

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

AUGUST 24, 2020

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Monday, August 24, 2020, at p.m. via teleconference.

Chairman Dowd

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

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

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

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

Meeting ID: 885 5998 9575 and Passcode: 741725

To join by phone dial: 1-929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 885 5998 9575 and Passcode: 741725

The public may also view the meeting via Channel 16.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The roll call was taken with 6 members of the Budget Review Committee present:

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

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Ernest Jette

Also in Attendance: Mayor James Donchess
Jim Testaverde, Deputy Police Chief
Sarah Marchant, Director Community Development
Kim Kleiner, Director Administrative Services

ROLL CALL

Alderman Kelly

Why did you do me first? I'm here, I am alone, you threw me off, and I am practicing social distancing and I can hear everyone.

Alderman O'Brien

Alderman-at-Large Michael O'Brien, the Clerk is present. I am alone, practicing social distancing and I can hear the proceeding.

Alderman Wilshire

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

Alderman O'Brien

Alderman Ernie Jette has been previously excused.

Alderman Schmidt

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

Alderman Clemons

I am here, I can hear everyone and I am by myself.

Chairman Dowd

I can hear everyone and I am here alone, practicing social distancing under the Governor's Orders. Also present with us are Mayor Jim Donchess, Deputy Chief of Police Jim Testaverde, let me see, Director Sarah Marchant, Director Kim Kleiner. I think I've got everyone. OK. First order of business on the Agenda is public comment. Is there anyone from members of the public that would like to present any testimony on anything appearing before us this evening?

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-20-056

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Aldermoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Patricia Klee

**RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$1,445,000 FROM DEPARTMENT 194 “CONTINGENCY”,
ACCOUNT 70112 “CONTINGENCY FOR EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES” TO VARIOUS SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT ACCOUNTS**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O’BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Ok I saw Mr. Donovan; Mr. Donovan would you like to give us an overview?

Dan Donovan, School Department

Certainly, as you probably all recall, part of the Budget process this year we received the second year of one-time funds from the State. The total amount that the Budget Committee approved which is \$2.2 million, this request of \$1,445,000.00 is a portion of that. All of the items listed here, deferred maintenance, furniture, copier down payment, etc., are all items that were in the original budget so there’s nothing new that wasn’t in the budget when you basically approved the \$2.2 million.

I will mention that the deferred maintenance, the \$460,000.00 that’s there when this transfer is approved, it will be put into the Deferred Maintenance Account and be used strictly for that. So I think that’s a quick summary. I hope most of these funds we are going to be spending in the next 30 days or so, so it would be great if this could be passed tonight. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

I have had discussions with Mr. Donovan and he knows that the Board pretty much insists that the Deferred Maintenance Account by spend for deferred maintenance. They are starting to have expenses early on because of what is going on and I feel comfortable with passing this tonight. Are there any other questions or concerns? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

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

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-20-057

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY MILLION DOLLARS (\$20,000,000) TO REFUND ALL OR A PORTION OF CERTAIN OUTSTANDING BONDS OF THE CITY IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE INTEREST COST SAVINGS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIENTO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

I don't see Treasurer Fredette on but he and I have had a few conversations this afternoon. Basically the long and short of this Motion is to save the City money. We will be refinancing bonds that we are able to refinance in accordance with the requirements that are set forth for that action as was explained by Attorney Bolton in the last meeting. Are there any other questions relative to this Legislation? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll?

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

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

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

R-20-058

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND TEAMSTERS LOCAL 633, FROM JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022 AND RELATED TRANSFERS

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

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Ok the Motion is to recommend Final Passage to the Full Board of R-20-058. I believe that Deputy Chief Testaverde is here to explain.

Jim Testaverde, Deputy Police Chief

I am sir; I see the Mayor had his hand up, I don't know if you wanted to go to him first?

Chairman Dowd

Mayor, would you like to make an opening remark?

Mayor Donchess

Yes Mr. Chairman. I thought I would take this opportunity to update you on a few financial matters and at least comment on the Police Contract which I have with the Deputy Testaverde at some length. We still are facing a lot of uncertainty and some more news that is not favorable. You might – I don't think you've yet received the Memo from CFO Griffin, but the new estimate based upon the increased contribution rates provided by the New Hampshire Retirement System is that the Retirement Budget will go up next year over this year by \$5.1 million dollars. Some of that is due to of course the increase in wages across the entire City. But \$4.4 million of that increase is due to the decision by the Retirement Board to impose additional costs on the Cities and Towns.

I think it goes without saying that this is a huge hit. The last estimate \$2.5 to \$3 million; now it's up to \$4.4. \$4.4 is more than 2% on the tax rate just on that one line item; just on that one increase. We have talked before about some of the difficulties we are facing as a result of COVID-19 and some of the other events which have occurred. We have talked about a 7% tax rate; this makes, you know, as a possibility this makes that situation even more difficult.

However we are working with the Municipal Association, with our Legislative Delegation to seek at least, I've talked with the Senators and with the Chair of the House Delegation about the possibility of Legislation to extend the deadline for the 2039 deadline for the accomplishment of a 100% funded situation. We are also working with the Municipal Association to attempt to get them to take a position in favor of some years of delay in that deadline. If we did ever achieve that, it would definitely help to mitigate against this increase.

I also wanted to report to the Committee concerning our efforts pursuant to requests made at least by you individually; I don't think the Board has ever voted on this. Your sort of individual request that we try to standardize the negotiations across the various Departments. Now that's certainly a good idea and I appreciate all of you who have spoken up in favor of taking that approach. Now to do that, we need to have someone on the negotiating team on these various negotiations, which is no problem with Public Works or with the Internal City Hall Departments; but an issue is raised regarding the independent boards, the employer boards because only with their consent can that occur.

I have talked with the PD about this and I think the Administration is favorably inclined, they do need to get the Commission to go along, but at least we are trying to have positive discussions. But I have to say that the School Department and the Fire Department are not really cooperating with that, at least so far. The Fire Department has declined to allow anyone from Administrative Services on the negotiating team and the School Department seems to be headed in that direction.

I would like to work together with you, maybe not tonight but in the future to talk about how we can try to bring about an attempt, just someone on the negotiating team so at least we know what's going on and the negotiating teams can be informed of all of the issues we are concerned about at City Hall, principally the cost issue. So that's something I think we need to work on.

We did get a little bit of good news which is that we don't think that the loss in utility values is going to be quite what had been projected by the experts with respect to House Bill 700. I could explain the details but it seems that this year we will probably have a slight increase and therefore the \$25 million or so loss that we were projecting doesn't seem like it is going to come to pass; so that's good news. We are thinking that the tax base may grow as much as \$20 million dollars this year, maybe \$25 – 400,000 to 500,000 in additional revenue, but of course, we have just talked about a \$5.1 million dollar increase in one line item. So the \$400,000.00 or \$500,000.00 certainly helps but certainly doesn't offset the pension increase.

I now get to the Collective Bargaining Agreement; I have talked with the Deputy at some length, I mean he is very on top of what is going on. I have to say I am concerned, because we keep setting a precedent that we have to change at some point, that all Unions are going to get more than the cost of living for a period of some years. Now this is only a two-year contract, there's some good news here in that this group of employees is not on the City Healthcare Plan, they have their own Healthcare Plan through the Teamsters. So we don't need to gain the healthcare modifications that we have been talking about and seeking. But continuing to establish a precedent for 2 ¾ % is something that we do have to change. Because if we were to grant that to every Union indefinitely we would have trouble sustaining the budgets even without COVID-19, even without the pension increase. So I believe we really need to exercise caution.

Now in this case, the Deputy forcefully argues that these lower level employees, it is a small group, he can tell you exactly how many, but it is a small group of civilian employees. He forcefully argues that they are paid less than the market. That is something I think we have to listen to. If an employee group can show that they don't make what their peers make with other employers, then that is certainly something we need to listen to. So I am concerned about the 2 ¾ % precedent that we are continuing to set but there is the facts that Deputy Testaverde will present that these people are lower than they should be, lower than the market and this is a short-term contract and it doesn't include City Healthcare.

So with those concerns expressed, I can't say that I am opposed to the contract but I just want to voice my concern going forward that we need to be careful about costs of all types including Labor Agreements.

Chairman Dowd

All set, Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

That's all I have, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Deputy Testaverde?

Deputy Testaverde

Thank you all, good evening, thank you Mr. Mayor and I agree with everything that the Mayor said, we did have a very productive, a very professional conversation the other day. Obviously, at times we are looking at things from different perspectives but there's nothing that the Mayor just said that is inaccurate. I would like to highlight a couple of things that the Mayor just pointed out. We listen, when I say "we" I am representing the Commission, the Chief and the whole Agency. So we listen, when the Mayor speaks at the State of the City, when we listen to the Aldermanic Meetings, when we hear the healthcare costs going up.

When we hear the amount of Nashuans that are out of work for COVID-19, when we hear that the tax rate that might potentially go up next year; we listen. We are also part of the Collective Bargaining Strategy Team, so we have a seat at the table and we are all trying – I say the Police Department is in favor of meeting with the other Directors across all the other Divisions and Representatives of City Hall to try to get more in line when we sit down at the table for Collective Bargaining.

We are a little bit different, as you all know, working for a Police Commission. We are not against listening to City Hall. As a matter of fact, I'll just give you one example, several years ago when the now Chief was negotiating the UFPO Contract, one of the sticking points in my opinion, I'm just giving you my opinion, was a sick buyout. When that contract finally came to fruition, we sat down and we said, well the City is very passionate to stay away from this right now for very valid reasons. So in moving forward in several other Union Negotiations that I've been part of, I want to be as fair as fair can be but that was one of the things that I asked the other Unions, when I sat down at the table to stay away from to show that we are listening to all of you at City Hall.

I've said it before and I mean it when I say it sincerely, we want to be part of the solution and not part of the problem. The Mayor hit it right on the head, out of our five Collective Bargaining Unions in this Agency, the Teamsters who we are speaking about tonight is carved out of our healthcare. As far as healthcare and I don't want to misquote Larry Budreau but we passionately sat down with all of our employees to explain the HMO Deductible Plan and the HSA Plan. We personally believe that the HSA Plan not only benefits our employees but benefits the City. And if you look at the numbers and you see how many of our employees switched over this year, we were very, very impressed and we've already made it a priority next year to get even more employees over to the HSA to benefit themselves and to benefit the City.

The Teamsters are carved out so there is a benefit already to the City. That's something I can't come to the table and I can't come to all of you and say, they were willing to give up some healthcare, it's just a whole different system which doesn't hurt the City, but that's just one card I can't put down on the table.

In addition to that, if you'd bear with me for one moment here, we roughly have 67 or 68 civilians that work at the Police Department. This Union consists of 28 of them, just over 40%. Some of them are very easy, if I talk about the Communications Union, that's Dispatchers and Communications, it's that simple. The Patrolmen's Union, it's Police Officers, Detectives, it's that simple. This Union is a little more diverse and I'll go down this very quickly I promise: Custodians, Fleet Maintenance which are our garage mechanics, Administrative Assistants, that's secretaries in the Detective Bureau, Professional Standards, Services, our Booking Specialists, these are civilians that book our prisoners, our Records and Receptionist, our Finance People, these are the men and women that work directly for Karen Smith, our Crime Analyst, which I believe many, if not all of you at one point, have benefited from how hard Jenny Sousa works when she is crunching our numbers and our Accreditation Manager, Mr. Bill Pease which I would hope you would agree especially with what is going on nationwide, being an Accredited Law Enforcement Agency being held to a higher standard, adhering to 459 Best Practices is the way we want to go. We have been doing that since 1991.

The average yearly salary for this Union is roughly just under \$42,000.00. The handful of employees that are above that have been here 27 to 33 years. There is roughly 7 of them that are under \$40,000.00. So when we start to break it down, the raise that we are talking about, a 2 ¾ raise would work out, on average, to be about just over \$1,100.00 a year, \$96.00 a month or \$22.00 a week. I don't want to give you sob story after sob story, but please allow me just one moment. These are men and women, many with families that the Union has come to me in a very professional manner and said, we don't know how much longer we can do this. They are not threatening us, they are not giving us ultimatums, they are not talking about picketing or calling in sick, nothing like that. They are consummate professionals, but they are saying that they have several members that are barely scraping by. A handful of our Administrative Assistants have two jobs. One in particular I know for a fact will not turn her heat on until the very late month of November and December just because of finances. These are not men and women that live out of their means.

When you talk about 2 ¾% I cannot argue with what the Mayor said as far as that percentage in this particular climate. But I do think it's very important to take the base salaries we are talking about as opposed to if this was a group making \$90,000.00/\$100,000.00, 2 ¾% might be a little to rich in this climate. When we are talking about, again on average, rough under \$42,000.00 and the numbers I just cited. I don't think this is a great contract; I think it's fair but if you were all generous enough to pass it and the Full Board were to pass this, I do not expect this Union to come up to me and give me high fives because this is a great contract. I truly am afraid in years to come that we are going to lose some solid employees. And I don't say that as an idle threat, I really, really don't. It's a tough time to be a Police Officer, these are not Police Officers, but I am not overstating this. Without these men and women we cannot do our jobs.

Without Karen Smith's Finance people, you know, the lights don't go on. Without the Administrative Assistants, one of our Administrative Assistants who has been there 37 years oversees every internal affairs documentation that comes across the desk. The amount of confidentiality that we need them to have, I need a custodian that can walk in my office and see some of the most confidential items and not worry for a second that anything is going to leak out of this building. And I would like to think you would all agree with that with your own, with City Hall and your own personal occupations. We take it very, very seriously, we take it to another level and it is my job to advocate for these people, but these are also your people too.

When you are talking about COVID that we all dealt with, our custodians had to come in. Our Fleet Maintenance had to come to disinfect the cruisers. Our Booking Specialists had to come in to process a clientele that the odds are if someone was going to be exposed to COVID, MERSA, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, A, C, HIV; this is what they deal with on a daily basis. They signed up for this job but it's not a lot of money; these people do not have timeshare condos in Aruba and, again, they have families. I would be more than happy to answer any questions. I would just like to say over the past five years with this Union, their percentages have been, starting back in 2015, 2 ½, 2, 1 ½, 1 ½ and 2. I am not going to look at you and say they are ridiculously low and insult any of you that might have voted in favor of them. But humbly, with the base salaries that they are making, I do think they are low, I do personally think that they are too low for this group of people.

My very last comment and then I'll entertain any questions and I have said this to the Mayor, I've said this to the other heads of other organizations in the City and I have said it to the Chief and I will say it until the day I am no longer a member of this Agency. I do not get lost in the argument if someone comes up to me and says, this group got 3%, this group got 2 ¼%, this group got 2 ¾% therefore we deserve it. I have told many of our people if they would like a benefit the Fire Department has, I know Chief Rhodes very well, I know they are hiring, they are a wonderful agency, go apply with them. And people laugh and chuckle when I say it, but I mean it wholeheartedly. We signed up for this job, I just want our people to make a very fair, livable raise, that they can raise a family on. If the next Union in this building came up to me and said, well you gave it to the Teamsters, therefore, give it to us. That argument is lost on me, 100%. I understand I might be a little bit naive with that but I've told the Mayor I will stand side by side with him and all of you and fight any entity that says just because they got it, we deserve it. We all have different jobs, we all have different skill sets. The only two members of this Union that haven't been here 30 years that have a higher wage, I am still talking under \$60,000.00 are our Accreditation Manager who has a Masters Degree and well over 30 years in the industry and our Crime Analyst is required to have a Masters Degree. Everyone else, their salaries pale in comparison.

And the last thing I will say, I apologize I know I said that before, but you hear the day-to-day trials and tribulations of Union Negotiations, this Union couldn't have been more professional or more easy to work with. We started seriously negotiating in January and with COVID, here we are today. A handful of meetings, they wanted – of course they wanted more but if you look at the summary sheet, a lot of this is just putting them in line with other Unions; an extra vacation day for someone that's been here over 30 years, that's one employee. Extra longevity for someone that's been here over 25 years, that's one over 30 years, that's one and a couple other things just cleaning up some language of things that have already existed here but the contract kind of differed. I think the biggest thing we are talking about here today are the wages and I understand the plight that we all have together and finally we want to be part of solution but I can't look these men and women in the eye and tell them that 2 ¾ is too much money. Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you Deputy; any questions or concerns? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and thank you Deputy and the Mayor for speaking this evening. I signed up to be a co-sponsor of this because I believe that this was a fair contract. The other thing that I was reminded of was I believe that this Bargaining Unit, I think it was 2010, it might have been is when they went with the Teamsters Healthcare. I was on the Board of Aldermen at that time and I remember the Mayor at that time, it was Mayor Lozeau and I remember her threatening to veto contract because this group was switching over from the City to the Teamsters. I said at the time that to veto that would have been a mistake because in the long run this is going to save the City a lot of money and it has. And so, you know, we are looking at wages that are less than 3%, we are looking at a Bargaining Unit that long ago came up with a creative way to solve the healthcare problem basically for the City. And as the Deputy has stated, these are people that we would not be able to function or have our Police Department function unless we had these folks every day. And I certainly appreciate the work they do everyday especially during these times. So with all of that said, I am going to vote in favor of this because, again, I think it is a fair contract and it is something that, you know, they are not asking for the world here. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else have a question or comment? Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

I too feel this is a very fair contract. Some of these people have been in these jobs for many, many years. And if they are not making what their peers make in other industries then maybe it's time we look at that too. I think this is a fair contract and I am going to support it. Thank you, Deputy.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else that would like to speak or have a question or a comment? Seeing no one, I have, as the liaison of the Police Department, I have the honor and privilege to sit in with the Commissioners and the Chief and the Deputy Chiefs once a month and I can tell you that I have been thoroughly impressed by Assistant Chief Testaverde's work with the Unions and his ability to negotiate a fair and honest contract. He and I have had many discussions as he can probably tell you about the things that the was testifying to about not taking, you know, basing one Union on the other; you have to take them one at a time. And you have to look at the fairness on each one. So I think he's done a great job in that regard for this Union and I agree with everything that the Mayor said, but I also agree with everything that Deputy Chief Testaverde said. I for one am going to be supporting this contract. I know these people, I have met them and they are the backbone of the Police Department and fully support our Officers and Chiefs and Deputy Chief so they can do their day-to-day work which is critically important, especially now. So with that said, if there are no other comments, will the Clerk please call the roll?

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

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

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Chairman Dowd

Motion carries; thank you Deputy Chief and Aaron Smith who I know is also on. Mayor would you like to say something?

Mayor Donchess

No just the remaining items are going to be handled by other people, but thank you for entertaining me and I think we just need to be very careful about our budgeting, especially this impact from the Pension Fund. And I know you are all on board with that. But we should talk further about that in the weeks and months ahead.

Chairman Dowd

I think as far as all the other Unions are concerned, if we are going to formulate a plan we need to do that before the contracts end up here. But I think in this instance, Deputy Chief Testaverde has done an excellent job of explaining to the Unions what the crisis is as far as costs and everything. But on the other hand, as he explained, these people are not overpaid and they are critically important so with that said. Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah just briefly, I don't know if we've had, I don't even know if it is possible or if we have had any serious discussions about this or what it would entail. But I do know for a fact that our Board of Public Works Pension System is far and above what the State is. And I don't know if it is possible at some point to switch all of our employees over to that. I mean obviously that's a bigger discussion for tonight, but to get out of the State and to stop have the Legislature be in control of the pensions and to have us be in charge of it instead I think would be very good. If there was a way, even if it was whoever gets hired after a certain date is in our pension, something like that, but really just get out of the State. Because you know what, for years and years and years, they don't listen to us, they don't listen to their own municipalities or the people that work there. And if that's a viable option, I would love to explore it.

Mayor Donchess

Well I am definitely asking the Legal Department to look into the mechanism that we would need to try to leave the State Pension System. Now, of course, this happened four years ago and we looked at it at that point, it would require a considerable amount of money. I mean we have to come up with the unfunded liability that can be apportioned to Nashua. I think we need a vote of the employees. But still I agree that it is definitely worth looking into because, as you said, the Pension for Public Works is in much better shape than the State Pension System. Certainly we need to think about whether, if we can afford it, whether we could do better just on our own.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Mayor is absolutely correct, it goes by RSA 100:A which basically said, if the City was going to get out of the State run Pension Plan, that all unfunded liabilities would have to be paid and I think that would be an exorbitant amount of money and actually what we are being charged with right now isn't that much, compared to a penalty in the short-term as compared to coming up with the money that would need to be funded. But it definitely need to be taken a look at. But if this is an issue, let's make it an issue. We should be screaming from the highest mountain top that there's an election coming up very soon with State Legislators. This was created by the State Legislature. I have been a State Legislator for 14 years fighting this very same issue. They went from 35% down to 0%.

When you go down to 0%, that's not fixing the Pension System, that point the onus right back on the municipalities. Well yeah hunky dory if you lived up in some backwoods community in the State but if you are a City like Salem, Manchester, Nashua, you have a lot of employees tied into the State Pension System so therefore the liability is a lot different than perhaps the small amount of people who are tied in, let's say in the community of New Boston. So this needs to be more addressed, it seems like almost the public is satisfied with it because when the people go to the polls they've got to realize who they are voting for and people that would vote to protect the City and to help alleviate what the Pension System is downsizing right back to the local communities. And that is a major problem for all the larger cities in this State. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

I like that term, "if we only knew a Legislator". But our current Legislators do a heck of a job supporting us. And it is an issue but I think if you launch an arrow or a spear at Concord, it won't hit anything. But if you get all the major players, the big cities together, and do it as an unpartisan issue, you might make a bigger impact and say, look, you know, you are not doing any favors up there in Concord for Nashua, Manchester, Salem. And we have had it, you know?

Mayor Donchess

Well we are seeking a vote of the Board of the Municipal Association mid-September to support an extension of the 100% deadline in order to mitigate this. Now we will see, we will see. But in the past, the Municipal Association hasn't taken any position on that for reasons that I frankly cannot understand. But we are seeking an endorsement of the approach that I mentioned from the Municipal Association in mid-September.

Chairman Dowd

OK. Anyone else on this? Alderman O'Brien, the next piece of business?

R-20-060

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt

RELATIVE TO THE APPROVAL OF THE PURCHASE OF ONE TRANSIT VAN FROM THE CAPITAL EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT FUND (CERF) DURING FY2021

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

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

The Motion is for Final Passage of R-20-060 and I would believe that's why Director Marchant has been with us all evening? Director Marchant?

Sarah Marchant, Director Community Development

Yes, thank you for having me this evening. This is for replacement of a van that was totaled and it was not scheduled for replacement in the CERF, we did get insurance funds towards it but needed additional funds to meet the cost of the replacement van. This is a critical vehicle for us, we are short on vehicles and our vans have been intensively used due to COVID and as we are coming back on line, Phase III came back out today. We are seeing our ridership pick back up, but we are rejiggering the system to be the most efficient it can be right now. So these vans are really critical.

Chairman Dowd

Director Marchant, is the next piece of Legislation tied to that, the money going into the CERF?

Director Marchant

Yes, that is correct. That is the insurance money to cover the other part of the vehicle.

Chairman Dowd

So these two pieces of Legislation are tied closely together. Questions for Director Marchant? Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

“Rejiggering”. I like that one.

Director Marchant

Very technical term.

Chairman Dowd

OK anyone else, questions or concerns?

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

Yea:	Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Wilshire Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd	6
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED

R-20-061

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$63,865 OF UNANTICIPATED REVENUE INTO FUND #7026 “CAPITAL EQUIPMENT RESERVE FUND”

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

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

The Motion is to recommend Final Passage to the Full Board of R-20-061. This Motion is to take the unanticipated revenue and apply it to CERF so that what we just voted on in R-20-060 can be paid for. Any questions or concerns on that Motion? Seeing none, Alderman O'Brien, please call the roll?

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

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

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

Chairman Dowd

I don't think we have anything that we are going to be taking off the table this evening. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

I understand we are not taking it off the table, but I did have a question of when we would be discussing again R-20-028 with the Economic Development Director. I know that we put it on the table to kind of mull over the conversation that we had last time, but I am wondering when the Committee can expect to take final action on that.

Chairman Dowd

Director Marchant, do you have ... I know the other Director isn't here.

Director Marchant

No, he is not here tonight. I do know that they are actively working on this and you should have an update coming very soon, I would assume definitely for your next meeting, but there is nothing tonight.

Chairman Dowd

I did have a conversation with Director Cummings this afternoon and he is working on a couple of things that he wants to get lined up before he comes back on this particular motion, so I would assume probably at our next meeting. It depends on how the other things go.

Alderman Clemons

OK, thank you for the update.

Chairman Dowd

Director Marchant?

Director Marchant

It will be packaged with the TIF Legislation and some of the other pieces, so since there are three rather large pieces of Legislation all bundled together, he will present the whole package to you at once.

Chairman Dowd

And by the way, I love those colored charts that you use for City Business behind you.

Director Marchant

Oh my kids' wonderful drawings? Home-schooling.

R-20-016

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman 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

R-20-017

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000 TO FUND A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE FUTURE REUSE OF THE ELM STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING

- Requires a Public Hearing which has not yet been scheduled

R-20-028

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

AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A MASTER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH LANSINGMELBOURNE GROUP, LLC.

(re-tabled at 8-12 mtg)

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

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 Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Wilshire
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 6

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 8:51p.m.

Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

Committee Clerk