

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

JULY 6, 2022

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, July 6, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber and via Zoom. The meeting link information can be found on the agenda.

Mayor Jim Donchess, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee, Vice Chair
Alderman Alex Comeau
Alderman Tyler Gouveia
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.

Also in Attendance: John Griffin, CFO/Comptroller
Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director
Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Jennifer McCormack, Library Director
David Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent
Jeff Lafleur, Solid Waste Superintendent
Dan Hudson, City Engineer
Jennifer Deshaies, Risk Manager

PUBLIC COMMENT

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street

I have one quick comment about the first couple of items that are being presented on the Riverwalk Project that's being done. I know that's a TIF project and I'd like to know what the plans are for the City or what your plans are Mayor Donchess to allocate funding for TIF? Have you set any boundaries or limits on how much money you want to see scooped up downtown that's put into tax incremental financing initiatives? My question is, I think my understanding is, that money that's allocated specifically for downtown is not in the used to calculate rate for the public. So it does raise the tax rate for the general public when that money is pushed off. Concord has a very heavy number of TIF districts but they also have a very high tax rate. I want to know what your limit is or what your boundaries are for creating TIF districts and rolling properties into it. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Donchess

Alright. Now to Communications. Two items. Now Tim Cummings who has really covered the first two and really the third item. He's away so we may wish to defer those to the next meeting in order to get him here to explain those details. If that's your pleasure, is there a Motion to Table the first three items? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

I have a question. I assume that because some of these are purchase orders. So I assume that delaying this is not going to affect the outcome of those – like those prices will still be good?

Mayor Donchess

Yeah, I think the prices will still be good.

Alderman Clemons

Okay, thank you.

Alderman Moran

Motion to Table the first three items.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN MORAN TO TABLE THE FIRST THREE ITEMS
MOTION CARRIED**

Mayor Donchess

That will be until the next meeting.

From: Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Re: Communication – Approval & Place on File a Contract for Professional Engineering Services related to the Nashua Downtown Riverfront Implementation Project with H.L. Turner Group

From: Tim Cummings, Economic Development Director

Re: Communication – Approval & Place on File a Contract Amendment for Professional Engineering Services related to the Nashua Downtown Riverfront Implementation Project VHB, Inc. for Water Street Design Services

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Commissioning Services in the amount not to exceed \$27,550 funded from 53107 Architect & Engineering Services/DPW Facility (Economic Development)

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Bulletproof Vests in the amount not to exceed \$26,240.50 funded from 61110 Protective Clothing/BVP Grant (Police)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF TWENTY-SIX (26) SECOND CHANCE SX02 LEVEL II BULLETPROOF VESTS FROM ATLANTIC TACTICAL OF NEW CUMBERLAND, PA, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$26,240.50. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 150 POLICE DEPARTMENT; FUND: 61110 PROTECTIVE CLOTHING/BVP GRANT

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

I believe we have the PD. So do you want to tell us a little bit about - it's pretty obvious but we usually get an explanation.

Brian Kenney, Police Captain

It's pretty straight forward. The order for bulletproof vests is to accommodate new officers that we anticipated hiring and also as replacement vests for current vests that are in circulation. They have a five-year shelf life, so every five years there's a contingent of vests that we have to renew so that can be combined with the new officers is the number you see before you.

Mayor Donchess

Any questions or comments?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Ammunition and Supplies in the amount not to exceed \$72,798.99 funded from 61121 Ammunition & Supplies/General Fund (Police)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF AMMUNITION AND SUPPLIES FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE CONTRACT #8002360 AWARDED TO EAGLE POINT GUN/T.J. MORRIS & SON IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$72,798.99. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 150 POLICE DEPARTMENT; FUND 61121 AMMUNITION & SUPPLIES/GENERAL FUND

Mayor Donchess

Again, pretty self-explanatory but I guess I'll say does anybody have questions, comments on this item the ammunition?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Landscaping in the amount not to exceed \$13,000 funded from 54280 Building/Grounds Maintenance/General Fund (Library)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE TWO YEAR CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL LANDSCAPING FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF THE LIBRARY PLAZA GROUNDS TO GREENER TOMORROW IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,000. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 179 LIBRARY; FUND: 54280 BUILDING/GROUNDS MAINTENANCE/GENERAL FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Is there anybody from the Library on Zoom?

Jennifer McCormack, Library Director

Yes, I'm here Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

I see Director McCormack. Thank you and could you give us a brief explanation please.

Jennifer McCormack, Library Director

This is new for the Library so prior to this year, our Maintenance Supervisor was responsible for maintaining the grounds, mowing, and leaf clean-up. It's really a big job for one person so the trustees asked me to pursue having professional landscaping services instead. So we went out to bid. I originally got a quote for a pretty high amount so I went out to bid but we were lucky to have Greener Tomorrow come in with a nice affordable amount.

Mayor Donchess

Great. Any questions?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. So my question is can you give us an idea of what the grounds are? Does it include the parking lot and the court yard right outside the Library? Can you just go over what...?

Jennifer McCormack, Library Director

Oh, sure. So it's all three levels of the plaza area between the library building and the Court Street Theater building. Then adjacent to the public parking lot, all the way down we mow and maintain and the way down to where that wooden stairway goes to the Riverwalk. Then the grassy area adjacent to the building walking down the steps to the staff parking lot. And I'm sorry. There's another area which the public doesn't really use that is on the west end of the library, so following along on Court Street there's a little grassy triangle.

Alderman Clemons

Great. I just want to say I appreciate this contract. I think hopefully it works out well and I don't want to begrudge anybody's work that they did previously. As you said, it's a tall order for one person to do. I think this is the right move and I will certainly support it.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Director McCormack I appreciate you also appreciate you putting in there that you met with this group Greener Tomorrow because they were so significantly lower than the others just to ensure they met all the criteria. So just to kind of elaborate for anybody that is listening, you basically went over each of the elements that you just explained to Alderman Clemons those different areas. Can you give us why you think there was a difference or just that it costs the company a little bit more? There is quite a difference between \$13,000 and \$50,000.

Jennifer McCormack, Library Director

There is and I addressed that directly with Greener Tomorrow. They were pretty frank. They are trying to break into or get more experience and exposure in commercial landscaping. They do have a contract for some municipal work in Hollis and somewhere else that I forget. So they priced it favorably. They're really enthusiastic about making the library grounds look great. We toured every area that needs to be maintained and I'm confident that they're up to it. I can't speak for why the other quote was so high. I know the other landscaping firm Dodi has other contracts with the City.

Alderman Klee

Just a follow up comment. Thank you and I do appreciate you giving someone a chance. I know they may not necessarily be a proven entity but someone who is starting out it's nice that the City is kind of taking them on as a contract to help them building their portfolio. So thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Central Irrigation System in the amount not to exceed \$85,850 funded from 81100 Capital Improvements (Park & Rec.)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A CENTRAL IRRIGATION SYSTEM FROM CORBETT INCORPORATED OF CONCORD, MA, FOR THE SUM OF \$85,850. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 177 PARK & RECREATION; FUND: CAPITAL; ACTIVITY; CENTRAL IRRIGATION PROJECT

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Now I don't see anyone from the Parks Department unless Mr. Hudson is going to cover this but I can explain it. So this is a budgeted item and it will complete the project that enables the Parks Department to control the irrigation systems from central location electronically and from their phone also, I believe. It saves money in water because they have more immediate control over the system. They don't have to go back and forth to turn it off and on and number two, it saves because less labor intensive. They don't actually have to go out to the field to turn on the water. They can just turn it on at their location and then when it's run long enough, just turn it off. Part of the system has been done but this will complete it. If you have deeper questions than I have provided, we need to bring them in.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Wastewater Chemicals: Polymer, Sodium Hypochlorite & Sodium Bisulfite in the amount of \$772,000 funded from account 61156 Chemicals (Wastewater)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE INITIAL SIX MONTHS OF FY23 PURCHASE OF POLYMER FROM POLYDYNE OF RICEBORO, GA, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$340,000. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: WASTEWATER; ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION: 61 SUPPLIES & MATERIALS

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Boucher?

David Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent

Thank you Mayor. Dave Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent. This is for a year's supply of sodium hypochlorite. It's the chemical used at wastewater for disinfection. A year's supply of sodium bisulfite - this is a chemical used to remove residual chlorine before the treated wastewater is discharged to the river and a six month supply of polymer. This is a chemical we use at the wastewater plant to aid in the sludge dewatering process. The reason that one is six months is because they do their - this particular company does their price changes in January whereas the other two companies for the other two chemicals we get through a chemical consortium through a bid process. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Re: Wildlife Management in the amount not to exceed \$317,428.91 funded from 55699 Other Contracted Services/Solid Waste Fund (Solid Waste)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE THREE YEAR COOPERATIVE SERVICE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NASHUA AND THE USDA WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT SERVICE FOR A COMBINED THREE YEAR TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$317,428.91. FUNDING FOR THIS AGREEMENT IS THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 168 SOLID WASTE; FUND: SOLID WASTE; ACCOUNT CLASSIFICATION 53 PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Lafleur?

Jeff LaFleur, Solid Waste Superintendent

This is Jeff LaFleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste. So this is our three year contract. It's a permitted thing through DES that we have to have someone there scaring away the seagulls, and turkey vultures, and any vectors that are on the landfill. They also go around throughout the City scaring turkey vultures from other properties that may have problems when we scare them off the landfill. They tend to congregate somewhere else. He'll go out there and scare them away from them.

Mayor Donchess

Any questions?

Alderman Clemons

Being on the Finance Committee for as long as I have in the past I've seen this always come up. People always wonder why we have to do this but unfortunately it is something we have to do and it does help to keep wildlife and things like that away from the landfill. Seems like a lot of money. It is a lot of money but we're required to do it. We don't have a choice.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Re: 2022 CIPP Lining in the amount not to exceed \$1,412,170 funded from 81700 Infrastructure Improvements/Wastewater Fund (Engineering)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE AWARD OF THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE 2022 CIPP LINING PROGRAM TO KENYON PIPELINE INSPECTION, LLC, OF QUEENSBURY, NY, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,412,170. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: WASTEWATER; ACTIVITY; SEWER REHAB

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Hudson?

Dan Hudson, City Engineer

Thank you Mr. Mayor. So this is the program by which we inspect and then line sewer pipes. This is much less expensive to line a pipe than to dig a pipe and replace it. We put this out to bid, received 4 bids. Kenyon was the low bidder. They have worked in the City since 2019 so we're familiar with their work and recommend an award to them.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Copier Leases & Maintenance in the amount not to exceed \$29,250 funded from 54421 Copier Maintenance/General Fund (IT)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR THE CONWAY 60 MONTH LEASE RENEWAL/REPLACEMENT FOR COPIER EQUIPMENT LEASES AND MAINTENANCE RENEW IN VARIOUS CITY DEPARTMENTS IN AN AMOUNT TO NOT EXCEED \$29,250. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 122 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; FUND: 54421 COPIER MAINTENANCE/GENERAL FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Is Miss Kleiner here on this or Miss Deshaies? No? Kelly Parkinson do you want to tell us what - it's pretty obvious but just give a little something here.

Alderman Klee

I don't see her here.

Mayor Donchess

Oh she's not here. Well this is the copier leases for all of City Hall and beyond, isn't it?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Good evening Mayor. Our apologies. The Manager that handled this is out today. It is copier leases and maintenance on a few of our fundamental units and most of our heavy hitting departments. So you're dealing with generally like Risk Management, Human Resources, Assessing, our larger departments. This doesn't include some of our others though over at like DPW and some of the outward searching. I just don't want you to think there won't be some others that are coming at a different time. It does cover the Conway copiers that we lease.

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Software Upgrade in the amount not to exceed \$150,976 funded from 71228 Computer Software for \$8,428 and 54407 Software Maintenance for \$142,548/General Fund (IT)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE A THREE YEAR CONTRACT (9/1/22 TO 8/31/25) TO UPGRADE THE CITY'S RISK MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE - MASTER SERVICES AGREEMENT - WITH COMPUTER SCIENCES CORPORATION (CSC) RISKMASTER 7.1 – CLIENT HOSTED - IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,976 (\$47,516 PER YEAR FOR THREE YEARS) WITH A ONE-TIME SET UP FEE OF \$8,428.00 FOR AMAZON WEB SERVICES AND SISENSE REPORTING. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 122 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; FUND: 71228 COMPUTER SOFTWARE AND 54407 SOFTWARE MAINTENANCE/GENERAL FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Miss Deshaies?

Jennifer Deshaies, Risk Manager

Hi, Jennifer Deshaies, Risk Management. A few months ago we presented to Finance a request to upgrade our current version of the Risk Management software. It's no longer being supported by Microsoft and the version is no longer being supported by the vendor. We've had this software since 2003. This is the 3-year maintenance agreement supporting that software.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Annual Maintenance for PEG Channel Playback Server in the amount not to exceed \$15,500 funded from 54280 Building/Grounds Maintenance/General Fund (Admin. Services)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE A MULTI-YEAR CONTRACT FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT OF THE CITY OF NASHUA'S HYPERCASTER PLAYBACK SERVER TO TELVUE CARE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$15,500. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 122 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY; FUND: 54487 EQUIPMENT REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE/PEG ACCESS CHANNELS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Good evening. So this is an interesting one. First I need to correct the fund that is noted on your agenda. It is not 54280 - our mistake. It is 54487 Equipment and Maintenance.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Comeau do you wish to amend your motion?

Alderman Klee

It's correct on our script but not on this.

Mayor Donchess

All right so the motion was correct but the agenda is not. Thank you very much.

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

So five years ago, the CTV studio and PEG purchased this Telvue Hypercaster Playback System. This really does do all of the management of the TV station, so not just Channel 99, or Channel 16, but also Channel 96. It's how you actually program and playback the shows at any particular time. It also does all the storage of those shows and all the live meeting content.

We realized when we went back that that original contract wasn't brought to Finance. It was approved by CTV by the CTAB Board. So we wanted to give a little bit of explanation and make sure that because this continuation is a two year that it is approved by Finance and then approved by the full Board on Tuesday. The equipment is five years old. It was originally purchased and included three years of complimentary maintenance. Then we did any extension on that and now we're looking for a two year. The Advisory Board did approve this on June 10th and now we're bringing it forth for your approval as well.

Mayor Donchess

Questions, comments?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Smart Shopper Benefits Program in the amount not to exceed \$40,000 funded from 59600 Smart Shopper Program/Benefits Fund (Admin. Services)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A CONTRACT WITH SAPPHIRE DIGITAL FOR THE CITY'S SMARTSHOPPER PROGRAM FOR ONE YEAR IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 113 BENEFITS; FUND: 59600 SMARTSHOPPER PROGRAM/BENEFITS FUND

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Miss Kleiner?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Good evening. So this Smart Shopper Program the City has had about three years now. This is a program where employees can call in and find alternative provider for a service that they may be having which charges the City a lower rate and provides an incentive, a payback to the employee. So originally we had a three-year contract with Smart Shopper and we watched the program grow. We'd like to see more growth than we're actually seeing. Some of the feedback that we've gotten from employees is that they'd like a mobile option, right, because we're all connected to our phones these days. It's easier especially if you're going from provider to provider. Currently Smart Shopper doesn't have that option but they are working on it. So we've agreed to enter into a one-year extension so that we can evaluate where they are next year with that mobile app and some other program features that we'd like to see. So therefore we are only asking for the one-year extension of the Smart Shopper Program. There are other options out there. They are a little bit more expensive than this, so we'd have to evaluate that next year.

Mayor Donchess

Alderwoman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Mayor and Director Kleiner thank you so much for the performance report that you put up there. I was very interested in the missed opportunity savings and so on. Do I understand that right meaning that these are places, like for instance if I looked at the ten missed opportunity claims and the ten missed opportunity savings and it says lab/bloodwork. It means that if they'd gone to a cheaper place it would have saved both them and the City money. Is that how I should read that those dollar figures?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

That's correct. So one of the benefits about Smart Shopper is it is connected. They have a great relationship with Anthem. So they can evaluate that data and they can determine that oh we had some opportunities where our members may have gone here, not called Smart Shopper, and not engaged, or enrolled in the program, and could have saved the City money here and also gained to themselves an incentive. So we all work together - WBS, Anthem, and Smart Shopper. We evaluate data and then shortly sometime late October or November we get together and do a deep dive into all the data, Smart Shopper included.

Alderman Klee

I do think having a mobile entrance into this would help the user because they can just go on themselves and not have to make those phone calls and try to do that. I think it might be easier for them so I would like to see that maybe in the future contract. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Moran?

Alderman Moran

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Director Kleiner how much has the Smart Shopper saved the City in comparison to its cost?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

So if you look at the May 2022 performance that I sent included in the package, you're looking at a total gross savings of about \$312,614. That is see where it says "period to-date" so that's "program to date" really.

Alderman Moran

Within our benefit package, do we not level out tiered providers like St. Joseph's tier 1, Southern tier 2 sending a message to the employee that if they go to St. Joseph they'll save money? Is that something because I know Harvard Pilgrim does it that way. I'm not sure if Anthem does it the same way.

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

No, I don't believe they do. Other than the Smart Shopper, we have some programs that we push to our employees that Anthem lets us know of and either on a monthly basis or we have two Wellness Wednesday's we follow during the month where we push information. Employees look for information. Most of the Smart Shopper alternatives and savings that they show are more by service. So from what I've seen, you may have one service that is actually cheaper at Southern and another that is actually cheaper at St. Joseph. I think it's depending upon the equipment and the providers that they actually have providing that service but I haven't seen an actual tiered approach.

Alderman Moran

I've just seen in the mental health field for some reason I'm a premier provider for Anthem. I don't know what I did to do that but what I pointed out though is that the cost of coming to see me maybe less than going to see someone who is not premier - maybe level two maybe in to the right credentialing packet and that kind of sends a signal to the employee that they may end up paying more/and or their employer. It's great when we you save a lot of money but sometimes like visuals for the individual when they have their plan is helpful. Just feedback, not critique. Thank you.

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Well it's important to note that mental health has been one of our high costs claims, right. So Anthem just developed a new program for mental health services and that kind of has its own set of savings already built into it and that's one of the programs we pushed out at our last Wellness Wednesday.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Comeau

Yes how can Alderman who are unhappy with their private section insurance get onto this plan?

Mayor Donchess

You have to pass an ordinance. Anyone else?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Excess Loss Insurance in the amount not to exceed \$1,905,516 funded from 59165 Stop Loss Coverage/Benefits Internal Service Fund (Admin. Services)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR A CONTRACT WITH QBE INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR THE CITY'S EXCESS LOSS POLICY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "STOP

LOSS”, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,905,516. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 113 BENEFITS; FUND: 59165 STOP LOSS COVERAGE/BENEFITS INTERNAL SERVICES FUNDON THE QUESTION

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

So as the last one was a little bit better news, this one is our stop loss coverage. Our stop loss coverage covers claims in excess of \$350,000 per incident per member. We did get notice from Anthem very early on in the annual renewal process that they would be charging us differently for this upcoming year. The price was going up substantially and that's why I wanted to include in the packet the actual bid document so that you could see we went out to bid through WBS - Workplace Benefit Solutions who is our consultant. Anthem and a number of others replied. QB was the low cost provider. They are also someone that Workplace Solutions has experience with and they have a very positive recommendation. Unfortunately, this is an area that as our stop loss claims continue to rise and you saw some of that this year, so does the premiums and that's just how the insurance works. So unfortunately, it is a necessity. You really do need to have the Stop Loss insurance and it was a positive experience for the City this year as in we benefitted from the overall cost of the premium that we paid. We do believe that moving forward with QBE is in the best interest of the City at this time and we will look – we'd go out pretty much every year for this insurance. It's that volatile.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Mr. Mayor and thank you Director Kleiner. The price ranges really are quite all over the place from a 73.4% increase to the QBE of the 19.9% increase. Do we really know why, and I apologize if you mentioned it, I did get distracted for a few seconds.

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

It really is when they analyze our data. So when you send out for a bid for a packet like Stop Loss, they are looking at your claims. They are looking at the age of your membership and they have calculations that they do that actually compare and estimate what your claims are going to be. Unfortunately, some of that ways against us so the cost of our membership, the type of ailments that they have, and the stop loss percentage that we've used in the past it just has weighed against us for the past few years.

Alderman Klee

And I agree and I understand that's why it goes up. The differences between from like Optum which would be 73.4% higher versus QBE which is 19.9% higher. Sun Life which is 72.1% higher. Just looking at that, I didn't understand what the others were going to be offering us that was worth going with anybody other than QBE. To me it's a stop gap. Once we hit that amount is it that they kick in or?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Right so they reimburse us. It really is from the way the consultant has explained it to me, it really is a difference in how the different companies interpret the risk.

Alderman Klee

Okay that makes sense. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Comeau?

Alderman Comeau

Yes, thank you. Director Kleiner generally I'm always in favor of the lowest bid but where the cost from QBE is fairly close overall to the cost from Anthem, would there be any benefit familiarity wise with staying with the company we used before?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

Great question. So we did use Anthem. We have used others prior to Anthem. One of the things that we considered when we looked at this was this isn't Anthem's primary business - stop loss. So we expect that they will continue to rise. We didn't see any benefits that QBE can't offer that Anthem could. So if we can develop a relationship with QBE, it may be in our best interest moving forward.

Alderman Comeau

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Alderwoman Timmons?

Alderwoman Timmons

Thank you. Director Kleiner I do have a question. Does this QBE also include the School District as well or just the City?

Kim Kleiner, Administrative Services Director

It includes all our members.

Alderwoman Timmons

Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Anyone else?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager

Re: Financial Audit Services in the amount not to exceed \$265,000 funded from 53114 Accounting & Auditing Services/General Fund \$193,000/ Solid Waste Fund \$29,000/Wastewater Fund \$43,000 (Finance)

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU TO PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVE THE EXTENSION OF THE EXISTING CONTRACT WITH MELANSON FOR SERVICES TO AUDIT THE CITY'S GENERAL-PURPOSE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, FEDERAL SINGLE AUDIT, AND SCHEDULES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 AND 2023 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$265,000 (\$132,500 PER YEAR FOR TWO YEARS, FOR A TOTAL OF \$265,000). FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH: DEPARTMENT: 126 FINANCIAL SERVICES; FUND: 53114 ACCOUNTING & AUDITING SERVICES/GENERAL FUND \$193,000/SOLID WASTE FUND \$29,000/WASTEWATER FUND \$43,000 ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Griffin is the CFO.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Yes, Mr. Mayor and members of the Committee. John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector. The City due to the size is required to have an external independent audit annually. We've used Melanson and Heath was the prior name and now it is now Melanson. They are very comfortable with our systems that need to be audited. We're comfortable with them as far as the information we provide so it's an effective and efficient way of reviewing the city's financial statements on an annual basis. I'm here tonight to support your favorable approval of this two-year extension that will help us get moving and get the audit done for Fiscal 2022 as that is now behind us. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Questions?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Kelly Parkinson, Purchasing Manager
Re: Emergency PO Request – Wastewater Chemicals (Wastewater)

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

RECORD OF EXPENDITURES

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN COMEAU THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE RECORDS OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIODS FROM MAY 27, 2022 TO JUNE 9, 2022 AND FROM JUNE 10, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2022
MOTION CARRIED**

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott McCullough

Good evening ladies and gentlemen. My name is Scott McCullough from Nashua NH. I live at 49 Congress Street, Building 49, Apt. 6. I'd like to tell you about an awesome thing we are doing with the Liquor Commission that will help Best Buddies. If you guys can help us out. I just sent it to the City of Nashua's website and to Instagram. I'm just asking if you guys can buy tickets \$100 and all the money will help Best Buddies with a lot of activities that we do. This Commission is going to be all their profits are going to go to Best Buddies. If you look on my Facebook, you'll see link. I'd greatly appreciate if you guys could buy tickets. It's going for a good cause. It's going for Best Buddies NH. Thank you Alderman Patricia for joining us for the Best Buddies Friendship Walk. I said it right this time. I had to make sure I did. Thanks for the donation the Mayor gave me. I greatly appreciate it. I am going to be coming down either this week or next with a painting that I'd like to donate to you that I made. I would like to donate it to you and have you hang it up in your office. I did a paint night and I would like to donate this painting to your office to say thank you.

If you can get a hold of Lori. I'm trying to get a hold of her to see if we can get in the chambers maybe September 13th if that's convenient with you Mayor. We'd like to discuss what Best Buddies is about. I'll ask Katie to contact your office or contact somebody and see if we can work some kind of agreement to have us come in the Chambers, tell you about Best Buddies, and try to get some more people to do the walk next year. My challenge is out there if anybody wants to still donate they can donate. I have to get an additional \$215 because the sneakers are \$1,500.

Mayor Donchess

So Scott your 3 minutes I'm sorry are up. We'll check with Lori about that. Lori Wilshire arranges that regarding the appearance and I believe it's the Lottery Commission.

Scott McCullough

The Liquor Commission I meant.

Mayor Donchess

No the Lottery Commission.

Scott McCullough

The Liquor Commission actually is the one that we need Best Buddies raffle thingy.

Mayor Donchess

All right, thank you very much.

Scott McCullough

You're welcome.

Laurie Ortolano

Laurie Ortolano, 41 Berkeley Street. I wanted to talk to you tonight and get some help from the seated Aldermen regarding the Performing Arts Center. This organization was set up when the new market tax credit money was received with two entities that are managing that art center - 201 Main Street Realty and the NPAC. NPAC is I believe for-profit and 201 Main Street Realty is non-profit. What happened when we did that is that was a very complex financial deal to try and obtain this \$2.5 million that we were looking for that we were unable to obtain through fund raising in the early phases when we were building the art center. The early commitment was it was a \$15 million bond and we would obtain \$2.5 million of money or donations from the public and that didn't come to fruition. The bond amount went up to \$25 million and the City started exploring other options to get money.

My recollection is they found this finance vehicle through the federal government called the "New Market Tax Credit" which could be used for banks to buy these - to receive deep tax discounts to invest in this facility and we would receive \$2.5 million from it. So we set this up and in order to do this very complicated deal, we had to set up two companies. These companies I have been trying to find out if they are subject to RSA 91A open records laws. I believe they should be. I believe they should be because they have at least 80% of our taxpayer dollars were given to that facility. Ordinarily the RSA 91A would specify that entities that receive substantial amounts of taxpayer monies must be subject to the open records law. Now RSA and State Statutes define that for BIDA - business industrial development authorities. They're called out as 91A compliant businesses even though they are not operating within the City itself because they co-mingle with the City and they co-mingle with projects. The Nashua Housing Authority is another organization, the Airport Authority is another organization, and we all know public utility companies are public entities and we can obtain those records. Bills on our neighbors' accounts we can get, building costs, housing costs on any house you're going to buy, open public records. So I really believe the City should have set up these two entities as public RSA 91A open entities but I'm not certain they did. They're not willing to answer me.

Alderman Comeau

30 seconds.

Laurie Ortolano

All the leadership has shunned me but Rich Lannon who is the President of both entities wrote to me a week ago and said our meetings are public and said there were three meetings held between December and May that were public meetings. The problem is they weren't properly posted, noticed, and the minutes were never generated. So they were in violation of the law and we are still struggling with Tim Cummings putting records out inappropriately and not following 91A. So I'd like one of you to find out...

Alderman Comeau

Time.

Laurie Ortolano

...if this is in fact a public entity and help me figure this out. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Any other members of the public want to address the Committee?

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:48 p.m.

Alderman Alex Comeau
Committee Clerk