

## BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

MAY 20, 2021

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Thursday, May 20, 2021, 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:

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

To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.

*To join by phone dial: 1-929-205-6099 Meeting ID: 849 4114 9715 and Passcode: 477492*

*The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.*

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](http://www.nashuanh.gov) and publicly noticed at City Hall and Nashua Public Library.

If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-589-3329 and they will help you connect.

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.  
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Also in Attendance:

Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu  
Alderman Tom Lopez  
Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager  
Steve Bolton, Esquire, Corporation Counsel  
Susan Lovering, City Clerk  
Doria Brown, Energy Manager  
Bill Mansfield, Radio Systems Manager  
Jennifer Deshaies, Risk Manager  
Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager  
John Griffin, CFO  
Pamela Davies, Grant Writer  
Cheryl Lindner, Chief of Staff

ROLL CALL

Alderwoman Kelly

I am here, my children are in the room and I can hear everyone.

Alderman O'Brien

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr. is present, I can hear the proceedings and I am alone. Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

I am here, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Jette

I am here alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Schmidt

I am present, alone and can hear everyone.

Alderman Clemons

I am here, I am by myself and I can hear everyone and I apologize, I am having a little bit of internet issues, so if I am in and out that's why, but hopefully right now it is stable.

Chairman Dowd

I am present, I can hear the proceedings and I am alone.

Alderman O'Brien

Alright, Mr. Chairman, you have all Committee members of 7 are present. Also in attendance are Alderman Lopez, Alderwoman Elizabeth Lu and Alderman Klee. Is there any other Alderman that I did not see and

make mention? OK. Also in attendance, Mr. Chairman, the Honorable Mayor James Donchess; Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director; Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager; Steve Bolton, Esquire, Corporate Counsel; Sue Lovering, City Clerk; Doria Brown, Energy Manager; Bill Mansfield, Radio Systems Manager; Jennifer Deshaies, Risk Manager; Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager; and also John Griffin, CFO.

Chairman Dowd

Did we miss anyone?

Alderman O'Brien

Pamela Davies raised her hand, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

And Cheryl Lindner.

Alderman O'Brien

Who else, sir?

Chairman Dowd

Cheryl Lindner. All members of the public should have their phones or computers on mute or we will have to mute everyone. The first item of business is Public Comment. Are there any members of the public that would like to have any comments on the Agenda for tonight's Budget Meeting?

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano – Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, go ahead.

Ms. Ortolano – I know we are going to review the Legal Budget and I am just putting it on the table that I don't support the position for the Right-to-Know Coordinator in that budget. I don't think we got the service as residents expected to get out of that position. They are not serving as the conduit that I thought they would to assist the public in gathering and obtaining information, particularly given this pandemic. And I know Alderman Dowd spoke about the other duties they do, but this individual was really hired to perform that Right-to-Know function and I think it's been a pretty miserable failure for the City and for the public, worse for the public. And I don't support spending the money on that position; I don't think it should have been something that was put into the Legal Department. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other members of the public? Seeing and hearing none, Communications?

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

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**NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS****R-21-142**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

**RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2022 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**

- Public Hearing scheduled for June 21, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. at NHS-North Auditorium

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN FOR PENDING FINAL PASSAGE R-21-142, BY ROLL CALL****ON THE QUESTION****Chairman Dowd**

OK the motion is for pending final passage; we are going to take that Resolution on to the table. At the end of the meeting, we will again table the motion until we are through all the Budget Review Meetings. As we have done in the past few years, you can make a motion if you want to change something, but we tend to wait until we have gone through all of the Departments and we have a wrap up session where you can make motions to change anything in the Budget.

I want to go through a few things, I will try to put this out in writing but we are under sort of a compressed schedule this year. As we are going through the different Departments, I am going to ask for questions from the Budget Committee members first and until all of those questions are resolved, then I would ask for any of the other Aldermen for questions. If there are questions that don't get resolved tonight or they can't provide an answer tonight because they don't have the data with them, I want the questions to go to the Department

heads via Donna.

When the Department Heads respond, they will respond back to Donna and all the Aldermen will get a copy of the answers. On the Department presenting this evening and any going forward, we don't need a long explanation of what that Department does. I think all the Aldermen should know basically what those Departments do, you can give a short explanation, but a long explanation is already in the Budget Book and everybody has a copy of the Budget Book. As far as salaries go, I have been through the Budget in detail and I would say most, if not all of the salary lines are caused by Union Contracts or the Unaffiliated Salary Scales. The only thing we'd like to know, unless somebody else wants to delve into something we should know the answer to, if the Department added a person or lost a person so that we know why that change took place.

Again, we try to wait for motions to change things until the wrap up sessions. But I think that's pretty much what I wanted to cover this evening. If there are other things, I will be putting out something before Monday. So the first item that we are going to discuss is General Government and the first Department is 101 – the Mayor's Office. Mayor, did you want to say something before we get started generally about the Budget?

#### Mayor Donchess

Yes, thank you Mr. Chair and thank you members of the Committee. As usual I plan to give you a short overview of the Budget so we can at least place it into context. But before doing so, I would like to thank our City Budget Team consisting principally of Mr. Griffin, the CFO; Ms. Kleiner, Administrative Services Director; Cheryl Lindner, Chief of Staff and other people from all of the Departments who have worked on the Budget. And while we are just touching on the presentation, Mr. Chair, you'll notice that year by year we have been trying to provide more text information as far as describing what Departments are doing and what goals and objectives that they have accomplished in order to give you, members of the Board as well as the public, more insight into what each of the Departments does and what they are focused on.

Up until a few years ago all we had was pages and pages of numbers, we have tried to make that more accessible of a document so people would be more accountable for the dollars that are being spent. In terms of the Budget, Mr. Chair, the overall Budget is \$290 million dollars roughly. And as I said when I introduced it, I want to emphasize at the beginning that if were not for the State of New Hampshire and the actions that they've taken with respect to pushing costs onto cities and towns, this Budget would result in a flat tax rate, maybe even down a little bit from this year to this coming fall. Now as we have discussed before, unfortunately the State is really slamming the cities and this City and all of the cities and towns with some major increases and costs and reduction in revenues which result in a significant tax increase which we are trying to offset by saving on the City side. But as we have detailed before, the City's pension budget, nothing to do with increased wages, the State has raised the bill by \$4.4 million dollars.

And in terms of our School Aid, right in the middle of a pandemic, the City has reduced School Aid over \$7 million. When you put those two things together, paying for the State Pension System, the new bill and replacing those dollars that the State is cutting for our schools that translates, just doing those things, translates to a 5 ½% tax increase for the citizens of New Hampshire imposed by the State of New Hampshire.

So we have done some things to try to reduce that Mr. Chairman and offset what the State is doing to us. First of all, believe it or not, the Federal Government has helped come to the rescue. This is maybe the reverse of what many people would think, you think the State Government would be your friend and the Federal Government may be causing problems. But instead, the State is causing the problems and the Federal Government is coming through with the American Rescue Plan which is going to enable us to, and the Budget proposes, to replace \$4.4 million of the lost revenue from the State with these federal dollars. So that helps a bit. But we also took actions at the local level to try to keep taxes down to try to keep expenses, increases to a minimum given what the State has been doing.

So what I did is I asked most of the Departments to try to work towards to work towards a flat budget; a budget that is next year the coming year is the same as this year; not necessarily easy to accomplish. But our

City Hall Departments and other Departments have worked very hard to reach that goal and I want to thank the many Departments that have done that to help us keep the taxes down and keep the State's impact to an absolute minimum. The things that have been accomplished is at City Hall, in terms of creating this guideline, we put all the City Hall Departments together, that includes Administrative Services and potentially – and some others because these are smaller departments and we thought if we save money in one place that is the way to just achieve an overall objective of a City Hall zero.

Now actually the City Hall Budget is down surprisingly enough by 2.7%. The largest factor there is the changes in the healthcare plan that we have discussed before Mr. Chairman, the changes in the City HMO Plan which has been adopted by all City Hall employees. That has helped us plus some elimination of duplication, actually to bring the budget in lower. Thank you to all of our departments for doing that. Thank you Ms. Kleiner and the benefits people for working with our consultant to design an HMO Plan that can save money both for City employees and for City taxpayers. Along the same lines, Mr. Chair, Public Works their budget is down, again down, because of this healthcare change and because we eliminated some duplication. The Public Works Budget is actually down 1.8% and the Library, for similar reasons, is down 1.9%. So this is a big help and I want to thank those departments.

I also gave the 0% to some of our outside departments such as the Fire and Police Departments. Now we have been discussing budgets there for years and I have been commenting for some years that they are building budgets that I don't think are sustainable. The Fire Department has proposed not the 0% but a 4% increase, double the rate of inflation and the Police Department more like closer to 3%. So in considering those requests, I know we are going to hear that they can't do without these dollars, they need 4%, they need whatever the Police Department has requested. Certainly we all appreciate all the work that our firefighters and police officers and the two Commissions do for the City. But on the other hand we have to consider the taxpayers and balance those needs.

So rather than try to enforce the 0% as was accomplished by City Hall and some of the other Departments, I propose a compromise in this Budget; not 0% - certainly that would be from a financial point of view better. I propose 1.7% for each of those Departments, 1.7% equaling the cost of living. Now this is a difficult Budget Year and these are difficult decisions, like always, when you are put under pressure like this by the State of New Hampshire, you know, we have to make the decision do we want to raise taxes, cut services? I mean there's not easy way out of all of this. Again, were it for Concord we would be able to keep the tax rate flat with the Budget that I have proposed. So that gives you some overview on those departments.

For the School Department I did take a somewhat of a different approach because of the disruption that has occurred as a result of COVID-19; kids not being connected with some of the on-line learning and the like. So for them I asked for a 1.5% increase. They came in, but for the healthcare issue and that still hasn't been resolved for them, very close to that. I just split the difference between their budget and mine which I think is about \$100,000.00 but you will get to that when you get to the School Department. So we are trying to be frugal in the ways that I have described, trying to help the hardworking taxpayers of Nashua but we still, Mr. Chairman, are accomplishing a number of very positive goals with the Budget that is before you.

We are continuing our paving plan of action, thank you to all the Aldermen for your support in improving that major component of our Infrastructure. Once this paving season is done, we will have paved over 120 miles of streets of the 300. And that's been a major goal, a major accomplishment and we have crack sealed, a way of preserving streets for a while, another 70 miles or so. So there's been a lot of work done there, and we are continuing with that. We are continuing with our Riverfront Master Plan, the lighting of the Cotton Transfer Bridge and the River Walk north of the River is going to be activated in the next week or so, I think maybe on Saturday night. So that is just the first stage, the rest being in design.

And Mr. Chair, I know you are very familiar with the Middle School Improvement Plan. We have already upgraded Fairgrounds and brought it State of the Art Technology as well as a solar powered school. And now we are proceeding to Pennichuck and we will ultimately be replacing Elm Street with a new school in the south end, a more fiscally sound approach and less expensive approach than trying to fix up Elm Street. But this will make our Middle Schools the best schools, we think, Middle Schools in the State of New Hampshire.

So we are moving forward with that.

One final thing I wanted to mention which is a new thing in the Budget. In the Capital Improvements section, I did propose, in addition to the regular Police Department Budget, the purchase of body cameras. This has been something that the Police Department has, over the past months, has suggested they think would be a good idea, an idea that they could support if we could find the money. So I proposed money for body cameras; the first year of that costs more than the subsequent years, it is kind of a pay as you go plan. But the first year is something over \$300,000.00 but that is within the Capital Improvements Budget which is basically flat from this current year. So that is something that I think will help our Police Department.

But we see the good weather, we see the outdoor dining, we see at least some light on the end of the COVID-19 tunnel, so I think this Budget is in-line with overall City objectives and helps us signal that we have a strong and vibrant City. So that gives you an overview, Mr. Chair. If anybody has any questions or comments, of course, I am here to answer those. Otherwise for the Mayor's Budget I will go on to Cheryl Lindner and then I know Ms. Kleiner is here for the Administrative Services portions of the Budget as well as the various Department heads. Again, thank you to all of them for working so hard to deliver a very, very tight budget. Bill Mansfield is here, I think he's on the call with Citywide Communications, although it doesn't all appear in the Budget, he is doing a very good job in renegotiating some of these cell tower contracts with the cell phone companies as well as negotiating the terms of a new cell tower. So we will be able to bring in more money that way through the cell tower. So you'll see his Budget and you can ask him about the additional revenue that we expect to be able to put in place sometime during the Fiscal year.

But with that, Mr. Chair, I think I wrap up, unless you have questions, just turn it over to Ms. Lindner.

#### Chairman Dowd

Before I see if there are any questions from the Budget Committee, I just would like to mention to people that the final tax rate is set by the State and there are a lot of steps between now and then and we have an estimate right now but there are things that change. Last year we were fighting to keep the tax rate around 3% and in the end it ended up being less than 3% because of other things that changed. So the numbers that were mentioned aren't final, things could happen.

#### Mayor Donchess

Yes and I should be clear about that. The 5.5% factor from the State of New Hampshire, I mean we have offset that to some degree. So, again, this is an estimate as you have just pointed out Mr. Chair. But if this Budget passes as is we are probably in the 3% to 4% range, you know, and we are using a little bit of federal money and then our own budget actions to try to offset the, rather the body slam we are receiving from the State of New Hampshire.

#### Chairman Dowd

I talked to Mr. Griffin today, we are going to be working hand-in-hand over the next month to make sure all the numbers add up. Alright any questions for the Mayor before we get started? Alderman O'Brien?

#### Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. I was just – basically a comment. I could not agree more so than what the Mayor says. A lot of the troubles that come down from Concord. As many of my constituents and the people of Nashua know, I wear another hat, I am also a State Rep. I would just like to say that the current and there's 27 State Reps from the City of Nashua and out of 27, there was a bi-partisan effort on one of the bills that I wrote that was supposed to help alleviate some of the problems with the pension system, much that led into this \$4.4 million dollar deficit. Unfortunately, it fell on deaf ears up in Concord, they really do, the majority party and I hate to do this but you gotta really call it out for what it really is. It fell, even though it had backing from the New Hampshire Municipal Association, they were not interested in it. So Mr. Mayor, again, I agree but I want the

people to know that the 27 delegates that come from Nashua were united with you and working strongly for the citizens of this City trying to alleviate. But like all good things as sometimes happen in politics, I find the 27 bravely shoveled the sand against, not a tide, but against a storm. I am very proud of them, I think they did a great job and I just would like that the citizens know that, that it isn't the current but they did do a good yeoman's job of trying to defend the needs of the City.

#### Mayor Donchess

Alderman O'Brien is correct; our delegation has been strongly in favor of trying to help the City. Had Alderman O'Brien's Bill passed and that had to do with pensions, there were some other Bills concerning the School Aid supported by our delegation, had these bills passed, the situation would be different than what it is. I think Alderman O'Brien's Bill failed on the floor by 6 or 8 votes after a very determined effort, the majority just seems to want to look the other way on this. I'd like to make it clear that we are not the only City involved here, I mean the Mayors of 13 cities, we have written to the Governor, the Senate President, the Senate Finance, whatever, trying to get them to help all of the cities and towns. Like Alderman O'Brien we have not really received any kind of hearing, in fact, no answers to those letters at all, even though we represent together 40% of the State's population or so.

#### Chairman Dowd

OK I have Alderwoman Kelly.

#### Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you Alderman Dowd. I just wanted to comment and then ask a quick question to the Mayor. So obviously thank you for the hard work, it has been an interesting year for everybody and I know putting this Budget together was a task for you and your staff and everyone really in the City here. My question is around the School Budget. So I think when you first presented it to us at Board of Aldermen and tonight you said the school has been up against a lot of things this year including loss of learning and lots of other things that are happening. But then I think I understood it that you are saying that they should be the lowest of all the big 3, is that right in terms of what you want them to come in at?

#### Mayor Donchess

No if you look, I mean the School Budget is a little more involved because the issue of what health plan they will have next Fiscal Year is not resolved. But if you sort of leave that aside, their budget is up about 1.7% and so they are not the lowest of the Departments. I have proposed for them about the same as for Fire and Police. If you total their budget is it more but it doesn't include the health plan. There are teacher negotiations going on so there's a lot of moving parts when it comes to the school budget.

I would like to comment that, of course, the City – we are under a lot of financial pressure. Two other comments; property taxes in New Hampshire are high as a result of all these things being done by the State. And this is just one year, it's like you get detailed year by year the stuff that they have pushed on to the property taxpayers. But Nashua does have the second lowest taxes of any City in New Hampshire. The only lower one is Portsmouth, that really is because of the unbelievably high real estate values there, they probably pay higher taxes because the houses are worth so much. But compared with all the other cities we are the lowest, other than Portsmouth. That's number one.

Number two) there are teacher negotiations going on. I mean one thing that we have to think about is that our teachers relative to other teachers are underpaid. If you look at the list of average salaries that the Department of Education puts out, we are around the 61<sup>st</sup> in line. There are 59 or 60 other school districts that pay, on average, teachers more than Nashua, some considerably more. Now, again, we have to consider what can be afforded, but I think we have to keep this in mind. If we want an excellent education for every student in every school, in the long-term we need the best teachers we can get.

To do that, I mean our teachers have been doing a great job in the middle of a pandemic, with all of the on-line learning. I just talked to a parent today who was talking about how her child's teacher is teaching at the same time, in person and on-line with a mixed group of students, some on-line; very difficult job. Our teachers have been working hard, but relative to other teachers, they are not that well paid and I think we have to take that into consideration in the years ahead.

Chairman Dowd

All set, Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Is there anyone else in the Budget Committee that has a question for the Mayor? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mayor, you mentioned the American Rescue Plan. I think I heard you say that you are looking to get \$4 million dollars from the American Rescue Plan, the federal money. I think I read somewhere that there's a condition on that, that it can't be used to lower the tax rate. Can you elaborate on that?

Mayor Donchess

Yes.

Alderman Jette

How is that going to work on our budget?

Mayor Donchess

Well first of all a clearly allowable use is the replacement of lost revenue and we are clearly losing money from the State of New Hampshire. And, of course, it won't result in a reduction in taxes because our tax rate, as a result of the other lost revenue from the State and the pension bill, is going to go up. So this is clearly, this is definitely an allowable use. If we simplified an example and the City had a \$20 tax rate, well we are use this to bring it down to \$19 to \$18 and that were the only factor involved, that would not be allowed. But clearly lost revenue, replacement of lost revenue is one of the principal uses approved by both in the law and in the regulations.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

All set, Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, I am. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other Budget Committee members or other Aldermen that would like to ask a question of the Mayor? Seeing and hearing none, Mayor, all set to turn it over to your able assistant, Ms. Lindner?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, I am. I expect you to really grill her.

Cheryl Lindner, Chief of Staff

OK well good evening everyone. Thank you for giving me the time to talk to you tonight and explain our Budget for Fiscal Year '22. My name is Cheryl Lindner, I am Mayor Donchess' Chief of Staff. I just want to take a brief minute to just explain the function of the Mayor's Office. So the Mayor's Office facilitates interactions between constituents and the City, works with other Departments on projects and initiatives, communicates and engages with the public and creates a welcoming atmosphere within the City and City Government. Our Budget we presented for Fiscal Year '22 has no staffing changes. There is an increase from Fiscal Year '21 by \$4,160.00 and that is due to the Unaffiliated Wage Structure within the City.

Other than that, we really don't have many other line items in our budget, it is mostly just the staffing. So at that point, I am happy to answer any questions that you have for me on anything, for our Department.

Chairman Dowd

Excellent presentation.

Ms. Lindner

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

And by the way, the appropriations are on Page 54. Does anyone from the Budget Committee have a question on the Mayor's Budget? Seeing none, any other Aldermen? None? Thank you very much, Chery.

Ms. Lindner

You're very welcome, thank you. It's nice to see you all again.

Chairman Dowd

Alright the next budget to discuss is Civic & Community Activities, Other Services, Outside Agencies Equipment, Department 109, appropriations are on Page 69. Who will be presenting? No one? Mayor did you have anybody?

Mayor Donchess

Well the Community Projects, the CFO can refresh my recollection as to what page those are on.

Chairman Dowd

69.

Mayor Donchess

So those went to the Citizen's Advisory Committee as they always do. So the overall budget, this is the money that goes to the social service agencies; that's principally what the money is. For many year now, we have been asking the Citizen's Advisory Committee, they used to have a different name for it, but the Citizen's Advisory Committee to review social service requests and then make recommendations so that we have an informed group of decisions regarding how the money should be allocated. The amount of money is basically flat from the current year, the total amount of money and you can see on Page 69 and 70 the allocations that the Citizen's Advisory Committee have made. I always just rely on them; this was something that we instituted when I was Mayor before. I always rely on them to have made the right judgements rather than to second guess everything. They have spent time talking with everyone at these social service agencies. So what you see are the allocations, the dollars that I made available, the allocations that the Citizen's Advisory Committee under the leadership of Jason Telerski has recommended.

Chairman Dowd

OK so the list is on Page 69 and 70 if anybody has questions they can send them in through Donna and we can get answers. But one thing I will mention that there are two establishments in Nashua that provide hundreds of thousands of dollars to many of these agencies and other groups so that it keeps us from having to feel bad about not being able to provide all the money we should be providing to those groups. So if you see some of these agencies that have now gone to zero it is because they are receiving funds from another venue. Alright.

Mayor Donchess

The allocations vary year by year depending on what is proposed. Some agencies go up and others down. But overall the total that we are dedicating to this group is about the same.

Chairman Dowd

Right. Just in case there are any questions that we can answer right now? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Just for clarification, this money that is listed in this Budget, is this actual City of Nashua tax money? Or is this money that comes from the Federal Government that just passes through us, I'm thinking of Community Development Block Grant money. Is that additional to this?

Mayor Donchess

The money that you see on Page 69 and 70 is City money that is devoted to this purpose. The Community Development Block Grant money that also in part is dedicated to helping some of the social service agencies, that, of course, there's a proposal but that goes through the Human Affairs Committee. You see that money elsewhere in the Budget.

Chairman Dowd

All set, Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

If there are no further questions, the next Department that we will discuss is the Board of Aldermen. Donna? That's on Page 55.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager to the Board of Aldermen

Good evening, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to present my budget tonight. My name is Donna Graham and I am the Legislative Affairs Manager to the Board of Aldermen. Our budget is level funded with no increases and I have no change in staffing. There is one full-time employee and a part-time employee. President Wilshire and I are pleased to submit our budget to you which is within the Mayor's guidelines of level funding. And if you have any questions, I'd be happy to answer them. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any questions for Donna? Any of the Budget Committee? No? Any Aldermen? No?

Alderman Lopez

I have a question.

Chairman Dowd

Tom Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

(Inaudible) standing in an alleyway, there's nobody around me.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, what's your question?

Alderman Lopez

My question is it legally possible if some of the Board of Aldermen chose to give back (audio cuts out).

Chairman Dowd

Give back their salaries? I guess I'd leave that question up to Attorney Bolton.

Alderman Lopez

My second question would be would it make a difference overall to the tax rate?

Chairman Dowd

Based on the amount of money it probably wouldn't.

Alderman Lopez

I just feel like it is worth asking the question, exploring what the impact would be?

Steve Bolton, Corporation Counsel

Anyone can make a charitable donation to the City and specify how they wish their contribution to spend. The Board of Aldermen would then have to accept it and spend it and make an appropriation of the funds. I am hearing quite a bit of static, I don't know if you can hear me.

(Static and overlapping conversation)

Attorney Bolton

And if the conditions are desired by the donor are too rigorous the Board of Aldermen could choose not to accept the donation. So a donation equal to the amount of Aldermanic compensation by a sitting Alderman, as I said a donation by anybody in any amount is possible. If someone wishes to tonight \$10 million dollars that would be enough to show up on the tax rate. Substantially less than that would have a corresponding less impact.

Chairman Dowd

OK in my history with that one person 10 years and you have to sort of take the money and then donate it back because the money is by Legislation. The only Alderman that I know did that, provided his funding to one of the schools because he was fairly well off and I think it was actually to the school, I forget what they call them now.

Attorney Bolton

PTO's.

Chairman Dowd

PTO's, yes, thank you. So that's possible. But what we get paid, which hardly doesn't even cover our expenses certainly wouldn't make a big dent in the tax rate. Alderwoman Lu?

Alderman Lopez

Can I just follow up?

Chairman Dowd

Follow up?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah because I know it is not a significant amount towards the budget individually and I know that compensation (static) for me is very minimal and I am not suggesting that other Aldermen should feel burdened to do this but I was actually asking about pretax, before it is paid to us (static/inaudible).

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Lopez, we can hardly hear you. I would suggest perhaps you put that question in writing and send it through Donna so that it can be answered by Mr. Griffin.

Alderman Lopez

OK will do.

Chairman Dowd

Alright. Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. I notice that the benefits here went up six fold. Is that going to be typical of the Departments this year?

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin? I am pretty sure that's that impact the State sent down to us.

John Griffin, CFO

Was it the benefits question Mr. Chairman or the sum of the line? Benefits to include health and dental or is it (inaudible).

Alderwoman Lu

Would you like me to answer that question?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Alderwoman Lu

52 300 Benefits from 5 to 25 to 28?

Mr. Griffin

I'm sorry are we on the Board of Aldermen?

Chairman Dowd

We are on the Board of Aldermen, that's on Page 55. I don't see those numbers.

Alderwoman Lu

I was looking at last year versus this year, this is what I was looking at.

Chairman Dowd

That's on Page 55. They have the original 2021 Budget, the available 2021 Budget, what has been spent to date and what is projected this year and on the benefit line it looks like it is down about \$2,000.00.

Alderwoman Lu

I am wrong, thank you for clarifying that for me. I am all set.

Chairman Dowd

No problem. Anyone else, question on the Board of Alderman Budget? Alright, seeing none, we will move on to the Legal Department. Attorney Bolton, are you going to – OH and that's on Page 58.

Attorney Bolton

Thank you. I think everyone is aware we added another lawyer to primarily deal with Right-to-Know issues and \$100,000.00 was transferred in, in the middle of the last Fiscal Year. So that accounts for some of the increase in the salary and wages area. Other than that, it is the normal increase provided for in the compensation plan for unaffiliated employees. Benefits are what they are, that's calculated not by me but by the Human Resources and Financial Departments. After that, the small increase in other lines, for example, there are memberships, we are paying the Bar Dues, the Bar Association Dues for 4 lawyers now rather than 3. The training and certifications, we now have 4 lawyers instead of 3 required to take continuing legal education courses to the tune of 12 hours a year.

Other than that I tried to reflect on how much the small areas we expended during the course of the last Fiscal Year, things like recording fees, postage, litigation expenses. Some of those went up somewhat, others we kept level, not an awful lot of money but if you've got major litigation with serious issues with potential serious dollars involved, sometimes you've got to spend a little money to take a deposition or to seek expert help and that's what some of these lines involve. We actually have had more in the way of filing and recording fees. Recently we are getting involved in more real estate dealings where we are providing property and making sales or exchanges of property and that has some small expense for the recording fees and so forth. So that's reflected to a small extent.

Chairman Dowd

Any questions for Legal? Alderman O'Brien then Alderman Jette.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Attorney Bolton, you mentioned and I do remember we transferred funds over to hire the new position. I just want to see is that position really doing what we intended? Is it freeing up your office for the other attorneys whose workload has been, that was ignored that they are capable of doing what is expected of them in handling the different – so basically in a nutshell what we are asking are the citizens getting the bang for their buck for this new position?

Attorney Bolton

Absolutely. No one is sitting around with no work to do. Jesse, the lawyer we hired to fill that position, Jesse Neumann, is a very conscientious, very dedicated. He's working extremely hard and has taken a considerable amount of the burden that would otherwise, Attorney Leonard or Attorney Clarke or myself would have to deal with. That has freed up those others of us to work on other projects, some are quite major; the School Street Project, the Bronstein Redevelopment Project. We just went through and closed approximately a week ago and exchange of lots with Public Service of New Hampshire over at the mill yard. We are still working on and hope to get it closed next month, the sale of the Burke Street property.

Attorney Leonard has worked very hard on all of those issues along with the Economic Development Office. Similarly she was responsible for most of the legal work in connection with the Performing Arts Center which was very substantial. We all know that Dorie Clarke is writing most of the Legislation that you folks deal with on a regular basis and she's constantly working on those issues. She also is very involved in some of the Human Resource related matters, helping establish policies for City Hall. And all of our employees over the last year, what we have required of City Hall employees in terms of dealing with the pandemic, Dorie has been our liaison to the task force involved with that.

I deal mostly with litigation matters and general overview of the office. All 4 lawyers and as often is not the two legal assistants get together regularly and discuss what are our pending issues, what are our plans to

deal with them and allocate our time accordingly so we are providing the best quality legal services that we can. If we did not have the fourth lawyer, it would take considerable time away from what are frankly more important tasks, citizens who are requesting detailed and complicated array of documents, they would have to wait much longer for all of those documents to be retrieved, analyzed, perhaps redacted and provided to them.

So as far as I am concerned, we have gotten very good service, better than we could have recently hoped for when we added the additional attorney, Right-to-Know Coordinator position.

Chairman Dowd

One additional thing is the Middle School Projects, Attorney Leonard has done an extensive amount of work on the Middle School project and was aided quite well by Attorney Neumann. Follow up, Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

No. Thank you Counsel and thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

OK I believe I had Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, thank you Mr. Chairman. So Attorney Bolton, I know from my experience in the past, litigation can be very expensive. I see nothing here regarding outside counsel. Have we not had the need to hire outside counsel and do you not anticipate that need in the coming year?

Attorney Bolton

The School Department regularly uses outside counsel for certain matters and the Risk Department, Risk and Insurance Department on cases that are covered by our Insurance Fund and our Umbrella Policy. The Umbrella Carrier often requires that we hire people, other lawyers with particular expertise in certain subject matters. So those come out of other budgets. I am often involved in discussions and consideration of possible settlements, possible approaches, possible strategic matters. So I consult on those even when I am not directly handling the case. But as I say, those come out of other budgets, not the Legal Department.

Alderman Jette

OK could I follow up Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Follow up? Sure.

Alderman Jette

So you mentioned settlements, that's another question I had. I have heard that the City has been involved in litigation or potential litigations, claims of various kinds where settlements have been agreed upon. I don't see anything here. Are those settlements in some other budget, somewhere else?

Attorney Bolton

Well it depends on what they are. For example, the ones I am most involved in concern tax abatement appeals. So if the taxpayer contends that their property is disproportionately higher assessed than the general

run of properties in the community, they first apply to the Board of Assessors for an abatement. If they are dissatisfied with the decision of the Board of Assessors, the taxpayer may choose to file an appeal either in the Superior Court or at the Board of Tax and Land Appeals which sits in Concord. Sometimes, we are able to come to an agreement that is satisfactory to the taxpayer and we don't have to try those cases. Those settlements are approved or not by the Board of Assessors and the refunds, if any, are paid out of what is called the overlay which is an account that is set aside just for that purpose, for the purpose of paying refunds to taxpayers who have been over assessed.

In other circumstances, if it is a Workers' Compensation Claim, there is a Trust Fund, it is managed by the Risk Department and the payment might come out of that fund. Similarly with other matters where we are self-insured, ordinary general liability, negligence case, someone falls and hurts themselves getting on or off a City bus or some City vehicle, the driver is somehow negligent or alleged to be negligent in the operation of the City vehicle, someone is injured thereby. That comes out of those funds managed by Risk. In those cases it is the Finance Committee that approves the settlement and most of those would be reviewed by the Finance Committee in the first instance, not in public session. So those things are not in this budget.

Chairman Dowd

All set, Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, I am. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other Alderman with questions for Legal? Seeing none, thank you Attorney Bolton. Now we will go to Department 107, City Clerk's Office which is on Page 63.

Susan Lovering, City Clerk

Good Evening, Mr. Chairman and members of the Budget Review Committee. For the record, my name is Sue Lovering and I am the City Clerk and I am pleased to be before you this evening presenting my budget. You will notice that there is a reduction in my bottom line of a little over \$75,000.00; \$75,931.00 to be exact. This is the result of having only one election this year as opposed to the three. Regarding the positions, we have eliminated the Department Coordinator position. That position has been vacant since a year ago March. Other than that, all line items remain flat; we are zero increase, zero level budgeting except for a small increase in Other Contracted Services, about \$2,120.00 has been added to cover the Inauguration that we will be having in January. And that's a quick overview and I am happy to answer any questions. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any questions for the City Clerk on her budget? Seeing none. The only I spotted, it must've been somewhere else was the dog licenses are way down. You probably covered that, but I don't know where it was.

City Clerk Lovering

The revenue, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yeah the revenue. But it is quite significant from '19 and '20 or '20 and '21.

City Clerk Lovering

Usually we have a civil recount to the Board of the Aldermen with a civil forfeiture for those that do not license. And while our offices were closed and during the pandemic, many of the dog owners and veterinarians actually were also closed and they were unable to have their rabies and weren't able to make arrangements or were fearful to come out or drop checks off in the back and did not register. Our licensing season is actually in April; those numbers are quite high up now and we have seen people come current, not paying last year's when registering this year.

Chairman Dowd

OK that question might come up later so I thought we'd get an answer now. Thank you very much. Any other questions for the City Clerk? Thank you Ms. Lovering.

City Clerk Lovering

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, next is Energy Management, it's on Page 68, it is Department 108. Ms. Brown?

Doria Brown, Energy Manager

Yeah, I am right here. Hi I am Doria Brown, I am the Energy Manager for the City of Nashua. There isn't much change to my budget except in the step changes. Other than that it is pretty much the same from last year.

Chairman Dowd

Questions for Energy Management? I just have a couple. Consulting Services, it didn't look like we didn't spend anything this year.

Ms. Brown

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

But we expect to spend it next year.

Ms. Brown

So we expect to roll that over to next year; we are going to use it for Community Power to give to the Community Power Coalition which is a joint power agreement that you voted to join last Board of Aldermen session. So I am hoping to use that for consulting services so we have the best aggregation plan possible.

Chairman Dowd

OK the only other question I had is I am really familiar with the amount of solar panels on the top of Fairgrounds Middle School. We have them on several buildings now. Do we have any idea how much that's saving the City or is going to save us in '22?

Ms. Brown

So I actually did the City's cost, I have to look it up on my computer really fast.

Chairman Dowd

If you don't have that right now you can send it to us.

Ms. Brown

Yeah I can definitely send it.

Chairman Dowd

People would like to have that because we are also going to be putting solar panels on the top of Pennichuck and the new Middle School. So we will hopefully have significant savings from the solar work that we are doing. Alright, any other questions for Ms. Brown? No? Alright, thank you very much. Next is Citywide Communications, Page 162. Mr. Mansfield?

Bill Mansfield

How are you sir?

Chairman Dowd

Pretty good. I see your new tower all the time.

Mr. Mansfield

I am sure you do.

Chairman Dowd

So do you want to fill us in on your budget?

Mr. Mansfield

OK my name is Bill Mansfield, I want to thank you all this evening for having me respond to my budget proposal. This year's budget is, there is no increase to it. It's just as a refresher – so the Communications Divisions is basically, there's two of us that manage a 10 channel trunked radio system that is utilized by everybody in the City. So when I say "everybody in the City" I am talking about all City that includes Police, Fire, all the DPW Departments and Divisions. Anybody in the City that has a radio, pretty much it comes from our Division. We maintain these radios, we maintain a 3 site infrastructure of antennas and building facilities. We also have two dispatch sites, one at Fire; one at Police. And there's also infrastructure equipment in Fire and Police as well.

The budget that you have before you tonight is to basically manage all the equipment that is out there. It provides repairs, it provides upgrades, it provides any software, any additional equipment that we need, it replaces batteries that we have. There are approximately 1,500 portable and mobile radios out there. There's approximately 1,000 portable radios; each of these requires batteries. The timeframe for these batteries, they last about three years. So that money is set to replace these batteries and other equipment for Police and Fire comes out of this budget. We are responsible for the installation of all mobile radios into new vehicles, removing radios out of the old vehicles and we hire a company to come in and do these installations and that comes out of this budget as well.

This year, like I said, I have level funding on this budget. We did quite a few projects this year. The largest one is the one that Alderman Dowd was referring to which is removing all the antenna equipment off of the water tank up on Kessler Farm Drive, constructing a tower and putting the antenna equipment on to that

particular tower. Now there is no water tank there so Alderman Dowd now has a wonderful view of the tower but they are constructing a new water tank up at that location at this point in time.

We also installed what they call a bi-directional amplifier into the Southern New Hampshire Med Center. This provided serious coverage issues, radio coverage issues for Fire and Police and the ambulance companies in the emergency department area because of the fact of the lead walls in there so we installed an antenna system in there to provide better radio communications coverage.

We completed the Manchester Airport Emergency Operations Center; basically it is a backup radio communications center. That is complete at this point in time. We recently had an upgrade of our entire radio system, it took about a month to do where we upgraded to the Motorola's most recent software and hardware. We are now at 20.20.1 for that system upgrade. We still continue to work on interoperability in the State where we continue to work with the State Police as well as local departments. We work with the SWAT Teams within the State to make sure that we are interoperable with each other with the different communications that are out there. Our radio system is an 800 megahertz radio system. The only other entity that has an 800 megahertz system is Manchester. Every other City and Town in the State operates on VHF Radio Communications. These two different radio communications do not talk to each other. So we have to come up with solutions to be to interoperate and have communications with all these entities.

There's a proposal that is coming up, we are having discussions right now with the Town of Merrimack. The Town of Merrimack operates on VHF radio communications. Their communications are subpar to say the least. They have asked if they could join our radio system and come on to our radio system. That's been run through the Radio Committee as well as the Mayor where it has been tentatively approved for us to continue speaking with them. Merrimack is looking for us to basically just provide them with radio communications. They are going to purchase all their own radios, all their own equipment. We would have to program them which is not that major of a task. They did testing in the Town and I believe they have 11 sites with their VHF system and with our system, we are better in building coverage than the Town of Merrimack and what the Town of Merrimack does with their 11 sites the VHF. So that is the main reason why they are looking to do this. There would be a fee that we would charge, again we would be negotiating that for them to be on our system. It would be a minimal charge. I have looked at contracts throughout the U.S. with an organization I belong to. Most entities do not charge fees mainly because it is a State run system. But because we are a smaller community, there are some that charge like I said a minimal fee. So we will be looking at doing that. I actually have a meeting with the Merrimack Town Council next week to discuss this further and to find out the direction that they want to go in with this particular proposal.

Also this year, I put into the capital improvements for replacing all Police and Fire radios within the City. When I say "Police and Fire radios" I am talking specifically about the portable radios. These radios have been in service for 8 to 9 years. At the end of last year, December 31<sup>st</sup>, of 2020, all the Fire Departments were notified by Motorola that if they were sent out for repair, they would no longer comply with what they call factory mutual – I am trying to think of the term. Basically it makes the radios intrinsically safe so if a firefighter goes into the building and the building has gasses or chemicals, the radio will not arc and cause an explosion. So Motorola stopped certifying these radios as being FM Certified at the end of the year because they transitioned over to a new, it's not just Motorola, all radio vendors have transitioned over to the new policy which is going with, I am trying to think of that term, it's UL, (inaudible). So looking at replacing all those radios because they are again, they are not reparable and they can no longer be certified as FM radios.

Also with the Police radios, at the end of this year, those radios will no longer be able to be repaired because they are at the end of their life. So we will be looking to replace those radios and hopefully work with other public safety entities to come up with some type of public safety, capital improvements budget to enhance other areas by providing extra redundant fiber within the City and enhancing the Fire Department's communication within the Fire Departments themselves. So I am sure that is going to come up for discussion when their budget is presented. But all in all with the pensions and benefits and the salary increases, we got

to reduce our budget by \$10,000.00 to meet the Mayor's recommended zero percent increase. I've cut many different areas within the budget, mainly again equipment maintenance repairs, as well as communications equipment itself. So if we are able to purchase those new radios this year it would actually not harm us to have that \$2,000.00 cut out of that Communications Equipment Budget line item. Are there any questions, I know that was a mouthful, I am trying to move along because I know you have a busy night.

Chairman Dowd

Are there any questions for Citywide Communications? Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Mansfield, I agree with you that the radios are old, those radios are the ones I used to use. Are there federal granting available for this particular upgrade? Are you actively seeking federal granting with this change in the FM to UL for the intrinsic value of the radio?

Mr. Mansfield

So we have looked at that. At this point in time, there's no grant funding available for this. One of the other issues that is coming up is that there is also going to be a new NFPA Standard, I believe it is, I am trying to think of the number, there's so many numbers out there. There's a new NFPA Standard for fire radios. There isn't a manufacturer that makes a fire radio that can meet this standard. So we continue to look at different ways to get funding to hopefully help us to purchase these radios when they become available.

Alderman O'Brien

Follow up if I may, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

Follow up Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Mr. Mansfield. Why don't I look surprised when you mentioned the NFPA inventing something that nobody has yet? But we will leave that one alone. Do these radios, when we get the upgrades can we recoup any money let's say into a department or a division or something where the intrinsic value may not be as critical or these older radios will become a liability and therefore cannot be repurposed?

Mr. Mansfield

So if we replace these radios, the radios that will be taken out of service will be distributed to other entities meaning any Public Works, the Health Department. We already have distributed some to some other – distributed some to the School Department going to them. So there is a purpose that we can utilize these radios for, we are not going to throw them out. The radios that all these non-public safety entities have today, those radios have been non-reparable for the last 6 years because they are much older radios. So whenever a radio comes in, I basically take a radio and try to piece the parts together to get the radio back to them so they can utilize it. By utilizing the radios that would come out of Police and Fire, the radios would still be able to be utilized, have enough cache of radios that if there was one that was severely broken, we could either fix it with parts that we have or we would just replace it with another spare radio that we have. They are still going to be viable radios for the rest of the City.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Yeah, I just wanted to thank you for taking my question. I am sure everybody is looking forward, other divisions receiving a lime green radio. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions for Citywide Communications? I just have a couple. You are reducing your monies available for maintenance and repair significantly, is there a potential issue there where you might have to come back to the well?

Mr. Mansfield

I hope not. It depends on what happens with the radio equipment. So I am managing today with the amount of money that we currently have. If we have to, we will have to just cut other things out to fill in that gap. So I am hoping that is not going to be an issue. I guess, I hate to say it, but I am kind of counting on radios being replaced this year so that that budget is not hit as badly.

Chairman Dowd

OK the other question I have is, we are getting two new pumper trucks and a Fire Department, I'll call it a pick up truck but it has got a lot more in it. I assume the radios for that come out of the bond or the CERF monies, so the acquisition is covered. What about the installation? Do you do that or is that done outside?

Mr. Mansfield

So the radios that go in those vehicles come out of vehicles that they are replacing, so we don't purchase any new radios for those. We basically recycle the mobile radios, take them out of one vehicle, put them into another vehicle.

Chairman Dowd

Do you do the swapping?

Ms. Mansfield

Personally, we will remove the radio, Citywide Communications. Because of the liability with vehicles, we pass that along to a company. There's a company called Two Way Communications, that is our back up radio people so if we had an issue with a radio system we would call them in. We utilize their services to install radios and pass the liability of drilling holes in Fire Truck's ceilings and pickup trucks to them because they are more familiar with the air bags, that's the biggest problem. We are not familiar with all that stuff, so we allow them to do that. It's about \$600.00 per radio to install.

Chairman Dowd

OK, alright. Thank you very much Mr. Mansfield. I don't think there are any other questions. Next Department is 106, Administrative Services on Page 89.

Kim Kleiner, Director of Administrative Services

Good Evening Chair, members of the Budget Committee; Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director and I am here tonight with about half of the Division. We have IT, Assessing and GIS that will be before you next Wednesday evening. Just to give you a little overview of the Administrative Service Division Budget as a whole, less the benefits and risk internal funds which serve the City and reside by oversight under the

Administrative Services Division, the Division is down 3.6% from Fiscal '21 or approximately \$191,000.00 not including fringe benefits. So as Mayor Donchess noted, overall we do have an increase to our pension costs and we did experience an additional about \$144,000.00 in benefits cost combined as a Division.

To go through Department 106, the Administrative Services Department, we have a decrease to wages. That amount is a result as a total combine of an increase. There's three employees; myself, the Administrative Assistant and half of the grant writer salary. All of us are unaffiliated employees, so with the unaffiliated increase and a reduction of 15% of my salary which is now being charged to the benefits fund for oversight of that fund, you see a net reduction of a little over \$6,800.00. Interestingly enough there's a new line to the Administrative Services Department Budget, that's vehicle repairs and maintenance for an increase of \$5,000.00. We did not cars in my department; those are the cars that were negotiated into the UAW Contract for UAW employees and we are managing that process. Those four vehicles are vehicles that have been traded to us from the Nashua Police Department. Instead of using them for trade-ins on their new Police Cruisers, they gave them to us; we negotiated them as part of the UAW Contract and they will be used by UAW employees. We haven't the cars as of yet, we expect to receive them by the end of the Fiscal Year.

There is a small increase in telephone cellular charges and a small decrease in mileage. Last year when we came before you, there were some questions regarding grants. The City is very blessed to have Pamela Davies with us. We share Pamela with the School Department and I asked her if she would attend this evening and give you an overall of the extensive work that she has done on behalf of the School and the City.

#### Pamela Davies, City & School Grant Writer

Thank you Kim. Hello everyone. I am Pamela Davies, I am the City and the School's grant writer. I think I am the only shared employee between both the schools and the City. And it kind of reminds me, I used to live in a house that was owned by, that and a house next door were owned by twins and there was a shared two car garage and we always used to joke about who owns the center wall of the two car garage and it is kind of like that's my Wednesday lunch time. Like who do I work for during lunch on Wednesday? Anyway, so I share my time between both the City and the Schools and what I mainly do is I monitor available funding and I try to match it with priorities that both sides have communicated to me.

I could treat the job like going after any available funding that there is, but what I try to do is to meet and identify needs or try to bring down funds that we may already be spending, because we don't want to end up with grants that we don't really need and just find something just because we could. I also then help the Departments or whoever has gotten the grant figure out how to spend those funds correctly, make sure that we are reporting correctly, all those things fall to me. Other things I do are I try to laisse with non-profits in the City and make them aware of opportunities that we can't get as a municipality or a School District and just kind of improve partnerships throughout the City.

For example, we worked with the United Way this year and the City and the Schools didn't receive this grant directly but I wrote a grant through the United Way where we got \$440,000.00 worth of Kindergarten / Readiness programming for the region which was great, which is something we couldn't have done on our own and it was great to work with them. Let's see, since I started in the end of 2019 I have brought in, let's see, I wrote it down, a total of \$1,228,000.00 for the City and \$146,956.00 for the Schools not counting the United Way grant which is delightful. And so hopefully I will continue to be that successful as we move forward. If you have any questions about specific grants or things that I do, please let me know.

#### Chairman Dowd

Any questions for the grant writer? None? Thank you very much. OK. Any questions for Ms. Kleiner at this point? Seeing none. We will go onto the Department 110, Arlington Street Community Center, Page 93.

Megan Caron, Director of Arlington Street Community Center

Hi, Good Evening. My name is Megan Caron, I am the Director of the Arlington Street Community Center. Thank you for giving me the time to review our budget tonight. The lead appropriations are on Page 93. As you may know, things at the center are a little different. Since we couldn't offer programs, classes or services in person, we found a few different solutions in order to serve our community in what is a growing time of need. So given these challenges we were still able to serve over 440 community members. One of the solutions was we added a Zoom room mobile kit to the dance studio which allowed us to program virtually. In the future we can continue to offer a hybrid model. So, for example, folks who maybe they don't have transportation to the center or that time frame doesn't work for them, they would be able to tune in virtually and participate in that class via Zoom.

We also began offering to-go activity sets. These really kind of ran the gamut ranging from a family paint night to STEM Programs in collaboration with UNH Extension Program and these were a great success. We started these last summer and the community responded very positively to them. We saw more family walking up to the Community Center at the time we had a to-go window. It was great to engage with obviously members from all over Nashua but especially in Crown Hill, so that was really encouraging. In total we distributed over 540 activity kits. Our flagship program, which is our Pre-K / Readiness Activity Group went virtual as well. The Rivier Education Club, these students run this program, actually built a virtual interaction classroom for kids. And families picked up their supplies the beginning of each month and would log on each week to complete the activities. And so through that we served 32 kids, 60% of whom will be attending a Title I School for Kindergarten.

We also built and launched a new web site which is ASCCNASHUA.COM. This allows for us to receive donations by redirecting users to the City's site which is then deposited into our Trust Fund. It has been a great first year and we have been able to offset some of the costs of programming and to-go kits using these donations. We like to say that community builds community and whether it is \$1.00 or \$100.00, we are extremely grateful for our community members who volunteer and donate their time and money as well.

So with that being said, our budget is fairly straight forward. The only increase that you'll see is I believe a 1.7% increase in salary and I'd be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Chairman Dowd

Are there any questions for the Arlington Street Community Center? Seeing and hearing none, thank you very much Megan for giving us that insight into the Budget. And if there are any further questions, they will come in writing at some point. Thank you. Alright, the next Department is 111, Human Resources on Page 97.

Director Kleiner

Good Evening, Kim Kleiner again. So as you all know, the Administrative Services Division had a reduction of two positions. The HR Director and the IT Director. I have to thank all of the Administrative Services staff that have stepped up during this time. We have an amazing group of people that serve the City very well. The Human Resources Budget is on Page 97. You will see there a reduction in full time wages as part of that elimination that I just spoke of. You will also note that we did have an increase in overtime this year and I'd like to speak a little to that as I feel it is important to recognize our payroll team.

This year you had a number of Union negotiations, Collective Bargaining Agreements that went past their time. When that happens, there is an extensive amount of calculations that need to be done to calculate retro payments. This caused our payroll team to work an incredible amount of overtime to not only get the payroll for our City, Schools, all of our City employees done, but also to calculate the retros for those Collective Bargaining Agreements. At no time did this Department leave City Hall, they have been here during COVID day in and day out, serving all of our employees.

We also have an increase in our part-time wages. This is temporary assistants for benefit enrollment. So as you know right now, we just finished open enrollment, they were due last Friday and our team has to then calculate and compute, code and enter all of those open enrollment applications. So during this time we have hired a past employee temporarily to assist us with that work. You will see an increase to pension costs mainly driven by that elimination by the HR Director.

And then a \$10,000.00 increase in consulting services. That increase in consulting services is for us to continue to work for improvements with HR benefits and payroll and our Lawson System. We did welcome the addition of an HRIS Analyst this year and that employee has been phenomenal in helping us work out some of our issues with Lawson and our HRIS System.

One example would be our benefit staff would have to input all of our benefit changes into Lawson, the Lawson System and then also into Anthem, our carrier. This position, working with benefits, helped to develop a feed where that data can be fed from our Lawson System to the carrier, therefore eliminating the need for dual entry. Those types of things are what we are looking for to drive improvement going forward.

You will also note that there is a line “staffing services” that was added to this year’s budget not included in next year’s budget. And I just wanted to take a moment to note what that is. That \$10,000.00 was moved within this year’s budget for the City Greeter who is working right outside in our main hallway to greet all of our residents and help them navigate City Hall during the construction. We do not see that position continuing past June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Then there’s a small number of deductions throughout the budget. Most of these are either due to trend or due to the elimination of the HR Director position; Conferences and Seminars being down \$500.00; employee trainings down \$1,000.00; postage/other contracted services, office supplies \$500.00 that’s trend; forms and supplies \$500.00 that’s also trend. So in order to meet the Mayor’s directive, and be fiscally responsible, we looked at where we could possibly save money within the Department and made those reductions and feel that we will at no way impact our services.

#### Chairman Dowd

Any questions? Any Aldermen? No questions? Alright thank you, Ms. Kleiner. Next is Department 113, Employee Benefits on Page 98.

#### Director Kleiner

Yes, so Kim Kleiner again. The Employee Benefit line that you see on Page 98 is our unemployment compensation. It is interesting to note this year you will see that in Fiscal '21 there is no actual amount. That is because the City has not received any bills from the State unemployment. We do not know when that will change. We are not expecting any dated back from the COVID-19 pandemic, but at point we have been told due to the Emergency Order and what may happen with that, those bills may begin again, so we kept that budget stable and flat.

#### Chairman Dowd

OK any questions on benefits?

#### Alderwoman Lu

Yes, I have a question please.

#### Chairman Dowd

Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Could you just tell me like how does the unemployment compensation work? Is it based on whether we have employees that are collecting unemployment compensation?

Director Kleiner

Yes. So our unemployment compensation is generally – there's a number of factors that are taken into consideration. So how long the employee, whether we were the last employer, who long the employee worked for the City, how much was fed into. We did have a number of employees, we did receive notices although we did not receive bills. Interestingly enough we also had some employees that we received bills for because there was a security problem with the unemployment system. These employees were not laid off and they were not unemployed and we had to work with the Nashua Police Department in that situation. That's an ongoing issue and I am sure you all read about that in the news. But our unemployment system, our HR Manager logs into that system and tracks all those bills and handles that system.

Chairman Dowd

All set...

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Just a follow up. Is \$85,000.00 typically what we end up being billed annually or is that more of a retainer sort of?

Director Kleiner

I am happy to answer that. It was actually around \$30,000.00 the prior year. I would not say that, that is high.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. All set.

Director Kleiner

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Seeing and hearing none, we will move on to Department 128, Risk Management on Page 112.

Jennifer Deshaies, Risk Manager

Thank you Mr. Chairman. My name is Jennifer Deshaies and I am the Risk Manager. My budget starts on 112. I am asking for an overall appropriation request of \$4.2 million. With the exception of salaries, fringe benefits, insurance program and claims and other expenses, all lines have either been decreased or level funded. 51 and 52, Salaries & Wages & Fringe Benefits reflect salary increases and pension expenses for Merit and UAW Professional employees. We have had no additional positions and are not requesting any for this upcoming Fiscal Year. 59 – Insurance Programs and Claims: This has been the worst market I have experienced in over 25 years. It's been all over the place, it has been very unpredictable.

With that being said, I am going to talk about our insurance renewal policies. Workers' Compensation policy, many of the Workers' Comp carriers are establishing a minimum premium floor for all their clients. We are seeing increases anywhere between 30% and 50%. This is partly due to an increase in Legislative presumption throughout the country. Trends, especially for First Responders such as the PTSD presumption, Law Enforcement exposures are more hazardous and unpredictable as well as a societal uptick in riots and civil unrest. Our General Liability policies, based on market forecasts, we anticipate an average of 7% to 10% of an overall increase for our basic General Liability.

As it relates to our specialty line items, Public Officials, Employee Blanket Bonds, we are looking at a 10% increase due to the current economic climate and claim trend uptick in the industry. Cyber Liability is probably the worst. The market has been all over the place from 10% increases to 80%. Two carriers have left the market due to high loss on the public entity side. This is due to claim development especially with ransomware. Carriers are driving hard on controls. This should provide us some relief over the rate because we do have some really good controls in place. Property policies, I am anticipating a 15% to 30% increase over last year. Some of this is due to improvements, (inaudible) coverage, but the market is being driven by perils such as hurricanes, wind storms, wildfires. The event in Texas has been the largest insurance event in history coming in at \$18 billion dollars, that was that winter storm with the burst pipes and people lighting fires to try to keep their pipes from freezing.

So right now we are looking into deductible options to help offset the rate amount and the cost benefit of doing so and marketing alternatives. We have had a very favorable risk control visit just recently and we are hopeful that these results have positive impacts on our terms and rates. We have started marketing our policies early this year, not only are we discussing higher deductibles, different carriers, creative exclusions and alternatives, but we are really promoting our efforts as a City as well as our programs. The other part of that area is claims. Claims are budgeted based on trends, history, societal upticks and actual claims data. Due to the pandemic we are seeing skewed trends and outcomes. Workers' Compensation Claims, we are having a good year, but it hasn't been a normal year. A lot of our employees have been working from home and at the onset of the pandemic there were multiple changes throughout the City as to how we do business. Because of this, we have seen a decrease in incidents.

I do want to point out that this line item reflects in-house bill review and cold call negotiation savings that our office performs on a daily basis. Through April of this year, accounting for this Fiscal Year only the claim adjusters have negotiated \$215,000.00 in medical bill savings with providers. This is a task that most adjusters at TPA's don't perform and since the inception of this program, we have saved an over \$1.7 million to date in medical billing costs. General Liability Claims, we had a good year this year but we have been trending high cost claims in the past few years and that's what has been taken into consideration when budgeting this line item. Property Claims, we are experiencing abnormal high expenditures this year. One reason is that we have had 4 to 5, I'm not sure how many, 4 or 5 traffic signal control cabinets hit by a third party vehicle. These run us up to \$20,000.00 to \$30,000.00 each. The good news is that we should recover it through our subrogation process, which is taking into account while budgeting these line items.

Another unfortunate added expense this year was the bridge fire. That cost us around \$218,000.00. Automobile claims, we didn't have the best year, we had 3 totaled vehicles; a bus, a police cruiser and our Park & Rec pickup truck. And many of the at-fault are under insured or uninsured. Our office has an adjuster who is crazy good at pursuing recovery for uninsured individuals but unfortunately although we do recover, the return is slow and sometimes spans out over a few fiscal years. We have a few claims on the books that have yet to be resolved and that is what you are seeing reflected in this upcoming Fiscal Year.

68 which is Other Expenses – Loss Prevention, you are going to see a slight overall \$5,000.00 increase due to usage. And the Safety Training and Education, an increase of \$4,500.00. Our office manages the CDL Program for all of our commercial drivers that hold CDL's. The Federal Government has put in place what is called "The Clearing House" and this line item covers the fees associated with a new online tracking system for mandated increase. So at this time, I would be more than happy to answer any questions that anyone might have.

Chairman Dowd

Are there any questions? Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

You mentioned losses due to accidents involving the party at fault, the other part at fault being uninsured or underinsured. Do we not have uninsured and underinsured motorist coverage as part of our policies?

Ms. Deshaies

So for that type of policy, we are self-insured up until \$300,000.00. So no we don't have underinsured and not insured coverage, you know, unless the loss is above and beyond that \$300,000.00 and then we do have it but at that point ... but we do pursue these in the courts and we pursue them to fullest extent possible. We have payment plans, we take them up to the State and we take them directly to Court.

Alderman Jette

OK thank you.

Ms. Deshaies

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions for Risk?

Alderman Jette

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

The other question I had is I have heard of our being involved in claims where we have settled cases. Attorney Bolton said that those settlements didn't come out of his Department. Do they come out of your Department and where are they and if they do, where are they in this budget?

Ms. Deshaies

So we budget for that every year based on trends. So those line items I just spoke about, 59 "Insurance Programs and Claims". So when a claim is reported to our office, we set a reserve on the case and that's where these are budgeted, right here. So all of these requests include monies for settlement, sometimes outside attorney's fees. It's all included in that claim cost.

Alderman Jette

OK, thank you.

Ms. Deshaies

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions?

Alderwoman Lu

I have a question, please?

Chairman Dowd

Alderwoman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Ms. Deshaies does that exclude abatement settlements?

Ms. Deshaies

Yes, it does.

Alderwoman Lu

OK. And there's a separate account for abatement settlements, correct?

Ms. Deshaies

I am not sure which Department that falls under, it's not mine. I can tell you that.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

I think that Director Kleiner is just going to answer that for me. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Ms. Kleiner.

Director Kleiner

Yes, Director Kleiner. Any abatement settlement, whether it is a return of principle or interest comes out of the overlay account which is handled under the Assessing Department as Attorney Bolton spoke to earlier.

Alderwoman Lu

OK, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Ms. Kleiner did you want something else?

Director Kleiner

Yes, Alderman Dowd. I just wanted to ensure that we were going to circle back to the benefit, self-insurance fund if the Committee would so see fit after Ms. Parkinson reports on the Purchasing Department.

Chairman Dowd

OK back to what?

Director Kleiner

The Benefit Self Insurance Fund.

Chairman Dowd

OK and I believe Ms. Deshaies has City Buildings also.

Ms. Deshaies

I do.

Chairman Dowd

OK so next is Department 129, City Buildings on Page 116.

Ms. Deshaies

Jennifer Deshaies, City Buildings. The proposed budget for City Buildings is \$86,000.00 less than last year's Fiscal Budget. 51 – Salaries & Wages and 52 – Fringe Benefits, reflects Merit and UAW Clerical Salary increases and pension expenses. We have had no added positions and we are not requesting any for the upcoming Fiscal Year. 54 – Property Services, you will see a decrease of \$100,600.00. We are anticipating the sale of Burke Street and removal of 201 Main Street Utility expenses have reduced this line item. 61 – Supplies and Materials, a slight increase of \$1,500.00. Maintenance Guidelines for the renovated spaces in City Hall has increased the need for inventory. And last, 71 – Equipment, a decrease of \$300.00. We are confident in the condition of our current equipment and tools to carry us through Fiscal Year '22. And at this time, I would be more than happy to answer any questions.

Chairman Dowd

Any questions on City Buildings? Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. Can you give us just a quick overview of where we are with the construction of City Hall?

Ms. Deshaies

I am going to pass that on to Kim Kleiner.

Chairman Dowd

Director Kleiner?

Director Kleiner

Yes I would be happy to. As you know, we have finished three major departments; Assessing, Motor Vehicles and Tax. We are now working in the City Clerk's Office. We expect that to be complete by the end of June. The project is tracking approximately \$60,000.00 over at this point and we expect no additional major additions to that budget. Most of the materials have been bought and purchased and there's just a small amount of labor, there's about \$153,000.00 left of charges to come in as we finish that project.

Having said that, we have also had a number of smaller projects within City Hall. And those have come out of the City Building ETF Fund. Those have cost about \$65,000.00; we had some painting at Gilson Road which the City contributed half to. We had some HVAC upgrades here at City Hall and then we had some building modifications within the Legal Department.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alright. All set on City Buildings? Did you want to circle back to something Ms. Kleiner or are we all set?

Director Kleiner

Thank you Chairman Dowd. It's at the Committee's pleasure, the self-insurance fund still need to be spoken about and that's 6600, Page 99. I believe Mayor Donchess has spoken a lot about this. The benefits team has worked very hard on health insurance costs throughout the City with our consultant, Workplace Benefits Solutions. Managing these costs and bringing reductions to health costs has to be a comprehensive effort. Not only is it the addition of the new HMO Plan but it also requires massive education with our employees. We have the dependent audit which is taking place. We have made modifications to some of our plans such as our health savings account. There were issues where employees who had dependents in other States wouldn't switch to our health savings and the high deductible plans because those dependents weren't being covered at the negotiated rates. We worked with our provider and our consultant and redesigned that plan so that those dependents will now be covered at Anthem's National rate. This allows those employees now to be able to switch over to the high deductible plan with the HSA. So it is at a number of efforts and a lot of redesign that goes into lowering these costs.

I did want to give you know – I know last year when we spoke it was brought up by Budget Review the fact of the City doing a dependent audit. We did start that in early March. I am happy to say that we have a completion rate of 82% to date with final notices going out just last Friday. We are doing very well, those final notices will have a date of June 9<sup>th</sup>. That equates to approximately 196 employees who haven't responded. So we are going to do a lot of reach out to those employees. To date, we have had 59 dependents that are coming off of the plan due to not meeting applicable eligibility. The company that we are dealing, (inaudible) Advisors estimates that each dependent looking at their book of business cost the City about \$3,500.00. So right there, without even finishing the audit those 59 have come off voluntarily. That's over \$200,000.00 in savings. So we will have more information towards the end of June but we are very happy with the progress that this had made that we have made on this effort. We have to thank the employees of the City of Nashua for participating and going through the exercise which is very important.

You've heard Mayor Donchess speak about the fact that our rates are remaining flat. If there had not been an increase in stop loss, we would have expected that we would have saw a decrease in our rates. So it is good news we are going to keep on doing different initiatives and trying to navigate these costs both working with WBS, Workplace Benefit Solutions. To go over just some rough figures which you can see, our projected medical costs are about \$45 million dollars; projected claims being \$41.7; our estimated pharmacy rebates are \$1.25 million dollars. Our stop loss premium you are seeing a large increase, we did go out to bid for this, we do every year through Workplace Benefit Solutions. Unfortunately, that came in a lot higher, it is through Anthem and they were the lowest bidder. Unfortunately, it is just not good news for us. We continue to see our claims go up that are high over the \$350,000.00 threshold. So far, through the end of March, we had 9 claimants that were over the \$350,000.00 threshold. To date, our stop loss reimbursements are over \$942,000.00. So that's the importance of having this insurance; it is well worth the money that we spend considering we have seen over \$942,000.00 come in and we had a premium of \$907. So that's why we do it; unfortunately though these claims have continued to rise.

We are concerned both Anthem, Workplace Benefit Solutions and us as to what will happen with healthcare costs next year. We know and Anthem and the medical industry knows that there were people during the pandemic that had serious conditions that may or may not have received the care that they should have seen. And will we see higher medical costs in Fiscal '22 because of that? Many feel we will. So we are keeping an eye on that. The benefits team has been out, we have met with every group at the School District that is currently in negotiations. We want to thank the School District and the School Administration for calling us in and for those negotiating teams for meeting with us. We have been to every group in the City and talked about the health savings account and we were at DPW and every location last week, educating employees. So that's a big part of what we do and how we are going to control our costs. We are also upping the Smart Shopper Program and to date for Fiscal '21 we have had gross savings of \$146,000.00 with Smart Shopper, we have paid out about \$20,000.00 in incentives; 234 incentives to be exact which nets out to a little over \$125,000.00 in savings. We are adding more procedures that will be covered by the Smart Shopper Program and we are educating employees on that as well.

The other part of our savings that we are seeing is looking at the individual plan cost and administrative fees and going out and negotiating those. So one that we have for Fiscal '22 is that Benefit Wallet will no longer be our Health Savings Account provider. It will be moving to Anthem as of July 1. That will result in a .15 cent per member, per month savings and it also allows our employees to have one stop shopping. So now instead of having to log in to Anthem and see their health claims and their bills and things of that sort and then over to Benefit Wallet to manage their Health Savings Account, it will all be within Anthem, they will be able to see everything and Anthem will be able to service them on both their claims and their Health Savings Account at once.

So we are looking at a number of initiatives; we really hoped that we could see these healthcare costs result in a savings in Worker's rates but unfortunately this year it just didn't happen. We did have 5 Unions that switched over to the new HMO Plan and those were the UAW Clerical, Technical and Professional, the Library, AFSCME and Police Communications. So most of the savings that you are seeing within the individual benefit lines in the departmental budget result in those employees within these Union groups switching to that new HMO plan. And I am happy to answer any questions.

#### Chairman Dowd

Any questions relative to self-insurance? Seeing and hearing none, we are going to move on to the last item this evening which is Department 130 – Purchasing on 120. Kelly?

#### Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Good Evening, Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager. Our proposed budget for 2022 is \$347,464.00. Without salaries and benefits that is down 2.56%. Our salaries are up slightly just because of the UAW increase. Our benefits were up pretty significantly mostly because my predecessor did not opt into City

Benefits and I have opted into City Benefits. I'm worth it, I am costing you more, but I am worth it. The equipment and repair, the Property Services line on my budget is down. We did get a new copier this year, our old copier was at 4 ½ million copies. So with a new copier, I would expect our Service & Equipment Repairs to be significantly lower. We also replaced the tires on the Purchasing Van so that expense happened in 2021, so our repairs should be flat.

I adjusted our postage meter down, I think it was set at an old rate because we got a new postage meter I think shortly before I came on board, I want to say a year or two. The other services line item is pretty flat, I moved some things around to accommodate cell phones for myself and two other employees who do use our phones for work. And I also moved some postage – there was postage meter supplies in the postage and delivery line items so that was moved into office supplies so that the postage is actually postage and not meter supplies. We won't be going to any conferences or seminars this year; anything that we do will be online so I did move those monies into the cellular line item. The other line item that we added this year was shredding, outsource shredding for City Hall and that was \$800.00 for the year. Everything else is pretty flat. So that's my submitted budget.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Any questions relative to Purchasing? Anyone? Seeing and hearing no one, thank you Kelly. A

Ms. Parkinson

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Alright that wraps up the Departments we are handling this evening. I need a motion, Alderman O'Brien?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO TABLE R-21-142, BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea:	Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd	6
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Nay:		0
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**MOTION CARRIED**

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**

(tabled at 4-20-20 mtg)

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Wilshire

So future meetings, the Budget Committee meets on Monday, correct Alderman Dowd?

Chairman Dowd

In the Chamber.

Alderman Wilshire

OK just wanted to bring that up so people – it's on their radar that Monday we will be going back into the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Dowd

So we will be social distancing, members of the public will be on Zoom, presenters have their option. Any other members of the Board of Aldermen that want to attend in person will have to sit in the – what I call the pews – the gallery because we have to do social distancing of the Committee. I am not sure, I am thinking we probably are still going to have to have masks up when you are speaking. We will have a little bit of a learning curve, we've been through the system once already and IT is still working to make sure everything works fine. Every member of the Budget Committee that is going to attend in person needs to get a card to get into the building; Donna has those. Anyone on the Budget Committee that is not going to attend in person, please let me know so I know you are on Zoom. I guess that pretty much covers it for now, we may have some more information over the weekend, but we will meet Monday at 7:00. Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you Alderman Dowd. I wanted to know about – I don't know who delivered our budget books but it was very lovely to find it sitting there, it was great. Oftentimes we get a binder from the Police Department and some of the other Departments. Are those still coming and will they be delivered or will we have to come to City Hall to get them?

Chairman Dowd

They are coming, I have talked to several of the Department Heads already, I have a few more to touch base with but Police and Fire were covered and they will be doing their regular books and they will be delivered. I don't know exactly how they are going to be delivered yet but I will be coordinating with Donna on that one.

Alderwoman Kelly

OK I just wanted to ask that, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other General Discussion? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

So if I understood correctly Mr. Chairman, the members of the Budget Committee have a choice, we don't have to appear in person if we choose not to, we still have the option of attending by Zoom, is that correct?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Alderman Jette

OK thank you.

Chairman Dowd

So any other General Discussion? Public Comment, is there anyone that would like to make public comment?

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Chairman Dowd

Again I hope to put out some additional guidance on the Budget process. I'll probably reiterate some of the things I said earlier on in the meeting and so I think we will be fine. As I said it is going to be a learning curve on the first meeting Monday night so we need a little patience from people to make sure we handle the people in-person and the people on Zoom. OK. So if there's nothing else, Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

If I may, Mr. Chairman, did you call for public comment?

Chairman Dowd

OK I'm sorry, I did not hear you.

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea: Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 6

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 9:21 p.m.

Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Committee Clerk