

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

NOVEMBER 9, 2023

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Thursday, November 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman, presided.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance.

Members of Committee present: Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chair
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Clerk
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Ernest Jette

Members not in Attendance: Alderman John Sullivan
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Also in Attendance: Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director
Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director

ROLL CALL

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-23-166

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

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF THE CITY OF NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE AND LOCAL 365 OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, AFL-CIO ("AFSCME") FROM JULY 1, 2023 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2028 AND AUTHORIZING RELATED TRANSFERS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Motion on the floor is to recommend final passage to the full Board on R-23-166.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Would you like an overview?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Good evening members of the Budget Committee. We have before you a proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement for AFSCME 365 Unit. This is an agreement that will last five years from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2028. We think this is a fair contract for both the City and the Union. We are proposing increases of 4% in 2023, 4% in 2024, 3% in 2025, 2% in 2026 and 2% in 2027.

In addition to this we are requesting a \$2.00 increase for our mechanics and our welder. We have ten mechanics and one welder and also a \$1,000 tool stipend for the ten mechanics and the welder. So in case any of you are not familiar with this, mechanics come with close to \$80,000 to \$100,000 worth of tools when they start with us. As things change and technology changes, they're required to buy their own tools when they need to fix equipment. We've transitioned some to CNG. We're going to electric - some electric vehicles hopefully in the near future so we thought that this was fair.

Chairman Dowd

Just one thing, the cost costing sheet it's FY'24, FY'25, FY'26, FY'27 and FY'28?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Correct.

Chairman Dowd

All right. Any questions?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. Director Fauteux as you know as your liaison to Public Works and everything, I do know you like other City Divisions sometimes have problems. I understand we've had the billboard signs looking for qualified truck drivers and everything and some of the way to battle that is to come up with something competitive. Do you feel this contract will do that make the job competitive that maybe help you lighten the load of where people looking at this as a choice career?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Yes I do and we've actually been seeing more interest in recent months in Public Works.

Alderman O'Brien

Good.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

And yes, this contract certainly has helped because people know it's coming and have actually applied because they've seen this out there so absolutely.

Chairman Dowd

Good. Any other questions for Director Fauteux?

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So when I reviewed the contract, the increases work out - I'm not a mathematician - but if my numbers come

out correctly, it works out to over the five-year period it's a 3% increase per year...

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Roughly, yes.

Alderman Jette

...which seems more than reasonable to me and I just want the public to know that. I didn't catch that the mechanics have to buy their own tools. Is that common throughout the industry?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

It is common through the industry, yes. Tool stipends are very common also for that reason and that's just not something that we've had. Mechanics in particular a group that we've had a really tough time attracting because we have not paid enough so that's one of the reasons we're asking for the increase and the tool stipend.

Alderman Jette

Okay, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

Plus I bet they take really good care of the tools if they belong to them.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

They do and they lock them every night.

Chairman Dowd

I'm sure they do. Any other questions?

Alderman Caron

Yes thank you. So at this point in time, how many people are you looking for in Street Department especially for truck drivers? Are you filled?

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

So we have two and a half positions that were unfunded because just not enough money to fund them but aside from that, we have all of our truck drivers currently filled.

Alderman Caron

Oh okay. That's a good thing.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

That hasn't been that way for a while. That's fairly recently.

Alderman Caron

Right, okay. Thank you.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

That's just one of the things your departments all do an outstanding job in trying to keep up with all the work that they have and you have been short-handed. They've been really working doubly hard to get things done and doing a great job.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Yes, thank you. And to echo your thoughts, we up at the State Legislature as Director Fauteux can say have recognized that our Public Works throughout the municipalities and political sub-divisions in the State are included as first responders because of the critical need such as snow storms and stuff like that. They assist fire and police and everything. So it's yeoman's work so much needed. Thank you.

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Thank you for that recognition. We really appreciate that.

Chairman Dowd

If there is no other questions?

MOTION CARRIED

Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

R-23-118 Amended

- Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Melbourne Moran, Jr.
- Alderman Thomas Lopez
- Alderwoman-at-Large Gloria Timmons
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

INCREASING THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE AMOUNT IN THE SNOW REMOVAL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND AND EXPANDING ITS USE

- Amended and tabled at 5/24/23 meeting

O-23-056 Amended

- Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
- Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

PERMITTING CERTAIN FUNDING TRANSFERS WITHIN THE PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION

- Amended and tabled at 7/24/23 meeting

GENERAL DISCUSSION - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman O'Brien

Yeah, just a personal privilege. My grandchildren they did stay up. Maybe they're still watching. So good night, do what your mother tells you and we'll see you soon. Grampy loves you. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Just one thing. We are going to have at the next Budget Meeting a public hearing as well. So you'll be getting all the information on that.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 7:09 p.m.

Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Committee Clerk