

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 24, 2022

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Monday, October 24, 2022, at 7:13 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Vice-Chairman, presided.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. If you are participating via Zoom, please state your presence, reason for not attending the meeting in person, and whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

Members of Committee present: Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman (via Zoom)  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Ernest Jette  
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly (via Zoom)  
Alderman John Sullivan  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

Also in Attendance: John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector  
Robert Page, NPD Captain  
Michael Lang, NPD Sergeant  
Karen Smith, NPD Business Manager

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ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-22-070**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons  
Alderman Tyler Gouveia  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons  
Alderman Alex Comeau  
Alderman June M. Caron  
Alderman Derek Thibeault

**AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$675,000) TO PURCHASE A NEW MT55 MOBILE COMMAND CENTER FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE, BY ROLL CALL**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you Mr. Chairman. As mentioned earlier, I had to sit down with Chief Rourke this afternoon to discuss this issue. I didn't know much about the vehicle. I had noticed I was out a few weeks ago out at UNH homecoming and I had noticed that the seacoast had a similar vehicle and I had asked him some questions and I wanted to find out a little bit more about it. He let me know that not only is it a vehicle that we use for special events - you would mention the Holiday Stroll, Fourth

of July, but also SWAT team call outs, and not only in Nashua but in the area as well.

One important piece that I didn't realize is that it's imperative for the city to have a backup command center and that's what this vehicle functions as. I'm probably going to get the acronym wrong but the national accreditation the CALEA. So in order to get that national accreditation, we have to have a backup plan and that's what this vehicle does. So it seemed to really check a lot of boxes in my view and I plan to fully support it.

The only open question that I had for Chief Rourke and maybe somebody could help me out is my question around it, again, going back to the story I told about when I was out on the seacoast is that on the side of their vehicle, it says "seacoast regional". So I didn't know if there were county funds or anything like that, that are available. Maybe not necessarily for this vehicle but other emergency vehicles that we may acquire. I know that as a taxpayer that some of my money goes to the county. Does any of that come back to help us fund big purchases like this? I don't know if anybody might know the answer to that.

Chairman O'Brien

Miss Smith do you have any expertise on this or Mr. Griffin? Ms. Smith you may sit down if you so wish.

Karen Smith, Business Manager

We're always looking for grants and we've been keeping our eye out and not found a grant that suits this need at this time.

Alderman Sullivan

Okay. Great, thanks.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you. There might be further questions Ms. Smith so welcome to the hot seat if you could stay there. Thank you very much. Okay, following along.

Alderman Jette

Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. So I assume that when we first purchased this vehicle, I don't know but perhaps you can tell me, I'm assuming that this came as a result of some federal program that provided funding to purchase something like this.

Karen Smith, Business Manager

This was originally purchased with grant funds back in 2005.

Alderman Jette

Grant funds meaning - if I could.

Karen Smith, Business Manager

It was State funds through it probably federal pass through State back at the time.

Alderman Jette

Okay. And so now here we are, it's time to replace it and that federal and State money is no longer available to us?

Karen Smith, Business Manager

Not this time.

Alderman Jette

The other question I had is I looked at the - I'm on the Capital Improvement Committee and we just had our first meeting.

They passed out a list of, you know, of items that were that had been raided by the Capital Improvement Committee. I see under A1 which has the highest rating, there's a police item for security, fence, gates, and repaving project for \$447 plus dollars. The next item for police isn't rated A2 and that's CAD/RMS system upgrade. That's not this, right? That's something else?

Karen Smith, Business Manager

The RMS is a computer project.

Alderman Jette

Okay and that's \$600,000. I don't see any entry for this vehicle that the Capital Improvement Committee has been rated or has been asked to rate. So my question is where – this is a lot of money \$650,000. Where did this come from? Why was this not submitted when you asked for items from the Capital Improvement Committee? Why was this not one of them?

Karen Smith, Business Manager

This is not going to be on the capital improvements because it's on a CERF schedule. I'll defer.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

Sure, thank you. John Griffin, CFO, Treasurer Tax Collector. As Miss Smith stated, this was on CERF. As you folks - some of you folks may recall, we were going to buy it with cash. We decided not to and because of the nature of the vehicle and the cost of the vehicle, the Board of Aldermen actually recommended to bond it similar to our fire apparatus. So it is as Ms. Smith says it is on the CERF schedule. It doesn't appear at the Capital Improvement Committee for rating. That is an excellent question but that's the difference.

Alderman Jette

Okay. Could I follow up?

Chairman O'Brien

Follow up.

Alderman Jette

So when I looked at the budget book for 2023, it's got plans - CERF replacements and I don't see it on that list either.

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

So another excellent question. As I mentioned, it was originally to be purchased with cash a few years ago. Because of the tightness of that budget, Board of Aldermen recommended to purchase it with bonds. The Police Department has been diligently trying to find such a vehicle to replace the one that they'll retire. So it's in the Fiscal '22 approval. They don't need to get approval again. The approval now to spend the money is the bonding authorization that's before you tonight.

Alderman Jette

Okay. Could I follow up?

Chairman O'Brien

Follow up.

Alderman Jette

So if I understand you correctly, we have already authorized this purchase and tonight we're just voting on whether to issue the bond?

John Griffin, CFO/Treasurer/Tax Collector

It's a very good question once again. You recognize that two years ago in the - I think it was Fiscal '22 CERF schedule. There was a notion that even though the Police Department offered to cut that purchase for that year, it wasn't going to save any money because it's coming out of a fund. You further authorized this particular vehicle to be bonded. So once it's approved by you either Fiscal '21, Fiscal '22, Fiscal '23 to be purchased, the police - you'll see it again when they come before you and Finance. The Finance Committee, the team, will bring the actual purchase of the vehicle and commit before hopefully well before December 3<sup>rd</sup> and they'll be able to order it. I mean it's too bad it takes 18 to 24 months to build it and get it here but we have to start now to be well prepared in a few years. Thank you.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Thank you Alderman Jette.

Alderman Wilshire

No I support this.

Alderman Thibeault

Two quick questions. How long do we expect them the new one to last us another 16 to 18 years? Is that roughly?

Unidentified Male Speaker

Yes.

Alderman Thibeault

And what do we do with the old one? Do we use it as a backup, or do we sell it, or...

Unidentified Male Speaker

We'll use it as a trade.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay.

Unidentified Male Speaker

This one, which will be worked out with the final numbers.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay, great. Thank you.

Chairman O'Brien

Seeing any further questions from members of the Committee?

Alderman Dowd

Now I'm all set. It's very important purchase for the city and yes we approved it in the CERF cycle and we also approved to bond it. This is the first step in the process for us to recommend to the full Board the approval of the bond to purchase it.

Chairman O'Brien

Alderman Kelly, any questions?

Alderwoman Kelly

No questions. I support this.

Chairman O'Brien

Very good. Thank you. Seeing no further questions on R-22-070. I will call the roll call vote.

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

Yea: Alderman Dowd, Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly,  
Alderman Jette, Alderman Caron, Alderman O'Brien 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**O-22-019**

- Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
- Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
- Alderman Alex Comeau
- Alderman Richard A. Dowd
- Alderman Derek Thibeault
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderman Patricia Klee
- Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**CHANGING THE DOWNTOWN IMPROVEMENTS FUNDING PLAN**

- Tabled at 7/25/22 meeting

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO ADJOURN, BY ROLL CALL**

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

Yea: Alderman Dowd, Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Sullivan, Alderwoman Kelly,  
Alderman Jette, Alderman Caron, Alderman O'Brien 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 7:27 p.m.