIES OF WAUKESHA, WI, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$55,588.41. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 169 WASTEWATER FUND; FUND: 81200 BUILDING & IMPROVEMENTS/WASTEWATER FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Klee

And again I believe this is Mr. Boucher.

David Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent

Dave Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent. So this is a drive to replace the existing drive that we have. It broke during our extreme cold temperatures. We were hoping to be able to rebuild the existing one. Unfortunately, it's obsolete and beyond repair anyway. So this is a drive to replace the existing one. Just for an explanation, we have large tanks with an arm that goes around and collects sludge on the bottom and collects scum off the top. So this drive powers that whole arm.

Chairman Klee

Thank you. Are there any questions? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager
 Re: Aquatic Invasive Species Management in the amount of \$121,456 funded from 53142 Consulting Services/General Fund and Grant Funds

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL IN THE NASHUA RIVER TO SOLITUDE LAKE MANAGEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$121,456. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 185 SUSTAINABILITY; FUND: GRANT FUNDS, NHDES, \$58,753 AND ACCOUNT 53142 CONSUTLING SERVICES/GENERAL FUND \$62,703

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Klee

Thank you and I see Director Sullivan is here for that.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Thank you, Madam Chair. Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director. As was just spoken to, this is an annual request to support aquatic species or invasive management treatment. The total contract amount is actually supported by 50% grant that we receive through the State of New Hampshire through the Department of Environmental Services but we return to this body on an annual basis to re-request this funding source.

The work specifically this year will be an herbicide treatment that will be done to specific locations to control Milfoil and Fanwort and that's on the Nashua River and on Sandy Pond. On Sandy Pond particularly, we also treat some other invasives that have been noticed there being Curly Leaf Pond Weed and algae being unique to the Sandy Pond situation. But those two locations will be the priority treatment area for this year.

For those that have been on this Committee in the past and those that are new, typically we come in with a larger request that also includes Mill Pond and the Nashua Canal. Those treatments are typically done on a bi-annual or every two year basis and so those are not included in the request presented before you this evening but will be back before you next year. Just as a note for those that are not familiar, we do a voluntary bi-annual, twice a year Water Chestnut pulling as well with some of our kayakers. Water Chestnuts are a huge issue for us as another invasive species that we have to address through a different method. Luckily, we're able to use the volunteer hours to actually do that and they're not included within the request before you this evening. Happy to answer any questions that you might have.

Chairman Klee

No but I have to say that I'm happy to see that Sandy Pond was added to that. That's been an issue over the past couple of years. Are there any other questions? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager
 Re: Purchase of a 2023 Freightliner Cab and Chassis with Plow Package in the amount of \$243,747 funded from 81500 Vehicles/CERF

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF ONE 2023 FREIGHTLINER CAB AND CHASSIS WITH BODY AND PLOW PACKAGE FROM VIKING CHIVES OF WILLISTON, VERMONT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$243,747. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 161 STREET DEPARTMENT; FUND: 81500 VEHICLES/CERF

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Klee

I believe Mr. Ibarra is here for that one.

Jon Ibarra, Street Department Superintendent

I am. Thank you, Madam Chair. So you may recall we went for this very vehicle back in February of this year and as we sought to seek the approvals, we were approved. During the process, somehow the truck was sold out from under us. So we had to go back to seeking the replacement of truck #125. Our Fleet Manager Mike Rush was able to obtain a comparable bid. It actually came in about \$1,700 cheaper to go with the freightliner cab and chassis with the same up fit cap package. So we're looking to get our approval and get this deal done to replace truck #125 and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chairman Klee

Are there any questions? Seeing none.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Emergency PO Request – Fire Apparatus Replacement

Without objection, Chairman Klee accepted the communication and placed it on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN GOUVEIA TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE THE COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO THE REPLACEMENT VEHICLES

MOTION CARRIED

From: Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager
Re: Replacement vehicles in the amount of \$57,000 funded from 81500 Vehicles/CERF

Alderman Gouveia

Yeah, I'm just getting a little concerned over this because every time we've delayed a purchase or we've seen the delay in purchase, we've seen that price tag go up on the item. I know we're waiting to see if we were to go electric what the price would be on that. I think what I'm worried about now is what will happen if we keep waiting on this and the price will go up just like everything else we've seen in this Committee. So it's more of, I'm not saying we should pass it now, but I'm kind of getting a little anxious about how long we keep it on the table and how long that deal will stay at that \$57,000 mark before we're going to be spending more money regardless of what option we use.

Chairman Klee

I absolutely agree with you on that. I see that Alderman Comeau has a question but Miss Girard would you be able to speak to this? I know that when we first tabled it, they were going to guarantee us a certain amount of time. My opinion is I'm happy to move forward with it if it's the will of the Committee.

Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

So we have looked at alternative solutions so that we can meet the resolution that was recently passed. We currently have a bid out for Chevy Bolts. We are taking this resolution very seriously and want to be in compliance with the electric vehicles.

Chairman Klee

Okay. If I'm not mistake, I think the resolution said "whenever possible".

Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

Whenever possible, correct.

Chairman Klee

Right and I agree with what Alderman Gouveia said that the delaying of this could in essence create a higher cost in the end. I can see Director Sullivan is also kind of itching to possibly say something.

Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

Yes and he's welcome to join me. So based off of the research that I've done, I believe that the Chevy Bolts will be fairly comparably priced. I'm estimating approximately \$30,000 per vehicle for this. So that is just a slight increase over what these Ford Escapes were but we have, you know, the green F energy efficiencies that we're looking for with an electric vehicle that will end up being a bigger cost savings.

Chairman Klee

In the life of the vehicle?

Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

Yes over the life cycle of the vehicle. Director Sullivan did you want to say anything?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Manager

I think you covered it quite well. If there's additional questions, I'm happy to answer them.

Chairman Klee

Okay. Alderman Comeau did you have a question?

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you Madam Chair. I wish that Chief Buxton was here because if my memory serves, I thought he said we had a deadline on the bid that we had for the current vehicles - the Chevy's. Does our purchasing agreement with Chevy expire at some point?

Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

So this is not using a purchasing agreement. We are not doing a formal bid process for the Bolts. So we are testing the market.

Chairman Klee

Okay. Then I do have another question. At the last meeting, if my memory serves me correct lately it hasn't been that great, but if it serves me correct they did say they would honor until I thought it was the end of the month or something. If we delay this much longer because we're not going to have another meeting for at least two more weeks or so and then it's got to go through all that process there as was brought forward and justifiably so, will we lose this price in the end?

Amy Girard, Purchasing Manager

I believe that the direction is to go towards the electric vehicles and not to move forward potentially with these Ford Escapes as long as the Chevy Bolts come in where we think that they'll be.

Chairman Klee

Okay. So if this price goes up, we're kind of tying our hands to the cheaper and then at that point the electric becomes cheaper just by design so.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Manager

So I appreciate Miss Girard's comments and we've been working very actively, particularly through Doria Brown and Deb Chisholm of the Sustainability Department to try and successfully implement the intent of the recently passed resolution relative to the energy goals. As part of doing that, we've recognized that although those goals are advisory in nature, there are some immediate opportunities as part of our fleet procurement process to actually have some wins, if you will, immediately that kind of lower long-term costs to the City and even the lower short-term costs to the City. I think the transition away from gas powered vehicles towards EVs particularly on smaller passenger vehicles is where that opportunity exists.

So at the risk of letting the cat out of the bag to some extent, there will be a communication issued within your Board of Aldermen packet next week relative to this exact issue and how we'll be implementing those energy goals within the procurement process for all vehicles included within the CERF. What it's functionally going to say is that from a policy perspective, we are moving forward when it comes to passenger vehicles and light duty vehicles, whether that be smaller trucks or vans, to make sure that an evaluation of all alternatives is done for every one of those. That does not mean that the evaluation of alternatives will always produce a preferred vehicle that comes to this Committee that will be an electric vehicle. The one exception to that will be if it is truly a passenger vehicle by nature, I believe this City's policy at the direction of the Mayor is that those should be electric vehicle purchases whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Obviously, we may be in the situation where the cost simply does not work from an economic perspective but relative to this request before you this evening or the tabled request that's removed from the table, we believe the prior request that was for a gas powered vehicle can easily be lined up with a comparable electric vehicle. So while there's concern about losing our access to the vehicles that are on your agenda proper, we believe there's an alternative that will be brought forward. A new preferred alternative that will be an electric vehicle. So we are accepting the risk that we might lose these vehicles but there's really an appetite for and a policy statement in the direction of securing EVs for this type of application and that is what you're going to see brought back to you at the Finance Committee.

Chairman Klee

Thank you very much. Any other questions? Alderman Gouveia.

Alderman Gouveia

More discussion than any questions. I think that answers it. I'm not here to sweat a \$3,000 difference on cars. So I think if we're thinking it will be around 60, I think that's fine with me if we wanted to pay the extra for electric there. I know this is the first time we've kind of gone through since passing that ordinance comparing electric to non-electric vehicles and just hope going forward we can kind of get those numbers both at once therefore, we can make that decision instantly instead of waiting a couple meetings down the road. I think that's all hiccups we'll get over.

Chairman Klee

And I think that's the intent that Director - No. I don't want to say something. I see that look on his face.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Manager

Because I don't want to let something go sort of unresponded to. So I want to be clear that the process that you'll see laid out in the memo next week to you, and this is of course subject for discussion, but the process we've laid out is that the Finance Committee will only review the preferred alternative that is presented to you. You'll be reviewing one vehicle to ultimately approve. What will accompany that is some level of an evaluation that you will be able to see that essentially will say we look at alternatives and this is the one we're recommending. So our goal is to put one vehicle in front of you. Obviously, make a defensible case as to why that's the vehicle that's being presented but to rely on our subject matter experts, our Fleet Managers, and our Sustainability Department sort of arrive at that preferred alternative together that will be then brought to you. But I don't want this Committee to be put in the position of having to do that evaluation right here at the Committee. We're going to bring you an alternative that we feel is best if that makes sense.

Chairman Klee

I think that was probably what the – at least that was my understanding that we would be doing it that way but that we would see what the other one so that if it was a big difference, we would have that opportunity. Alderman Gouveia.

Alderman Gouveia

Thank you. Yeah and I think that answers my question pretty thoroughly. I think with me, I would just want to make sure we see the prices of what the electric is compared to those alternatives as well just to see the number difference. I think that would help me at least on this Committee.

Chairman Klee

I agree. Any other questions? Alderman Gouveia do you have or Alderman Comeau do you have motions?

MOTION BY ALDERMAN GOUVEIA TO TABLE THE COMMUNICATION RELATIVE TO THE REPLACEMENT VEHICLES
MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

RECORD OF EXPENDITURES

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE RECORD OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD FROM APRIL 14, 2023 to APRIL 27, 2023
MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Timmons

Thank you. I just want to point out that this past Saturday the Greater Nashua AACP had a successful fundraiser and it just was great. I just have to say that. That's all I have to say.

Chairman Klee

I'm sorry that I had to miss it. Any other comments?

Well I just want to share my last week's experience. For those, I wasn't around most of last week because I was in the hospital. I was at St. Joseph Hospital. I spent the first 24 hours in the ER because there were no beds. It's an amazing place but ER is no place to have to sleep. I was telling Alderman Comeau that they'll probably have to have two gurneys for him and he would not be able to roll over at all. But the staff was wonderful and I'm grateful to be out of there. Two hospital stays in 14 days was - I spent 7 out of 14 days in the hospital but I'm back and hopefully I stay back. If there's nothing else, Alderman Comeau?

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Alderman Alex Comeau
Committee Clerk