

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

MAY 7, 2019

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Tuesday, May 7, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman, Chairman, presided.

Members of Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire, Vice Chair  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza

Members not in Attendance: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Also in Attendance: Alderwoman Mary Ann Melizzi-Golja  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman Ernest A. Jette

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PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**R-18-102**

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws  
Alderman Jan Schmidt

**APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND UFPO LOCAL 645 PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYEES OF THE NASHUA POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM JULY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022 AND AUTHORIZING RELATED TRANSFERS**

- Tabled 1/17/2019

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE R-19-123  
MOTION CARRIED**

**R-19-123**

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess

**RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR  
THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

- Public hearing scheduled for 5/16/2019 at 7:00 p.m. at NHS-North Auditorium

		<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>
	<b><u>COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION</u></b>		
153	Building Inspection	51	233
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170	Hydroelectric Operations	52	237
181	Community Development		238
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Chairman Dowd

This evening we will be addressing the Community Development Division and Director Marchant, if you'd like to bring up whoever you want, the troops. Director Marchant, do you want to do an overview first and then we will go Department-by-Department?

Sarah Marchant, Director Community Development

Yes please. Alright, good evening, thank you everybody for having me here. Sarah Marchant, I am the Community Development Director and I am here with my amazing team that I get to work with every day: Carrie Schena, Urban Programs Manager; Deb Chisholm our new Waterways Manager with the Hydro budgets and everything to do with that; Nelson Ortega, Code Enforcement; Roger Houston, Planning & Zoning; Bill McKinney, Building Safety; and Camille Pattison, with transit is unavailable today so I will talk about the Transportation System. And then Janet Graziano, our Finance Manager who helps keeps us all together.

As a quick overview we came in under the Mayor's Budget Cap, we came in at 1.62% so we were under the 1.75%. We have very little changes in this budget, almost every line item is exactly the same. The changes are largely staffing costs as associated with rollups and contracts. We were able to largely balance by getting a little bit sharper about Hydro. We bought Mine Falls Dam just over 2 years ago. We are learning a little bit more every year about it and how we run it operation-wise. With transit we are really focused on public/private partnerships, the Federal allocations are going down. We know that, we don't see an end in sight and to keep our systems sustainable, we are focusing on those. So by bringing in some more public/private partnerships we were able to continue to rely on outside funding to run the system. So that's how we balanced the budget and I'll turn it back over to you.

Chairman Dowd

So the first department is 153 – Building Inspection, the Revenue is on page 51 and appropriations are on page 233. Would you introduce yourself every time you speak, because there are so many of you, please introduce yourself so that the person that is transcribing it will know who is speaking.

Bill McKinney, Building Department Manager

Thank you very much for your time this evening, I am Bill McKinney, I'm the Building Official for the City of Nashua. I am charged with managing the Department of Building Safety. Revenues on Page 51 for our budget this year, you will see we are projecting some slight increases in the 2020 Fiscal Year to a total of \$14,000.00. Construction continues to be kind of a complicated business to try and guess where it is going. We started out really strong in the 2019 Budget; it leveled off for quite a bit and actually we had some lower numbers than we were projecting for permits through the middle part of the season but we've picked back up again and our revenues are coming back up.

So with that, we anticipate we will see increases in revenue in the building permits, electrical permits, and mechanical permits for next year. Part of the increases that we've seen in this year's budget are due to the permit fee increases that we put in 2019 and we will be coming back to the Aldermen in 2020 to increase them again; part of our two-year review. With that I can entertain any questions.

Chairman Dowd

Any questions on the building inspector revenues or appropriations?

Mr. McKinney

If you'd like I can go over appropriations, I did not.

Chairman Dowd

Is there anything that stands out; large increase or large decrease?

Mr. McKinney

Our most significant increase is due to contractual agreements with our staff which is a majority union.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah that's true probably across the board. Any questions from the Board? Ok sounds good. The only question I have is, not to impact this budget per se, but staffing. Do you have enough people based on the size of the City, this is just for the information of the Committee, especially people that are new and the public. Do you have the staffing that you feel you should have for the size of the City of Nashua.

Mr. McKinney

Yes. I believe our staffing is quite adequate for the City of Nashua. We provide very good service to the citizens and the business owners.

Chairman Dowd

Sounds good, alright the next Department is Code Enforcement, no revenue and the appropriations are on page 235.

Nelson Ortega, Code Enforcement Manager

Good evening, Nelson Ortega, I'm the Code Enforcement Manager. Right now like Sarah had mentioned our budget is mainly staff salary, nothing really has changed dramatically at all.

Chairman Dowd

Ok, that's it?

Mr. Ortega

That's it.

Chairman Dowd

Any questions?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, good evening, how are you? How many Code Enforcement Officers are there currently?

Mr. Ortega

Excluding myself three Code Officers; we just hired a brand new gentleman and he's half-paid through the LED Grant and then the other half is paid through the City. So we have 3 field code officers and then myself.

Alderman Clemons

Ok is that an adequate amount.

Ms. Marchant

I'll take that one if you want.

Chairman Dowd

You can be honest. Doesn't mean we are going to add anybody but you can be honest.

Mr. Ortega

Code Enforcement can always use help; if things keep going the way they are going with the complaints that are coming in and the amount of cases that each Code Officer carries, then if we went by that I have to say we can always use more Code Officers. But at the moment what we have is working and hopefully once the new Code Officer is fully trained then that will alleviate what we've got going on at the moment.

Alderman Clemons

How many calls do you normally – does one Code Enforcement Officer normally make in the course of an average day I guess.

Mr. Ortega

Each Code Officer currently is carrying 40 to 50 cases at one time and that includes myself. I carry like 20 or so. The other Code Officers, it is very normal for them to have 40 or 50 cases going at one time.

Alderman Clemons

What is the ideal number?

Ms. Marchant

Tough question, so some of those cases are quick and some of them are hours and hours of consumption. So it's very hard to generalize them over time. We've been looking at a lot of data because we are converting to our new software system and we are hoping to be able to have better tracking. So we've been looking at our reporting, what we get and how we do that quite a bit. We are a complaint-based system and we have talked many times around this oval over the past couple years about being more proactive; we do not have the staffing capacity to do that at all at this time. Even our Ordinance is very clear, the Housing Code we are a complaint-based system first. So if there was any move or any discussion about being a more proactive system we would need significant staffing to support that change.

Mr. Ortega

One can take 20 minutes to handle and the next one can take 2 ½ hours and longer. The larger, probably more time we spend.

Ms. Marchant

And then repeat visit and repeat visit.

Mr. Ortega

And then you continue with re-inspection and the follow-ups. So we have cases that just carry over and carry over. Because our function is to get complaints and work with the individuals and we look at everything that is going on with them. Are they financially having hardships? Is this something that is going to take a little bit longer for them to fix? So we just have to look at everything.

Chairman Dowd

So by the way in every department, when you first get introduced, would you, I know we know what it is, but for the general public who is watching on TV explain what your department does and is responsible for?

Mr. Ortega

Oh sure. Our Department Code Enforcement like I say we are complaint driven. Throughout my years here, which is going to be 22 years, we are Code Officers, we are Mediators, we are Counselors, whatever it takes to work with that person complaining and to work with the owner of the property, because we help both. We basically handle all tenant/landlord complaints so tenants can call us and file complaints against their landlord or something that they may perceive that is a violation for them. The same goes for landlords, landlords can call us and let us know they are having problems with tenants; then we will work with them.

We also investigate all cases for zoning, planning and we work with other City entities, solid waste, DPW, the street department. As long as they take the first step in addressing the issue, anything that goes beyond that they can't handle or are not getting compliance, then we will handle for them as the enforcement entity for them. That involves – that's a lot of work. But mainly a good 75% to 80% is all housing code complaints.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. We started about the same time, you and I. I just want to say that every time I have an issue or need help from your department they are right there, spot on and deal with the issue. But I know over time there have been issues that are difficult. Do you take any of these cases to court?

Mr. Ortega

As the last resort, if it calls for it, yes.

Alderman Wilshire

Because I know one particular property that I've talked to you about probably on two occasions, I think they are probably one of the more difficult cases, I don't know. Anyway you do a great job with the resources that you have. Keep it up, we really appreciate everything you do. Thank you.

Alderman Tencza

With all the complaints that you get, is there a screening process to maybe weed out some of the complaints that aren't really code enforcement complaints or are you required to investigate each complaint as they come in?

Mr. Ortega

Every code officer throughout time we know when we pick up that phone, once we hear what the complaint is, we start asking them questions; to kind of feel where is this really coming from. Is it a frivolous complaint, is it a genuine complaint or does it belong somewhere else? Because many times we will end up with that call and they say "they sent me here from here or there" so what we do when we run into that, if it is not our complaint, we try and narrow down or actually find out who they are supposed to call. But most likely they end up with us.

Alderman Tencza

Do you have a sense or will the new software be able to give you a sense of out of the number of complaints that are called in to your office, how many you actually have to go out and investigate and there's some sort of violation on? Is that something that you are able to track now?

Mr. Ortega

Well right now we are pretty good at tracking the number of cases that come in and what we have going on. The new software is going to help us elaborate more on that and narrow things a lot better. But as far as the cases that come in and what type of cases that we investigate, we can do that now. It is just going to be a lot better when we have the new software. If it is a code issue, whether it involved going – on a Scale of 1 to 10, it's usually a 9; we are going to go to that property and look at it anyway, even no matter what the person says. We are going to look at it first because we want to verify and see that it is what they are saying that it is. But yes we normally will go out, no matter kind of complaint it is.

Alderman Tencza

Final follow up. What would you say the majority of the complaints that you get from we'll say tenants about their apartment is in the City?

Mr. Ortega

A lot of that depends on the season, the closer we get to winter, we start getting heat complaints, snow complaints, just that type. The closer we get to the spring like this time of year we start getting all the – the snow starts to melt and they can now see everything. So we get a lot of exterior complaints and the tenants will complain about the water issue, electric issue. So we just get a variety but a lot of that depends on – each season brings its own set of complaints to us. So we already know that the minute the fall starts coming and the first snow starts coming, we already know heat complaints are going to go up. Like in the spring, we know that our trash complaints are going to go up or I can see this or the fence is falling down. So they just vary so much.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah just to follow up on that train of thought there, is there I'm sure there is but are there known people on both sides tenants and landlords in particular what I mean is like when those things come up in the spring or when they come up in the fall with the heat and all that, you know you are going to get a phone call from so and so. And what I mean by that is basically people that repeat the same offences over and over again.

Mr. Ortega

To be specific about a particular violation, not really. We know when we hear a name whether from a tenant or we hear a tenant's name, if we can pick up that name in a heartbeat we know already that is something we have to look at on the other side. But it's more the general maintenance issues of a particular property versus a no heat complaint. Because we will get no heat complaints from tenants who themselves stop paying the electric bill and then we have to work with that. Or we've got complaints from landlords, tenants regarding landlords who we've never dealt with before and they just don't know how high should the heat be, how low can they have it. So to narrow it down to one specific complaint like that, no but we do know when we hear someone calling and we hear who their landlord is, we say "OK we know, we'll call him".

Alderman Clemons

Well no, I guess that's a good answer because that's better than what I expected I guess because that means that people are complying and you don't have to, it sounds like you don't have to go back to the same people repeatedly with you know the same issues; like "Well you know I talked to you last fall you have to have the heat at 65 throughout the house". You know that type of thing.

Mr. Ortega

I knew what you were saying from the get go but we don't, we know who all the players are almost on both ends because we have our regulars, but it's just more when it comes to general maintenance type issues we work with. And most of the landlords that have been around for a long time, they know the Ordinance and they know that the tenant has to let them address it first. You just get those who wait 'til that last minute.

Ms. Marchant

I really think the ticketing ordinance has made a big difference for code in those repeat offenders. We've been able to employ that limitedly. You know you don't see it here in the budget because it's not a budget goal in any way shape or form. But that has made a huge difference in reducing our time and effort on the repeat offenders and court. The time and effort we put into taking somebody all the way to court; to be able to ticket them and have those fines escalate, we have seen some major improvements with some issues that we used to chase forever since we've been implementing that. So thank you very much for your support on that.

Alderman Clemons

Great.

Chairman Dowd

Other questions? Just a quick question if you went to a proactive standpoint what types of activities would you do to be proactive?

Mr. Ortega

As far as proactive that would involve the Code Officers, besides handling a minimum amount of reactive cases, they would be able to drive through the City and actively go down Chestnut Street and just see what

is out there that they can do. Look for trash, look for buildings that are dilapidated or maybe has a couple signs of “maybe we should inspect this property”. You know you drive down a street and you see an apartment with 3 or 4 broken windows. Or during the springtime they don’t any screens like they are supposed to in the summer.

The Code Officer can then take the time to go locate the landlord, see if they live there or come back and schedule a proactive inspection which we on occasions might do that especially when we are training somebody we try to do that so they learn. But mostly it frees that officer to just drive around the City and look for things and then address them right then and there if he can or come back and then set up a full inspection of that property and then go on to the next one. We would be inspecting more properties on a regular basis versus complaint driven basis.

Chairman Dowd

So when you do that inspections are you looking at things like smoke detectors and CO2 detectors?

Mr. Ortega

When you are in the apartment yes; it’s part of the code.

Chairman Dowd

So if you were proactive you’d be going through these places looking for that specifically.

Mr. Ortega

That and anything else, because you know we will go in and we look for everything but yes smoke detectors, broken windows, peeling paint, anything that is in that apartment that we do. Right now if you call us and say “I don’t have a smoke detector” we will go in there but we will also let the tenant know that once we are in there we just don’t look for that smoke detector we look at everything else.

Chairman Dowd

Sure that is good. Any other questions for Code Enforcement. Thank you very much.

Mr. Ortega

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

The next department is Hydroelectric Operations and Revenues are on Page 52 and Appropriations are on Page 237.

Deb Chisholm, Waterways Manager

Thank you Alderman Dowd. My name is Deb Chisholm, I am the Waterways Manager in Community Development. One of my responsibilities is management of the Hydroelectric Facilities, both Jackson Mills and the Mine Falls facility. A couple of other things that we also do in the department and by we I mean me; I’m a staff of one, which on some days is actually fine.

We also do invasive species management on the Nashua River on the Mill Pond and the Canal and this year we are also doing it on Sandy Pond, working in conjunction with Nick Caggiano over in Parks & Rec. We are also in charge of flood plain management. So I get a lot of phone calls relative to whether homes are within

the flood zone or not and what the requirements are for paying additional flood insurance. So that's pretty much, in a nutshell, what goes on.

From a Revenue standpoint, with all of the rain lately, this is where people should be happy that it's raining because that has a tendency to increase or revenues. So we are pretty happy about that. Our budget for next year is about the same as what it was last year. There are so many different things that go into how the budget is created but I will tell you that our 2019 budget of \$1,212,000.00 we have exceeded that at this point; we are at about almost \$1.5 million dollars in revenue for both of those hydro facilities. So kind of excited about that. And we are looking at probably, we are looking at the same number for our 2020 proposed budget of a little over \$1.2 million dollars.

As Sarah said, we are kind of new to the budgeting process here because the hydro-facilities are somewhat new to us. So our budget is pretty much the same as what it was last year, we have a very slight increase for our dam operations and maintenance and that's something that we sub out to Essex Hydro and they have some costs that are always increasing as far as salaries and stuff are concerned. We are pretty much the same as what we were last year as far as expenses are concerned.

#### Chairman Dowd

Just a couple quick questions, the first kind of humorous, if your revenue is raised, does that stay within your department or at least your division? No? The excess revenue goes into the General Fund.

#### Ms. Chisholm

Mm-hmm.

#### Chairman Dowd

That's what I was afraid of. So the other question is how would the impact of net metering factor into your revenues?

#### Ms. Chisholm

It would factor substantially into our revenues. What we are looking at right now at Mine Falls is for a megawatt hour, we get paid about \$52.00. And we do not net meter over there because we are a 3 megawatt facility. At Jackson Mills we are a smaller facility of 1 megawatt and we get paid \$99.85 per megawatt. So the ability to net meter at Mine Falls might actually almost double what we get per megawatt hour. So it would be very helpful for us.

#### Chairman Dowd

If we only knew some State Reps – OH Alderman O'Brien you had a question.

#### Alderman O'Brien

As a State Rep I am proud to say I have voted to change the net metering but can't get the brethren about there to budge. But I do have a question and sitting on several different committee and I forget which one, Finance, Budget – but you came before us because we lost a propeller that was on one of the turbines. And I understand when you take over something from Ogunquit or something like that new, you buy as is and everything else. But I am really in tuned, I haven't seen a big increase in 52 line item, excuse me, 54290 – Dam Operation & Maintenance Services, not a big large increase. So my question is to keep the propellers where they should be impelling, how is the preventative maintenance program to keep the dam in operation.

Ms. Chisholm

Good question, I am going to defer a little bit of this discussion to Sarah because of my newness as far as this role is concerned. We have been spending some money; we had an issue over at Jackson Mills with the turbine over there. We are actually currently in the process of trying to figure out, trying to be proactive about getting that turbine replaced completely. So we are working on that.

Alderman O'Brien

Follow up then? So we are down a turbine over there.

Ms. Chisholm

We are currently not down a turbine; we are currently up and running a full bore at Jackson Mills. We were down for about 3 months in the summer and that of course, that basically had somewhat of an impact on our revenue. But we in the process of trying to find the proper way to replace that turbine.

Chairman Dowd

So I was just going to ask that question because we had a repair done but if we ever had to replace that turbine, they don't make them anymore.

Ms. Chisholm

That's correct.

Chairman Dowd

So I assume from what you just said we are evaluating what type of turbine we would need to replace that and whether they are available or not?

Ms. Chisholm

Correct. There is also something available, someone will make whatever you need. But we are trying to...

Chairman Dowd

Well that's true, all depends on how much you want to pay.

Ms. Chisholm

Right so it's a substantial cost but if you recall, we got Jackson Mills for free, we didn't pay for that facility. So I always liken it to getting an old beat up car. You get it for free, well there are certainly repairs that are going to have to be made. So we are trying to be proactive about getting that turbine replaced before it actually completely shuts down. We were able to repair it and get it back up on line.

Chairman Dowd

So just for the people that are watching tonight that aren't familiar with the names, can you tell the general public where the 2 dams are. Jackson Mills is here.

Ms. Chisholm

Jackson Mills is adjacent to and underneath the Margareta's Restaurant so if you are sitting out on the deck and you see the dam there, you can actually see the fish way, which is hopefully in a few weeks going to be

full of fish heading upstream. The Mine Falls Dam is over near Stello's Stadium. There is a boat launch over there and the old gate house, there's a dam there and the hydro facility is right next to it.

Chairman Dowd

And that facility needed some upgrade maintenance. Has that been accomplished or is that in the planning stages?

Ms. Chisholm

That has not been accomplished although it is in process. There are 2 turbines that operate at Mine Falls and 1 of them is currently down. Matter of fact, 1 of them is currently out of the facility and shipped off which was quite a sight.

Alderman Tencza

Thank you Mr. Chairman if I may just ask one non-budget related question while we have everyone here.

Chairman Dowd

As long as it is within their department.

Alderman Tencza

It is, yes. So we have talked a lot about the clean-up, the riverfront clean-up, and I'm not sure if it is appropriate now or I just wanted to ask about a status on that and when that is going to be accomplished and I assume that the invasive species will be part of that as well. But maybe not funded from the source?

Ms. Marchant

That is correct. We are actively working there was an escrow last year that you approved on invasive species management for the downtown waterfront. Deb was referring to aquatic invasive species; the downtown is terrestrial invasive species. We have actively worked with actually the Department of Agriculture in New Hampshire; they are the ones who are in charge of terrestrial invasive species. We have a project that we are working with them and I think they are going to do the invasive species spraying for the entire north bank of the river downtown in a project. And then we are working on the south bank; because the south bank has so many trees and things in the way of the actual vines and things, we need to have some of those removed and cleaned up before we can do that. The best of part of it is that because of the approximate location to the water and the spraying on the south bank with all the steep slopes, the permitting process is 120 days. So we have started that but we won't actually be doing the spraying on the south bank until probably September because of when we just applied. But we do expect to get bids out shortly for tree removal process, to go out to bid to get bids back on that. So we will see clean-up in the tree removal cleanup process first; and then the spraying will be in the fall.

Alderman Tencza

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Ok thank you very much. Hopefully we can get that metering to increase the revenues.

Ms. Marchant

Oh just a note on that we really hope we get that, but at Mine Falls we are in a contract of selling our power until 2024 that came when we bought there. So it would be great if they got net metering done and we got it in place. But even if we got it done this year, I don't want you to expect our revenues to jump by that much next year, because we can't fully take of advantage of it until 2024.

Alderman Jette

I do have a question if I could. So the tree removal along the banks of the river, does that affect the integrity of the riverbank. How is that managed?

Ms. Marchant

Great question; there would not be any stump removal, it would not be all the trees along the riverbank. It will be particular to the ones, we will be working with Parks & Recreation, and particular to the ones that are dead, dying, diseased or being taken over by invasive species. We have 13 different kinds of invasive species in the downtown riverfront. A lot of them will literally off the tree, they don't need to live off the land. So going through that with the permitting contractor, we were able to identify a lot of these and so it will be selective. You are not going to see the whole thing taken down and it will be a process; probably over a couple of years of trying to really manage that. But at no point would stumps be removed. Clock Tower is a great example, they invested last Fall in a some cleanup along their stonewall edge. If you go look at it looks really, really nice. You know they took down branches, you leave trees; and they are trying to maintain the integrity of everything back there while cleaning it up. So that's a better example of what we could expect.

Alderman Jette

And when will that start?

Ms. Marchant

I am hoping that we will get bids out a request for bids before the end of the month. Probably the work wont' get started until July at the earliest.

Alderman Jette

Ok thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Yeah to get back on the tree thing, one we 've got to consider in my previous life on the fire department when I was involved in the day when we had the tree underneath the Main Street Bridge. It is phenomenal the amount of infrastructure that's underneath that bridge and what a large tree can do. It could knock out the water supply to the whole south quadrant, everything south of the Main Street Bridge. So we should be very in tune to the arbor needs to make sure what is stable on the bank, stays on the bank and doesn't go into the river. Because it can wipe out the infrastructure, go over the dam. It could probably cause at nighttime if nobody sees it, you've got an occupied restaurant there. There is a lot to consider and I am talking about Margaritas, so it is something to be in tune to, to eliminate the hazards that are there. So well stated, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Thank you very much. The next department is Community Development and the Appropriations are on Page 238.

Ms. Marchant

So thank you, that would be me again. So Community Development; we focus on some of the larger planning zoning ordinance land use ordinance changes. A lot of the larger projects, we do a lot of grant writing and a large project management. Currently we are managing several million dollars in grants that are underway in the City. We are hoping that the TAP Grant for the Canal Bridge should hopefully, we will have the paving done before the end of the month and then we can open in June; finally closing that project out.

We have a bunch of projects in the works that we are really excited to bring forward; the East Hollis Street Rail Trail, consultant selection is underway. The Transit Center Rehabilitation; consultant selection is underway. The electric hybrid buses with hybrid drive trains from BAE are on order, it is amazing how long it takes to get a bus here. But we are hoping to have them on the road by September/October. So we have been doing and working on a lot of great projects and are pretty excited to see quite a bit of information and quite a bit of public comment and discussion around the City over the next couple of months. The Library Courtyard project, there's a lot of good things going on and so we are happy to be part of that.

My budget has changed almost none, except for staffing changes. We brought on a long range transportation planner, about a year ago and we didn't increase the training budget and so that went up slightly to accommodate that. That is the only change in the budget.

Chairman Dowd

So under that budget, does that include the Master Plan.

Ms. Marchant

It is currently included in the Capital Improvements Budget which I am very, very happy to be able to say.

Chairman Dowd

Ok so it's in the Capital Improvements, \$200K?

Ms. Marchant

\$200K.

Chairman Dowd

And the staffing to make that happen?

Ms. Marchant

Would be included in that. The original ask was for \$400,000.00 over 2 years; so this would be the first of the two-year ask. And that would include working with Roger's team and certainly some of my team and a bunch of the other divisions and an outside consultant to bring on and do our Master Plan almost 20 years later.

Chairman Dowd

Have you met with the Fire Department yet?

Ms. Marchant

Next Tuesday.

Chairman Dowd

Ok I won't go any further than that.

Alderman Tencza

Thank you so it doesn't look like within your office there are any grant writers.

Ms. Marchant

That would be me.

Alderman Tencza

So you handle all those?

Ms. Marchant

Yes.

Alderman Tencza

The new grant writer position that the City is thinking about is that someone who will be able to help assist your department as well?

Ms. Marchant

I hope so, certainly. We are always happy to work with any of the departments, we are working with other departments on their grant writing right now as well. So one of the things about Community Development is that we get to work with everybody and so we help everybody write their grants.

Alderman O'Brien

Follow up, did I hear you correctly that you assist other departments?

Ms. Marchant

Other divisions, yes.

Alderman O'Brien

Other divisions, but not so much other departments or anything else.

Ms. Marchant

I always am willing to and certainly talk to them about it. We house a lot of the data; and so data is what gets you grants. If we didn't – Master Plans, the Riverfront Plan, the East Hollis Street Plan, the Downtown Master Plan, those are the plans that I rely on to be able to write grants and show that the community wants this; it has accepted it and it pulls at the data together. So as a Clearing House for a lot of the data, it is easier, I know the reports and the data and we are able to help and write these reports for other groups.

Alderman O'Brien

Not to touch National politics but from what I hear rumblings from Washington, the grants are falling off in a way so therefore it is critical for a municipality such as us to get those type of grants. So are you adequately

staffed for the amount of work load to have with that? Because if we don't get these grants coming in that means that if we want these projects it has to come out of the tax payer's pocket. So to me, it is equal to have one heck of a grant program, probably the best grant program we can have.

Ms. Marchant

I think that the grants that are available, we apply for them in large part. I do think that the Federal Grants and Carrie is going to touch on this more, the lack of funding there is a problem. And the availability of grants has shifted. So the Federal Government and the State Government funds certain types of grants but there are not grants available in every piece. I think one of the biggest pieces for the City is to be able to provide those matching funds. Most grants are 80/20, 85/15, some are 50/50. For example the Greeley Park Boat Ramp was 50/50. We are making that project happen for \$200,000.00 instead of \$400,000.00 but you know we had to be able to put up those matching funds. So while it is great to go for grant money we have to be realistic about the matching funds available to go for some of these. There's quite a few that we are in the process of working on at all times and so making sure that we can find matching funds is just as important as being able to project manage those then forward once we are awarded them.

Chairman Dowd

Other questions? Since we don't actually cover a separate evening for the Master Plan, could you just give an overview for the public of why it is so important that we do the Master Plan? It's been how many years and what the impact of a good Master Plan would have on the City?

Ms. Marchant

So sure so the last Master Plan was adopted in 2002 and it is 2019, it takes a little while to put it together. The City did an amazing job with their last Master Plan and then from that Master Plan re-wrote all the land use ordinances to make sure that the path the community decided that the City wanted to move forward with related to land-use could then be implemented through the land-use ordinances. So it is a really important two-step process and that is part of the 2 years of funding requests.

I think Nashua has – how many of you remember what DW Highway or 101A looked like 20 years ago? They are not at all the same. I mean we've seen some pretty significant differences. I think using the same rules from 20 years ago about how we want our community developed it not necessarily the best bet for Nashua. I think one of the most important things that we are looking at right now is that we have a massive need for housing; but we also have a need to keep in mind our future center and where those are going to be and how we can continue to grow to support our commercial side of ... the non just retail commercial side of things.

So the Master Plan allows the community to dictate its future and what is really important to us, how we want Nashua to look in another 20 years or even another 10 years. And by laying this all out, we can then update our land-use ordinances to make sure that we are moving that vision forward. And that's the key part of it. Everything that is done, the data collected, the community input, that gives us then the perfect basis to write for grants to implement new projects and to move all of that forward. So it isn't a Community Development Plan; it isn't an individual department. It really needs to be a City-wide voice that comes from the community up and that's one of the reasons why it is so expensive, because it's boots on the ground, it's time, it's community input. It is a lot of data analysis so it costs to get it done.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

If I may just because certainly Alderman Jette, Alderman Tencza, Director Marchant and I have also had conversations around the importance of the Master Plan for both the members of the Zoning Board and the Planning Board. And right now we are asking them to make decisions based on information that is almost 20 years old.

So that is another piece that I think all of us who are familiar with what is going on with those Boards understand the importance of the Master Plan in being a tool for the members who are appointed to those Boards.

Alderman Dowd

Other questions for the Director? Ok, next is Planning & Zoning.

Roger Houston, Manager Planning Department

Good evening Alderman Dowd and Members of the Committee and Aldermen, my name is Roger Houston, I am the Planning Director, Manager of the Planning Department. Briefly we provide professional support services to the Planning Board, the Zoning Board of Adjustment, Historic District Commission, the Nashua Conservation Commission and the Capital Improvements Committee; which is a sub-committee of the Planning Board. We field a lot of public questions at our counter on development; zoning questions; planning questions. If they can't find it somewhere else, they usually come to our department and we can usually answer the questions.

We review land-use permits and sign permits as well. As well we will be involved with the Master Plan process through the Planning Board and Aldermen when that goes forward. Budget-wise, our revenues are stable. I projected the same amount for this coming Fiscal Year as we had last year. We are 90% of our target level right now; we hope to meet it by year's end. Our budget is, with exception for the salaries like everyone else, everything else is the same, flat line, no changes to the commodities. And that's all I have.

Chairman Dowd

Questions for Planning & Zoning?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. Outside of having outdated land-use codes, what do you think the biggest, what is the largest thing that is land-use code-wide I guess or whatever preventing somebody from coming and doing business here in Nashua?

Mr. Houston

Good question. The land-use codes, I think it's more a question of having available and we are nearly a built-out community. We have a very large area on the Flatley parcel and we have some other large areas that can be developed yet but we are primarily built-out. And so what we are seeing a lot of and we have been seeing for several years is redevelopment of sites. And making sure our land-use codes does fit those, I know we've put Band-Aids I think on our ordinances over the years to help that situation and encourage economic development. Of course as Director Marchant mentioned, the need for housing, that seems to be quite acute in the community right now and the City and Administration is moving in that direction.

Alderman Clemons

So yeah so the Master Plan obviously would help in that getting these, getting us basically into a point where we could do some more substantial redevelopment of what we have I guess, am I correct in saying that?

Mr. Houston

Certainly it can identify those areas as well as establish some goals and objectives. And in looking at the land-use map as to where the community wants to go and the vision for the community as well as the future of the community. Most communities have plans, they don't wait. I think we started on the last plan in '98 and it took us nearly 3 ½ years to finally get it to fruition. Hopefully with an outside consultant and it is going

to be a team effort as Director Marchant said, that we can move forward and get some direction that will help the City move forward in the future.

Alderman Tencza

Thank you. And I think that one of the things too I mean when we talk about housing really I think that's one part of the 20 year old Master Plan that really can be updated as far as and can really help with development and bringing more "work force" housing, and in making our ordinances more amendable to that sort of development.

Switching topics though one of the things that I asked when Public Works was here was about the sidewalk funds that are available to the City especially in the southern part of the City. There are significant sums in there and I know that Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja has been working to get some of that money used on East Dunstable Road. Is the sidewalk plan, is that also something that could be included in a Master Plan or is that something we could start working on right away?

Ms. Marchant

Great timely question. We don't have a sidewalk plan and most people call it more of a bike/ped plan. And we have had so many questions about that recently. So it is something we are talking about internally. How much can we do, how much would we need some outside help to do? It is a labor intensive process in that there are certain parameters, data points that you have to have on every sidewalk and every piece of that to make it a legitimate sidewalk plan. So it certainly is something we are in conversation about. We are working the Nashua Regional Planning Commission who does a lot of this work for other communities as well. That is something that I think would be beyond our basic Master Plan ask. I think it would be in addition to but it certainly seems to be coming up more and more as a priority especially as Public Works is really focused on helping to expand our bike lane infrastructure in the City. They have been doing a great job on that. And with the VEOride bikes, there is more of an ask for a cohesive plan of how we can do this together. So we are working on it.

Alderman Jette

Coincidentally I was listening to a program on NH Public Radio this morning and they were interviewing Mayors from other Cities; Franklin, Rochester and Keene. One of them was talking about how they had taken advantage of RSA 79-E, the Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive Program which allows cities to adopt this. Then they can, people who are trying to revitalize properties in the City, can apply for and be granted some kind of a tax relief program. Have we adopted that, are you familiar with that?

Ms. Marchant

Yes we have used that in the past, Cotton Mill is the last example of using of that. So basically you lock taxes in place for a certain period of time depending on the improvements; 5 years up to 9 years. So that was the last one that was used. It is something that I know Economic Development and myself are always actively talking to people about. If it is something is something that can really work? It does have parameters is not an across the board thing. Those communities you mentioned, Franklin and Claremont, are very old mill towns and they are thriving. I mean the Claremont comeback, everybody is talking about. But they had some really depressed property values that they needed some really big incentives. So by freezing the taxes on some redevelopment on those properties it was able to provide a pretty big incentive to reinvest there. We are luckily not in that bad of shape in some places, but it certainly is something we are talking about as part of reinvesting maybe in some of our older industrial areas.

Alderman Jette

So I was thinking not only of industrial properties, but housing. You know some of our older downtown neighborhoods have seen better days and perhaps – it sounds like you are on top of this.

So I am just thinking out loud here that we could provide incentives to owners of properties in our downtown areas to maybe revitalize the existing properties? Or tear old properties down and replace them with newer properties? I just thought of a way of kind of following on what Mr. Houston was talking about, you know, providing more housing. I don't know if you've looked at that?

Ms. Marchant

Certainly it is one of the tools in our toolbox and I think Carrie is going to talk about something she is working on as well to try and do just that on a smaller scale as a pilot. But those are exactly the kind of programs that we are talking about all the time of how can we do housing better? How can incentivize it? The construction market has gone up 20% to 30% we've seen in the past 2 or 3 years. So when I look at ROI and Performance and the cost of doing business, just any construction, it is, the cost has risen dramatically. And that isn't something to do with us, it's part of being in the Boston-Metro Area and tariffs and the not tariffs and some other thing. We've such a dramatic rise and there's just not enough tradesmen. Anybody you talk to can't get contractors and can't get things done. So costs are much higher to do the same thing that you were trying to do 5 years ago and that is just dampening the ability to reinvest.

Alderman Clemons

Yes thank you I was the proud sponsor of that legislation when it came into Nashua. It did come about because of Cotton Mill Square. But I think at the time there were some ambiguity I'll say at best, that it had to be focused on the center of the town and you couldn't use it for other areas like we do with some of our other economic zones.

So that doesn't necessarily mean to say that we can't redefine what our downtown is either. So that might be a good idea to maybe look at that if there are areas where we could expand that to. And maybe look at what a redefinition of what our downtown actually is.

Chairman Dowd

Other questions? One of the things that we've been discussing with the Police Department and BPW in particular and having some familiarity with Planning & Zoning, you have a lot of paper, old drawings and files. Has there been any consideration in digitizing that for A) to save on storage space and B) to not lose some of this data. It's a hot potato I see it being thrown back and forth.

Mr. Houston

We've been doing this for a number of years, we've been scanning documents. We have a part-time person that does that for us; all of our site plans, all the subdivision plans are scanned and are available electronically on our public S drive. So we've been doing; we are trying to preserve as much as we can that we have; our documents, the Master Plan that are on-line. So yes, we've been doing that as time goes by and as time permits.

Chairman Dowd

And the other question I have is are you utilizing GIS more these days in regards to Planning & Zoning?

Mr. Houston

We do, it has been a very useful tool for the last, how many years has it been? 12 years? But yes it helps out immensely, because it may save a trip out to a site, we can look at the aerial or we can help a customer at the counter, which is very useful. The approximate property boundaries are there, you know the zoning, we can get a lot of information to save a lot of time. So yes that has been very helpful in our permitting process.

Chairman Dowd

So the last thing I have is just last night we approved in the Planning Department group, it hasn't come to the Full Board yet, an attorney for the Zoning Board as an alternate. And I told him to reach out to you and to Director Marchant to learn about the 5 points of law in both the special exception and a variance so that he can hit the ground running. And we also explained to him that with the new Master Plan and some updating some of these laws may change, at least some of the zoning may change. I know we've been piece-mealing some of the fixes as we go along. I'm sure the Master Plan will be taking a more comprehensive look across the board on the inadequacies of the zoning, particularly as you well know, Amherst Street and Northeastern Boulevard. You know, the things that have been piecemealed to death and then it's like a hodge podge that needs to be fixed once and for all. So we did that with one piece on an overlay but there's more to be done. So any other questions for Planning & Zoning. No? Ok next is Urban Programs.

Carrie Schena, Urban Programs Manager

Good evening, Carrie Schena, I am the manager of the Urban Programs Department. It's tough to always be at the end of the alphabet. It gets late. So our department handles the federal grants that primarily come from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. We have the Community Development Block Grant Program, that we refer to as CDBG, the Home Investment Partnership Program which is all about affordable housing. Those are entitlement grants that the City receives based on a formula each year. We just received our allocations nearly 3 weeks ago now for this year. We also have a pretty significant lead paint grant which is also through HUD and our Department. That's a competitive grant that the City applies for and we are currently in our fourth grant. I've been here 11 years so it has been 4 grants in 11 years. Those run on a 3-year cycle. All of these programs primarily focus on improving the lives for low to moderate income populations in the City.

Under the HOME Program we are focusing on housing, community development block grant has a wide array of needs that it can address in the community. We are doing housing under that program. Excuse me, we also support the non-profits in the community as they are on the front lines serving the vulnerable populations. You know the lead grant as well is focused on units that are occupied by low-income tenants. We have a full-time staff of 6 people; 3 of those are primarily dedicated to the lead grant and the other 3, including myself focus more on CDBG and HOME. That process runs through Human Affairs Committee of which there are a couple members here tonight. So we are currently in the process of allocating the Fiscal Year 20 funds for CDBG and HOME. We hope that have that wrapped up in the next few weeks. Then that plan gets submitted to HUD for approval, hopefully in August, it gets approved and we get our funding sometime August or September on a good year. Last year it was late October when we finally saw the funds.

So much like, I've heard a lot of talk about the Master Plan tonight, we also operate on a long-range plan. We have a 5-year of what they call a Consolidated Plan. That's required by HUD. Fiscal Year 20 is the last year of our current 5-year plan. So this summer we will be gearing up to develop a new 5-year plan. I'll be reaching out to not just the elected officials but every other department in the City. We try to reach as many community members as possible and pretty much the same foundation that Director Marchant described for a Master Plan we do for this. It's really from the ground up and it is supposed to focus on what are the needs of the low income population in the City and then what are the goals over the next 5 years? And that helps us direct those funds each year.

As it has been said tonight we are grant-funded and being Federal Grants we are also subject to that national political climate of reduction. Interestingly CDBG and HOME has been zeroed out in the President's budget the last several years. Thankfully Congress sees better and has put that back in and restored it. It's primarily been level-funded which is actually a reduction because costs increase as we know. If building costs are up 20% that affects our program as well because we are doing a lot of bricks and mortar projects.

So this year was interesting, we had some estimates that we started with when we started developing the plan and when we got the allocations, CDBG although it was national level-funded, Nashua saw a 1.7

reduction so that's not the end of the world. But the HOME program actually had a 10.6% reduction. The HOME program isn't funded very high to begin with so that's a significant tap into the, not just the department but the ability to get that money out into the community. That's the overview in a simplified nutshell and I'm happy to expound.

Chairman Dowd

So in the appropriations there are no appropriations because you are all under grants, but where does that fall in the budget book?

Ms. Schena

It is page 243 and 244.

Chairman Dowd

One other thing, actually I've been having discussions with Director Marchant on is and I think it's a big issue with Alderman Clemons as well is trying to develop housing for people, young people on the low end of the spectrum. We have done a lot over the years with 55 and over and 62 and over housing at reduced sizes and increased densities. But we were looking at and I don't know where it's at, writing something that would allow developers to build I don't want to call it affordable housing because it's a different connotation but housing that young people can afford that's smaller but you know you don't have to be at the end of your life cycle to move in there, politely said. So has anything further gone on that or are we still working on that.

Ms. Marchant

We are actively working on that. We've looked at a lot of different things and there's a couple programs that we are hoping to be rolling out in the not-too-distant future. So when I look at the demographics our largest cohort is going to be first time home buyers. And everybody that we talk to about it who is building housing that they interested in say smaller housing, less or smaller yards, that's exactly what the Baby Boomers are selling their houses for cash for and able to out compete. It's the same product, everybody wants the same product, 2 bedrooms, maybe that the Baby Boomers would rather have a first floor master than the young people you know is smart either way. But that is exactly something that actually Carrie and I are going to be embarking on a project to look a little bit further into.

There are no easy answers but I do think that there are certain ways we can start incentivizing some redevelopment and some housing of this type specifically to try to attract young people and not just to attract older people. Because we certainly do a good job of incentivizing housing for older persons and not for everybody else in the community.

Alderman Clemons

So you mentioned that there was a reduction in CDBG funds and the HOME Grant for Nashua. What was the reason for that?

Ms. Schena

The CDBG actually the reduction was caused, as I mentioned it is a formula that HUD uses to calculate how much each community is going to receive. The data that goes into that formula is based on – they call it ACS American Community Survey. It's formally the census information and that is 5 year blocks of information so it has more room to move than the old 10 year census used to. It is more current data; that's one piece of it. So it's based on age of housing stock, percentage of low income population in your community, lag in growth I believe is one of the factors. And then one of the other pieces that happened this year were nationally some new communities become entitlement communities.

So you have to meet a certain threshold to qualify in the entitlement category. So by those communities joining in it reduced the pot overall. So CDBG stayed level-funded but everybody got a little bit less than they would have.

Alderman Clemons

So it sounds like a mixed bag there. It sounds like maybe we might have improved I guess if you will as a community in that regard where people's incomes maybe have gone up and things have gotten a little bit better. But on the other hand it sounds like maybe not because we just added more poverty from other places I guess.

Ms. Schena

I haven't had a chance to review the new ACS Data that they based the formula on because it was just released but I suspect it has more to do with the newer communities joining into the pot. And that we've kind of stayed stable.

Alderman Clemons

And that to me is sad. And what that shows is that we as a country need to do a better job with things. But as Tip O'Neil said "All politics is local" so we do our best with what we have and you do a wonderful job.

Ms. Schena

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Other questions for Urban Programs? Thank you.

Ms. Schena

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Ok next is Department 186, Transportation. The Appropriations are on Page 245.

Ms. Marchant

That would be me again. Camille Pattison is an amazing manager of the Transportation Department; she is also a grant writer. So we team up on a lot of the grants that we have received that have helped keep transportation going. She's also some of the creative genius behind a lot of the new public/private partnerships. She's not here, she's on her 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary vacation so that's a good place to be. But the budget did not change significantly, again, just staffing really. The biggest change that we had to go out for – the operator of the system is a 5-year contract as before Finance Committee not that long ago with a very large contract. So we went back out to bid for our operator and based on increased cost for cost of living increase in driver wages which is incredibly important so we can actually compete for drivers and basic increases in health insurance. Our overall contract for operations went up and so that is included in this new budget and that is some of the reason why we've had an increase.

The public/private partnerships went up so we do have some new revenue that is helping to offset that overall. This overall \$3.3 million only \$425,000.00 ish is from the City. So we don't ask a lot of the City to run the bus system. So I can answer any questions you have. Some of the big grants that are just getting started, the CMAC grant that is allowing us to run to Walmart and Amherst a couple more days a week; we

are seeing some good ridership on that. We are running a small van right now to save money and that is picking up. And there are some regular riders already all the time which is excellent. We have the electric buses coming in, that was a huge grant that we were able to nationally compete for. And then the other huge grant that we competed for was the Transit Center Rehab. I'm just bringing that up because it is going to be a big project that is going to disturb everybody who wants to park and walking in and out of City Hall. Next year at this time hopefully we will be getting closer to construction. So that building has not been updated in a really long time and we have some really good money to improve the roof line and the sidewalks, take the whoops out of the pavement, you know you can stuck in those as you are walking through. So those are some of the biggest projects that we are working on right now and I believe that the sign up for the Hampton Beach buses will be opening very shortly. So those fill up fast and if you are interested, make sure you sign up.

Chairman Dowd

So unlike all the disturbance with all the digging in the street it will be more so.

Ms. Marchant

It will be much more so in a very small area.

Chairman Dowd

Ok one question I have is having some familiarity with electronic buses, I know one of the things that they sell with the buses is their continued maintenance. Are we getting the maintenance contract along with those buses?

Ms. Marchant

No we have – the mechanics are in-house for us. We have recently trained all our mechanics on CMG so they are up-to-date with some of that. We certainly have warranties on all different parts; we require a longer term warranties on all of our bus purchases. But we will do the majority of the work in-house and we will train our mechanics to do so.

Chairman Dowd

The reason I ask is the electronic portions of that bus are kind of complex.

Ms. Marchant

And they come with pretty good warranties; but yes that will have to be subbed out.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. Do we have Sunday bus service.

Ms. Marchant

We do not.

Alderman Clemons

What would it take to get it?

Ms. Marchant

Millions.

Alderman Clemons

\$1 million dollars.

Ms. Marchant

Probably not quite between \$700,000.00 and \$800,000.00. It's a massive cost increase. We don't staff it any way, shape or form. We completely shut down, so it would be everything from running dispatch, it's not just like adding on night service where we are adding another route on when we already have service going. We do customer satisfaction surveys at least once a year; usually 2 or 3 times depending on what we are doing and what other projects are going on. Besides going to Walmart; Sunday service is our number 1 request. It is just a massive amount of money to make that happen.

Alderman Clemons

What if you did just some of the main routes? So not the full schedule but if you did one or two of the main routes, what would realistically what would something like that cost? Or even modified route that maybe is completely separate just for Sunday? Have you looked into doing anything like that?

Ms. Marchant

We've looked at it and I don't have the numbers in front of me I can get them for you. We've looked at doing the same, our 3 core routes that we do for night service that are the key routes that we have the vast majority of ridership on. That's what we've looked at for Sunday service and then the supporting para transit. So anytime you run service you have to run para transit with it. I don't have those numbers in front of me. I can promise you it's the hundreds of thousands. And so the way it works with the federal dollars is that we would have to front all the costs up front to run everything. And then as we add the extra miles in in the next year's funding, they supposedly they give us half for the miles. I think it's more like .27 or .30 cents on the dollar. But as we increase mileage we would get a bigger distribution from them to off-set those costs in future years. I don't think it's 50/50 but we still have to front load all those costs initially.

It's certainly something – we did a 10 year plan for the Transportation System that I got a grant for maybe 2 years ago, 3 years ago now and I believe that it's in the back of that. So I'd be more than happy to send it to you. But it is a massive lift.

Alderman Clemons

I think if want to consider ourselves a world class city we have to have a bus that runs 24/7. And you know I'd like to work on making that happen. If it going to take a substantial cost but it's something we will get back in the end or at least part of it back, then it might be worth looking into. And really figuring out how can we optimize a route or two that kind of gets where the majority of our riders are where the majority of the people who would use the bus on Sunday live. And kind of start with one route that kind of goes to the main areas or two; something like that. I just feel, I realize it is a cost but I just feel it is a worthy thing to do. It just seems to me that if you are reliant on public transportation and lots of people in the City are, to me it's not fair that you have to sit at home on a Sunday. It's something that I would like to work on with you and I hope we can do that.

Ms. Marchant

Yes I'm happy to talk to you more about that. The next grant that we are working on actually at the moment is that transit is kind of changing too. We don't want to continue to deliver the exact same service.

So the next grant we are working on is to focus on young professionals and our aging population; the non-yet transit dependent riders and how we can look at our, you know, not the core routes, but how we can better serve more cost efficiently. People are getting used to Uber and Lyft and things like that so how can we make our system more efficient? And part of that is software that we don't have, right now you can't see when the bus is coming if you're standing at a bus stop. So an overall grant to kind of improve our ability to provide on-time service; to make sure that the customer experience is better; and also ways to modernize our system so we can be more agile and more adaptable. So maybe as part of all of that we can certainly look at something to be 7 days a week. I'd be happy to work with you on that.

Alderman Clemons

Great.

Alderman Jette

How is that new bus route, the downtown bus route working out?

Ms. Marchant

It is doing ok. It is something that we continuously are trying to promote a little bit more. We find that after a year you get stronger adoption. We've seen an increase in ridership as it is being used. So it hits the Post Office, nothing else hits the Post Office, it is very, very close to the library as well, which none of the other routes do. So we are seeing people getting on and getting off at other stops right in the downtown core area which is really nice. But it isn't something that's a rock star yet.

Alderman Jette

So one of the purposes of that route I believe was to service BAE to provide parking down off of Crown Street?

Ms. Marchant

Correct.

Alderman Jette

And that the employees could then take the bus?

Ms. Marchant

And that is working and they are renewing their partnership with us on that route.

Alderman Jette

Good.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Yes, Director Marchant, I know in the past we've done some special things in the summer for students. Will we be doing that again and what are we doing this year?

Ms. Marchant

Yes. It is a student pass and so a student can get one pass for the entire summer. I believe student passes are on sale as of this week and it's one cost, I don't to quote it and have it be wrong. It is readily available on

our web site . We don't sell a ton of them but for the ones we do sell they are an awesome way for a student to get around the City for the summer and it's you pay once up front, and it's the whole summer. It's between \$20.00 and \$40.00 I just don't want to give you the wrong number.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Follow up. Can they purchase them at the high schools or do they purchase them through you or somewhere else?

Ms. Marchant

You can purchase them here at the transit center, you can purchase them through the transit office. And we do have an app on your phone where you can purchase tickets now. And I can't of course remember which app that is – Token Transit. So we do have, for the first time, the ability to purchase tickets via phone and not have to come to the hours that we are open here.

Alderwoman Melizzi-Golja

Ok thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Other questions? Seeing none, thank you very much Director Marchant and thanks to all the rest of you for coming out this evening and sharing with us. Have a good evening.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO TABLE R-19-123  
MOTION CARRIED**

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Tencza

May I say one thing, it just goes to something that Mr. Ortega was speaking about earlier, about being proactive in housing code enforcement. A couple years ago here in Nashua we lost an office of legal aid that was down on East Hollis Street I believe and they were a great resource for our community for folks who had questions about Housing Issues, Debt Collection issues things like that. The reason we lost the office here in Nashua is because of budget cuts at the State level which fund that program.

I know they've made a big push, I think they are afraid they are going to lose even more money even more funding at the State Level so I will just make a pitch to the Legislators in the room as the budget process is going through, that that is really a group that would be beneficial for folks here in Nashua. And really the benefit of having them here is that anybody could go to their office, just stop in, they could run classes down at the library people could come. So it would benefit not only citizens but would also benefit the City because it takes some responsibility off of Planning & Economic Development Office and their staff as well so that they can focus a little bit more on the more problem issues. So thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Unidentified Speaker

I can submit this in writing, I can check in the future if that's put in the minutes right?

Chairman Dowd

If it's, is it something that's related to the budget?

Unidentified Speaker

Possibly yes, well I think so. It's also related to information I shared with the City Counsel last meeting, two weeks ago. So I mean some of the information that has happened in the last 2 weeks has I think made this information more important. So I'd like to submit it to the minutes.

Chairman Dowd

Is it something that needs to go to the Mayor. This is a budget meeting.

Unidentified Speaker

So I am basically trying to get a tax abatement so I think I can help with the budget. So I have this information.

Chairman Dowd

We can take a look at it and try to get it to the right person.

Unidentified Speaker

As long as it is on the minutes.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION – None

Alderman O'Brien

For the record I would like to Mr. Chairman take exception that I did receive a document from a Mr. Steve Elliot and that will be turned over to the proper jurisdiction of government.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The meeting was declared closed at 8:26 p.m.

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

**FY 2020 HUMAN SERVICE AGENCY REQUESTS SUBMITTED TO (CAC) - CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMISSION**

ACCOUNT	AGENCY	FY2019 AGENCY REQUEST	FY2019 RECOMMENDED FUNDING	FY2019 FINAL FUNDING	FY2020 AGENCY REQUEST	FY2020 RECOMMENDED FUNDING	FY2020 FINAL FUNDING	PERCENTAGE CHANGE OVER PRIOR YEAR
56335	ADULT LEARNING CENTER	30,000	25,177	25,177	40,000	24,900	24,831	-1.37%
56300	AMERICAN RED CROSS	-	-	-	7,500	5,000	4,986	100.00%
56303	BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER	-	-	-	7,500	6,500	6,482	100.00%
56304	BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF GREATER NASHUA	25,000	18,134	18,134	80,000	18,100	18,050	-0.46%
56306	BRIDGES	70,000	56,231	56,231	70,000	52,000	51,856	-7.78%
56309	The CareGivers				5,000	5,000	4,986	100.00%
56312	CASA OF NEW HAMPSHIRE	18,000	16,010	16,010	10,000	8,600	8,576	-46.43%
56316	CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES	25,000	17,972	17,972		-	-	-100.00%
56320	FAMILY PROMISE OF GREATER NASHUA	20,000	16,342	16,342	30,000	24,500	24,432	49.50%
56350	FRONT DOOR AGENCY	45,000	39,640	39,640	45,000	35,400	35,302	-10.94%
56323	GIRL SCOUTS OF THE GREEN & WHITE MOUNTAINS	-	-	-	10,000	5,000	4,986	100.00%
56324	GIRLS INC.	18,000	14,815	14,815	21,000	16,700	16,654	12.41%
56318	COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF NASHUA DBA GREATER NASHUA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER	80,000	38,859	38,859	70,824	39,700	39,590	1.88%
56325	GREATER NASHUA HABITAT FOR HUMANITY	-	-	-	25,000	6,400	6,382	100.00%
56326	GROW NASHUA	43,935	14,930	14,930	38,000	16,600	16,554	10.88%
56327	HARBOR HOMES	150,000	62,562	62,562	85,000	26,700	26,626	-57.44%
56315	HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER	-	-	-	15,000	5,600	5,585	100.00%
56328	HOME HEALTH & HOSPICE CARE	40,000	26,942	26,942	40,000	9,500	9,474	-64.84%
56330	LAMPREY NASHUA AREA HEALTH CENTER	95,411	38,274	38,274	80,293	33,300	33,208	-13.24%
56332	MARGUERITE'S PLACE	30,961	25,335	25,335	30,000	25,600	25,529	0.77%
56338	NASHUA CHILDREN'S HOME	-	-	-	39,318	38,400	38,297	100.00%
56341	GREATER NASHUA DENTAL CONNECTION	43,000	26,529	26,529	35,000	33,000	32,909	24.05%
56353	NASHUA POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE (PAL)	30,000	26,168	26,168	32,000	31,300	31,214	19.28%
56351	NASHUA SENIOR CENTER	31,060	-	-	39,312	11,200	11,169	100.00%
56345	NASHUA SOUP KITCHEN & SHELTER	30,000	25,215	25,215	45,000	26,500	26,427	4.81%
56347	NASHUA YOUTH COUNCIL	37,000	38,352	38,352	44,646	41,600	41,485	8.17%
56357	REGENERATIVE ROOTS ASSOCIATION	-	-	-	12,000	5,300	5,285	100.00%
56359	SALVATION ARMY	20,000	-	-	20,000	7,800	7,778	100.00%
56360	SINFONIETTA STRINGS OF GREATER NASHUA	10,000	5,725	5,725	12,000	5,000	4,986	-12.91%
56362	SOUTHERN NH HIV AIDS TASK FORCE	15,000	13,242	13,242	20,000	15,400	15,357	15.97%
56367	UNITED WAY	11,000	3,346	3,346	10,000	5,000	4,986	49.01%
56368	YMCA OF GREATER NASHUA	25,000	19,257	19,257	47,900	9,000	8,975	-53.39%
56375	WAYPOINT	-	-	-	25,000	16,100	16,056	100.00%
56398	LESS: CDBG GRANT ENTITLEMENT FUNDS <sup>(1)</sup>	-	(57,057)	(57,057)	(98,700)	(98,700)	(97,013)	70.03%
		<b>\$943,367</b>	<b>\$512,000</b>	<b>\$512,000</b>	<b>\$993,593</b>	<b>\$512,000</b>	<b>\$512,000</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

**Note: FY2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) entitlement funds have been approved.  
The Citizens Advisory Commission voted to disburse the final CDBG funding proportionately to each funded award once known.**

FIGURE 6. Replacement Sheet

hello my name is steven elliott from 256 pine st nashua prison ward 6

two weeks ago i talked here to bring up current events. i didn't check the accuracy of the minutes because i figured they would be completely innaccurate and 6 of the members were missing so clearly it would make more sense to write a summary of the main points and what has happened since then. I was born in syracuse new york which is interesting since my favorite mathematition is archimedes. i grew up in the garden state and developed a love for maths especially in college where i graduated in 3 years while taking 8 graduate courses. i got accepted into one of the most prodigious applied math colleges in the world, had job offers from entities similar to mit lincoln labs which i took in opposed to a interview with the nsa, which let me work in calculus based systems of networks and mechanics in many places across the planet. after working in the dc area for 2 years i experienced first hand the inefficiencies of the largest government on the planet and how often it was violating the constitution so i decided to move to the live free or die state. the 6 years i have spent here mostly was working in nashua for a wonderful local company but i quit about 17 months ago in order to create my own intellectual property which would be valueable. i constantly study the market, physics, and math, and with all my spare time i looked for the rules markets must follow due to the current rules of physics, which i believe gave me insight into both markets and physics that isn't known outside of the few people i've told it to, but the new information has to be shared and acted upon which is why i'm here telling you what you must do to create positive outcomes for the people of nashua. when the oil baron rockefeller was the richest person in the world, there was a market crash that made the company that was employing nikoli tesla get underwater on its debt that made tesla tear up his patent royalty. had he not done that he would have been the richest person in the world by 1913, and not the banker morgan who got rich by selling to the british and the french all the capital ownership in the steel and railroads. i know that when morgan died, it was the influence of the french and the british and the involvement of rockefeller and evil politicians made an successfull attempt to eliminate the protections laid out to all folks that are free in this country. they created evil entities to exert the utmost economic control of the people of the country. in 1913 most all cars were electric, then the federal reserve and income tax were made. then the british and french went to war with germany and did collusion to attack innocent americans to drag them into the war and because you cant should fire in a crowded theater they made it illegal to put your free speech, the foundation of science, into protesting the war and no one knew america was attacked. war uses a lot of oil and the airplanes of the future were not developed because they banned basic biofuels to stop their competetors through the banning of alcohol and then removed the last electric car company in the 1929 crash. hitler erroneously had blamed the jews for the events that led to germany starting the second world war. no abrahamic religion that mutilitates the genitals of non-adult humans is free of original sin. i am a non-agression principeled mathematition who recognizes that the nuclear technology to provide us with electricity stopped being built at the same time the epa was made and the oil crisis occured, that black monday happened a year prior to saudis nationalizing the current most profitable company in the world, aramco, and the information that that would occur was acted upon which is why regan was selling weapons to iran, that saudis getting the best friend of a saudi prince to be the ceo of citigroup as well as bailing it out making that prince the largest individual shareholder who after gaining full control changed the logo in 1998 have all happend through no coincidence with a high probability. that bank invested in our best airplane manufacturer boeing in 1998, then boeing fired the person who

## FIGURE 6. Replacement Sheet

was in charge of american domestic business, announced a stock buyback program that broke records and within two years boeing airplanes crash into the twin towers after being hijacked by saudi fundamental koranic followers two weeks after the chevron investor robert mueller was put in charge of the fbi, who might have been framed, but congress made a new unconstitutional law called the patriot act which gave the head of the fbi the ability to know if someone was colluding with entities out of this country and he supported the iraq war which now has chevron in it drilling which is probably better than saddam but not good for nimh supporters, which is nikel metal hydride batteries that had its patent acquired by chevron from gm right before the early 2000s bubble market collapse and then the iraq war started then musk and theil sold paypal and started electric car companies and space companies, then citigroup went up 0xa times in value and the saudi prince sold his shares, musk made in the US company TSLA delivers its first electric vehicle, crash occurs, citigroup donates to obama and picks his cabinet, saudi prince buys his shares back near the standard and poor index low of 666, then citigroup secretly gets the largest bailout from the obama signed tarp program which was revealed to us after the 2012 re-election of Obama. now the president of the united states is a person who was bailed out by the same saudi prince, who doesn't drink alcohol that visited saudi arabia first is bragging about selling weapons to the saudis and guess which company is getting the most contracts? boeing. it is the largest stock on the dow. it gets its initial capital to fund its projects from the taxpayers through the solidly bipartisan export-import bank, which gives it the most amount. i told you all of this 2 weeks ago. 36 weeks ago approximately i started three companies in new hampshire that will seek to automate the most beneficial processes possible to provide the best quality energy and information. i will most likely finish all the most important projects i am working on within the next 36 weeks. city council members must grant me a tax abatement on my property to create the incentive for me to finish them here. i asked for 40 year just like the president had, but now my offer is a lifetime tax abatement on the property of at least 80 years. the trash dump project of  $6 \times 10^6$  dollars will probably increase in cost by at least 5 percent over its lifetime but if you include that cost in your debt now, i will be working on the things which will slow down its requirement of expansion and try and finish making companies that will be worth a hundred times the cost of this loan and i can make that donation to pay that number which is the same number of jews that died in the holocaust. i asked for this smart investment from the city two weeks ago and you probably won't even tell me if you discussed my request. since then the market hit a new record the fed said they aren't going to change anything, tesla stock went to a 104 week low, boeing said they canceled the prior prediction for the company earnings and refused to give future guidance, scientific tests about galaxies are confirming possible outcomes of my hypothesis with dark matter, i finished a lot of very useful projects that has a very large value i can put into my companies, and hopefully you can simplify this process as much as possible by giving me the incentive to stay in the live free or die state so i can grow my garden and convince you to focus on legalizing tiny homes like boston instead of focusing on evil laws that reduce freedoms which pose less risk than faking volatility reduction while saudis are getting secret nuclear technology when your best option is to make it so helpful energy independence can be given to all the people in this country. we need a wall around wallstreet to stop foreign entities which are hostile to american interests buying a stock in the companies that are responsible for the means reproduction here. it starts with a 80 year tax abatement from the live free or die city of nashua new hampshire or it happens somewhere else where i will recreate the real beneficial parts of the government that made this be

FIGURE 6. Replacement Sheet

the place i wanted to live in. as a bonus i will offer my time to your city by offering my time one day a week at the schools to help shcools excel at teaching math as a paid substitute and also volunteer my time which has the benefit of qualifying me for cheaper healthcare to which i eventually i want to excel at and combine with my programming skills to make the best healthcare possible because next time when i ask this crazy stuff i will ask for two lifetimes of tax abatements because how else will i be incentivized to try to live forever and make the health of this country the best it can be. i am on a rate to put out almost a negative amount of trash flow with how little i have needed to put out to the trash collection this year. i wan't to make it negative and get the city of nashua to help me invest in that process. there are things which i am creating which will provide a positive impact if what value i recieve is greater than the risks i need to take in order to make it happen.