

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

JUNE 1, 2021

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Tuesday, June 1, 2021, 7:30 p.m. via teleconference.

Chairman Dowd

The Meeting is being held in the combination of live in the Chamber and on Zoom.

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: 816 3650 5216 and Passcode: 496731

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 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 6 members of the Budget Review Committee present:

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

Members not in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair

Also in Attendance: Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Justin Kates, Emergency Management Director
Jeffrey Snow, Edgewood Cemetery Superintendent
Paul Fournier, Woodlawn Cemetery Superintendent
Thomas Maffee, President Edgewood/Suburban Cemetery
Amy DeRoche, Hunt Memorial Bldg. and Arts Administrator
Jill Stansfield, Parking Manager
Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director
Chris Lynch, Airport Manager
Jennifer McCormack, Library Director

ROLL CALL

Alderwoman Kelly

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

Alderman O'Brien

Alderman-at-Large Michael O'Brien, Sr. is present and I am attending in the Chamber.

Alderman Wilshire

I am here.

Alderman Jette

I am here alone and I can hear the proceedings.

Alderman Schmidt

I am present, alone and can hear everyone.

Alderman O'Brien

I'll call Alderman Ben Clemons, OK absent. And our Chairman Alderman Richard Dowd.

Alderman Dowd

Yes I am present, in the Chamber, running the meeting.

Alderman O'Brien

Also with us this evening are Alderman Patricia Klee, also in attendance is John Griffin, CFO anticipated attendants tonight will be Justin Kates, Emergency Management Director; Jeffrey Snow, Edgewood Cemetery Superintendent; Paul Fournier, Woodlawn Cemetery Superintendent; Thomas Maffey, President of Edgewood and Suburban Cemetery; Amy DeRoche, Hunt Memorial Building and Arts Administrator, Jill Stansfield, Parking Manager; Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director; Chris Lynch, Airport Manager; Jennifer McCormack, Library Director. Did I get everybody?

Chairman Dowd

I believe Alderman Gathright is with us as well.

Chairman Dowd

And did you get Mr. Griffin?

Alderman O'Brien

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

OK, first item on the Agenda is public comment for anything that is on tonight's Agenda. If it was something that was just done ...

Laura Colquhoun Laura Colquhoun.

Chairman Dowd

I'm not ready yet. It'll be for anything that's on the Agenda this evening and you have 3 minutes and when you have 30 seconds left we will tell you that you have 30 seconds and ask you to wrap up your comments. And if you had comments that were given at the public hearing it is probably not necessary to repeat the comments it is all part of the same record.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laura Colquhoun 30 Greenwood Drive. I am asking the Budget Committee to reconsider the authorization of the Interfund transfer of \$325,000.00 for the dog park and put the Nashua taxpayers first. With the Broad Street Parkway bond still open in a total amount of \$1,464,844.00 it seems that applying this money to the bond would help the Nashua taxpayers more. In this time of uncertainty it is only fair to help the Nashua taxpayers as many are trying to recover from last year. The Nashua Mayor has already stated that he wants an additional \$52 million in capital improvements next year. How much more do you want to put on the Nashua taxpayer's back. The Nashua taxpayers need to put food on their tables and then worry about if they can pay their property taxes. Nashua taxpayers are asking the Budget Committee to apply this money to current Broad Street bond in order to lower the principal and interest. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other public comment? Seeing and hearing none. Communications?

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE**R-20-016**

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

AMENDING THE PURPOSE OF A FISCAL YEAR 2020 UNLIKE ESCROW FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

(tabled at 4-20-20 mtg)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO TAKE FROM THE 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

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED**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 6/21/2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Nashua High School North Auditorium

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

<u>Dept. #</u>		<u>REVENUE</u>	<u>Appropriations</u>
	<u>Emergency Preparedness</u>		
156	Emergency Management		158
	<u>Public Services</u>		
140	Pinewood Cemetery		211
142	Woodlawn Cemetery	42	212
144	Edgewood & Suburban Cemeteries	42	217
	<u>General Government</u>		
131	Hunt Building	309	72
158	Parking Enforcement	30	73
166	Parking Operations	31	74
183	Economic Development		
	<u>Public Services</u>		
	Nashua Airport Authority	357	357
	<u>Public Library</u>		
179	Public Library	43	224

Chairman Dowd

This evening, we will be looking at Departments 156 – Emergency Management and the Appropriations are on Page 158; we will also be addressing Public Services, Pinewood Cemetery, Woodlawn Cemetery, Edgewood and Suburban Cemeteries; General Government – Hunt Building, Parking Enforcement, Parking Operations, Economic Development, Public Services, the Nashua Airport Authority and the Public Library. Again, we will be starting with Emergency Management which is on Page 158 in your Budget Book. Who is here to discuss this Budget this evening? Justin Kates?

Justin Kates, Emergency Management

Justin Kates is here. Good evening. So you will see in the Budget Book presented our budget for this Fiscal Year 2022. There's really no significant changes from last year. The primary thing that we are looking to do in the next Fiscal Year work to update our Emergency Plans based off of lessons learned from COVID and the Budget reflects the types of activities that will be necessary for that type of work. I'd be happy to answer any questions about the Budget or anything else related to the Department.

Chairman Dowd

Does anyone from the Budget Committee have questions for Justin Kates? Any Alderman. Just one question. Do you have the funds in your Budget to – at the beginning of the year actually last March, we talked about developing a lessons learned sort of a playbook in case this happens again. Do you have the funds or have you worked on that and is that something you are planning on doing?

Director Kates

Yes so there really aren't any funds that we will need supplemental to what we are currently – it's a responsibility of our Department. We would be able to do that with the existing resources. It is something that is an activity that we are working on currently. We actually have some further discussion about that at the Special Meeting that will take place June 8th I want to say. We are going to talk about the Emergency Operations Plan Update and some of the changes that will happen in the next revision of that document, which we are currently working on.

Chairman Dowd

OK thank you. Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Kates I see on "other expenses" 68 Special Events, I am talking about 68350, there is a reduction there. I imagine that fund includes perhaps maybe the Holiday Stroll special events and things like that. Can these events go on with that reduction if COVID allows.

Director Kates

So that actually was really intended for any sort of special meetings or activities that we were going to do for the Office of Emergency Management. So as an example. If we wanted to hold a large conference related to the Emergency Operations Plan Update, that would be used for any event activities, whether it be refreshments or if we had to rent a large room for that. Because of COVID there were no physical activities, and so everything could be done virtually and didn't cost us anything. So that was why nothing was spent out of that fund and quite honestly moving forward, I see an opportunity for us to save funding using virtual activities. I didn't see a need to try to fund that money back again. So that was an easy cut and I don't think we'll need to increase it again.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you for taking my question and thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Any additional questions? Seeing none – thank you Mr. Kates for your input. Next Department we will be discussing is Public Services – 140 Pinewood Cemetery. Who is here this evening to discuss the Pinewood Cemetery Budget?

Len Fournier, Superintendent of Woodlawn Cemetery

My name is Len Fournier, I am the Superintendent of Woodlawn Cemetery. I live at 10 (inaudible) Ave. I am here with Niles Jensen, the Chairman of our Trustees and Dan Buslovich, the Vice Chairman of our Trustees.

Chairman Dowd

OK the appropriations are on Page 211. It looks like they are pretty steady from last year other than probably any increases in salaries or fringe benefits, is that correct?

Mr. Fournier

That's correct.

Chairman Dowd

And every other line item is identical to the 2021 Budget?

Mr. Fournier

For Pinewood yes.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah Pinewood is what we are talking about right now. Any questions for the Pinewood Cemetery? Seeing and hearing no one. Do you have any additional information you want to provide to us?

Mr. Fournier

No, Pinewood is pretty self-sufficient, we are doing very well over there.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, thank you very much. Next is 142, Woodlawn Cemetery. Who is here to present for the Woodlawn Cemetery.

Mr. Fournier

The same 3, myself, Niles and Dan.

Chairman Dowd

Would you like to address the Budget for Woodlawn?

Mr. Buslovich

Do you have any questions? We have increased the wages for seasonal help. We have requested 5 seasonal people so that has had a significant increase in total costs. We also increased the other contracted property services for repairs to our infrastructure. Those were the two heavy lines. But the income that we received here at Woodlawn is sufficient to cover it all.

Chairman Dowd

OK. Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. I would like just to ask the question, there seems to be an increase. I am talking about property services, 54 and particularly 54399, other contracted property services. Can you just explain what the need for the increase there?

Unidentified Speaker

And identify who they are.

Mr. Buslovich

The increase was to cover unscheduled repairs to the infrastructure here at Woodlawn. What we find is, we run the risk of running out of sufficient funds in the budget to cover these items. Typically we go over to our maintenance account and take funds out of there. But from a budgetary standpoint these need to be covered under the budget and so we increased it accordingly.

Chairman Dowd

OK when you speak, since there are three of you, would you please identify who is speaking.

Dan

I am Dan.

Chairman Dowd

OK.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you for taking my question. Thank you Mr. Chairman

Chairman Dowd

The "Wages, Temporary and Seasonal" jumped significantly and I know you addressed that, but why is that.

Mr. Fournier

We went from three staff to five and in the past, we never increased our budget to reflect the hourly wage. We were budgeted for like \$10.00 an hour. Now we are budgeted at \$15.00 an hour so we can be somewhat competitive with our Departments throughout the City if you would so we can try to get people interested in coming here.

Chairman Dowd

OK. Are there any other questions from any of the Committee Members or Aldermen? I am not seeing anyone. So anything else you'd like to add about your budget.

Mr. Fournier

Other than the fact that people aren't aware we are self-funded, we have been since 1995.

Chairman Dowd

OK you say self-funded.

Mr. Fournier

By that we mean other than (inaudible poor audio) we reimburse the City for our expenses. The only expenses covered by the City are (inaudible poor audio).

Chairman Dowd

Ok so the revenues that you take in offset the bottom line on this page.

Mr. Fournier

Absolutely.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, good to know. And that would be on your appropriations on Page 42, I mean Revenue rather on page 42. Alright, thank you very much. Alderman Klee, did you have a question.

Alderman Klee

Yes it was when they discussed the fringe benefits and said that the fringe benefits were picked up by the City. So they pick up all the expenses because they are self-funded and so on but the extra \$6,600.00 is being covered in the Budget. So the \$117,209.00 in fringe benefits is City money? I just want to make sure I understand that.

Mr. Fournier

Yes, that's correct. And by the Attorney General's Office, those funds cannot be paid for from the reserves of Woodlawn.

Alderman Klee

Just one quick follow up. And I completely understand I am not saying that would be wrong or right or anyway, I just wanted to clarify that that \$117,000.00 ... I just – the additional \$6,600.00 is that because of the seasonal help. Do we give them benefits?

Mr. Fournier

Tracking Fringe Benefits, the increase there is based on the contracts that the City has. So this is increase in salaries, pensions, health plans, those additional costs. That's what the \$6,600.00 covers and again, that's all tied to fringe benefits which we have no control over them.

Alderman Klee

I completely understand, thank you so much Mr. Chair. And thank you sir.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderman Kelly

Alderman Klee asked all my questions.

Chairman Dowd

OK, thank you. Any other questions for Woodlawn. No? Seeing none, thank you very much gentlemen. Alright next is Department 144, Edgewood and Suburban Cemeteries, they are on page 217. And I guess Mr. Snow or Mr. Matthew.

Jeffrey Snow, Superintendent Edgewood Cemetery

I think you just have me, Jeffrey Snow, I am in the Superintendent at Edgewood Cemetery.

Chairman Dowd

Hello, Mr. Snow. Nice to see you again.

Mr. Snow

Nice to see you; I believe I am the only one present.

Chairman Dowd

So would you like to address your budget, it is on Page 217?

Mr. Snow

About the only thing that's really happened with the budget is payroll has increased along with everybody else in the City our temporary hires have gone well up another dollar so we are trying squeeze money there. So we've kind of shuffled a little bit of money from various accounts to cover the increase and basically the full-time payroll and try to squeeze by with the summer help budget and other lines being cut down so we can keep the budget flat.

Chairman Dowd

OK, and I assume the fuel prices were the prices that were given to you by the City?

Mr. Snow

Yes. Those are whatever the estimated upcoming expenses are by the average that I take for the last few years for fuel use.

Chairman Dowd

And "vehicle parts and supplies" went down. And that's because I think you got a new vehicle, didn't you?

Mr. Snow

Well we have a couple new vehicles but nothing recently but we have to take money from one place to pay the other. So a lot of things were shaved a little here and there.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, are there any questions from any of the Budget Committee from Edgewood and Suburban? Yes, Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I notice that Woodlawn's Revenue increased by about \$90,000.00 and yours remained flat. Is that because you are smaller and you are full? Why is not your revenue going up like theirs is?

Mr. Snow

I am going to speculate, I think we take in more revenue through services, meaning burials and other services that we provide. I think all of their revenues are generated from their trust fund, is where the increases come from.

Alderman Jette

OK thank you.

Mr. Snow

(Inaudible) on the numbers that are anticipated from the statements that we get from our trust holders.

Chairman Dowd

OK. All set Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Comparing Edgewood to Woodlawn are their capacities similar or is there more room in one than the other?

Mr. Snow

As far as space within the cemetery?

Alderman Jette

Yes.

Mr. Snow

I think we have at Edgewood more space available for the future than Woodlawn does. And there is space at Evergreen which is basically the only cemetery we are selling lots at besides Edgewood. I'm not sure about the availability of space at Pinewood Cemetery, I believe they have a fair amount but it is a small cemetery.

Alderman Jette

OK thank you.

Mr. Snow

Last year, as far as the revenues go and the trust funds, that is one thing that I stay out of. The trust funds are not my, well I don't know if I want to say "not my concern" but I am not in charge of the trust funds so I am sorry I can't probably give you the best answer in that Department.

Alderman Jette

OK thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions from Committee members or Board members? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chairman. I just had a quick question, again this is on the fringe benefits, I noticed your fringe benefits actually went down and specifically in the 52300 it went down. Is that due to your healthcare costs went down, changing over the plan. I am asking mostly to find out if our change in healthcare is kind of helping us a little bit?

Mr. Snow

Yes where everybody is used to by merit employees – or unaffiliated employees, everybody switched over to the HSA I believe – the Health Savings Account with the I don't know, whatever it is called pay out of pocket and I think that saved the City money I believe that's the cast. The fringe benefits, those come out of City Hall and we do not get involved in those, they tell us "this is what it is". It is not part of our calculations, just the figures.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

I just want to make one comment and I understand that again you don't – just like the others – you don't deal with the fringe benefits but the changeover saved over \$13,000.00 which is every penny counts type of thing. So I appreciate that, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? I have one, you recently did some modifications at the cemetery and I know you are waiting for the grass to grow in which will add several new grave sites. I don't recall the exact number off the top of my head. But we had several meetings relative to the landscaping. I just have a couple of questions relative to the landscaping since that is my Ward. Some of the trees that were put in died and it is my understanding through second hand knowledge that they weren't guaranteed. So are they going to be replaced and if so when. And also you were putting in a new fence. Do you know when the new fence is going in?

Mr. Snow

As far as the trees go there's no schedule on that; I anticipate they will be replaced as all part of the agreement with the neighbors. But I don't recall the fence being part of the agreement and there currently is no plan on the fence. We had prices from almost 2 years ago when we started that. \

We just had a section of fence replaced because a tree came through it. I would say that there has probably been a significant increase in the cost of the fence. Everything costs more and is back-ordered because of COVID, I don't know. I don't really have a good explanation for you. But the price of the fence has significantly gone up. Ken from Gate City Fence called and said he was embarrassed to give me a quote on it, but we needed to replace a section and he got back to me a while later and said they couldn't find another vendor and it was about \$800.00 for one section. And I think that's an 8 foot section that was over 300 feet of fence, so 40 sections, I think that was just the cost of the material. So I wouldn't be surprised if the cost has about doubled to probably in the \$40,000.00's for fencing on that section.

Chairman Dowd

That's a steel fence, right?

Mr. Snow

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

That's why it went up so high. Steel is at a premium right now. Hopefully it will come down before you have to really put the fence in. But I know the neighbors are already asking about the trees, so I will probably be following up on that. Any other questions for Edgewood. Seeing none, thank you Mr. Snow.

Mr. Snow

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

OK the next Department we will be talking in General Government is 131, the Hunt Building. The revenues are on Page 309 and the Appropriations are on Page 72. Who is here this evening to discuss the Hunt Building?

Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development

Yes, hi Mr. Chair. Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development and also with me is Amy DeRoche who is the Hunt Administrator. She can speak to the budget this evening.

Chairman Dowd

OK. Is she ready, oh there she is. OK.

Amy DeRoche, Hunt Memorial Bldg. and Arts Administrator

So my budget really pretty much hasn't changed since last year. Our revenue that we take in sustains the expense of the building. So we kind of try and just keep things similar year to year. I wonder if my video is having issues.

Chairman Dowd

It looks like it is identical to last year.

Ms. DeRoche

It should be, yes.

Chairman Dowd

So is there anything specific that you want to tell us?

Ms. DeRoche

No. That's pretty much it. We are pretty easy.

Chairman Dowd

Are there any questions from the Committee or any of the Aldermen relative to the revenues or appropriations for the Hunt Building? No, that was very easy. Mr. Cummings?

Director Cummings

Mr. Chair, if I may. Yes I just want to go on record as saying that this Department depends heavily on events and revenue derived from those events. We are falling a little short this year obviously due to the current circumstances that we are in. As you are making very strategic decisions on how to use COVID type monies that have come in, I would ask that you give consideration that you look at this Department to make sure we can make it whole by backfilling as the fees or revenue generated from this type of services because it is an eligible item to be used.

Chairman Dowd

OK. No additional questions for the Hunt Building? Alright the next Department is 158, Parking Enforcement. The revenues are on Page 30, the Appropriations are on Page 73. Who is ...

Director Cummings

Again, Mr. Chair, Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development and I have Jill Stansfield with me who can speak to the budget.

Chairman Dowd

OK.

Jill Stansfield, Parking Manager

Hi, Good Evening, relative to Parking Enforcement, we did level fund as requested by the Mayor. The only line you would see an increase and this was to make a correction was to part-time salaries. So there is that correct that was made and also this particular budget is funded by the revenues that are brought in on the Parking Enforcement side.

Chairman Dowd

Internally?

Ms. Stansfield, Parking Manager

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

That's Parking Enforcement, right?

Ms. Stansfield

That's on the Parking Enforcement side, correct.

Chairman Dowd

Excellent. Any questions from any of the Committee members or the Alderman on Parking Enforcement? No one? OK. Then we will move on to Department 166, Parking Operations. The Revenues are on Page 31, the Appropriations are on Page 74. Ms. Stansfield, are you going to address that one as well?

Ms. Stansfield

Yes, I can speak to that as well. The Parking Operations side we were also able to primarily level fund, you will actually see a few lines where we were able to decrease. That was to account for the salary increases but there are a couple of line items that we were able to decrease. For example, credit card fees, we were able to decrease that because we've seen an increase in folks using the pay by phone service as opposed to the pay stations. With COVID, I think just with the way the pandemic affected everything, folks were leaning more towards using their personal devices to pay for parking so we were able to decrease that line significantly.

Chairman Dowd

OK any questions from any of the Aldermen? OK, I am not seeing anyone ... OH Alderman Gathright?

Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

Where would you show since you have not been able to use all parking spaces downtown. So where does that show up in this. So therefore, I am sure you lost some revenue, or maybe you didn't. I'm not sure you did, so where would that show up?

Chairman Dowd

Ms. Stansfield or Director Cummings, either one.

Director Cummings

Yeah if I may I think you'd want to look at Page 12 of your book. CFO Griffin is here, he could probably speak to it more specifically than I could. But essentially what you are looking for is to see how we budget the revenues. Now I will say in this particular item, we hold stagnant the 728 figure. So that's what you would see in your budget book and that is typically the threshold that we would use and then anything above and beyond that as may or may not know, gets transferred to the Downtown Improvement Committee.

Now this year, if you know, we are to date seeing something like \$380,000.00. That means that are shy from what we usually, typically see at this time this year. I suspect when we close this year, we will close missing the \$728 mark, somewhere between \$100,000.00 and \$150,000.00.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin and I have talked. Last year we had a special session on revenues and we probably even need one more than we did last year. If you look at individual departments some revenues go down other revenues go up and what we do is we look at total revenues is the key. So we may be addressing that in a separate meeting, maybe even in one of the wrap up sessions if that's OK with Mr. Griffin.

Mr. Griffin

OK.

Chairman Dowd

Alderwoman Klee, do you have ...

Alderman Klee

I just kind of following up with Alderwoman Gathright's question. Director Cummings or Ms. Stansfield what was the .. I know we do the \$728 and anything above that goes to the Downtown Improvement Committee and so on. But this past year was an extraordinary year, we know we can't count on that as a normal year. Prior years, what do we usually bring in? I know we only budget for \$728 because the rest goes elsewhere but what do we normally bring in?

Director Cummings

Average? I would say we bring in around \$1 million dollars, give or take. We typically transfer, on average to the Downtown Improvement Committee, about \$100,000.00 to \$125,000.00. I might be a little high, it might be around \$900,000.00 but we are in that range.

Alderman Klee

OK thank you. Mr. Chair, if I may I have just one quick....

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Alderman Klee

OK. My goodness I just lost it. One of those days I can just feel it.

Chairman Dowd

Too many things rummaging around up there.

Alderman Klee

I know maybe if I shake a little bit it'll come loose. So because we had this shortfall this last year, does that affect operations for this year or is that just kind of a done deal and so on. It's a double question, the other part of it is relative to the loss of parking space and loss of revenue from that, that would basically, we would still expect to get the \$728 as you put in the budget, correct?

Director Cummings

No, I don't believe we would actually achieve the \$728 figure.

Alderman Klee

No, I'm sorry I meant for Fiscal year '22 or do you think we don't do that because of the loss of the parking spaces.

Chairman Dowd

July of this year to July of next year.

Alderman Klee

Right. Fiscal Year '22; I know '21 we won't.

Director Cummings

I don't think we will in '22 either. It may be close, but I am going to suggest right now that we probably won't.

Alderman Klee

So do we need to change that number in the Budget Book or on the Budget? No. Just a comment, thank you so much.

Director Cummings

If I may.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Director Cummings.

Director Cummings

I recommend you keep it stagnant and the reason why is this is set by a separate resolution that was developed when we instituted the Downtown Improvement Committee and it has always been the benchmark that we use to guide how we do the transferring of money. And you compare it to the actuals that come in. And so this is just a budgetary figure that we just mark at \$728 and then as we watch the revenues as they come in over time, we are then able to assess how we are doing and whether we are able to transfer any funds to the Downtown Improvement Committee. I think the way it reads right now is a good way to do it.

Chairman Dowd

OK.

Alderman Klee

Thank you for that clarification.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Alderman Gathright.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I think Director Cummings just answered the question that I was going to ask because I just wanted to know that, will it be a time where you wouldn't have money to give to the Downtown Improvement, you know, given the way things are going. But I think you answered my question. OK.

Director Cummings

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions for Parking Operations? Seeing and hearing none. Thank you very much. We will move on to Economic Development. Director Cummings? It's Department 183. Evidently no Appropriations and no Revenue; at least they are not listed on here.

Director Cummings

Thank you Mr. Chair, again Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development. I should note as I did in my previous comment relative to the Hunt that if there's any shortfalls in revenues for the parking operations, I'd ask that you give consideration with some of the COVID money that may be coming in. With all that being said, with particularly the Office of Economic Development, before I begin I should just state that I believe we have met the request by the Administration. We have tried to provide a level-services budget as well as try to be as fiscally conservative as possible. I will note that we did actually reduce my salary line item this year, so there is a reduction in services all in an effort to try to make the budget work overall for the City.

With that being said, I think we had a great year for Economic Development. Over the months I have been before this body, I have talked about the various project and priorities. I have highlighted three throughout the course of the last couple of years that have been long-term projects that we really want to move forward on and I am proud to say that the School Street Redevelopment Project, we have a closing set for August 12th on that project. The Performing Arts Center is under construction. And then passenger rail is a priority of ours that we continue to meet regularly on and we have a dedicated core group of local Nashua residents and officials, which Mr. Chair, I know you are actively involved in that. All to make sure that Concord and Washington, D.C. continues to prioritize passenger rail along the capital corridor. So that is more of a State level driven initiative at the moment but we are still actively engaging on that front to make sure we are positioned for success.

In, I would say February of this year, I went before the PEDC to talk about some goals as I just noted, we have wrapped up or moved forward on some of the higher priorities in the Office of Economic Development. So based on consultation with PEDC and other Members of the Board of Aldermen, I developed new Departmental Goals for FY '22 and my goals tend to be more than just year-over-year goals; they tend to be longer-term type initiatives. So it takes me a few years to accomplish them, but nonetheless, I am going to run through my current list of goals that I will be working on definitely over the coming year and probably over the coming few years.

So the first one I always mention is just renew the commitment to the Mission Statement that is codified in our Ordinance. Always looking to bring in jobs and try to bring in good paying jobs at that. Looking to continue to bring passenger rail to Nashua, work with BIDA and work the Downtown Improvement Committee, always looking to try to create some efficiencies as best as possible to help with the streamlining of the Government process. I will be looking to redevelop the Elm Street Middle School and looking to begin the disposition process of that property. We just had an RFP conclude where we received proposals from various architectural firms that will be helping us with this initiative. We would like to get an RFP out to the development community in January looking to dispose of that site.

Similar type effort with the mill yard. As you may or may not know, we have now acquired the NIMCO Property. And with that acquisition we are now trying to dispose of all the surplus properties that we no longer need because we have pretty much come to completion on the Broad Street Parkway. We will be continuing to design and start the implementation of the Master Plan Riverfront Area in the downtown. We are concluding preliminary design now, we will be moving towards final design with the goal of trying to get under construction some time in Calendar Year '22.

A goal that was not on my radar originally but is a good example of why having these types of conversations is helpful is in my conversation with PEDC there was a discussion about broadband how we might be able to bring broadband to areas in Nashua that are underserved. So I am going to be looking into that over the next year or so. I am working with the Mayor's Office on that initiative and hopefully we will be able to report back some findings to you in short order.

Lastly, I am going to be focusing on some priority development sites with some public / private partnerships, looking to move the Mohawk Tannery, the Beazer Site, the Dow Chemical Site and then finally Daniel Webster College. We need to get those sites reactivated for our benefit and so trying to work with perspective purchasers or developers on those projects will again continue to be a priority. And then lastly, something I always have on my list is just be looking to dispose of surplus city assets and commercial tax deed property. So those are the goals that we will be working on over the next year or next couple of years and I just thought I would remind everyone of my efforts and my office's efforts. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

By the way your appropriations are in the book, they are on Page 80. It just wasn't listed on the Agenda and yes, yours did go down. But thank you for that. Is there anyone else that has any questions for Director Cummings? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you Mr. Chairman. So I see that you've and you said that you reduced your salary and wages and lines and the fringe benefits lines. So how did you do that? Are you now a one man band over there?

Director Cummings

That's correct.

Chairman Dowd

Follow-up question Alderman Jette or are you all set?

Alderman Jette

Is that realistic? Do you anticipate being able to do that job by yourself this coming year?

Chairman Dowd

Director Cummings?

Director Cummings

Yes, thank you. I do believe, I'll need to be innovative and ultimately at the end of the day we have to live with the Budget that we are given. And I will do the best I can to provide at the same level of service. I think there will need to be some changes along the way, particularly on the Administrative front due to the reduction of services. But nothing that would be Herculean, or nothing that would be overly complicated.

Just all things that we would need to do to try to have a more efficient operation and that is my plan and I think we can achieve it.

Chairman Dowd

Just from my observation, Director Cummings doesn't work 8:00 to 5:00; many of our conversations are in the evening. It's the only time he has free to discuss things. Any follow-up Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

My hat is off to you. I am just, I'll try to ask fewer questions in the future. I hope you are taking care of yourself.

Director Cummings

Thank you, actually if I could Mr. Chair, I am available always for questions, so Alderman Jette if ever have a question, please ask it. That's my job, that's probably the most important job I have is to get you guys all the information you want so you can make the choices possible. So don't hesitate to reach out, I am always available as Chairman Dowd knows and as you know Alderman Jette, I know we talked as well during off hours because oftentimes that's probably the only you can get me when we have back-to-back Zoom Meetings.

Chairman Dowd

Alright. All set Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Yes, I am thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else for Director Cummings? Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

I just want to kind of add a comment to it. I too have contacted Director Cummings off hours. I have sent him an email and gotten a phone call on a weekend on a Sunday and sometimes I can hear his son in the background because he's babysitting that day. So thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Thank you Director Cummings.

Director Cummings

Thank you, sir.

Chairman Dowd

The next department is Public Services, Nashua Airport Authority. Mr. Lynch? Your Revenues are on 357 as is your Appropriations?

Chris Lynch, Nashua Airport Authority

Good Evening, Nashua Airport Authority. OK well thank you everybody for all your time and your consideration and all you do for the City, we appreciate it tremendously. Just so you know, the Nashua Airport Authority operationally we are self-sustaining. So we don't ask the City for any operational budget money. And if you see my budget submissions, '21 and '22 Fiscal Years are pretty much a break even just over \$600,000.00 in expenses and revenues. So we don't have a lot of extra money but operationally we are fine. What we have done in the past is we have asked the City to contribute matching shares for our projects.

Generally, our projects are funded 90% by the Federal Government, from the FAA, we get 5% from the New Hampshire DOT, Bureau of Aeronautics and we ask for 5% from the City. Now with being said, I had a recent meeting with the Mayor and John Griffin and I let them know that our carryover project that we are in the midst of right now, which is a pavement rehabilitation project I was able to receive 100% funding from the FAA through some COVID funding programs. So we were asking for just over \$200,000.00 match for that which we no longer need because we got the 100% funding. And our project for this year, not a carryover project but Taxiway Alpha Rehabilitation Project, again we were looking for around \$200,000.00 match for this project and I recently found out that we received another 100% grant from the FAA. So the carryover and this current project right now, we are not asking for any money this year, therefore saving the City approximately \$400,000.00.

Obviously the City needs it so that's great. Moving forward we have some other plans / projects on the books as I know you have all seen on the projected capital improvements. So hopefully we are still in line for getting some of those matches in the future. Obviously it is a great deal when we can get 90% of these funds from the Federal Government and only ask for 5% from the City. So thank you for past contributions and future contributions. Again we are in the middle of a massive paving project right now. It is greatly improving the airport for both tenants and transient customers. This is part of a basically two-phase project. A couple of years ago we paved the other end of the field, now we are on the north end of the field. The inner taxiway and in-between all of the hangars and we have over 150 hangars on the airport and all these people are Nashua taxpayers and they a lot invested in this airport. To get a project like this going is a great benefit to the airport and it is greatly appreciated.

A couple of other things, last year the Department of Public Works helped us out with some paving on Perimeter Road. We did some mill and overlays but it was more like patchwork so I have still requested you consider us in the future for paving Perimeter Road. The potholes are already starting to creep up around the patches. Again we don't ask for a lot from the City but there are a lot of taxpayers on the airport that have made it clear to me that they would love to see this road paved. And as you are all aware, the Nashua Airport is a huge economic engine for the City. Again we operationally we are basically a non-profit, but the revenues that the airport brings to the City are tremendous.

One other thing I'd like to touch upon and not take all of your time up here is we have an event this month finally. We were kind of stagnant with COVID last year, we couldn't have any events. But we have the Commemorative Airforce coming on June 23 through the 27th. There will be static displays as well as they will be giving rides and B29 Super Fortress; B29 Liberator, a B51 Mustang; a T6 Texan and a Stearman. So this is a great event for the airport and the community, it has been well-attended in the past. That's basically all I have. Did anyone have any questions?

Chairman Dowd

Are there any questions for the airport? Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Hi, thank you Director Lynch. What has your business been like for the last during COVID.

Mr. Lynch

Well surprisingly we had, we only saw a 3% decline in movement last year. We have approximately 65,000 movements per year which are takeoffs and landings and we only saw a 3% decline. So that was actually very good.

The Nashua Airport is a busy airport, we are actually the busiest airport in the State of New Hampshire. We actually have more movements than Manchester does, granted we don't have commercial scheduled airline service. But in terms of movement, we are actually the second busiest air aviation airport in New England. So we definitely carried our own last year. Fuel sales were down a little bit last year but they are picking up. Our Corporate activity is picking up and we have an awful lot of flight training that goes on at Nashua both in fixed wing and helicopter.

Alderman Wilshire

Good to hear; thank you so much.

Mr. Lynch

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Gathright, did you have a question?

Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

Yes. Director Lynch, you mentioned that there are activities going on this month but you didn't give us a date or time.

Mr. Lynch

Yeah it's June 23rd through the 27th. And it'll be open from 9:00 to 5:00 daily. There's paid admission for these events, I am sorry I don't have it on me but if you go onto our web site NashuaAirport.com you can see all the - the brochure for the event; it'll tell you all about it.

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

Great. Thank you.

Mr. Lynch

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions for the airport. Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you Mr. Chairman. So you mentioned, I have several questions. The first one is you mentioned the airport being a great economic engine for the City. Can you elaborate on that, how does the City benefit from activity at the airport. How does the City get any money from that?

Mr. Lynch

Employment, there are probably in excess of 100 people employed at the airport; residents, taxpayers and with all the Corporate activity that we have here as well, a lot of high level corporate activity comes through the Nashua airport. Whether it be banking, aerospace, tech industries, grocery chains, etc., they all come through the Nashua Airport and contribute to the community.

Chairman Dowd

I can just address a little of that since I was on the Airport Authority for 15 years and Chairman. We did a study one time on the amount of money that the airport brings into the City and that was years ago and that was substantial. How many Corporate Aircraft do you have in the airport right now?

Mr. Lynch

Right now I believe we have 11.

Chairman Dowd

So there are 11 companies that are paying a substantial amount of money for their aircraft there. Plus I can tell you that military aircraft come in and out of there, I don't know how frequently but quite a bit. I have been there when for instance the Coast Guard came in with a bunch of senior officers and they actually were stopping at the Midfield Café and gas up. So they sell a lot of fuel which adds to the revenue. But there's a lot of indirect advantage to the City from the airport and I don't know if that study is still around but could be polished off. Follow up Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, please. Thank you. You mention that there were a lot of taxpayers that utilize, I forget exactly what you said but you talked about taxpayers using the airport or being at the airport. Are you talking about people who are real estate property taxes in Nashua who use the airport or is there any tax revenue directly generated by the airport to the City?

Mr. Lynch

Both the taxpayers, Alderman Jette, that I was referring to, the combined tax payments from the hangar owners, the tenants of the airport is right around the \$800,000.00 a year mark. That's what I was referring to.

Alderman Jette

So tenants at the airport pay real estate taxes to the City for those hangars things that was what you were talking about?

Mr. Lynch

Yes, sir. That is correct.

Alderman Jette

OK, thank you. And a couple of years ago I can't remember the details but the Legislature did something about taxation on aircraft. I think to reduce the taxation on aircraft and we were told that would attract more aircraft who would then park here in New Hampshire airports. How has that worked out for you?

Mr. Lynch

That actually worked out fantastic and what you are referring to is House Bill 124 and Senate Bill 565, they married each other. What it was, there was a millage fee on aircraft registrations. And to give you an example, let's see one of our tenants had a Falcon Jet and it was a \$27 million dollar jet less than 10 years old. Each year on top of his regular aircraft registration fees to the State of New Hampshire, he was paying the Bureau of Aeronautics an additional \$270,000.00 per year as a millage fee. And what this was doing was it was preventing anybody from a buying a new jet number 1) and number 2) anybody that was considering a place to base their aircraft, they weren't coming to New Hampshire. It's not just Nashua, they weren't coming to New Hampshire. So they were basically going to Massachusetts where there was a flat \$300.00 fee each year to register their aircraft. So we weren't getting any of that business. I led a charge with a group of people and we went up and testified at all the Hearings at the House Ways & Means Committee Meetings to have that repealed and ultimately we were successful.

You asked, I think you said, has it worked and the answer is yes. As soon as it was repealed, I was able to base two Corporate Helicopters here, Turbine Helicopters and these aren't small copters they were turbine they were like \$15 million dollars apiece, these aircraft, they moved out of Massachusetts and came here; they were holding off for a couple of years because of these millage fees but they wanted to be here, they came here. We have tenants on the field that acquired additional or replacement aircraft, brand new aircraft that they would not have otherwise bought and they were also looking to leave Nashua at the time if they could sell their hangar they were ready to go down to Hanscom. But we had this millage fee repealed and we were able to retain both of these tenants. One of the tenants actually was going to move his brand new plane to Hanscom, keep his other one here. But he did not do that, he based both of them here at Nashua now.

We have also acquired a couple of other mid-sized jets that we otherwise would not have based here, a total of four of those actually. So this has been a tremendous benefit to Nashua and actually the State of New Hampshire.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Mr. Lynch

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, I am. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? I just have one, SNHU purchased the Daniel Webster Flight Program, have they got that up and running and running training pilots?

Mr. Lynch

Well unfortunately, Chairman Dowd, they actually bought assumption of lease on the 79 Perimeter Road building as well as 85 Perimeter, the old Daniel Webster College hangar. And they started their program they were off to a strong start but then COVID hit and they have since cancelled the program.

They are doing a teach out as we speak and they are going to be here for about another year. So we are actively seeking other collegiate aviation education programs to come in to Nashua.

Chairman Dowd

OK thank you. If there are no other questions? Mr. Griffin did you have something.

Mr. Griffin

I'm sorry Mr. Chairman I was speaking to my daughter on the phone, sorry about that.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, no problem. Alright. Thank you Mr. Lynch, appreciate you.

Mr. Lynch

Thank you Chairman Dowd, good night everyone.

Chairman Dowd

Goodnight. And the final department that we will be addressing tonight is 179, the Public Library. Revenues are on Page 43, Appropriations are on Page 224. And who is here to present? I see Ms. McCormack?

Jennifer McCormack, Nashua Library Director

Yes and I am joined by Linda LaFlamme the Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Chairman Dowd

OK.

Ms. McCormack

Hi everyone.

Chairman Dowd

Let's see, Library. Alright if you want to give us an overview.

Ms. McCormack

Sure. So we were able to meet the Mayor's guidelines of a level-funded budget. Included in that budget is funding for all of the current library staff including the negotiated cost of living increase. It included the ability to fund a couple of positions, a couple of vacant positions and it allows us to add back four of our library pages. The library pages were laid off early on in COVID. We used to have 7 or 8 of them. This budget allows us to bring back 4 of them and it also provides for overtime, for us to have Sunday hours from September through April.

We did have our salary adjustments. So in this latest contract with our staff there was a salary adjustment which make Sundays a little more expensive than they used to be. Just before COVID hit, we had our first year of being open on Sundays all year round. We are not able to do that in this budget. Hopefully we can get back to that at some point; that was really popular with many families. For many families Sundays are the best day for getting to the library together.

On the Operating Side we did some shifting to reflect the general shift from physical items so physical books, physical DVD's to the demand for digital items. So this budget increases funding for streaming video services and e-books and digital audio books. It also includes an increase for our on-line calendar and museum pass registration system. One of our goals for this year is to replace the software that we currently use to manage computer times and printing and that's printing in the library. We also a service where customers can print from home. To off-set those we decreased the budgets for physical media books and DVD's and magazines.

We also decreased the budgets for program expenses for both adult and youth services. We did, over the past year, all of our programming has been virtual. We are looking forward to resuming in-person programming this year, but I think it will be a hybrid for at least part of the year. And any shortfall in programming expenses, our very generous Friends of the Library, have offered to offset that. So they have budgeted funds for their spending this year to fill any gaps we have in programing budgets.

And the final increase I'll mention, it is a really small increase, but I want to draw attention to this. We did increase postage by \$1,000.00. As one of the steps we took when COVID hit was to increase eligibility for our books by mail program so that replaces what used to be the homebound delivery service. That used to be a service that was available only to homebound customers or visually impaired. We expanded that to include customers who were at particular risk from COVID or even just were in the particular age that is of particular risk of COVID. So it is a small increase but we went from 50 customers for Books by Mail and we are a little over 70 now. We mail those books to people's homes free of charge to them. So that's the reason for that increase.

I feel really good about this budget. I know Linda may want to make some comments. We have an excellent staff and I was happy to give them their increases they deserved it and it helps us retain quality employees. But I think we are able to come up with a good budget that continues to serve our customers well and maximizes the number of hours that we are open and the services that we can provide.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you very much. Ms. LaFlamme.

Linda LaFlamme, Chair of the Board of Library Trustees

I would second that Jen and her team have done a fantastic job over the past year, practically reinventing their service model to be virtual and still remain a vibrant and important part of the Nashua Community. So she and her staff have juggled very well and I think we have juggled the requirements of the Mayor's guidelines, our new contract and also what we needed to accomplish in the libraries.

Chairman Dowd

OK thank you very much. Questions for the Library? Anyone? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you Mr. Chairman. So forgive me, this probably isn't really a budgetary question but I guess it could be. What is the status, you know, the Library has a lot of material that it has accumulated over the years that has research value or historical value. I am thinking of copies of the Nashua Telegraph, I know you used to be able go in and look at microfilm or whatever the correct term is. Are you in the process or do you have the capability of converting a lot of that into a digital format that would make it available to people on line?

Ms. McCormack

We have done that Alderman Jette. In fact, we have now reached the limit to what we can digitize under copyright laws. So I can send you the link. Anyone can visit our website and look at historic issues of the Nashua Telegraph right online. We also digitized French Newspaper, L'Impartial and I am sure that's not the right pronunciation. That's also available on line.

Alderman Jette

L'Impartial; I used to deliver the L'Impartial.

Ms. McCormack

Yeah so we digitized that. The Board expended trust funds on that and I would say probably, I think we have invested over \$30,000.00 in digitizing those resources and they are freely available online which is pretty exciting. And we do store microfilm, so there's certain years that we are not able to digitize yet but you can come in and look at them on microfilm or you can email the reference staff. We have a few people that love to do that and they will usually happily look those up. And we still have the Hunt Room so our local history room is still available for customers and that has a great deal of genealogy and local history materials there too.

Chairman Dowd

Follow up Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Is there any effort to digitize is that the correct word, the stuff that's in the Hunt Room? Is there any plans or any possibilities that

Ms. McCormack

That would be great. We have been discussing this year digitizing both additions of the Nashua History that the Public Library owns the copyright to, one of which library staff wrote just a couple of years before I started working here. But that's the extent of it. It's a great dream though, Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions? Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chair. Actually my question is not budget-related at all but it was just an email that I received because I sent out that the City was opening up on June 7th and the question was, will the rooms of the Library also be opening in June. So I hate to put you on the spot, but may I ask that question?

Ms. McCormack

You may and I have actually, Linda probably won't know this because I don't think I have spoken to her since then. But I had a good meeting with Heidi Peek from Environmental Health about what her recommendations were for reopening the meeting rooms. And our hope is by the end of the summer that we will have a plan in

place to do that. I would like to do it before then. Heidi Peek's main advice was to continue with baby steps the way we've been doing – rolling out things a little bit at a time. So let's give the mask mandate, now there is no mask mandate, let's give that a few weeks before we start planning to reopen the meeting rooms. We have staff still in some of those meeting rooms and the break room is in the middle of those meeting rooms so there's some work on our end we need to do .

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Just one more comment, Mr. Chairman, if I may. Thank you very much for that answer, I appreciate that and as far as your genealogy room, I too have used it even though I am not from Nashua my husband's grandfather actually came to Nashua and we never even knew it. It kind of helped us with information. So thank you so much, I appreciate that.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions for the Library? I am just wondering Dean Shalhoup uses your reference to the old Telegraph to write all his stories.

Ms. McCormack

I don't know about all of them but a lot of them. He's one of our power users.

Chairman Dowd

I bet. OK if there are no other questions. Thank you very much, appreciate all you do and keep the Library up and vibrant.

Ms. McCormack

Thank you so much folks. Have a great night.

Chairman Dowd

OK alright. I need a motion from Alderman O'Brien.

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

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE R-21-145, 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

R-21-145

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE INTERFUND TRANSFER OF \$325,000 FROM THE BROAD STREET PARKWAY CAPITAL PROJECT ACTIVITY TO THE NASHUA MILLYARD DOG PARK CAPITAL PROJECT ACTIVITY FOR THE PURCHASE OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT "L" PINE STREET (MAP 77, LOT 5)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin did you want to add anything or Mr. Cummings did you want to add anything?

Mr. Griffin

Mr. Chairman, I'm all set unless the Committee members have any questions. Thank you.

Director Cummings

Same here Mr. Chair, I'm all set. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

OK. Alderman Schmidt, did you have a question?

Alderman Schmidt

I did. Actually I'd like to say it is really unfortunate that the dog park name was attached to this. Because I think that the majority of that area is not going to be used for a dog park, it is going to be an entrance for the people in the center of the City to enjoy one of the gems of our City, the Mine Falls Park. It will be a wonderful addition. And if people look at this as you know gosh, we are doing something nice for dogs well that's sort of maybe on the side. But I think the important part will be actually making Mine Falls part of the inner City where people can walk to it, they can bike to it, they can really, really be a part of what would make downtown a really great place. That's all I needed to say. Thank you very much.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you Alderman Schmidt; Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes thank you. I was hoping that CFO Griffin might be able to address some of the comments we heard in the Public Comment around whether if we were to pass on this purchase if that money could go back to the tax roll?

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

Yes thank you Mr. Chairman, thank you for the question; CFO John Griffin. This particular fund as I mentioned has been around for quite some time. As Mr. Cummings and the Mayor mentioned, this particular project came in under budget. So maybe I can add some additional insight. We have issued about \$34 million dollars' worth of bonds. The estimate I think that was approved by the Board of Aldermen was about \$36 million. In addition to that we got Federal pass-through money through the State of \$25.2 million. The total amount of revenue received including some of the other non-bondable items was \$59,500,000.00 and to date we spent approximately \$56 million so there's a surplus of funds over the amount we spent, about \$3.4 million and that's why I mentioned that in this particular case we are not asking to repurpose bonds, that might be done down the road for another project.

And just one other point. As far as the bonds remaining, subject to check, I'd have to do some addition, but I believe we owe a lot more than what was commented on as far as the debt service for Broad Street Parkway. But I can and will supply the amounts outstanding to the Committee. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Klee did you have a question.

Alderman Klee

More of a comment, thank you Mr. Chair. I want to echo what Alderman Schmidt had said and that is, even though I appreciate the transparency that we are hoping to put a dog park there and I believe we will put a dog park on that land, I think we would have done it whether we had purchased it or not. Because I believe there was an agreement with the Mill Yard Association. But putting that aside, the most important part is when you look at the GIS as Director Cummings put up on the screen, you can see where that property literally is one of the major openings of the park. And as a person who uses the Mine Falls Park a lot, that is really one of my walking routes. I literally come out that way and go back in over by another entrance to the park, but walking through the parking lot it kind of creates a circle of a path. It is just a natural route. I think the perception has always been that the City owned that land. I think it was a shock and surprise to many people who looked at that to say, what do you mean the City doesn't own the land. They didn't realize that wasn't part of the park.

They assumed the City owned the land and that was part of the park because it is a just a natural progression of it. And now that we own the NIMCO Building which again more or less abuts this property, it is just a natural flow. Otherwise we would have the park, a private piece of property and then city land with NIMCO. And not that we will keep that building forever, but again it is just a natural progression of how I believe it should go. And I hope that you will make a favorable recommendation on the purchase of this. I agree with what Alderman Schmidt had said, I wish it did not say the Nashua Mill Yard Dog Park Capital Project Activity. But I also understand why it was done that way. It was done for transparency so no one thought we were trying to pull a fast one, that makes a lot of sense.

But I think it led people down the wrong path that we are spending \$325,000.00 on a dog park when that, in fact, is not – all those that spoke against basically were saying we can't afford a dog park, we can't afford a dog park, we can't afford a dog park and this is not \$325,000.00 for a dog park. And I think it is just getting caught up in the rhetoric but that's how politics works and I understand. So thank you so much.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Dowd, if I could have a follow-up please to CFO Griffin?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. I'm sorry I know that you explained some of it but I feel like my intent of my question still wasn't answered. It was asked in public comment if we pass on this, could \$325,000.00 go back to our bottom line or is this money that is earmarked for capital projects only. I just want to make sure that it's very clear to people what we are doing here.

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

Yes, Mr. Chairman, John Griffin CFO. The Board of Aldermen has the ability through Legislation to move any monies in this particular account for other purposes. Believe it or not there are still expenses being incurred by the Broad Street Parkway; these things take a long time to go through and finally get sign off by the Feds that oversee the project through the State. So what we try do as Alderman Dowd knows and others, we try to take on money that we have already sold and repurpose it and that's what I meant to say at the beginning that most of the proceeds could be repurposed for future capital projects. This particular amount that I mentioned is not tied to the bond so you could use it for another purpose. It just when we were working with the team internally to determine the best funding source, we looked at the Broad Street Parkway as a viable funding source for this particular amount.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you that was what I was looking for.

Chairman Dowd

OK any other questions? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So I want to make it clear to the public and to the rest of the Committee that what we are talking about tonight is whether or not we are going to take this \$325,000.00 from the Broad Street Parkway Fund sort to speak to pay for the acquisition of this land. The decision to buy this land has already been made. At our meeting last Tuesday, we voted to enter into a Purchase & Sale Agreement to purchase this property for \$325,000.00. I voted against it last Tuesday night not because I am against purchasing this land; I voted against it because I felt that we were putting the cart before the horse, that we had this Public Hearing scheduled for tonight and that I felt we ought to wait and let the public speak so that we could take their

comments into the consideration about whether or not to provide this funding and then vote on, you know, once we secured the money or not, then we could intelligently vote on whether or not to go through with the Purchase & Sale Agreement.

I felt that the comments made by Director Cummings and Director Marchant about how it was strategically a good decision to purchase this land, and again as others have stated, the primary purpose is not to acquire land for a dog park. The primary purpose I thought and as it was explained to me was to secure this property which as Director Cummings and Director Marchant have pointed out is environmentally sensitive. It is located just south of the Nashua River, just north of the Cove and it is adjacent to Mine Falls Park. There is currently and has been for some time, access to Mine Falls Park through Spine Road. The people who own this parcel of land now own it subject to an easement across Spine Road which does provide access. And if we did not buy this property that access would still be there.

But there are other reasons for wanting to secure this property. And as Director Cummings, I think it was he who pointed out that 50 years from now as we look back on the purchase of this property, you know, the \$325,000.00 is not going to seem like that much money. Plus we have to remember that there is a lease for that antenna which generates something over \$25,000.00 a year which the City will get the rights to after the first two years. They get the rights to it, I don't think there's any – I am not aware of any plans by the Absolute Broadcasting Company to abandon this antenna. If you ask them they are planning on being around for a long time. They are constantly marketing and they think they are doing very well. They are planning on being here for the long-term and I expect that they will be. So we will be getting income from it which will lessen, in the long run, will lessen the actual cost.

So having said all of that, I think there are good reasons to acquire this land. And by the way, the purchase price was determined by an independent appraiser, CBRE, a well-known commercial appraiser who valued the property. And because of that income from the lease on a radio antenna, that is why they come up with the price that they did. And Director Cummings has assured me that he tried very hard to get the seller to lower the price but the seller was, according to Director Cummings reluctant to let go of this property. So it was a hard bargain. He did his best and this is the best price he could come up with. So having said all of that, I was convinced that this is probably a strategic, I know a lot of people have contacted me and are adamantly opposed to spending this money for this purpose, but I think that in the long run, I think it will be considered in the future as having been a very strategic purchase. And the only reason I voted against it, I didn't think we should vote to enter into a Purchase & Sale Agreement without knowing where the money was coming from.

So that brings me to tonight. The only purpose of tonight's resolution is whether or not the \$325,000.00, which by last Tuesday's vote we have committed to that, we have entered into an agreement to purchase this land for \$325,000.00. If we back out, if the seller wants to, the seller could force us to purchase it at the \$325,000.00. So the question tonight is not whether we are going to buy it, we have already decided that, the question is where is the money going to come from? And the Administration in consultation with CFO Griffin have come up with this source of money. Now I was under the impression that this money, that the source of this money was excess bond funds which could not go back into the General Fund, it had to be used for some purpose like this. But from what CFO Griffin has told us tonight, that's not the case, it could be the \$325,000.00 from the Broad Street – the excess Broad Street money could be used for some other purpose or to lower the tax rate or whatever, so those criticisms are valid. But if we don't use this money, we are going to have to come up with the \$325,000.00 from somewhere else. So we are not, I don't think, that we are really gaining anything if we don't take the excess Broad Street Parkway money, we are going to have to take it from somewhere else in the General Fund and I think that would have probably a worse effect on the taxpayers and the tax rate because this would be new tax money that will have to be generated. So for all of those reasons I am going to vote in favor of this Resolution. So thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly, did you have a follow-up or something?

Alderman Kelly

I just have a comment?

Chairman Dowd

OK.

Alderman Kelly

To Alderman Jette's point last week, we already approved the Purchase & Sale. I did vote against it and part of that was because I had the questions that I have this evening to ask and some more requests from constituents around whether this money could be used in a very tough budget year to help us close some gaps. I think it is a good project, I'm not against dog parks, I am not against purchasing a piece of land that sounds like it would be very strategic for the City. I just have a really hard time when we are seeing heads of Departments and Departments go down to one person for the entire Department in order to meet budget constraints while we are spending \$325,000.00 on a piece of land. So I will not be supporting this, but I do appreciate all of the work that's gone into this.

Chairman Dowd

OK thank you. I do have one question for Mr. Griffin. It is my understanding that any bonded monies cannot be used to offset the General Fund. There's two different colors of money and that's not allowed, you cannot bond money to pay to reduce the tax rate. Is that correct?

Mr. Griffin

Mr. Chairman that is correct, that's why in my further explanations indicated that any bonded money cannot be used to go back to buy down the tax rate. Furthermore, this is non-recurring money, this non-recurring revenue. So my recommendation has always been you don't – try not to use one-time money for recurring expenses that might be in the budget because when that money is gone, you have to replace it the following year. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

And the other point that I want to make that a comment on capital improvements. Capital improvements to my way of thinking have never been fully funded in all the years that I have been involved with the City Budget which is about 40. And we end up funding capital projects, especially in the last few years that are absolutely necessary or it is going to cost us two or three times as much downstream. So any monies being spent under capital expenditure is critical to some part of the City of Nashua. There are many items left on the capital improvement's list that aren't being funded that are also critical that keep getting pushed and pushed off. And it ends up costing us more in the long run so I just wanted to say that. If there are no other questions, I will call a vote. Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Thank you Mr. Chairman. So I hate to prolong this but if I could through you to CFO Griffin, perhaps I am denser than the other members of the Committee, but I am hearing you saying, would you just in plain words, I thought you said that although bonded money was restricted, the fact is that this \$325,000.00 is not part of the bonded money that there is in this Broad Street Parkway money, there is money that's been generated from the sale of property that was, you know, turned out wasn't used for the project. So I thought you were

saying that although bonded money is restricted, the fact is the money that – this \$325,000.00 is not coming from bonded money it is coming from some other part of this Broad Street Parkway money. And so this money, in fact, is not restricted, it could be used like some of the people who testified during the public hearing, if we wanted to, we could apply this money to some other purpose. Did I hear you correctly or could you just make it clearer for me?

Mr. Griffin

OK Mr. Chairman, thank you. Alderman Jette the reason why this particular Resolution does not call for the repurposing of bonded money is because it is not bonded money. And what we are asking through a Public Hearing and this particular Legislation is to have your approve the transfer and appropriate the money for this purpose. As I mentioned at the beginning it could go for any other appropriate use that the Board of Aldermen deems appropriate or fit. I hope that's clear but that's why you are not facing tonight a repurposing of bond.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Yes, thank you. Would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

Yea: Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd	5
Nay: Alderwoman Kelly	1

MOTION CARRIED

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano – 41 Berkeley Street. I'll be brief. Thank you for the more detailed explanation on the land being purchased to the entry to Mine Falls. It is a different perspective when you hear it explained rather than focusing on the dog park so that was good for me to listen to. Also, I want to ask you when you look at the Assessing Budget again to consider that next year we are doing the revaluation with Vision. And I think you are going to see additional money needing to be spent for abatements like when we contracted with KRT. I would actually expect quite a few more than what we gave to KRT; we gave 50 subcontracted out and we paid them additional money and I think you are going to find that you are going to see more than that this round and you could also have a problem with permits being captured again because the assessors are going to be working heavily on those abatements. You might need additional contracted support for permit work.

Also I would like you to consider adding another computer down in the Assessing Office. And I want to let you know the redesign of that office for public service was done really poorly. In the old office you had about 45 square feet of countertop space for people to come in and spread out and use their documents and work. The new design you put up this what almost looks like bullet proof, thick, shielded glass or plexiglass and it such overkill. It confines the area, I actually think it is a health trap. But you now have roughly probably 8 square feet of countertop space for the public to work on. You can't even open a binder with documents. There's only two service counter areas with two computers, there's no open computer on a desk for anyone to come in and do research. I think you've made a total mess of customer service. And anyone who knows

what goes on in a revaluation and the traffic in that area knows that this grossly inadequate. There should be another countertop placed outside with a computer on it behind the entry area some way to allow people to work. And I would encourage you as you redesign your Clerk's Office, I am hoping you do not do what you did in Assessing in creating these cubbies. Leave the space open and leave countertop space accessible.

Chairman Dowd

30 seconds.

Ms. Ortolano – Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Any other Public Comment? Seeing and hearing none, Remarks by Aldermen? I have Alderman Klee and Alderman Gathright.

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Chair. I just wanted to make a comment. Early on at the Public Hearing, there was an ex-Aldermen who commented about some of the things that we should do and look at as far as the dog park is concerned. I realized at that point that he obviously was not aware of the ADPAC, which is the Animal & Dog Park Advisory Committee that meets once a month. And we have looked into all of those, we have actually spoken to the people from Hudson and so on. But this coming Friday is an ADPAC Meeting and it is on the City Calendar, it can also be found under the Agenda, the ADPAC & Dog Park Advisory Committee; I'm sorry Animal & Dog Park Advisory Committee, they are meeting this Friday at 8:00 a.m. It is a virtual Zoom meeting and all the links and so on are there if somebody wants to attend and all I remember was his first name is Mark, I apologize.

Chairman Dowd

Mark Plamondon.

Alderman Klee

Mark Plamondon. And just to let him know and any others. They meet once a month and discuss the dog park and feasibility study as well as picking up poop – my favorite subject – etc. I recommend that the public come and listen. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Gathright?

Alderman Harriott-Gathright

I have a few announcements. The first one is about the Legacy of the Black Wall Street which follows the rise of the 36 Block Economic Hub in Oklahoma Greenwood, which is a subset of Tulsa. So from May 29th 'til today has been publicized on TV, many, many shows, different NBC, Channel 2, many channels. But the last one is tonight so for those here in Nashua who have not seen "Remembering the Black Wall Street" it is going to be televised from 9:00 to 10:00 tonight on OWN. If you have Comcast it's 226. So hopefully folks will join and watch that. And then tomorrow night, New Hampshire, it's not just Nashua, this is New Hampshire United Against Hate Rally and that is at 6:30 at Greeley Park and we ask folks to wear masks, bring their lawn chair if they would like and still practice social distancing. I will be reading the letter from the Mayor from the City as well. But there will be several speakers speak and we have a keynote speaker, I don't

know if you know guys know if her at all, but Sandra Rice Hawkins and a few others. But she mainly will talk about some of the hate groups around in New Hampshire and Nashua. Because a lot of folks believe that they really aren't hate groups but they really are, unfortunately. So that's tomorrow night June 2nd, at 6:30. And we expect that to go for maybe about an hour and a half.

And then I don't want to be remiss that Nashua Black Lives Matter is hosting Juneteenth and that's on June 19th, Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and it is at the Nashua Public Library Plaza. There will be food, music and more and it is free to the public as far as I know. And last but not least and you will probably hear some of these over the next couple of weeks; this will be our third year in conjunction with Portsmouth Black Heritage Trail doing the Frederick Douglas speech here in Nashua. We have done it at the Library in the Plaza and that's going to be July 3rd at 12:00 p.m. and all the other cities and towns that actually do the same celebration, everyone is at 12:00 p.m. And we usually go only for about an hour, it is really short. But those that come out and last year was really, really great a lot of people from Nashua were at the one here at the Library. And they all took a paragraph and they read about Frederick Douglas' speech and what that speech was all about.

And I don't want to tell people because I think it is worth people actually reading that speech to see exactly how he felt about the 4th of July and why he said what he said about the 4th of July. And so therefore the speech is always on July the 3rd the day before the 4th of July. So hopefully some of the Aldermen might come out and join us as well. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? Just one piece of information, this coming Thursday the 3rd we were supposed to have the Police Department Budget and I don't think it has gone out yet but Donna is going to be sending out that that will not be heard that evening. One of the main presenters had a death in the family and won't be able to be here. So it is going to be rescheduled, I'd be going out on a limb because I talked to Donna but I think it is the 17th, I am not sure. But she will be coming out with a new date for the Police Department.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Dowd?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

Last time we touched upon the Police Budget I asked if we were getting binders.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, you are.

Alderwoman Kelly

Do you happen to know when?

Chairman Dowd

I don't but I will find out tomorrow, I have to call into the Chief. But the same person that puts those binders together is the person that is involved. So I will find out when we are going to get them. They are usually hand-delivered to the office and we pick them up here.

If they get delivered to everybody's house they will be delivered in a Police car so we will see. I'll let everybody know. So if you have a cruiser pull up in front of your house it is not to arrest you, hopefully.

Alderwoman Kelly

You never know. I am very sorry for that member of the Police Department. I understand. I just want to make sure we get enough time with it before ...

Chairman Dowd

Well you'll have plenty of time now because it is not Thursday.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

So does that mean we have no meeting Thursday night?

Chairman Dowd

Yes you have a night off; enjoy it well, unless some other Committee member throws in a meeting but I hope not. It won't be Budget. Alright, Alderman O'Brien.

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 9:25 p.m.

Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Committee Clerk