

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

MAY 7, 2020

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Thursday, May 7, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Chairman Dowd

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

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:

We are utilizing WebEx through the City's IT Department for this electronic meeting. All members of the Budget Review Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen in to this meeting through dialing the following number 1-978-990-5298 and using the password 273974. The Public may also view this meeting on Comcast Channel 16.

b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at www.nashuanh.gov and publicly noticed at City Hall.

c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:

If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. **When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.**

Alderman O'Brien called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 7 members of the Budget Review Committee present:

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Ernest Jette
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Members not in Attendance:

Also in Attendance: Mayor Jim Donchess
Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Alderman Kelly

I am here, I am alone except for the littlest Kelly coming in every once in a while. I am practicing social distancing and I can hear everybody.

Alderman O'Brien

Alderman-at-Large Michael O'Brien is present and I can hear the proceedings and I am alone.

Alderman Wilshire

I am here, I am here staying home because of the Governor's orders. I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Jette

I am here, I can hear you and I am at home because of the Governor's order to stay at home.

Alderman Schmidt

I am here, I can hear you, I am alone except for a little tweeter and I am here because of the Governor's guidelines.

Alderman Clemons

I am here. I am participating via telephone due to the Governor's order. There is no one in the room with me and I can hear everyone.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, I am here, I can hear everyone and I am practicing social distancing in accordance with the Governor's rule. We are ready to go.

Alderman O'Brien

Alright. Mr. Chairman, also in attendance is Alderman Harriott-Gathright and Alderman Klee. Are there any other Aldermen that I have not recognized? OK. Also, Mr. Chairman, in attendance is the Mayor, Jim Donchess and Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director. Mr. Chairman, you have 7 voting members present of the Budget Committee.

Chairman Dowd

We have a quorum, thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

R-20-016

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
 Alderwoman Linda Harriott-Gathright
 Alderman Thomas Lopez
 Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

AMENDING THE PURPOSE OF A FISCAL YEAR 2020 UNLIKE ESCROW FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION
 (remains tabled)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE RESOLUTION R-20-023 RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire
 Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-20-023

Endorser: Mayor Jim Donchess
RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS

- Public hearing scheduled for 5/20/2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Webex

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEWS OF THE PROPOSED FY21 BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA

<u>Dept. #</u>		<u>Appropriations</u>
	<u>PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION</u>	
160	Public Works Administration and Engineering	175
161	Street Department	180
177	Parks and Recreation	185

Chairman Dowd

So the Motion carried and R-20-023 is now before us. Tonight we are going to be addressing the Public Works Division, which is Department 160, 161, 177, Public Works & Engineering, Appropriations on Page 175; the Street Department is on Page 180; and the Parks & Recreation is Page 185. Also, we will be discussing, we discussed it already at Revenue, but if there any questions that the Director can answer on Enterprise and Solid Waste we will take a look at that as well. OK. Director Fauteux?

Mayor Donchess

Well Mr. Chair, I was going to introduce her.

Chairman Dowd

Oh, OK, sorry about that.

Mayor Donchess

Nothing very elaborate. You've already indicated what portions of the Budget you are going to be reviewing tonight. So Director Fauteux is going to present the budgets for those Departments. These have been reviewed by and approved by the Board of Public Works. Director Fauteux will be making the presentation to you regarding the details and we are all here available to answer questions. So with that, I will turn it over to Director Fauteux.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Thank you. Good evening Mayor, Chairman Dowd, and members of the Budget Committee. With me this evening is Carolyn O'Connor, our Finance & Administration Manager for the Division. We are here to present the budgets for the DPW Departments, including Administration, Engineering, Streets, and Park & Recreation. And as Alderman Dowd mentioned, to answer any questions on Solid Waste and Wastewater.

We were given the guideline of a 2.5% increase by the Mayor. All of our Departments have been able to adhere to that guideline with the exception of Solid Waste due to both debt and permit requirements. The total Public Works Budget before you tonight is \$42,904,157.00. \$20.2 million or 47% of that is Wastewater; \$9.9 million or 23% is Solid Waste; \$7.6 million and 18% is Streets; \$3.5 million and 8% is Parks & Recreation and \$1.7 million or 4% is Administration and Engineering. As the Mayor mentioned, the Board of Public Works unanimously support this budget. As you requested, Chairman Dowd, I will only present the increases and decreases and changes on our budget, is that correct.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah that's what we did last year, yes, unless people have questions on something else.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

OK so I won't go over every line, just the increases and decreases and feel free to ask any questions. If it is OK, I will start with, as in the Budget Book, Administration & Engineering.

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

OK so the first line and I am starting on Page 175, the very first line in that Budget, 51100, excuse me, 51300 second line, overtime. We have added \$11,700.00 and that is primarily for the Paving Program because we need additional oversight. The next line, same page, that has changes is 53107 and that is Architect & Engineering Services. That is actually a new item and that is for contracted services, as needed. We find from time to time we need a structural engineer as we did when we had the fire on the Broad Street Parkway and things of that nature. So we have added that for those types of services.

The next, same page – next decrease is in electricity and that is \$58,732.00 and I know that seems like a lot but that is because we took the Burke Street Utilities out of our budget. So that's why that is such a big decrease. Same thing with heating, gas, there is a decrease of \$6,000.00; again because of Burke Street is now out of this budget.

Water – we have a very small decrease of \$500.00; that's based on historical and purchasing guidelines. The next line where this is a change, same page, if 55118 – Cellular Telephone. That is for data plans for iPads, we have added, we are trying to do a lot more work out in the field and trying to capture things directly into GIS so we have added iPads to the Department and we think that is going to be a huge asset.

Dues & Memberships, the next line, there is a \$700.00 increase, again, just for additional dues and membership, nothing exciting there. Conferences & Seminars, we did add \$2,000.00. We do have additional people who will be attending Conferences and Seminars, certainly not this year but hopefully in the future. The next line, 55421 – Employee Training & Certifications that is up just \$300.00, again for Engineers to get the trainings and certifications that they need to keep their licenses, we need to increase that a little bit. Postage & Delivery, is up, 55607 is up \$500.00, again historical and purchasing guidelines. And down at the bottom, 61299 Miscellaneous Supplies, that is down \$500.00; that is just a required reduction to get us to the 2.5% but we feel we can live with that. Fuel Unleaded is up \$400.00 and that is according to historical and purchasing guidelines. Compressed Natural Gas is down \$300.00, again historical and purchasing guidelines. And that is all for Page 175; any questions before I go on?

Chairman Dowd

Any questions from anyone on the Budget Committee?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

No questions, OK. And then the last page Computer Software, we are up about \$1,000.00. Again that is for iPads and additional CAD Licenses for Engineers. Furniture & Fixtures is down by about \$400.00 and again just another way to help reduce the budget and get us to the 2.5%. And that concludes Administrative & Engineering.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, I see Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you, Chairman Dowd. Director Fauteux, where would we find the other \$59,000.00 in electricity for Burke Street? Do you know where else that is in the budget or maybe that should go to the Mayor.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

That is in the Administrative Services Budget, I believe under Risk Management, is that correct, Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

That's correct.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you very much.

Alderman Jette

Yes on the line item 51300, Overtime; you said that was for our paving. But isn't the paving being done by an outside contractor. Why are we spending money on overtime for that?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

OK so that is for inspection services. We do have a number of contractors, Brox, Sunshine Paving and Newport is also finishing up some work. But we provide our inspectors and some of our engineers provide oversight of that work. And so the overtime is for that.

Alderman Jette

OK, thank you.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

OK, any other questions for this Department 160?

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm sorry, I have one Alderman Dowd.

Chairman Dowd

Ok I guess that's Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

It is thank you.

Chairman Dowd

I don't see your picture.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah, I'm sorry my hair is messed up tonight. I actually have the same question as Alderman Jette because I know we approved money last night for Hayner-Swanson to the inspection. So I wasn't quite, I still didn't understand why we still have oversight over pavement if we are paying Hayner-Swanson to do it.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

OK so this year we will be doing roughly 25 miles, which is about \$10 million dollars and 103 streets. So that is far more than our staff can possibly inspect. So Hayner-Swanson also has staff where they assist us with the paving program.

Alderwoman Kelly

OK so we have overtime in our budget for that but then Hayner-Swanson also helps us because we can't do it all on our own.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

That's correct.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions before we move on? Seeing none, Department 161 – Street.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Ok so now I am on Page 180 and I am starting with number 54100 which is electricity. We have increased that by \$2,124.00 that is according to historical and purchasing guidelines; heating and gas we have reduced by about \$320.00, again according to historical and purchasing guidelines. Water, we have increased about \$1,200.00 according to, again, historical and purchasing guidelines. Janitorial Services – we have increased by \$1,000.00; I am just going down the line so I am not telling you all because I'm going right in a row, OK, is up by \$1,000.00 because the contract is increasing a bit.

Now I am going to go down to 54243, right underneath. We have increased that line by \$4,000.00 and that is primarily because we have an aging boiler that is limping along and requires a lot of maintenance, that's what that increase is for. Building, 54280 Buildings, Grounds & Maintenance, we have increased that by \$28,580.00. The reason we have done that is because we need new garage doors in the Street Department. So we limped them along long enough and we need to replace some of them.

OK the next change is the same page, number 55699, Other Contracted Services, we have increased that by \$2,000.00 and that is for traffic signal repair. Moving on to Page 181, I am on line 61166 for Gasses, we have increased that by about \$2,200.00 and again historical data.

Chairman Dowd

Excuse me, Director Fauteux, I think some people may not know what gasses you are referring to.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

These would be gasses for welding.

Chairman Dowd

Ok, thanks.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

You're welcome. Oxygen and that sort of thing. The next line is 61705 tires. We have increased that by about \$480.00. Again we anticipate that the cost of tires are going to go up and also historical information. Lubricants, again up by \$600.00 for the same reasons and vehicle parts and supplies, again we expect an increase in the cost of parts we have increased that by \$195.00. And on the last item on this page is Computer Software, 71228 and that is an increase of \$2,000.00 and that is for our Tactic Software, that's a software update that we need. The Tactics Software is what controls all of the streetlights and allows us to see them all and coordinate them all and we need to do a software upgrade for that. So that is what that is for. And that concludes the changes for the Street Department.

Chairman Dowd

Alright questions regarding the Street Department? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, 54275 Signing and Striping Services. We have only spent \$14,000.00 this year. Why is that?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

So that was through January and most of the striping occurs in the spring. So you will see most of that money will be used up this spring. I don't know exactly how much we have used to date. We were a little slow getting, coming out of the gate because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, but I know that we've done a fair amount of striping and I am not sure the amount that we've used to date, but we have already used some. So most of this occurs in the spring that's why.

Alderman Jette

OK and 61300 and 61307, the Unleaded Fuel and the Diesel Fuel. It seems like fuel prices, gasoline and prices have gone way down. Have you taken that into consideration or was this made up before that happened?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

We did take that into consideration and we are setting our fuel prices we are going by what the Purchasing Manager instructs us to do.

Alderman Jette

OK so it is the same as last year but the prices were much higher last year than they are now. And item 61390, Internal & External Fuel Billings. What is that for?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

So we carry all of the fuel for a number of the Departments in our Public Works Budget so that is essentially the fuel that is not Public Works related being removed.

Alderman Jette

Ok thank you.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions regarding the Street Budget? None? OK.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

On to Parks & Recreation, now I am on Page 185 and I am starting with number 51400, we increased our temporary seasonal wages for our pool guards by \$15,040.00. We were having difficulty attracting summer pool guards, so we increased the pay a bit. So that is what that is for. I'm now on 53999. We reduced that to better reflect what we are actually spending. We reduced it by \$5,000.00. That is Fire, Sprinkler, Fire Extinguisher Inspections, that sort of thing. Next is 54100 – Electricity; we reduced that by \$3,226.00, again historical guidelines and also purchasing. Heat & Gas, same thing; we reduced that by a very small amount, \$16.00. Again historical data and purchasing guidelines. Water – we reduced by (inaudible); again historical and purchasing guidelines. Our Pool Repairs and Maintenance we reduced by \$3,000.00. The reason we did that is we have all new liners now in our pools which is great. So there is less maintenance, we don't have to paint them and all of that, so we will save there. Tree Removal Services, we decreased by \$1,000.00, again according to historical data.

Playgrounds & Maintenance, we increased that by \$6,988.00, we have a number of repairs coming up in the parks so that's why we increased that. Equipment Repairs & Maintenance, we decreased by 90, again because of historical information. Vehicle Repairs & Maintenance we decreased by \$5,000.00 according to, again, historical information. Equipment Rental we increased by \$12,159.00. Rentals, we decreased by \$500.00, again according to historical guidelines. 55307 jumping down a little bit, Mileage Reimbursements we did increase that by \$1,200.00; we were not properly accounting for the mileage for the Pool Coordinators who move around the pools, so we wanted to add it adequately to better reflect that.

Banquets & Outings, we increased by \$1,300.00. It is the 50th Senior Outing so the Committee would like to do something a little bit special this year. So that is for that increase. 61107, Clothing & Uniforms, we decreased that by \$2,033.00 according to historical information. Moving on to Page 186 Protective Clothing, we decreased that by \$1,000.00, according to, again, historical information. Recreational Supplies, we decreased that by \$1,500.00 for the same reason, excuse me, not Recreational Supplies, Chemicals – 61156 we reduced by the \$1,500.00 for the same reasons. Fuel unleaded we increased by \$1,150.00 and that is according to our historical information. And tires we increased again because we are expecting an increase in the cost of tires, we increased that by \$1,750.00. Vehicles Parts & Supplies we increased by \$9,000.00 again we are expecting an increase in vehicle parts and supplies. Subscriptions, we increased just a little bit because some of the subscriptions have gone up.

I'm now on 71025, Small Tools, we decreased that by \$400.00 according to historical guidelines and then Miscellaneous Equipment, we increased by \$2,000.00. Miscellaneous equipment are things like small mowers, weed whackers and chain saws. And that concludes Park & Rec.

Chairman Dowd

OK, questions on Park & Rec.

Alderman Kelly

I have a question Alderman Dowd.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly and then Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman Kelly

Thank you. Director Fauteux, maybe you said it, but I was wondering about the increase in 54821, it's almost double, Equipment Rentals.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Yes and so the Equipment Rental is for Park Maintenance. I'm not sure exactly the details of that, but I could get that for you.

Alderman Kelly

Alright I will look forward to that, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

OK Alderman O'Brien and then Alderman Jette.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Ms. Fauteux this would probably be of interest to Alderman Gathright, Ward 9 and particularly myself. Basically I see some of the equipment and the last park that needs to be rejuvenated seems to be St. Andrews and I would like just to make sure that other neighborhoods have got their rejuvenation. Ward 9 equally, you know, the good people would like to have that park with some fresh equipment and a little TLC would be nice. Thank you.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

That is very next on our list absolutely, we are aware of that. And we will be getting to that actually this year. And Alderman Kelly I do have an answer for you. I'm sorry. That Equipment Rental is our portapotty contract and we put it out to bid and that was the increase in the bid. So it went up so that's what 54821, Equipment Rental is.

Alderman Kelly

Can I ask a follow up please?

Chairman Dowd

Sure.

Alderman Kelly

Did we put it out to bid to multiple people or just the current contractor?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

No, absolutely we put it out to multiple people. The current contractor ending up being the low bidder still, but yeah so it went up \$12,000.00. It hadn't gone up though in quite a long time, we had used the same vendor. So we weren't surprised that it went up.

Alderman Kelly

Ok thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman O'Brien were you finished? All set? OK. Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes could you speak to us about the arrangement with the Silver Knights and the rental of Holman Stadium? What is the deal with that and will that be affected if they don't have a season.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

You know I don't know. I'm not part of the negotiation of that with the Silver Knights. I know right now the Silver Knights are still hoping to have a season. They are just going to try to postpone it. But I don't know what will happen if, in fact, they are not able to have a season. I don't think that that has been discussed at this point.

Mayor Donchess

I can maybe shed a little more light on that.

Chairman Dowd

Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

For Alderman Jette. The contract provides that rent will be paid by the game. And under the terms of the lease, if there are no games, and I can confirm this with Legal, but I am able to say with some degree of probability that we would not receive rents unless there are games that go forward.

Alderman Jette

Could I ask how much, what's the deal, how much do we get per game?

Mayor Donchess

I believe it's \$1,500.00.

Chairman Dowd

We will get the answer and have it sent to Donna so it can be distributed to everybody.

Mayor Donchess

The funds don't go into the General Fund; the funds go into – there's a Holman Improvement Fund that is used.

Chairman Dowd

You've lost your audio Jim.

Mayor Donchess

The funds don't go into the – the rental payments don't go into the General Fund. They go into basically a Holman Improvement Fund which is used to make improvements at Holman as the title suggests. For example, a few years back, we used money from that fund to buy a new scoreboard. There are certain times when extra maintenance is required, things like that. So the money does get or revert to Holman Stadium.

Chairman Dowd

So it's a special (inaudible) fund. Ok, that' doesn't impact the General Budget.

Alderman Kelly

Alderman Dowd if I could ask a question please?

Chairman Dowd

Does Alderman Jette have a follow-up?

Alderman Jette

So if I could follow up with that, so the Holman Stadium is obviously used by other people other than the Silver Knights, you know, the High Schools play there, American Legion play there, probably some other leagues. Do the youth leagues like the high schools and probably Babe Ruth and American Legion and those, are they allowed to use those fields without any charge?

Mayor Donchess

Yes.

Alderman Jette

And do you have any idea how much it costs us to maintain Holman Stadium just for the Silver Knights?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

I don't know that we've ever broken it down that way Alderman Jette. I could ask the Superintendent but I don't think we would have that information necessarily, specifically to the Silver Knights. I probably could give you an approximate cost per game of what it costs for us to staff that if you're interested.

Mayor Donchess

Well we certainly could give you an estimate of the overall cost of maintaining Holman Stadium. You know the Silver Knights but also the other youth programs that you had mentioned. (audio breaking up) Parks workers that work at Holman and then there are other expenses that are incurred for fertilizer and other things like that, which Nick could probably give us a pretty accurate estimate of how much is spent over the course of the summer.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah if Nick could give us a breakdown on that, both high schools play all their games there. That stadium was donated by a man named Holman. I was just reading an article on it the other day. A few years ago, well actually quite a few now I guess, the field had got into terrible shape and was completely redone when we had a professional ballclub come in. It is one of the best baseball fields in the state. I have talked to several kids that have played there and they just think that is was phenomenal to be able to play on that surface. And I do

know that there are also revenues that come in at the stadium because the towers are used for cell phone. But Nick can break that all down.

Alderman Jette

Yeah, I am thinking of the cost of electricity to light the field, not only for the games and practices, just for the Silver Knights. I just want to be reassured that whatever they are paying per game is defraying those costs.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

I'm not sure we could break it down to that level of detail Alderman Jette in terms of electricity per game, but we certainly can get the overall cost of maintaining Holman Stadium. But I also should note that we would maintain the stadium to the same level whether the Silver Knights were there or not. We would do the same for the three high schools that play there and Babe Ruth and the others. We don't just do that for the Silver Knights.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions for Park & Rec.? A couple things I wanted to point out. One is the Park Rec stores all of their vehicles outside.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Yes, most everything.

Chairman Dowd

Hopefully someday we can get a lot more lifespan out of them. One question I had Director Fauteux was the contract for the DPW Workers has been quite a while since it has been settled. Are you budgeting money every year in contingency for the potential pay increase.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

And if so where is it?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

That would be a question for Financial Services. That would not show up in our budget but yes there definitely is a plan in place for that.

Chairman Dowd

Well you budget it per fiscal year and then when the budget is passed that money is transferred into escrow. I am assuming in prior years it is escrow, but how long has it been since the contract has been settled?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

It'll be three years at the end of June and we are hoping that, you know, I think we were - I feel like we were close and then this pandemic hit and sort of stalled everything. So hopefully we will be able to pick that back up soon. But this in the hands of Attorney Bolton and Steve Lyons, he is the head of AFSCME. I'm not sure exactly what his title is. But I will tell you that the leadership in AFSCME has really stepped up during this pandemic and they have really done a great job getting their jobs done and really working with us. Because there have been some modifications that have had to be made in order to keep them working. And they have been very supportive of that and we appreciate that.

Chairman Dowd

Another question I had is I have heard some discussion lately from people that used to be involved with Park & Rec is some concern that we either might not be able to open our swimming pools and if we do, maybe not right away. If we do, we are going to have to practice certain guidelines. Has any discussion been going on, on that do you know?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Yes, so we have been discussing that, in fact, I had a discussion with Heidi Peek of Environmental Health and Justin Kates from Emergency Management yesterday. That's a tough one. The CDC guidelines for opening pools are very difficult. I am not sure how we would ever meet those guidelines with our public pools, but we have not ruled out opening the pools at this point, but it is currently under discussion but it will be very difficult to open our pools this summer.

Chairman Dowd

The other question that came up was summer camps; some are held within the schools and at least Nashua High School South won't be able to be used. And there are questions as to whether the Board of Ed will allow anyone outside in the schools. So that's something that needs to be looked at.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Yes, same thing, we are having discussions about summer camps too. I think some of the summer camps we may be able to have. But the summer camps that are indoors will be very difficult, I think most of the summer camps that we have will be summer camps that are outdoors where we can practice social distancing with the kids. But that's another thing that we are talking about now. That's another difficult issue because many people use the summer camps for childcare. So if we don't have the summer camps, that's going to be a huge hardship for a lot of Nashua residents. So we are looking really closely at that and, again, having discussions with both public health and emergency management and trying to figure out if there are ways that we can do that safely.

Chairman Dowd

The kids will need a place to release all that pent-up energy from being trapped inside, so I hope we can find a way to do it with social distancing. I know the kids tend to want to go high five and hug each other and all that stuff, so the social distancing will have to be strictly enforced. But we could be able to do that. OK any other questions on the

Mayor Donchess

Can I address that a little further, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Sure absolutely Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

So as you know, we have a group of task forces working on various aspects of the COVID-19 Response. And one of those is, as Lisa has already suggested, looking forward to the camps and pools. There are difficult issues involved as we have already touched upon. Other cities are having this same dilemma because there was a call yesterday by the US Conference of Mayors specifically on the pools/camps issue. Various cities talked about their thoughts but no one has any definitely plans. It seems that all the cities are thinking like we are and the questions you have asked, like, "Can we open these camps and if so under what circumstances". And it seems that probably with respect to the camps, the direction will be towards outside activities with stricter than in the past concerns regarding kids grouping together and in order to maintain health. So that is being carefully considered and we want to try to do the right thing balancing all the interests of the kids and the families and also the interest of keeping people healthy.

Chairman Dowd

All set Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, I remember when I was liaison to the Board of Public Works there was discussion about the cost that the City incurs when there is a repair of a sewer line connection from a residence to the main sewer. There was discussion about how the amount that we charge the homeowner or the building owner, is oftentimes much, much, much less than what it actually cost us. In fact, I think most of those repairs are, you know, we have to subcontract that out to a contractor. What the City ends up paying is much, much more than what the resident reimburses us for. There was talk about looking at those fees and maybe raising them. Where does that stand? That's been pending for a while, I think.

Chairman Dowd

I think jumping into the Solid Waste Discussion, we are going to get there is a minute, but I guess we can just jump there now. Director Fauteux?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Wastewater, so we are still working on that, we had a new City Engineer start, of course, at the end of December. And he was with us a couple of months and then went into remote work. So we are trying to – one of the issues that the Board of Public Works was concerned about was the hardship of that. So my most recent Director's Report which was on April 29th, I had stated that we charge the resident \$600.00 and it costs the City \$15,000.00. So you are right, there is a significant discrepancy there. The Board of Public Works was concerned that, well what do we do when we tell people that, "Look it's your responsibility" how are they going to pay for that because many people don't have \$15,000.00 sitting in a bank account. So we are looking at a number of different things including insurance that can be purchased and so we that hasn't gone a lot further yet because of that sort of concern. It is not a huge amount, we probably do about maybe 12 or 14 a

year like that so we are not talking about an astronomical amount of money but that was really where the hold up is, is trying to figure out what to do for those folks that might have a hardship. It would be a challenge for the City to act as bank, although we could certainly bill people monthly or quarterly with their Wastewater bills. So there are a number of things that are being considered right now. But that's really why it hasn't gone much further because of the pandemic.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, thank you. Sorry for jumping the gun. I guess I was hoping we were done but I guess not.

Chairman Dowd

So if we want to jump over to Solid Waste, we had talked about the revenues. Is John Griffin on the line?

Mayor Donchess

No I don't think so Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

I thought he was going to jump on with us. But we talked about the revenues with John Griffin and David Fredette and of course we didn't talk to these two accounts because they are sort of to some degree anyways (inaudible) funding. We do supplement Solid Waste but are there any particular items that start with Solid Waste that you would like to discuss Director Fauteux and then we will ask if anybody has questions.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Well I would point out that the major increase in this budget really is debt service. You will see an increase of about \$665,000.00 and an interest of \$81,868.00. Other than that, I think things are fairly straight forward on the increases. But I am happy to go through them or happy to answer questions.

Chairman Dowd

Let's see if anybody has any questions on Solid Waste.

Alderman Jette

What page is that on?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

The Debt Service or all of Solid Waste. All of Solid Waste starts on Page 261.

Chairman Dowd

So I have – while people are thinking – I have a question. You have a number of vehicles for purchase under CERF and I know you discussed that with the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners before the pandemic probably. Just out of curiosity because the question has been coming up, are there any of those vehicles that could be pushed off a year. You don' have to get specific.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

So I don't have that CERF list in front of me, I didn't think we were going to discuss that tonight. But we did have that discussion with the Mayor and yes, we did push off some vehicles, deferred two vehicles I should say. And I don't have that, I certainly could get that out to the Committee but I don't have that in front of me this evening.

Chairman Dowd

The question might come up later, I'm not saying we should or shouldn't, it is just some things that have been brought up. The other thing and the question I have is on recycling. Where are we on recycling and is it costing us money to recycle and if so, how much.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Right now we are at about \$95.00 a ton. Recycling has been pretty much stable, we take in about 350 tons or so per month and it has been fairly stable at about \$95.00 a ton which is good, because we were afraid that it was going to go well above \$100.00.

Mayor Donchess

I think we can answer that. So the amount that the City is paying to dispose of recycled materials is about \$400,000.00 a year. It would be higher. The amount the City pays is \$400,000.00 approximately per year. It would be higher but Public Works has made an arrangement with a contract, Casella, to accept back from Casella ground glass to use in the buffer area of the landfill. It is realizing I think about \$16,000.00 a month doing that because it is about 1,000 tons, we receive \$16.00 a ton for that coming back. So that helps to offset the cost which has been an innovation within the last year, which we probably haven't publicized as much as we should. We were going to do something about that and then the pandemic hit. But that was an innovation that was very useful in terms of handling the recycling problem.

Chairman Dowd

Were we looking at using the ground glass in the aggregate for base for roads?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

No, we have not done that. That's something that's been around for a long time. I'm not a huge fan of that. I would worry about the compaction and a lot of things. When we are building roads there is a certain spec of material that should be used. Some communities have used it underneath sidewalks and that sort of thing, but so far we haven't done any of that. DOT isn't doing a lot of it either; although I know, I think the State Legislature is trying to pass a bill that will require, maybe Alderman Schmidt and Klee can speak to this. But a bill to require DOT to use a certain percentage of glass for road base. But that really hasn't taken off; that's been around for a very long time. We are using it in our set back and we are using it for covering the landfill right now. But as the Mayor said it has helped us reduce the cost of recycling.

Chairman Dowd

OK another question I have is, are there any of the revenues whether it be in Solid Waste or Waste Water that we could consider increasing without it being a huge burden on people, particularly if we have fees, I know there's a balance of fees on outside agencies that do dumping at the landfill?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

So our recycling center isn't run as a true recycling center, right? We charge a \$5.00 permit and people bring in almost anything except C and D.

Chairman Dowd

I was thinking more in the line of trash not recyclables.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

No, no. So the going – the tipping fee for trash is somewhere around \$65.00 and we charge \$80.00. So I don't there would be any room for us to add anymore there. The Board of Public Works though is looking at increasing the cost for C and D. So that will be coming soon I believe to the Board of Aldermen to ask for that increase. Because there will be a chance in the Ordinance.

Chairman Dowd

What is our cost for recycling or getting rid of all of the electronics equipment that gets dumped?

Mayor Donchess

(inaudible) \$125,000.00 isn't it?

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

It's a lot, it's at least that.

Mayor Donchess

So we should be charging for that.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Yeah, we probably should be charging for that. We pay per pound, Alderman Dowd, and I can't off the top of my head think of the ...

Mayor Donchess

I think its \$125,000.00 to get rid of the electronics.

Chairman Dowd

OK because I am seeing days when there's just a phenomenal amount of stuff there. Anyway, anyone else have any questions regarding Solid Waste or Wastewater? I'm not seeing any. Any other questions, whatsoever, for Director Fauteux? Alright, well thank you very much Director Fauteux.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

You're welcome, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

It was less painful than it could have been.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

It was very strange not having superintendents with me. I've never done this before by myself.

Chairman Dowd

We are in a pandemic learning curve.

Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works

Right.

Chairman Dowd

Alright. Do I have a motion Alderman O'Brien?

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO TABLE R-20-023 BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Dowd

Motion carries and R-20-023 is tabled until our next meeting which is on the 13th, Community Development. And did everyone get a copy of the Process & Procedure for the Public Hearing which is on the 20th of May? I believe Donna put that out to everyone, I hope. I'm pretty sure she did. So we have the electronic process for doing it. It is very, very similar to the Planning Board and Zoning Board. The Public will be actually able to call in and ask questions. We will have all the Division Directors at a minimum and anybody else they would like to put on to answer the questions of the public I am hoping we don't cause a bandwidth problem with 100 people from the City on. Anyway, so R-20-028 should be tabled. I believe we took motion to table that, it is listed in here as not being tabled, but we tabled that. And the Mayor will get back to us when they are ready to discuss it in more detail.

R-20-028

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-large David C. Tencza
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Patricia Klee

**AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A MASTER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH LANSINGMELBOURNE GROUP, LLC.
(remains tabled)**

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Chairman Dowd

Tomorrow at 3:00 p.m. by the way there is a public meeting being chaired by Director Cummings on the possibilities of narrowing Main Street use by the businesses and the restaurants. So if anybody is interested. And then next Tuesday is the Board of Alderman and the 11th is Human Affairs.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIENTO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL

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

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 8:00 p.m.

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