

A special meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Thursday, August 4, 2005 at 7:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

President Brian S. McCarthy presided; City Clerk Paul R. Bergeron recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Paul R. Bergeron; Alderman Bolton leading in the Pledge to the Flag.

President McCarthy

I would remind the members of the Board and of the public to please turn off cell phones and pagers.

The roll call was taken with 11 members of the Board of Aldermen present, Aldermen Plamondon, Johnson, and Shaw were not in attendance. Alderman Gage arrived at 8:39 p.m.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO ADD A PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AT THE END OF COMMUNICATIONS**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

Deputy Corporation Counsel Stephen Bennett was also in attendance.

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COMMUNICATIONS

-  
**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER THAT ALL COMMUNICATIONS BE READ BY TITLE ONLY**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Brian S. McCarthy, President, Board of Aldermen  
Re: Special Board of Aldermen Meeting

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE**  
**MOTION CARRIED**

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT - None

-  
UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

**R-05-184**

Endorser: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter

**RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2006 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR  
THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL AND ENTERPRISE FUNDS**

Given its twelfth reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LAROSE TO TAKE R-05-184 FROM THE TABLE  
MOTION CARRIED**

President McCarthy

This evening we had asked for some information from the Administration. Mrs. Lemieux would you care to join us? I think we will be asking the Division Directors in turn to come forward and talk about some of these.

Maureen Lemieux, Division Director, Administrative Services

Thank you Mr. President. Just before the meeting began – hopefully you will all notice that I placed a number of documents on your desks. The one that I am presuming we would want to deal with first would be the one entitled posted positions. What we have done over the last two days is our best attempt at putting as much information as possible on these three pages for you. We have listed all of the positions that the city has been recruiting for along with what department number they are in, the date that they were vacated, the budgeted salary for those positions, whether or not they are grant funded, enterprise funded, and if there is a no it means that they are covered under the city budget, and then the current status. As you look down the list you will see that many of these positions are on hold pending either resolution of the budget or on hold due to level funding. Any one that has a description of on hold due to level funding it means that because of the level funding the Division Director is most probably not going to fill that position, but they are all here to answer those questions.

You will see when you look at police and fire several of the positions are being covered by sworn personnel, and then you will also see when you look through that there are probably ten or so positions that we are actively recruiting for. I won't spend much time belaboring any of this because as I said all of the Division Directors are here, and are more than happy to answer your questions. We did not, I did see your e-mail I think it was yesterday Alderman McCarthy – we did not try to put in writing what would happen if these weren't filled. We thought it would be much better to have everyone here to answer your questions because it came quite cumbersome when we started trying to address all of the different issues that we talked about the other evening. With that, we will be happy to answer any questions.

President McCarthy

Can I assume that the Mayor received my invitation for him to attend this evening? Is he here?

Maureen Lemieux

Yes of course he is.

President McCarthy

Thank you. I didn't see him come in. Mayor Streeter would you like to join us?

Mayor Streeter

Only if asked Mr. President.

President McCarthy

I would ask.

Mayor Streeter

Thank you.

Alderman Lozeau

Thank you Mr. President. Before us we have the information that Mrs. Lemieux gave us regarding open positions. The other night when we requested this I thought we had requested that all open positions were to be somewhat explained, and I am looking here at some 36 jobs open in the School Department with no price tag associated with it. I am a little dumfounded why there is nobody here from the School Department to represent this.

Maureen Lemieux

This was the best that I could do for you on short notice. Chris Hagan who is the Director of H.R. is on vacation at least today. I don't know whether or not it is for the week, but she wasn't there today. Marc Conrad will be attending whatever Board of Education committee meeting there is this evening. There were no other administrators available to attend that meeting so they did send this over to me. If as a Board you have questions and want further detail I can certainly relay that to Mr. Conrad tomorrow, but this is the most I could get today.

Alderman Lozeau

I am just a little – the largest department, the largest budget in the city is not in front of us. Through you Mr. President, I would like some clarification. The other night we were told that, and we have information in front of us tonight that basically we can't cut any positions in the School Department because the time has lapsed. Could I get clarification that is in fact true that we cannot cut any positions in the School Department because time has lapsed?

President McCarthy

I don't believe that is the case. I believe we can't remove filled positions, but there is no statutory requirements that we fill unfilled positions. It is probably a pragmatic requirement for many of them that they be filled.

Alderman Lozeau

Thank you.

Alderman Cardin

I would like to start with the Mayor's Office and go through these one by one and get some explanation from the department head as to what impact that would have.

Mayor Streeter

Thank you Mr. President. The position entitled Receptionist was a position that was the Office Manager. You will recall that the Board in its wisdom has abolished that position, and in turn re-established the position of Receptionist. It is an entry-level position, and we are actively recruiting for it.

Alderman Tollner

I think that someone should be in that position, but I do recall a number of years ago that position we had rotated a number of different people from different departments to man the front desk. If I could ask the Mayor if that is something that he would consider. I do remember I think it was Rita Diggins and a couple of other people who sat there at different times to make sure that there was some coverage even though they had worked in different departments.

President McCarthy

The situation you are referring to where Rita Diggins and Bea Dean shared that job they were each working half time, but only in that position to the best of my knowledge.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Are there questions about this item? Financial Services...

Carol Anderson, Chief Financial Officer/Comptroller

We have this position that is actively being recruited right now. It has been posted. I am not sure exactly when we will start the interviewing process, but it will be soon. We have held off on this position when it became vacated because we were not sure of what the cuts were going to be in the budget. We can fill this position if we are level funded, which is where we are now. If it comes to the point where it goes deeper than level funded then we will have to make some adjustment during the year. That would be through asking for a reduction in hours if someone would voluntarily reduce their hours or for any other savings we might have.

Alderman Cardin

I know that last year this position was on the cutting block as well. I believe that we added a \$.50 fee to cover the positions in that department so that we wouldn't have lines backed out the door. I think this is one of the most visible positions for the services we provide people that actually come in here to City Hall to register their vehicles. I know the first and the last of the month are busy, but I know there are many other times during the month that there is a line in there. I know that we did – didn't we add a \$.50 fee last year?

Carol Anderson

Yes we did, and that would net us about another \$45,000 and the position was like \$25,000 and then we have netted a substantial increase in motor vehicles this year because there are new cars and so we are up about \$350,000 to \$400,00 above what we had projected at that time.

Alderman Cardin

So business has picked up.

Carol Anderson

Yes. Also in our reductions, when we are doing the 1% and the 3% we did cut overtime, we are trying to do comp time whenever possible, we have any new people coming on we have scheduled them so that they will work certain Thursday nights throughout the year so we have altered their work schedule, and that has been approved through the union along with some comp. time whenever – comp. time actually ends up being paid out at time and a half, but we are just trying to work with the schedule. I also had reduced \$5,000 from the payroll line itself in anticipation of either potential retirements or through attrition positions changing over – we don't have a lot of that but that does occur sometimes on the motor vehicle line. It is more likely to occur there than anywhere else in the organization.

Alderman Cardin

Thank you.

Alderman Deane

One of my questions was the net amount of the \$.50 per vehicle registration. I also find it rather interesting that – you had stated there is a \$300,000 or \$400,000 net increase to date over and above last year with vehicle registrations?

Carol Anderson

It is actually higher than that, but it still – when we were projecting that we were going to be getting more throughout the year it actually came in higher. That was why when you were making the budget adjustments we recommended the additional increase in that revenue.

Alderman Deane

There has been some conversation in the Chamber pertaining to gas prices and people not buying cars or buying smaller cars or whatever, but regardless of the gas prices people are still out buying new automobiles and we are still garnering increased revenue from the value of the automobiles as they are levied – the amount of money that they have to pay to register them. That is interesting to hear. Some of us thought it would be reverse and some of us didn't know. Now we know and understand with the numbers you just gave us. The Motor Vehicle Clerk Part-Time can you explain that? Is that a Thursday night position or is that just somebody that is existing now, but ...

Carol Anderson

It is an existing part-time position we had and one part time person has gone full time so that has taken that half time slot. All new positions that have been posted – I believe it was a year ago last April, when we started posting those positions it was with the understanding that there would be some Thursday evenings.

Alderman Deane

Even though as Alderman Cardin said there are lines, there will always be lines. It doesn't matter what you do or how you try to solve – if you could ever solve a motor vehicle line issue you could sell the idea worldwide because everybody would want to know how do you do that. It is next to impossible. It will never change. People buy automobiles – it is something that goes on and it will never change. My other question is when the registrations are sent in by mail these motor vehicle clerks are responsible, maybe not at a window line, but in another area to push those registrations back out and mail them out to the citizens who mail them in?

Carol Anderson

Yes. When there are not lines – not many people, people are trying to do the mail at the same time. There has been a slight change too where a couple of people will just be dedicated to just specifically to getting the mail out on certain days because we have a certain date that we try to

have all of these out by. That has been working better the last several months. It is starting to really show progress with that method.

Alderman Deane

But most if not all people in that area are cross-trained?

Carol Anderson

Definitely. All of them are. There are a few tasks that some of them do not do. It depends on doing some cash up – on cash up there are only certain people that are trained to do that. I did want to make one comment – when you were talking about the lines – it was interesting the other day because on Monday, August 1<sup>st</sup> that line – anyone who came into City Hall saw it going through the rotunda, up the stairs to the second landing and 90% of all of those people that came in were July renewals.

Alderman Deane

You see that the first couple of three days of every month.

Carol Anderson

Right, and that would be business you would normally have either mailed in or had expected in July, and it all came on August 1<sup>st</sup> so the line was horrendous on that day.

Alderman Deane

With the cross training within the positions, we wouldn't be surprised one day to see the City Treasurer out there taking on the motor vehicle clerk position?

Carol Anderson

Actually the City Treasurer does know how to do renewals.

President McCarthy

Administrative Services ...

Maureen Lemieux

Of the three positions that we have been recruiting for the most important of the three of these, in my opinion, is our Systems Specialist. That is our sequel server programmer. You will recall actually last year this position was vacant, and there was a lot of discussion about it. We hired somebody who was doing a wonderful job for us, and due to family commitments, he moved back

to Nova Scotia where he was from unfortunately. He left just a few weeks ago, and we have arranged to contract with him so he will continue to do some of the work for us while we are recruiting. We posted immediately, and to date we have only even received I believe it is only one application that even meets the minimum qualifications for the position. We may once again have a difficult time finding the appropriate person for this job, but in the meantime we are lucky enough that we are contracting with this person.

President McCarthy

Have you looked in places like Monster to see what other places are offering for salary ranges on IT positions?

Maureen Lemieux

I have not, and I don't know if the people in IT have looked lately. I know when we were interviewing before the candidates who were qualified that we did interview – our salary for this position was fairly competitive. I don't think it is a matter of us offering too low a salary because we did – last time around we had a few qualified candidates. It may just be that it is summer and vacation time and people aren't looking or maybe the economy has gotten a little bit better as far as IT programmers are concerned. I am not quite sure, but we have not been successful at all in the last few weeks in finding anyone for it, but that is our most critical vacancy so whether we are level funded, even if we are less than level funded, we would continue to actively recruit that position.

The I.T. Manager we have on hold due to the level funding. As you recall that was really an addition to our Division when we submitted our budget. Once we became level funded certainly until we really determine what the best way for the city to go is, until the Ad Hoc Committee issues their final report I obviously have that on hold while we make that decision together.

The other one that we have vacant is the Appraiser 1, and I know that I have had substantial conversation with you when we have been in doing our budget presentation – what we are looking to do is to not hire an Appraiser 1 – if we have this I can move the money around enough to hire up to two data collectors instead. We certainly need to replace this position with something because we have over 2,000 sales that we try to inspect each year, we have more than 2,000 building permits that we try to inspect each year so that we can properly assess the properties that are making renovations to their homes. We also had I believe about 350 abatements this year that we certainly need our assessing staff to be very involved in the abatement process. This is definitely an important position to us. If we are level funded we will certainly move forward in getting at least one person in this position, but again I have that on hold just waiting to see where the budget process goes.

Alderman Deane

On the Appraiser end – on the current status Mrs. Lemieux, fill pending final budget approval

anticipate hiring data collector – shouldn't that be plural? Didn't we put in for two positions there?

Maureen Lemieux

We have enough money in – I would have to take a final look at the budget because the second data collector is actually an addition to the Division so the level funding – I have to make sure that we have the money to do it all. We just got notification yesterday I think it was from PSNH that their rates are going up again effective the 1<sup>st</sup>. My intent is to hire the two data collectors you are correct. They each make about – we would probably offer about \$30,000 for those. The Appraiser was making a little bit more.

Alderman Deane

Months ago when we talked about this the purpose behind these two data collectors was to forego a full \$1.5 million re-evaluation .

Maureen Lemieux

Yes.

Alderman Deane

The plan was to have these two positions collect the data and keep everything up to date.

Maureen Lemieux

Yes, and that still is our plan.

Alderman Deane

The other question I have – I am trying to figure out this \$68,316 – how many hours a week is the System Specialist, the 11713 – how many hours a week is the independent contractor now working?

Maureen Lemieux

We have written the contract so that he cannot work more than 40 hours, but we are anticipating that he will work about 20-25 a week. We have written the contract with an \$8,000 cap on it, and hopefully we will have somebody in the position before we exhaust that.

Alderman Deane

If the position is required full time I would take it that the salary and benefits equate that would be offered would equate to a lot more than \$25 an hour right?

Maureen Lemieux

Yes well \$25 an hour ends up being \$52,000 a year I think. We're getting a pretty good deal. He is actually earning less an hour now than he was when he was here.

Alderman Deane

Twenty five dollars an hour times 40 is \$1,000 a week right times the 52 plus you would have to tack on another – when you go to the \$68,316 you would have to tack on another 12-15% to that for the benefit package?

Maureen Lemieux

You would add at least 12.5% and then if the person takes insurance with us you would add that on top of it, which is where we come up with the 25% on average.

Alderman Deane

So around 25%?

Maureen Lemieux

Yes.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Is he willing to do this for an indefinite period of time?

Maureen Lemieux

I am not quite sure.

President McCarthy

A \$25 an hour contract for professionals in the I.T. field is pretty good.

Maureen Lemieux

We know.

Alderman LaRose

Have you thought about advertising in Nova Scotia? I do know that unemployment is very high in Nova Scotia and I know that they have a lot of educated people. I don't know what the federal laws are about bringing somebody from a foreign country to work here – I don't know if they need a green card and so forth. I was just wondering – I don't know why he came to Nashua – I don't know if he happened to be here or ...

Maureen Lemieux

He was already living here. Their family has moved back. He had been here for several years.

President McCarthy

I guess the bottom line question would be of the positions that are listed as open, you believe that all but the IT Manager are basically critical positions and the IT Manager is already – the savings we would get from now hiring an IT Manager is already accounted for in level funding of the division?

Maureen Lemieux

Yes.

President McCarthy

Are there any other questions?

Alderman Deane

Thank you. Didn't we anticipate combining the duties of the I.T. and the Assessing and all of that into one? Isn't there money that was left aside if we decided to do that?

Maureen Lemieux

Yes I can accomplish that. What I would not have money to do is to go out and hire a separate IT Manager. I can accomplish putting those three departments together.

Alderman Deane

If we did that then we have the is it \$78,467 there would be a savings there or would it is \$68,000 because of the \$10,000?

Maureen Lemieux

I have already taken the \$10,000 out. It was originally budgeted at \$88,000, but because we are at level funding virtually the \$78,000 is gone.

Alderman Deane

If those three departments are combined with one Division Head or Director or whatever the title might be we will see the savings in the \$78,000 plus we will not be paying the continued weekly stipend if in fact the person that is currently ...

Maureen Lemieux

There really is no \$78,000 left in the budget.

Alderman Deane

I understand that, but I am just saying if – with the combination of this \$10,000 to current salary we will forego the stipend that is currently being paid to the individual that is overseeing these departments?

Maureen Lemieux

What I would – if we were to offer this – if we were to expect the person to continue on a full time basis I would probably look to roll the stipend into a salary as a salary increase for him to stay there. Does that answer your question?

Alderman Deane

Yeah, but it wouldn't be a stipend at that point.

Maureen Lemieux

It wouldn't be a stipend you are right.

Alderman Deane

You would have to look at their PDF because their job changes significantly and they are compensated as such.

Maureen Lemieux

Yes.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Are there any other questions on Administrative Services? Police Department ...

Chief Timothy Hefferan, Nashua Police Department

The first position, Assistant Record Supervisor, I had reviewed upon taking the position of Chief had intended to disband that position and I have done so. Regardless of the condition of the budget it was our intention that we did not need that supervisory position. That has been removed, and there were no anticipated complications as a result of doing that. The Accreditation Manager position, the woman that was doing that position for the last ten years retired effective March 1<sup>st</sup>. The position has been held open since then pending final resolution of the budget process. What I have been doing in the meantime is hiring a Police Captain from Hudson who has the same qualifications on a per diem basis to come in. We are about half way towards our next re-assessment, which will be in December of '06, and we are working towards that process now. We need someone to be maintaining and working on those files, making sure that things are in order, and so forth. I have been hiring him per diem once a week to perform maintenance on those files as we ready ourselves for that process. Our intention would be at some point to hire that individual on a part time basis. He is intending to retire from the Hudson Police Department in the fall. It is my intention to hire him based on his qualifications. Timing was extremely fortunate for us that with his qualifications and the fact that he was departing from his department that we would have a chance to hire him.

Again I have held off on many of these positions because I have been waiting to see what the status of the budget would bring. The scenario that I presented to the Aldermen with the 1%, 3%, and 5% if you recall the 5% scenario included removing that position. I have held off for that reason not know where we were headed.

The auto-mechanic position was one that we had asked for for several years, and I think this year received. Again I have held off on hiring that pending the final outcome of the budget. I did not feel it was appropriate to bring in a candidate, have him leave his current job, bring him in, and then two weeks later be giving him the golden handshake. I have held off on that for the same reasons.

The Receptionist position is a third shift position. What we have been doing is holding off on filling that one as well. We have the third shift records technician that has really been doing a dual responsibility. She has been doing her records job and also performing the functions of the receptionist at the front window. I can only do that for so long because the Fair Labor Standards Act requires that if I am going to have a person performing two job functions, at some point I am going to have to pay them appropriately in order to have them accomplish both of those. So far it has been working out okay.

The Records Technician position we just received a retirement of another Records Technician as of yesterday, and I think that will take place in two weeks. That is a position that certainly I wouldn't say it is essential, but it is certainly critical to our operation. It wouldn't fall in the same category as that of a Dispatcher or a Communications Technician.

The first two Probationary Dispatch positions that you see there I had already removed the funding for those positions as part of the Mayor's 1% request back in I think February or March. Those positions had already been given up. We had 6 Dispatch positions that were open. It was my belief based on our pool of applicants that it was unlikely that we were going to find qualified applicants to fill all six of those positions in this upcoming year. I opted to take two of those positions and not fund them for the year so that we could meet that 1% reduction.

The other Probationary Dispatch positions I would like to still be able to move forward and hire those. What I am currently doing now with those is I am – with a combination of civilian overtime, civilian per diem, which is not too often, sworn overtime, and sworn officers that are coming in off the street if we happen to be in a position where we have additional bodies, which is rare. For the most part it is usually sworn overtime that we are using to fill that. If I can give you some kind of a parallel civilian overtime to fill that position, Communications Technician makes \$19 an hour. When we bring in a sworn officer it is approximately \$39.49 an hour to fill that position. For Dispatch overtime a civilian is \$25.56 an hour and again a sworn officer coming in on overtime is \$39.49. I would like to be able to for cost effective reasons, bring in civilians in order to do that job at some point.

The same is true of the two Communication Technicians. They are essential positions. I must fill them, and as a result of that I am bringing in officers to do that at those same rates.

President McCarthy

What is the hourly rate for the employees who are doing both the Dispatcher and the Communications Technician jobs?

Timothy Hefferan

I will defer to Mrs. Smith.

Karen Smith, Business Manager

I have the overtime rate listed here at \$25.56 for the Dispatcher so I would just have to figure that at a lesser amount than the 1 ½. Those rates are the overtime rates that were listed.

President McCarthy

It is safe to say that in any case the rate – we will have someone doing that function and that

person if they are an employee who is full time will be making less per hour than any of the overtime solutions we're using now to fill that position?

Timothy Hefferan

That is correct.

Alderman Bolton

Approximately \$17 an hour for the Dispatcher and \$14 for the Communications Technician.

President McCarthy

What we are saving in the line items there we are losing in the overtime line items and more.

Timothy Hefferan

To draw a nexus to what you just described, what we are estimating we have spent over the last year approximately \$105,000 in sworn overtime to cover those vacancies. It is not on here, but we had a Communications Supervisor, and I think I presented that to you at one of our earlier meetings – there was another position that I assessed and realized we did not need that position. I was going to eliminate that regardless of the budget conditions. I have eliminated that – I think it was \$46,200 and I have taken that individual and she has gone back and filled one of those Dispatch positions, which brings us to the five that we have now.

The Administrative Project Specialist is a significant position, which not only services all of the administrative functions that we do on a daily basis, our long range planning, our goals and objectives, but also services the Commission itself; preparing minutes of the meetings, correspondence, and whatever else is appropriate. I have held off on that position. She retired as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, and I have held off again on that position pending the results of the same question as far as where we were headed with the budget.

The Account Clerk III Just resigned on Friday. That is a position that certainly is not essential but I would say is critical because it is payroll, it is accounts receivable – there are timelines and deadlines associated with those responsibilities, and it is extremely cumbersome for the remaining two that are there to be able to accomplish all of that along with their other duties as well.

Lastly the police positions – we have I think I had submitted that we would suspend hiring of 7 of them until some time in December to meet the level funding. That was largely because by sheer timing we were unable to get candidates into the August academy so we would not be able to reasonably get them into an academy until January. Since then I have learned that there are background investigations by other agencies being done on 2-3 of our officers that will be leaving at some point in the future. I expect to be down another three on top of this at some point.

I would entertain any questions that you have.

Alderman Bolton

Chief let me see if I understand – to the extent that sworn officers are going in on overtime to do the work that would otherwise be done by civilian employees in these positions that are vacant, that is a costly situation, and the sooner we can stop doing that the more money we will save.

Timothy Hefferan

Very much so. I have estimated \$105,000 that we would not have spent in that area.

Alderman Bolton

Certainly we ought to encourage you to fill those positions rather than think we are saving money if we do not.

Timothy Hefferan

I would hope the math worked out yes.

Alderman Bolton

These other positions that you have said that you have already eliminated like the Assistant Record Supervisor, that was eliminated to reach the 1% or 3% cut level that you have already – it might have been eliminated anyway, but at least that match figures into your ability to reach the levels you have already been asked to reach.

Timothy Hefferan

That is correct.

Alderman Bolton

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Are there any further questions?

The Accreditation Manager, if we are hiring somebody you said we're currently paying a per diem for one day a week. Is that the level at which we would be hiring him after he retires?

Timothy Hefferan

Yes.

President McCarthy

Does that mean that there is some savings that can be realized in the amount that is budgeted for that position?

Timothy Hefferan

I believe so. That is my expectation. We have not entered into those discussions specifically with this individual at this point. I imagine we will be some time in the fall, but that was my expectation. He holds the same qualifications as the last individual, and I don't see where there would be a distinction between the two as far as what their expectations were for a salary.

President McCarthy

Was the \$43,494 is for a full time equivalent or is that ...

Timothy Hefferan

That was the full time salary for that individual correct?

Karen Smith

Chief could I ask the number of hours that you anticipate for him to be working?

Timothy Hefferan

Probably between 32-34 because as a retired police officer in Group 1 he cannot work more than that amount of hours – otherwise he would interfere with that retirement.

President McCarthy

So he would be working not one day a week, but 3-4?

Timothy Hefferan

He would probably be working 4 days a week. I would adjust that pay commensurate with those hours.

President McCarthy

The Records Technician we are already down one and we have another one who has given notice of retirement?

Timothy Hefferan

That is my understanding – we just received a retirement notice as of yesterday for someone who has been with us for about 24 years.

President McCarthy

Is it critical to fill both of those?

Timothy Hefferan

I guess to be honest I don't have that answer for you right now. I would be speculating. I would need – where it came up so quickly I would need to go back and speak with those Division Directors and find out from them what their assessment of that would be.

President McCarthy

Are there any other questions?

Karen Smith

Can I just comment on a couple of the salary corrections – the Records Technician \$30,331 is actually \$28,480. I believe that calculation may have been based on an average of 4 people in the position, but not everyone makes the same rate of pay. Also on Probationary Dispatchers they are listed at \$40,094. That amount for a Probationary is \$32,782. Again I think you are all familiar with the positions, the Dispatcher is with the unit for a short period of time pro-rated because they have steps. The positions don't necessarily equal out with – you can't divide evenly. The only other number is on the Probation Communications Technician. That number is \$32,782 and should be \$28,411. Thank you.

President McCarthy

Does that mean there is an adjustment we could make to those line items based on the fact that the new hires will be cheaper than the ones we are replacing?

Karen Smith

No. My purpose of telling you that is just that the information on here is not correct, and I wanted to get the corrected numbers out.

President McCarthy

So what is in the budget reflects the salaries?

Karen Smith

What is in the budget is accurate.

Alderman Tollner

The numbers you gave us, for instance on the Probationary Dispatcher, if the department was to hire someone they would hire an individual at \$32,000 and how long would they stay at that number?

Karen Smith

A year. The reason that the position currently – you may have had somebody as of an anniversary date was only in there for 8 weeks and we pro-rate the salary to each step.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Are there any other questions for the Police Department? Fire Department ...

Chief Roger Hatfield, Nashua Fire Rescue

Good evening. We basically have three vacancies at this point listed, but they are truly not in all aspects vacant. The first one is the Assistant Superintendent of the Prevention Bureau of the Fire Marshall's Office. Brian Donaldson just retired two weeks ago, and that position, due to labor agreement, has got to be posted within 45 days of the opening. It is usually filled from within. The Fire Prevention Bureau of the Fire Marshall's Office is what it is known as in Nashua Fire Rescue is responsible for building inspections, life safety code enforcement, and also arson investigations. We have four folks in that division, and it is probably one of our busiest divisions. They follow up on when the firefighters go out and do smoke inspections. They follow up with any of the investigations or anything that the officers might find and follow through with the homeowner or the property owner to have those things fixed. Again that position is spelled out in the labor agreement, and we have to post it and fill it from within.

The next position is the Assistant Superintendent of Training. This is a position that the Board of Fire Commissioners and the Administration have been discussing and negotiation with Local 789 to freeze due to the fact that we have been in the process for the last 2-3 years to reorganize the training division. This is part of a level funded component that we have proposed to the Board of

Aldermen during our budget process.

The third one is a fire fighter's position. As we have a life safety and a life issue that we have in the contract dealing with the safety of the fire fighters in the city, these actual positions are filled everyday, and right now we have one. That is covered under the labor agreement.

The next four though are the ones that we are looking at potential. The first one is our City Fire Marshall. This is unofficial, but it is being discussed that he is looking to retire this spring, but no documentation has been received to the Board of Fire Commissioners or accepted on his retirement. There is some discussion on that. The next is the Superintendent of the Fire Alarm Division. He has already submitted his paperwork to the Board of Fire Commissioners, and is retiring this spring. These two positions like the others are under the labor agreement, and have to be filled within 45 days of its opening.

The next one is unofficial, but it looks like we have a fire fighter retiring potentially in October. The next one is a Lieutenant that is official, has already passed in his paperwork, and will be retiring in September.

All of these positions that you are looking at right now are under the labor agreement and are as far as the Board of Fire Commissioners and myself are concerned are critical for the department.

Alderman Lozeau

Just for clarification, the pay rates that these positions show – at least three of them are from retirement – is that the rate that they are retiring at or is that the rate for a new position?

Roger Hatfield

That is the rate that position at this time is, and that means the individual that holds that position that is his salary.

Alderman Lozeau

We could expect that it would be lower to start somebody else at that job?

Roger Hatfield

All pending on their certification. If their certification is the same and they are not probationary fire fighters they would be the same. The only area that really changes is when you are bringing on new fire fighters in a probationary period we have that identified in the labor agreement, and that is at \$36,953 and then once they are off probation that is 9 months they go to \$44,344. Out of the other positions, it is all identified by their certification level. The majority of the folks that go into those positions have already got the training.

Alderman Lozeau

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Are there any other questions regarding the Fire Department?

Alderman Deane

I just had a question regarding the little +s next to the numbers. Does that mean that ...

Roger Hatfield

Stipends is most likely what I think the +s mean. That is part of the labor agreement.

Alderman Deane

There is no legend attached to the map.

Roger Hatfield

I was correct.

Alderman Bolton

Chief similar to what we just went through in the discussion with the Police Department, when you are down a fire fighter you have to essentially bring in a fire fighter on overtime to cover that shift correct?

Roger Hatfield

That is correct.

Alderman Bolton

So we in fact lose money by paying the additional rates so it is actually a savings to be up to full compliment of fire fighters.

Roger Hatfield

That is correct.

Alderman Bolton

Thank you. The same is true of lieutenants and so forth – you have to replace a lieutenant when a lieutenant is out, you have to pay the additional rate, and you may have to pay overtime as well.

Roger Hatfield

That is correct.

Alderman Bolton

Thank you.

Alderman Deane

I didn't get an answer to my question.

Roger Hatfield

The + sign is indicating stipends.

Jayne Joyce, Human Resources Manager

That is the entry level salary for that particular position, and there are occasions when they are hiring someone who has already been certified or who has held the position of fire fighter in another community so there is some discretion in the initial hire.

Alderman Deane

Are they still working under the same pretense that they have to go from – if they are an external hire as a fire fighter at \$36,953 if they have the certifications and the experience do they still have the 9-month waiting period to go to \$44,344?

Jane Joyce

They would go to a compensation slightly higher than the \$36,000 if they are coming in certified. They stay there for 9 months and then move forward.

Alderman Deane

That holds true for all of the ...

Jane Joyce

Correct.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Are there any additional questions for the Fire Department?

Alderman LaRose

Thank you. My understanding is that all of these positions more than likely would be done internally...

Roger Hatfield

That is correct.

Alderman LaRose

And then you would hire new fire fighters for the positions that have been vacated upwards.

Roger Hatfield

That is correct.

Alderman LaRose

Are you having a difficult time on finding good fire fighters?

Roger Hatfield

We are very fortunate. We have basically the pick of the State. When we do an opening for a new fire fighter we actually end up interviewing about 200 fire fighters. The majority of them are from New Hampshire, but we get them from all over the country.

Alderman LaRose

What you are telling me is that most of the people who come in are already fire fighters somewhere else?

Roger Hatfield

Absolutely, and they are already certified. We save quite a bit of funds having them already pre-certified and not having to pay for that education.

Alderman LaRose

Thank you.

Alderman Deane

The other question I have to the Chief is when you look at the size of the department and the number of stations and the amount of employees and the coverage that is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, I guess the overtime associated with people either being sick or on vacation or whatever reason it may be, the overtime that is paid to cover those shifts is it less expensive to pay the overtime than it is to have additional fire fighters hired to cover those vacancies due to vacation or whatever?

Roger Hatfield

That is a good question. The Board of Fire Commissioners and the Administration have looked at that nearly every year to every other year. It is still cheaper for us to do the overtime due to the fact that we are not paying premium rate, time and a half, until after 52 hours. We still get a good savings when the first 10 hours of any overtime shift is at straight rate – it is not at a premium rate. When we do the calculations, it is still a benefit to just when you have those openings fill it with overtime. The key component was that there was at one time a decision or we were looking do we bring on extra fire fighters that float to fill overtime slots – when you look at putting in their benefit package and the amount of money saved it wasn't really worth it.

When we fill the positions we get them at that lower rate, and then of course that keeps the overtime lower because their hourly rate is only at \$16.29 versus \$21.53. It still is beneficial for us to use the overtime, but not to have what we call floaters. Manchester tried that and it didn't work.

President McCarthy

The hours between 40 and 50 are in fact cheaper than the hours from 0-40 because the benefits are basically amortized in the first 40 hours and all we are paying is the straight rate on the next 10.

Roger Hatfield

Right.

Alderman Deane

And then the additional as Mrs. Lemieux had stated – a new hire, their benefits package if they take the health insurance is around 25%. My other question is when you state fire fighter here now one position equates to – 1 fire fighter equates to three people or is this only one person?

Roger Hatfield

One person.

Alderman Deane

It equates to more than 3 people for one position right 4?

Roger Hatfield

Four – we have four shifts.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Are there any other questions? Health & Community Services ...

Mary Nelson, Interim Director, Public Health & Community Services

Thank you Mr. President. I am going to start at the bottom and work my way up if I may. Case Technician/Welfare – as you all know you approved this early on. Mr. Mack has in fact interviewed and offered the position to an individual. We are just waiting to hear her response.

Alderman Deane

Mr. President I believe that this position was an add to the budget and Mr. Mack had brought forth some documentation of the cost savings that the Welfare Department had by the Case Technicians that were in place with the amount of cases that were brought in and the scrutiny that the cases were given. I forget what the number was, but we saw some significant deductions in our welfare budget this year by the work. I think this is money well spent because it does a thorough job in that area. We reap the benefits of the job – I am not sure who is doing it or what their name was, but the job that was done over there was done well, and this position, in my opinion, is worth the \$33,000 that is being asked for. Thank you.

Alderman Cardin

I just want to concur with everything Alderman Deane just said. Thank you.

Mary Nelson

I would like to say that I believe the Welfare Department sent roughly \$350,000 over to the welfare trust fund – actually \$200,000 went in, but I absolutely think that Alderman Deane hit the nail on the head – spending a little money to get a lot. The next position is the Environmental Health Specialist. This formerly was an Environmental Health Specialist II. It will now be a I. It is necessary. There is only one individual doing that particular job at the moment, and there are 525 restaurants that need to be inspected. They sample the swimming pools and spas and they advise and educate establishments regarding all changes and practices necessary to protect the citizens who live in the City but also who visit. I can go on to give more detail on that particular position, but it is necessary and critical. Normally the full contingency was two inspectors – they are down to one and they have been there for a while. The laws require that they inspect a restaurant at least twice a year. The city tries to do it 4 times a year for the protection of the citizens.

Alderman Tollner

Mrs. Nelson when you and I had our conversation earlier this evening, is this the position that you were talking about that you were able to take it from a ... **tape flipped** ...

Mary Nelson

... Public Health Nurse II position – as you know I have only come on board rather recently, but it is my understanding that this was held due to level funding. I don't have a lot to say on that, just basically that is it.

Moving up to the Manager of Public Health – that is actually the nurse manager for Public Health and we are actively recruiting. We have probably 4 or 5 applications for that. That is the position that manages all of the nurses in the division. I am happy to answer any particular questions on it. I think it is self explanatory, but would be happy to address anything I can.

Alderman Tollner

To go back the position, the 11584, Public Health Nurse II, is that an additional position to the one that is funded by the grant that is below?

Mary Nelson

It is. The Public Health Nurse II is a grant position. Is that what you are asking me?

Alderman Tollner

Yes and they are not the same – they are two different positions?

Mary Nelson

That is correct. Actually this position here, 11584, is a position that is from the grant where 31 hours will be to address immunization and 9 hours will be to work with TB. It is fully funded by a grant – that means also the benefits as well. There are no funds coming from the General Fund.

President McCarthy

Are the job descriptions and duties for the grant funded position and the position up above the same?

Mary Nelson

No they are not. I don't have it with me, but I am happy to provide it for you.

President McCarthy

We had this issue come up about when we replace a position in the budget with one from grants that have constraints on them about supplanting the budget, if we don't fill a position we have and in fact do fill a new similar grant position, don't we run into that same problem?

Mary Nelson

I would like to say that I knew the answer to that question directly, but not having been there...

Alderman Tollner

Mrs. Joyce is trying to help you.

Jane Joyce

It is a generic job description with a particular focus – if the grant is calling for TB, for lead paint, lead poisoning it focuses in on that particular area, but the generic job descriptions are very similar.

President McCarthy

So we don't have a problem then if we were to not fill the budget funded position, but fill the grant-funded position?

Jane Joyce

If you fill the grant-funded position you have to fill it for the total number of hours for which you accepted the grant.

Alderman Lozeau

In the explanation where it says hold due to level funding, does that mean if your budget is approved the way it stands now that you do not intend to hire that position?

Mary Nelson

That is correct.

Alderman Lozeau

Thank you.

Alderman Deane

Wasn't it the recommendation of the former Director to cut one nursing position?

Mary Nelson

That was my understanding.

Alderman Deane

This isn't it, this is yet another one?

Mary Nelson

I asked that question myself and I was told no. This is a position that was supposed to be held due to level funding. I thought there was a nurse ...I wasn't here when they formulated the budget in that great detail.

Jane Joyce

This was a position that was totally city funded under the prior administration.

Alderman Deane

There were two – basically there is this nursing position and one other so there is a total of two now that are being cut?

Jane Joyce

No this is the one position that was proposed by the prior administration.

Alderman Deane

But that was proposed prior to any level funding.

Jane Joyce

That was proposed in response to the 1% reduction to the Mayor's re-submitted budget.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Mary Nelson

I can certainly check into that Mr. Chairman and get back.

Maureen Lemieux

If I may, when the Mayor proposed the 1% reductions there were some areas that had more than 1% that we were proposing to reduce. In the area of Health & Community Services, that was when the prior Division Director told the Mayor that he could offer up that position. That is when that position really was actually put on the table. It is all the same position.

President McCarthy

The real question is there is only one of them and this is the one.

Maureen Lemieux

And it is already gone.

Alderman Deane

The 1% at that point didn't bring it to level funding.

Maureen Lemieux

If I may, what was submitted for Health & Community Services probably brought that division to less than level funding even back at the end of April.

Mary Nelson

Below level funding?

Maureen Lemieux

Yes.

Mary Nelson

Health Program Specialist – that was a position that existed, and we have 7 applicants for that position. As it says they are actively recruiting.

President McCarthy

Are there any questions on that?

Mary Nelson

May I Mr. Chairman just volunteer one piece of information on that position if I may?

President McCarthy

Sure.

Mary Nelson

Thank you. I just would like to clarify that there is a position in the BT Grant that is called a Public Health Program Coordinator, and this is not that position. I just want to make that clear. I would go down to the STD/HIV Program Coordinator, 11609 – I would indicate to you that even though we are actively recruiting the State is taking a look at all of the grants in the division. In this particular instance, that is a STD Program Coordinator and an HIV Program Coordinator. They are looking into suggesting that there be two separate positions that would be fully funded by the grant. They may be part-time positions. Everyone is aware of that. In the past, prior to the last budget session, they were in fact two different positions. It is my understanding they were pulled together in the last year or two, but the State would like to revisit that.

What I did was put together just some information with all of the positions over there that we might have or might be looking to fill. I put grant-funded positions in another column, city funded positions, and if that may be helpful I would be helpful to leave a copy for the Chair and members of the Board.

President McCarthy

We would be happy to have it. The Manager of Community Health how many direct reports does

that person have in that position?

Mary Nelson

Let's outreach – off the top of my head, and I can give you the exact number tomorrow, probably 7, 8, or 9.

President McCarthy

Is there job strictly managing those people or does it also include direct services as well?

Mary Nelson

Definitely management and also some services when necessary. They do oversee the clinics and work with the nurses down there, but not a bulk of their job is not direct services.

President McCarthy

Are there any more questions?

Alderman LaRose

The grant programs are those a one year and are they renewable?

Mary Nelson

They are one year and the State does come in and take a look at them, evaluates what is happening, and does renew them at least until now anyway. They are coming down probably next week or the following week. The division was asked to submit a report, a transition report, in which they gave their thoughts and ideas as well as descriptions of jobs performed and who was performing them to the State. The State takes a look at that. They actually took a look – there is a team that takes a look at that – that would be the TB, Lead Poisoning, Lead Paint, Immunization, HIV, and STD, and they would decide if what they see is what they like it could be that way or they could make suggestions as to how they would like to see things run. The example I gave tonight was the STD and the HIV Coordinator would be split to two positions. They could possibly be part time, but I am not sure.

Alderman LaRose

If they split them do you know the amount of money they will provide? Is it going to be the same amount as the \$55,000 or is it going to be a lot less?

Mary Nelson

That is the equivalent, as Mrs. Joyce just whispered in my ear, that is the equivalent of a full time 1 position. I can't answer that. I can tell you that they would pay whatever their rate is for part time and part time, but I am sure it would cover whatever they needed.

Alderman LaRose

That would mean that you would have to at least probably recruit one person or maybe 2 because the person who is doing the full time job may not want to do a part time job.

Mary Nelson

That is correct. Well as you see we do have one nurse who is doing 31 hours in immunization and 9 hours in TB, and that is two separate grants. They may be taking a look at that and want 40 hours in immunization and more in TB. I can certainly get all of that documentation back next week.

If I may take – I don't know if it is appropriate tonight – as you know this is my first time appearing before the Board. I will be better the second time – I don't know if this is something that I could say now because of your phone call to me and your question as well as Alderman Tollner – we are pursuing the information, putting it together, and we will be asking that the Director of Public Health as well as one or two others come down and have an opportunity to talk with the Board when that is convenient. Secondly I am in touch with the two hospitals and have spoken with one of the Presidents. I am waiting to hear from the second President of one of the hospitals in town. I asked him if he would be willing to put his thoughts and ideas in writing and he has indicated he would. I am e-mailing him the information about the division. At the present time I haven't found anybody willing to jump in to take over the Public Health Department. I guess they do clinical work as opposed to we work in clinics. Just so you know for the record that we are in fact researching – I know Alderman Tollner is going to come to the division and we will be meeting with some of the people next week. I welcome everyone to do that. I know you are all interested in what is happening. We certainly want to make sure that you all are aware of exactly what we are doing and the services we are providing for the citizens.

President McCarthy

I would ask that be done at a meeting of the Board so that all of the members of the Board can be present for those discussions. I would be more than happy to set up meetings either through one of the committees or a committee of the whole.

Mary Nelson

I spoke with the State, and indicated that you, the President of the Board, had actually said, that was in our conversation, you had indicated to me that would be appropriate, and that we will be contacting you for a date. I just spoke with them today, but I thought I had told you I would get back to you by today, and I wasn't sure if you were going to make those inquiries this evening. I

just wanted to anticipate the question, and let you know that we are working to get as much information as we can.

President McCarthy

Thank you. Are there any other questions for Health & Community Services?

Mary Nelson

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

President McCarthy

The Department of Public Works ...

Richard Seymour, Division Director, Department of Public Works

The Traffic Engineer – as you all know Susan Klasen was previously in that position. We are actively recruiting for that position, which we feel is critical to the division. There are two Collection System Techs listed there. One was vacated due to a death of an employee; the other one was vacated due to the transfer of an employee. There are two candidates that will be presented at the Board of Public Works meeting on Monday for transfer. Those are internal promotions. The Operator IIs – one position is considered a third shift position that is being filled due to a retirement. We are filling it with an internal candidate from Wastewater. Presently the person is a weekend operator. One of the Operator positions we have on hold due to level funding.

There is also an equipment operator at the landfill that we also are holding due to level funding. In regards to anticipated for backfilling – backfilling our two positions from Wastewater and more than likely will from out of AFSCME ranks to backfill some of the positions that we are presently filling with internal candidates and one more than likely from the landfill.

President McCarthy

Are there any questions?

Alderman LaRose

The internal positions that you are promoting I have to assume that once you move those people up you have to replace those people.

Richard Seymour

Correct.

Alderman Deane

The Operator II positions those are certified for the treatment plant?

Richard Seymour

Correct. The Operator positions are certified – that is a State certification that the candidates have to have prior to interview.

Alderman Deane

And the Collection System Technician?

Richard Seymour

The Collection System Tech is also a Collection Systems Operator Certification 1.

Alderman Deane

What affect do we have with the Operator II that is pending – held due to level funding – is that going to be filled with overtime?

Richard Seymour

That position presently is an open position that will not be filled by overtime. Basically what we have done is over the years due to efficiencies at the plant we have reduced staff and have less operators than we used to have. This is one less position. We feel that we can hold it if we need to due to level funding – we can eliminate that one position. It does make it tight. It makes it difficult in regards to having a pool of individuals that are available for overtime or available to fill many of the shifts that are obviously when you run a 24/7 operation it becomes quite tight, but we do have other individuals within the plant that aren't operators that are certified to at least assist operators on off shift.

Alderman Deane

If you need an Operator II you have a pool of what 5 now to choose from?

Richard Seymour

We have 7 Operator IIs and we have 3 Operator IIIs for a total of 10.

Alderman Deane

That is 10 people for a 24 day 7 day a week period.

Richard Seymour

-  
Correct.

Alderman Deane

The anticipated backfilling from the positions – where would those positions be coming from?

Richard Seymour

We are not really sure. When there is an opening for an AFSCME position the candidates can come from various different departments if they meet the initial qualifications.

Alderman Deane

Once the backfilling is done internally if that is the case then the positions that are being vacated will not be filled?

Richard Seymour

If we continue to fill within the facility – at some time and place we will have to hire from the outside. If for instance you had all of the Operator IIs moving to various other positions you would need to keep a staff of Operator IIs and if there are no qualified candidates within the division you would have to hire from outside the division.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Are there any other questions for Public Works? Library...

Joseph Dionne, Director, Nashua Public Library

Good evening. I would first like to inform you that we are just completing the busiest year in the library's history. We provided more service to Nashuans in the last 12 months than has ever been provided before, and we did that with a staff that is fewer people than we had in 1971. The Library Assistant part-time in the fiscal year '06 budget is budgeted at \$1. What is listed here for Library Assistant part-time was a salary that was paid before we reduced it to \$1 to meet our level funding commitment. The Branch Library Supervisor position is also funded at \$1 in order to meet our level funding commitment. The Librarian position is a supervisor and for the second

time in as many years we are going to combine two departments. We have done that recently with the Community Services and Bookmobile, now Outreach Services Department. We are going to combine two departments under a new supervisor, and we will start the person at a lower rate than the incumbent was receiving. The Board of Trustees will reallocate the savings to provide us with hours to be open on some Sundays.

Alderman Deane

I read the article in the paper. I was kind of surprised at some of the things that were stated. I remember when that whole contract came in front of us it wasn't going to be an issue to fund out of the existing budget – there weren't going to be any adverse affects, and then we ended up with this level funding issue. My question to you is it appears by the little graphs in the paper that show the increase in business and opportunity that citizens have to use your library there must be some days or some evenings where the graph shows a downward trend. Is that save to assume or is it pretty level all the time?

Joseph Dionne

No it isn't. Our busy is heaviest early in the week; Mondays and Tuesdays are our really busy days and then our business drops off a little bit on Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and then it picks up again dramatically on Saturday and Sunday.

Alderman Deane

Unless the collective bargaining agreement that is in place forbids it, would it be possible to take some of those hours that are not as busy and either close an hour earlier or open an hour later and take those hours and put them to the proposed closing on Sundays? Would that be a possibility?

Joseph Dionne

The Board of Trustees are analyzing a list of about 25 different items that we have proposed to them that will provide a variety of funding so that they can keep the facility open on Sundays.

Alderman Deane

With the efficiencies and the combining of the two departments along with the Board of Trustees reviewing whatever data you give to them with the flow of people through the library, then there is a possibility that the library may close on times where business is really slow and will be able to have the Outreach Program as well as the opening on Sundays as well so that isn't out of the question it is a possibility?

Joseph Dionne

It is not. I think it is a very real possibility.

Alderman Deane

The article in the Telegraph didn't really go into the depths of that, but I knew that with some of the efficiencies that the library has seen with staffing over there that perhaps something could have been done, and it appears as though you and the trustees as well as your staff are addressing it to see that the library will stay open on Sundays. Thank you.

Alderman Bolton

At the level that it is currently being proposed for the library budget, what will be the impact on the Outreach Program?

Joseph Dionne

The Outreach Program, which actually distributed more books to Nashuans last year than the Bookmobile in its last two years of operation is proposed to operate with 1 as opposed to 2 staff members. The Outreach Program will continue. There is no question of that – at current proposed funding for the library. It is possible that we may not be able to make every stop every three weeks as we have been, but at the moment we are continuing to do that. We have put in some additional efficiencies in that department. We have re-arranged the routes following a more Federal Express kind of approach to it. Right now we are meeting all of our current deadlines and delivery dates to people in Nashua in the Outreach Program with just one staff members and some assistance from other departments.

Alderman Bolton

At the current proposed funding level – I think I heard you say by combining two supervisor positions you will enable some Sunday openings so that the Sunday will not be eliminated entirely, and you also said the Library Trustees are looking at other means to survive, but if those other means prove no to – don't produce the results that we hope for or don't produce any further results, how many Sundays will you be able to be open or how many fewer Sundays will you be able to be open next year as opposed to the past year?

Joseph Dionne

If we did nothing Alderman other than combine these two departments and hire a new supervisor at a lower initial salary than the incumbent, we would probably be open only half as many Sundays next year as we were this year. We were open about 36 Sundays this year. I do want to stress that the options the Trustees are considering will leave the funding in place should they take action on those options to continue at a full level of Sundays.

Alderman Bolton

As we stand now it looks like you will be able to open 36 Sundays next year or some of these options are hard to swallow for other reasons or ...

Joseph Dionne

All of these options are hard to swallow because the Nashua Public Library is a terrific public library and it does a heck of a job. Anything we do that curtails that availability or accessibility is hard to swallow. We will do what is necessary to best serve the people of Nashua. I think you can be assured of that.

Alderman Bolton

I fully anticipate – I am worried about you not being able to be open on Sundays.

Joseph Dionne

I am too.

Alderman Bolton

Our ability to impact this is going to – the Board of Aldermen's ability to impact this is going to evaporate fairly soon so if I want it to stay open on Sundays if I am going to do something about it or propose to do something about it or try to do something about it I have got to try soon. Although for personal reasons I am just as happy that you don't have your employees coming in on Sundays, but be that as it may, what dollar amount are we talking about to provide for the additional 18 Sundays?

Joseph Dionne

Currently the full array of Sundays costs us something under \$30,000. I would say \$15,000.

Alderman Bolton

For another \$15,000 we could be assured 36 Sundays in the course of the next fiscal year?

Joseph Dionne

Yes sir.

Alderman Bolton

Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

First of all I want to applaud the activity that you now are dealing with at the library. That is great that you have less employees and more activity. The employees are doing a good job. I think a small portion of that has to deal with technology right that it is less people coming in whether they go on line to look things up. I am happy to hear what you said tonight because I think the last time you were here we had not made any changes to the budget where it stood last time – I don't think it has changed between the last time and this time – we weren't going to be able to open up on Sunday, and I think that it is very important to keep it open on Sunday. I support the work that you have done to date to get some of those and I also applaud the efforts of the Trustees to find the other dollars that are in your budget right now to keep them all open. Thank you.

President McCarthy

Are there any other questions for the library? Community Development ...

Katherine E. Hersh, Division Director, Community Development

The position that is currently open is a Mechanical Building Inspector. There are 5 inspectors in the Building Safety Department, and this is one of the 5 positions that is currently open. Some of you may recall in 2002 the Blue Ribbon Commission recommended a goal of 8 inspections a day, and this resulted a couple of years ago in the City adding an additional inspector. This action basically restored the manpower that was in place in the early 1990s. Over the last four years inspection requests and resulting inspections have increased by approximately 15% and inspectors are again averaging over 11 inspections a day. Development continues especially with as interest rates remain low there is a great deal of remodeling, additions, added second stories, furnace and water heater replacements, etc. Inability to fill the vacant Building Inspector position will result in our inability to meet the demand for inspections.

Our goal is quality; to make sure that the build environment is safe for our citizens. There are just a certain number of inspections an inspector can go out and do a day. If we don't have an inspector we can't complete them all.

President McCarthy

Are there any questions? How many inspections are we doing?

Katherine Hersh

In FY '04 we were doing over 10,000, almost 10,500 inspections. I didn't look it up for FY '05, but we did more than that last year.

President McCarthy

What does that work out to per inspector?

Katherine Hersh

Per inspector right now we are averaging over 11 inspections a day.

President McCarthy

Thank you. Are there any questions?

Alderman Lozeau

Given my comments at the beginning of the evening I just want to recognize the School Department is here. I am quite please to see them here and invite them to speak regarding their open positions.

President McCarthy

Mr. Dowd, Mr. Cote, and Mr. Kelley there have been some questions about the School Department positions. I am glad to see you here.

Scott Cote, Board of Education

We actually came here this evening more as a spectator than anything else, and didn't expect to be answering questions. We will do the best we can.

President McCarthy

Do you have a copy of the handout?

Scott Cote

Mrs. Nice was kind enough to hand us a copy of that five minutes ago.

Alderman Lozeau

I am wondering if they are prepared to comment on the open positions. It doesn't sound like they are.

Scott Cote

I can actually give you some information as to where we are in the process. I know that Mr. Kelley is the Chair of H.R. I know that they are meeting I think Monday of next week. Many of the positions that are on this list are expected to be addressed Monday of next week. They are

all certified positions with the exception of those listed in the bottom three of the district wide positions, which are the Paraprofessionals, the three clerical, and the one monitor. I can also tell you that our current hiring plan right now is based on where your Board is in your budget process, which essentially puts us at 2.5% increase is where our plan is. With that in mind that puts us a bit over 50 positions less this year than it was this time last year in terms of district hiring.

I think we stand out probably early in the process as being the group that took the largest personnel reductions on the onset of the start of the budget.

Alderman Lozeau

I will interpret that as it is safe to say that if your budget stays where it is today that some of these positions will not be filled?

Scott Cote

If our budget stays at the 2.5% - this is based on that hiring plan of our budget being at 2.5%.

President McCarthy

So these are positions you would anticipate filling?

Scott Cote

Absolutely.

President McCarthy

Are there other questions?

Alderman Deane

-  
Of the 50 positions that were mentioned, how many of those were through retirement?

Scott Cote

The vast majority of them. The ones that potentially weren't were some key administrative positions particularly at the High School level where there were some Headmasters, and there were also I believe two ICS positions that weren't actually through retirement. The elimination of some of those positions actually required or provided the opportunity for transfers to other vacancies for those individuals.

Alderman Deane

So if we look in the budget book how many of the positions that were budgeted for last year were totally removed from the budget position and all? There were a couple of Headmasters right – 2 Headmasters I believe?

Scott Cote

I don't think the budget book right now Alderman Deane even closely correlates to where we are with the reductions that have been made. I didn't bring my budget packet with me to tell you exactly where those positions are, but the onset of the budget that was presented to you that was initially approved by the Mayor that was presented is significantly different than where we are now.

Alderman Deane

I was just wondering from then until now what has been cut that wasn't – from the initial budget that was from the Mayor.

Scott Cote

I understand your question now. I believe our initial discussion that we had with you all at some of our presentation meetings; we were at roughly 36 positions I believe. Much of those – for example 24 of those were Paras that were not funded any longer through the grant that we have eliminated completely. I believe that is the number – roughly around 35 or 36 positions so that delta is roughly 14 or 15 positions.

Alderman Deane

–  
Thank you.

President McCarthy

The 9 para-professional positions that are on here were those general classroom paras or were those one on one special needs?

Scott Cote

My understanding is that the vast majority of those are one on one special needs driven by special education programs, and that is essentially where the para-professional program has now lead itself.

President McCarthy

And those are ones that we will effectively have to by law fill at some time.

Scott Cote

By law.

Alderman Bolton

Not at some point – in the next 4 weeks.

Alderman Tollner

Where is the Board of Education regarding putting the school budget level at an increase of 2.5% and making those decisions and lining that budget up with that?

Scott Cote

This hiring plan or the positions that are in front of you right now on this list reflects your Board's current actions of putting the School Department at 2.5%.

Alderman Tollner

So if we didn't touch the budget further you are all set with your recommendations internally for the school budget as it sits today – for the most part – give and take ...

Scott Cote

I don't want to lead you on to think it is an accepting position, but we are prepared to deal with that additional \$860,000.

President McCarthy

Are there any other questions for the School Department? Thank you.

I think that concludes our review of the open positions. Are there motions regarding R-05-184?

Alderman Rootovich

I haven't made any motions in the last 5-6 meetings with respect to the budget either additions or subtractions. I have done a lot of listening to my colleagues and listened very carefully to the concerns they have with respect to any further reductions in the budget and providing the services that our citizens expect at a price that they can afford. Three things kind of stick in my mind that have been mentioned over and over again; one is what I just said about spending any further monies to provide the services, the second is I have heard many, many times with respect to merit increases. Some of the Board members have felt that our hard working city employees who aren't getting an increase in pay and it is not fair to them not to receive their increase in pay, and I agree with you.

I am going to make a motion that is probably going to be somewhat unpopular by many of my colleagues on the Board here, but I do believe that it solves many issues that many of us have in many different areas. If this motion were to carry it would do three things; one it would no longer reduce any monies in the budget – we wouldn't have to look at that, second of all my follow up motion would be to reinstate all of the merit increases in the merit employees, and third it would bring our tax rate down to about 2.6%. I am not anticipating cutting any line items, but I am anticipating my motion to do is to cut the capital improvements and the capital project funds that the Finance Committee went over on Monday night – not all of them, but the majority of them. That would pretty much – my intention to take those dollars, which would be a little more than \$4.9 million and add it to the fund balance thus reducing the tax rate to 2.6%.

Alderman Bolton

Alderman Rootovich when you say tax rate of 2.6% do you mean the percentage change last year to this year?

Alderman Rootovich

Alderman Bolton I am talking about the tax rate now that is currently at 5.8% reducing it down to 2.6%.

Alderman Bolton

The tax rate now is about 2%. The 5.8% that we have been talking about is the percentage change in the amount that has to be raised in taxation.

Alderman Rootovich

That is what I am talking about. I don't know if the entire Board has these documents. If they don't I would ask that maybe they receive those. One is called Capital Project Funds and the other is called Capital Improvements.

President McCarthy

I guess while we are doing that I have a general question about some of those funds. Does this involve funds that are proceeds of bond sales?

Carol Anderson

Yes they do.

President McCarthy

So we could not in fact re-direct those to the general fund to reduce the tax rate?

Carol Anderson

If the project is complete what you can do is you can put it towards reducing the actual bond – that is what you can do – not reducing the bond, but putting it towards the bond payment. Two million in the capital project fund already is for the school in the budget to go towards that particular bond.

President McCarthy

I guess I would ask with respect to those why we wouldn't be better off to pay down the principal on the bond - the \$2 million I assume is from the high school project, which is already in the current plan that gets us to the 5.8% is it not?

Carol Anderson

Yes.

President McCarthy

That is \$2 million of the \$4 million that I believe was mentioned?

Carol Anderson

Yes.

President McCarthy

So we have already done that so we are talking about \$2 million more, which presumably then we can't get to a 2% increase in the tax rate we can get to midway between 2% and 5.8%. I guess I would ask from a policy standpoint when there are additional bond proceeds at the end of a project, first of all my opinion would be we ought to avoid that, and secondly wouldn't we be better off to pay down the principal on the bond and save \$3-4 million over the next 20 years than to pay off \$2 million in the payment in one year and be left with the interest on that for the next 19?

Carol Anderson

One of the concerns I have is that when you pay a bond you are paying so much per year – you take out a 20 year bond the investor is expecting payment over each year a certain amount of return on that. When we do an advanced refunding or refunding of bonds then you can pay down the principal portion of that. What you could do here if I guess some of my concern would be on this is if the projects number one are complete or if these projects – the Directors have asked that these funds be carried, the bonds, because it is my understanding that the projects are not

complete at this time. I would like to be able to check with bond council to any ramifications for changing the project – not completing the project and using it to pay down...

Alderman Deane

Thank you. I was at the Finance Committee Monday night and I have reviewed a lot of this over the weekend and I have some questions and Aldermen Rootovich, Dion, Vitale, the Mayor and I believe Alderman Tollner was there as well. Although I understand what Alderman Rootovich wants to do, and there are some areas within this 600 account especially that I do think should be addressed and we should take a hard look at it, I had a conversation today with Ms. Bielawski pertaining to some of these projects and where we were within the stages of the projects and whether some of them fell within the unfinished project status report that you had sent out. I haven't had the time to cross reference this document with the unfinished project status report that you had given us. I had asked Cindy to look into that for me. She said she was going to speak with you if she had time.

Carol Anderson

She did. She wouldn't be the one really – I don't think actually within our own division. I think it would be up to the Division Directors to discuss where they are on those projects. We can tell you how much money is remaining there. As to what work needs to be completed or what the percentage of completion is that would have to come directly from the Division Directors.

Maybe this isn't an appropriate time and I should wait until the motion is made, but I do have some concerns about some of the action.

Alderman Rootovich

I would appreciate at least waiting for the motion. I think that the Board will see that many of the concerns that Alderman Deane has – I have not touched those projects – I have done some research myself – they don't affect those bonded projects.

Again these monies would be directed towards the reduction of the tax rate.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO REDUCE IN THE 600 ACCOUNT LINE ITEM 603-02 BY \$18,000, 641-06 BY \$18,000, 641-07 BY \$3,000, 651-39 BY \$16,795, 651-53 BY \$13,000, 652-25 BY \$65,862, 653-10 BY \$25,012, 655-08 BY \$40,714, 664-04 BY 7,500, 681-42 BY \$128,299, IN THE CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS 772-3709 BY \$32,832, 752-6914 BY \$9,849, 753-3713 BY \$119,464, 753-3730 BY \$3,692, 757-3729 BY \$276,375, 771-3708 BY \$740,202, 3750 BY \$158,709, 3727, BY 10,663, AND 3773 AND 3774 BY \$3,368,807 FOR A TOTAL OF \$4,928,477**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Rootovich

Again there would be no further reductions I believe needed in the budget, and we can put back the merit increases to the well deserved city employees and the \$15,000 for the library and still have a reasonable tax base that is still under 3%.

President McCarthy

Did you have an addition to that motion to increase line items to put the merit raises back?

Alderman Rootovich

That would be a follow up depending on what happens here Mr. Chairman.

Alderman Bolton

It would be my firm belief to the extent this involves transferring bond proceeds to effectively either depending on how you want to look at it pay operating expenses or reduce the tax rate, it is illegal – you can't do it. The only thing you can do with bond proceeds is to transfer them to another project that would be eligible for bond financing or use those bond proceeds to make payment on the bonds. Many of these are to take bond proceeds for this purpose and we just can't do it. If anyone knows different I would love to hear it.

Alderman Rootovich

I would be willing to amend my motion to take those items that Alderman Bolton is referring to with respect to bonds and put them towards the bond payments.

President McCarthy

I guess I am not convinced that it is as simple as that. If the proceeds that are left from the bond exceed the payments on that bond for this fiscal year we can't do more than that I would assume.

Carol Anderson

You are right. You could pay principal and interest on that payment this year with that.

President McCarthy

How do we come to have substantial amounts of bond money left at the end of projects at this point?

Carol Anderson

This isn't the end of the projects.

President McCarthy

If we were to do that we would be canceling work that is contracted?

Carol Anderson

Either contracted or the work is just not complete yet. That is my understanding. Of the \$3,358,000 on the two school projects we do have \$2 million in the '06 budget of that amount.

President McCarthy

Of the \$3,368,000 \$1,368,000 would be available.

Carol Anderson

Right.

Alderman Bolton

Further to the extent – could you look at the source of funds legend in at least as far as the capital project funds, the ones that have C code related to them those are state and federal grant funds – we cannot divert those funds from the purpose of the grant, and then the ones that have Os next to them, which stands for other, some of those come with encumbrances like the money the Rotary gave us we can't just take that and not do the thing they gave it to us for. I think it may be that we can do some of this, but many of these we just don't have the ability to do.

Carol Anderson

I also think on the 681-43, the \$128,299 that money was originally taken from the School Capital Reserve fund for that. I think that ... **tape ended** ...

President McCarthy

I guess I would also point out that on some of these the local match is actually fairly small compared to the amount of money that is leveraged in the grants themselves.

Alderman Tollner

Also on the capital improvements, 664-04 Airport Property Acquisition, if I am not mistaken I thought that the local match was relatively insignificant.

President McCarthy

It is a 5% match.

Alderman Tollner

Is it safe to assume we would be giving up 95% of – that \$7,500 is only 5%.

President McCarthy

It is a \$133,000 match. That is the money that we have been using for the clear zone acquisition when we had properties become available near the airport.

Alderman Tollner

We have used some similar monies in the past – we have bought 2-3 houses along Pine Hill over the last 12 years. They have I think 2 other houses that they have targeted right now. I think it is federal dollars that would be the match.

I would also be somewhat concerned – I know that someone also mentioned federal grants for the Broad Street/Dublin Ave. reconstruction even though there is nothing that is imminent, but a good chunk of that project is to alleviate some busing to the local schools – widening Dublin Ave and putting in sidewalks and doing sidewalk work on Broad Street. I think that too has a considerable match from State and Federal grants because Broad Street is a state road.

Alderman Deane

I believe the discussion held the other night on the Holman renovations, the \$9,849.82 had to do with some issues that the city had to take care of the peeling paint all over the stadium. I looked at a lot of this and as has been stated by others, when I looked into the 700 account and I looked at the legend that Cindy Bielawski had provided, and I looked at the matches for the state and federal grants and the bonds and the bans – I got to the general fund appropriation there as a little bit of money, but then when you looked at what you have as your 5% and the return you got on the investment with 5% from our side out of general fund and the project – I spent about half an hour looking at the 700 account and kind of got away from it. I did go back and I did spend some time and that is when I had talked to Cindy Bielawski today about some of these projects in the 600 area, which I totally agree I am in support of cutting some of these items out.

The other issue is this has no affect on the budget really. This has an affect on the tax rate because these are monies – we re not reducing the budget we are just reducing the tax rate by applying this money to it. I had asked Monday night at Finance for Cindy to come back and I had talked to her today about having some people come back and have discussions on some of these projects for review. She said she was going to speak to Mrs. Anderson and get back to me some time tomorrow. Like I said earlier I wanted to cross reference the document that Mrs. Anderson

had given us pertaining to perhaps some of these projects and where they were with the encumbrances and the un-obligated fund balance and some of the things that had gone out to bid – I know if you look 631-11, the Police HVAC system, myself and Alderman Lozeau and Alderman McCarthy and the Police Department we are having some value engineering done on that project to try to beat that down – although it wasn't mentioned, but that was just one project that I am aware of where we are progressing along with that and there are issues there.

The 603-02, the Merrimack River Conservation Easements, that is old money and I don't really know, but I don't think much has been done with that. We have a boat launch down behind Greeley Park. The 641-06 and 07 as well. It is not a lot of money. When I started going through all of this I came up with somewhere around \$90,000 of things – when you look at the match and the age of the money especially in the 600 and when you go to the 700 and look at the match and the return that you are getting on the match and the project that would be done, it is not a lot of money for what you get back in return.

President McCarthy

I want to interrupt you for just one second – procedurally none of this is items that are in the FY '06 budget is that correct?

Carol Anderson

That is correct.

President McCarthy

We basically can't make a motion to amend the FY '06 budget to achieve the purpose that Alderman Rootovich desires at the moment anyway.

Carol Anderson

What you are actually doing is you are using FY '05 surplus – that is what that would be.

President McCarthy

This is a separate resolution that was introduced to approve the escrows correct?

Carol Anderson

No this one doesn't go through that process because generally ...

President McCarthy

These are just monies that are held because they are in non-lapsing funds.

Carol Anderson

Yes.

President McCarthy

So if we wanted to do that we would have to have a separate resolution to dissolve these accounts and lapse them into fund balance and then secondly amend the fund balance resolution to reduce it by that amount.

Carol Anderson

That is exactly what would have to be done.

President McCarthy

I don't know how the Board would like to proceed. We do have an opportunity here in that we have the Division Directors – it might make sense to take the items that were in Alderman Rootovich's motion and just go through and discuss them one at a time. I say that because if that is linked to the actions people will take on the appropriations that are in the budget we may need to resolve those at the same time. I will welcome any suggestions from the Board as to how to proceed.

Alderman Deane

I think as Alderman Rootovich has read off the different account numbers if the Division Directors and the Department Heads are here to question whether this is an essential or non-essential item – the 600 accounts like I said earlier are one thing, the 700 accounts I think are a lot more to me anyway a lot more difficult because if you look in the source of funding area the way it is put in through the legend, some of them have 2-3 different sources there, and we have to look at – that area there to me really needs to be looked at extensively before – I wouldn't feel comfortable going into that area and starting to whack stuff out of there because I think we need some real extensive discussion with not only the Ward Alderman who is affected in some of these areas but the Division Director as well in what our initial investment is and what the return is with the grants and things of that nature.

President McCarthy

What I was suggesting is we seem to have most of the Division Directors here if we wanted to do that and prevent them from having to come back on another evening. We could probably do that.

Alderman Deane

I would like to start in the 600 then right at the very top of the list.

Alderman Tollner

I would agree with your suggestion, and we have the Divisional Directors here. There are 9 in the 600 – if the Divisional Director doesn't even have to sit down they can step up to the microphone and give a very quick impact statement for each item and we can run right through them.

President McCarthy

603-02 – Merrimack River Conservation Easement...

Katherine Hersh

There is \$18,000 in that account. It has been in that account for probably since the early 1990s. It was originally put there to purchase conservation easements between Greeley Park and Thoreau's Landing. There is no specific purpose for that money at this time. We do expect that there will be some opportunities as we move forward on the East Hollis Street Master Plan and the property along the Merrimack River, but there is nothing specific at this time.

President McCarthy

Would you believe that we would be able to respond to opportunities if they came along in some other way?

Katherine Hersh

Yes.

Alderman Tollner

While Mrs. Hersh is here why don't we go through some of the other items that we think would pertain to her so we wouldn't have everybody jumping up and down.

Alderman Deane

That is about it.

President McCarthy

Actually the Compressed Natural Gas Pilot Program.

Katherine Hersh

This is not for the bus system.

President McCarthy

The Rotary Common Improvements...

Katherine Hersh

There is no city money in that project. Any money that you see there is the money from the Rotary Club.

President McCarthy

Cotton Transfer Bridge...

Katherine Hersh

The Cotton Transfer Bridge is fully designed; all of the work is done. We are doing the final legal work to absolutely clear the title so that we fully own it, and we are putting it out to bid. We are at the end of the design of that project. To lose this money would mean that we would have really spent quite a bit of money on the design that we would basically not be able to capitalize on.

President McCarthy

The source of funds is indicated as general fund and state or federal grants. Do you know how much of that is grant money?

Katherine Hersh

Eighty percent of that is grant money.

President McCarthy

Do we lose the 80% if we cut the local share?

Katherine Hersh

Yes.

President McCarthy

Northeast Boulevard sidewalk and bike trails?

Katherine Hersh

If that money was put aside as part of a development on Northeastern Boulevard it was part of the Planning Board approval that money be put aside for those sidewalk improvements.

President McCarthy

So that is a designated money from a – that is an outside improvement?

Katherine Hersh

Right that was a volunteer contribution. That is what I understand.

Alderman Tollner

Should we assume that we can't use that money for sidewalks in other areas of the city?

Katherine Hersh

That is the way I understand that money yes.

President McCarthy

Space Needs – Renovations in the Welfare Department – who wants to address that one?

Mary Nelson

I believe there is \$3,000 and \$18,000 - \$3,000 for design and the \$18,000 for welfare. The Welfare Department moved as you know so outside of that department I believe they were going to use the money for air quality. They wanted to put some kind of ventilation in there. It is like an oven when the doors are closed and the clients are in that area. The \$18,000 has been there for a while. I believe it might be there more than I want to say 2-3 years. They have done a lot of work in the Welfare Department.

President McCarthy

I take it one that these funds aren't encumbered by anything except the desire to do that project.

Mary Nelson

That is correct.

President McCarthy

Are you saying that is critical to do or is that something we can defer?

Mary Nelson

I think probably we could defer part of the project. I would like to suggest that perhaps we could take a look at the ventilation because when all the doors are shut as I say it is very hot there. Maybe look at putting a fan or fixing that up – maybe some of the floorboards are broken – just as you come into the building.

President McCarthy

I don't think there is anything else in that department. The bike bridge – this is actually the part that is in the Public Works budget.

Richard Seymour

That is money that the division has for preliminary engineering and site selection.

President McCarthy

Where are we in the process?

Richard Seymour

We presently have short-listed the consultants that we are looking at and we are working with the School Building Committee to determine how we will select a qualified engineer.

Alderman LaRose

In parenthesis it says local match. Are we expecting to get money from somewhere else?

President McCarthy

I don't think that local match is correct.

Richard Seymour

I don't believe that should be there.

President McCarthy

The intent was that the remainder of the money would come from what is left in the high school account. The Compressed Natural Gas Pilot Program?

Richard Seymour

That is money that has been given to the city from DOT. It is DOT grant money. That was put aside for pilot study for that and actually a pilot system.

President McCarthy

How much is the local match percentage wise?

Richard Seymour

This \$13,000 is the local match I believe.

President McCarthy

Is that a 20% match or?

Richard Seymour

It is 20% of almost \$90,000.

President McCarthy

Does that mean there is other money we have expended already as part of the local match?

Richard Seymour

There is no money that has been expended no.

President McCarthy

Thirteen thousand is not 20% of \$90,000.

Richard Seymour

I am not sure exactly what the total is. It is a state grant that we are receiving.

President McCarthy

Parks & Recreation Brick Repair and Fencing?

Richard Seymour

That is money for the brick that is presently being replaced on Main Street. It is money that has been set aside for repairing bricks and installing bricks on Main Street.

President McCarthy

Where is the money that we transferred two weeks ago to pay for the Allds Street Bridge?

Richard Seymour

That has nothing to do with this.

President McCarthy

That came out of a sidewalk?

Richard Seymour

That came out of a construction account that had been set aside for South Main Street.

President McCarthy

How much brick repair would we have been doing for this amount?

Richard Seymour

I don't know how many bricks. The fencing is basically the planting areas that are around the trees that have been talked about. Very short fencing.

Alderman LaRose

What ever happened to the – when we first got those trees we had the tree guards that went a good ways up – the first ones I believe we aluminum and they were getting bent to hell and then they went out and bought some rod iron and all of a sudden that disappeared. They made those trees look – it gave Main Street a better look. What happened to them?

Richard Seymour

I will check with the tree warden on that one. I have no idea.

President McCarthy

The Daniel Webster Highway Guardrail Replacement?

Richard Seymour

That is money that we had proposed to put into two guardrails; one on Gilson Road and one on

Ridge Road. That is excess money that came out of that project.

President McCarthy

Where on those two roads is it?

Richard Seymour

At the sharp corners. I don't have an exact location.

President McCarthy

So we would be missing guardrails in Ward 5 if that were to be gone.

Richard Seymour

Exactly.

President McCarthy

Traffic Pedestrian Safety Improvements?

Richard Seymour

Those are two pedestrian crossings; one at Concord Street and Hills Ferry Road and the other one at East Hollis Street. It is money that we had put towards those. We are about 50% design on those projects and moving along.

President McCarthy

Holman Stadium Renovations?

Richard Seymour

That \$9,800 was proposed to be used for a consultant to come in to watch and to make sure that the installation of the new location of paint that is being done by Breadloaf is up to specifications. It is quite a complicated job. It is not something that our present staff can do or evaluate.

President McCarthy

And this is to try and get the work up to the warrantee standards?

Richard Seymour

The work proposed by Breadloaf is going to run about \$160,000. This money would be to hire an additional firm to evaluate the application, the paint, the temperature – all of the variables that need to be watched over while the paint is applied.

President McCarthy

Some of the funds of that come from bond?

Richard Seymour

Correct that is the balance of the bond.

President McCarthy

Mrs. Anderson could we re-direct – if we weren't planning to do that we could in fact cover an existing bond payment with that money?

Carol Anderson

Yes.

President McCarthy

Manchester Street Bridge?

Richard Seymour

That is the local match. That job is going in in FY '08. It has been postponed by the State, but that is the local match that is required by the City. The Town of Merrimack pays 5%, the State pays 80%, and that is the remaining monies that are needed to complete that job by the City.

President McCarthy

So this is a 15% match.

Richard Seymour

Correct.

Alderman LaRose

Do you know if Merrimack has funded their portion?

Richard Seymour

Merrimack has money set aside for this yes – 4.9%.

President McCarthy

Broad Street/Dublin Avenue Reconstruction?

Richard Seymour

That is also not much money at this point. Most of it has been utilized in contract with the engineering firm. The balance is money that is available - \$3,600.

President McCarthy

If we were to stop doing that are we at a point in those contracts where we have a product?

Richard Seymour

They haven't completely finished their contract. They are still working on some design work that we have asked them to do.

President McCarthy

We have paid for it already.

Richard Seymour

We have that encumbered in a contract with them. We haven't expended the dollars, but we have the money encumbered.

President McCarthy

So if we were to release the \$3,600 we would bring that project to an orderly but premature completion.

Richard Seymour

Exactly. There is not a lot of jeopardy with that money.

Alderman Tollner

If we were to remove say that \$3,600 would that jeopardize any of the state..

Richard Seymour

I don't believe so because I believe that the contract that we had with the engineering firm – we did have some excess money when we did generate the contract. Those monies could be used for additional design work that we ask them to do during the process.

Alderman Tollner

I don't want to confuse this, but I do remember when we first presented this project – a lot of the neighborhood had some concerns and they went back and did some re-designing.

Richard Seymour

That is what they are presently in and that is what the balance shows. The 217 is the unspent balance in the contract. The first number, the 221, is the cash available. The actual unspent balance of the contract is another 217 - probably less than that as of this date.

Alderman Tollner

If we were to cut the \$3,692 you don't perceive them coming back and saying ... okay.

President McCarthy

That also shows a source of funding as grants and other. Are we sure that the \$3,600 is unencumbered general fund dollars?

Richard Seymour

It may be grant money too.

President McCarthy

For this amount of money why would we jeopardize it?

President McCarthy

Parking Facility Renovations?

Richard Seymour

The balance there is the balance on the parking bond. It is about \$276,000. We do have a small amount that is encumbered for two contracts that we haven't finished off. There is some need for some money to do an evaluation of those garages. We had hoped that if we did have problems with the garages – if there is any major problems with some of the joints in some of the garages

that we are having evaluated in the near future that some of this money might be used to rectify that situation before it becomes a very expensive proposition.

President McCarthy

Mrs. Anderson what is the – that is strictly bond proceeds so what is the yearly payment?

Carol Anderson

I don't know offhand on that one. One of the discussions we had had too in administration is possibly taking – where that is a sizable amount was to put it towards some of the bonding that we have to do at the end of this year. You can see some negative amounts here that we have to bond.

President McCarthy

To actually retarget the bond money?

Carol Anderson

Right.

President McCarthy

My recollection is that bond was for about \$1.1 million or \$1.2 million so I want to think that the principal and interest only comes to \$75,000 or \$80,000 or a little more.

Carol Anderson

Right approximately.

President McCarthy

So we couldn't direct more than about 1/3 of the money that is left anywhere else. Southwest Recreation Area?

Richard Seymour

That is money that is part of the original million-dollar bond – it is the balance, \$740,000. The division has been looking at potential rectangular field on the southern portion of the park. It costs about \$380,000 leaving roughly that amount as a balance.

President McCarthy

Here again the payment on this bond has got to be in the \$60,000 to \$70,000 range. This one has been partly paid off.

Carol Anderson

Right, but it is part of a larger bond too, but this one again this was a discussion that where this is for land and everything – we had the fire station that we have not paid – we will be bonding that land and that was a possibility of redirecting those funds.

Alderman Deane

Is this a band or a bond?

Carol Anderson

Bond. We have no bands outstanding.

President McCarthy

Actually I think that is about it for Public Works.

Richard Seymour

You did mention the sidewalk bike trails I believe. That is set aside money that comes from site approvals from businesses that along there.

Alderman Deane

If there is the 3727 – if this is site plan stipulations put on by the Planning Board is this how this has to be set up – it couldn't be put into a quadrant account?

Carol Anderson

I would leave that for Legal. I know there was some concern about putting that into a quadrant. I don't know if it was specifically this one, but there have been concerns in the past about putting them into the quadrant accounts.

Alderman Deane

That is why this account was created to identify it?

Carol Anderson

Right.

President McCarthy

Actually Mr. Cote was that – you want to tell us about that one?

Scott Cote

This is actually directly related to the expansion that occurred initially off of Murphy Drive for the Paradine Project – initially when that building was built for that the direct contribution was \$10,000. We did have to set up an individual resolution to accept that funding specifically for Northeastern Boulevard.

President McCarthy

The reason for that was we have by ordinance deferred quadrant funds for sidewalks, but since this was a voluntary contribution the constraint placed on it by the applicant was that it be directed specifically to Northeastern Boulevard.

Scott Cote

That is correct.

Alderman Rootovich

When did we vote on the bond for the Southwest Recreation Area?

Carol Anderson

I want to say that was back around 2000. I know it has been a long time.

Alderman Rootovich

We borrowed money in 2000. How much did we borrow?

Carol Anderson

A million dollars.

Alderman Rootovich

We haven't even used  $\frac{3}{4}$  of that – we are paying interest on money we are not even using.

Carol Anderson

Right. There were several plans that Mr. Crombie had brought forward. It just didn't move.

President McCarthy

If I might I think we let the bond – it may have even been prior to Mr. Crombie's arrival and when he took over the division he proposed that we do things differently at least in subsequent years. We had originally had a plan developed that put 5 fields on the upper part of that property and we then there was the proposal to put the dome on the other part and to build some different fields, and none of those have every gotten to the point where they were bid out for construction.

Alderman Deane

That original design phase came or part of it came from the group that used to meet every Sunday at the fire station, and when we did a facilities assessment on the recreational facilities due to the amount of facilities we had to offer to the programs in the city divided by the tens of thousands of hours that were needed for the organized programs – I believe a portion of the funds that were spent out of there went for the design of the couple three fields there up in the back. That was Mr. Crombie's doing I believe.

President McCarthy

Actually the initial design was master planned by – Mrs. Hersh may be able to help with the name of the contractor.

Alderman Deane

William Hauffman.

President McCarthy

That was actually contracted by if I recall Mr. Hawk as the Community Development Director and the design was then transferred to Public Works when it was done.

Alderman Deane

We spent about \$28,000 or something like that. It is my understanding that project they have looked at this \$700,000 + and they had scaled this project back down to about \$380,000. Correct?

Richard Seymour

We originally looked at artificial turf and we looked at regular turf and my goal was to come in at least at a reasonable number. One of the reasons for installing this park was because of the fact that we have very few rectangular – we have about 15 rectangular fields – on average during the

spring and the fall they are used about at least average 5 games per field per day, and it doesn't allow us any flexibility to pull a field off line to rehab it during the summer months and into the fall. We really found that we have – we did an analysis to make sure that we had sufficient fields – we didn't have sufficient fields based on the demand for fields we are encountering as different programs come on line such as lacrosse and cricket and a lot of other programs that are demanding rectangular field space.

Alderman Deane

Your total project cost estimate is \$380,000 as we discussed Monday night, and leaves a balance of about \$362,753.97 with \$2,551.54 encumbered so I think you were asked Monday about your comfort level with the \$380,000.

Richard Seymour

We feel comfortable with it. One of the things that is unique in this park project is that this is a complete DOW project from design engineering all the way through construction. It will be built, designed, and obviously maintained by DPW staff.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

Am I to understand from your earlier conversation we can take that differential and apply it to other bonded projects at the end of the year?

Carol Anderson

Yes you could vote to do that right.

President McCarthy

Does the budget currently anticipate the – no because we won't let them until the end of the year will we – there is no money in the FY '06 budget to cover the Arlington Street Station relocation bonds?

Carol Anderson

No that would be the following year, but there is a half-year interest payment because we would be issuing debt at the end of this year and then that would be just a half-year interest payment.

President McCarthy

That amount would in fact be reduced by some amount if we were to make that transfer?

Carol Anderson

Yes.

President McCarthy

And next year's budget would be reduced by a full year's principal and interest on the amount that we were to transfer from these other bonds?

Carol Anderson

Yes.

President McCarthy

I think the only projects we have left are the ones regarding the schools. I have a question for Attorney Stephen Bennett, which is those bonds having been issued and the bonds sold are not the proceeds under control of the Joint Special School Building Committee at this point?

Stephen Bennett

**... tape inaudible – speaker away from microphone ...**

President McCarthy

If that is the case then technically even the plan to use \$2 million to offset the bond proceeds requires approval from the Joint Special School Building Committee.

Stephen Bennett

If it is in their control it would yes.

Carol Anderson

One of the things is that as long as whatever you are doing with the monies that are remaining are part of the original project. If they are not part of the original project then it goes back to the School Board. That is my understanding.

President McCarthy

I understand if we want to re-target bond proceeds, but ...

Carol Anderson

But even re-target to a different project within the school I think that there is ...

President McCarthy

I understand that as well. I believe that even using them to pay off the principal and interest on that bond needs to be approved by Joint Special because I think the State Law says once the appropriation has been made the use of the appropriation is up to the joint committee.

Alderman Bolton

Not so we can change the use and go built another school, but it is up to the Joint Special to say when they are done, and therefore have no further use for the remaining funds.

President McCarthy

I think that covers all of the projects that are in there. Once again I would ask how the Board would like to proceed. I think as I said these are changes in the tax rate that can be made independent of the appropriations in the budget that is in front of us, and will in fact require other legislation to do so. Are there any additional questions about the items themselves from members of the Board?

Alderman Tollner

If we are going down the list that Alderman Rootovich provided, maybe I could run down some items that were spoken about that probably should not be included and if he as the original maker of the motion ...

President McCarthy

I have to say that the motion is actually out of order because the motion to amend a resolution that does not include in fact any of those items.

Alderman Rootovich

At this time I will withdraw my motion and work on the Resolution for those monies.

**MOTION WITHDRAWN**

President McCarthy

I would like to entertain the discussion because I suspect that it is key to the finalization of the budget, which I would actually like to achieve at some point soon. I guess as Alderman Tollner is

proposing that we discuss some of them and get to the piece of legislation we will be able to act on fairly quickly.

Alderman Tollner

The motion was withdrawn. I think if Alderman Rootovich is going to go do some work there are a few items here that I think make sense for us to take off of the list that he suggested. If I could name a few of them and if he and the Board is in agreement – I will start on the bottom. The Airport Property Acquisition – I would remove that because that is a 90/10 match.

President McCarthy

Actually the bottom of that list is the school flooring replacement on the next page, which I believe that the school flooring replacement Mrs. Anderson told us is money we transferred out of the School Capital Fund that we basically can't...

Alderman Tollner

My suggestion would be to remove that from the list, the airport property acquisition from the list, the Daniel Webster guardrail replacement – that was the one if I am not mistaken was Gilson and Ridge Road, the CMAC Compressed Gas, that is it for right now.

President McCarthy

Might I ask what your rationale is for not removing the Daniel Webster Highway guardrail replacement?

Alderman Tollner

I thought when I heard Mr. Seymour say that they had taken those monies and applying it to the Gilson and Ridge Road and I am assuming that the Ridge Road project is what is being worked on right now.

Richard Seymour

We haven't gone anywhere with both projects. We haven't even started design. That was proposed excess money and these are the areas that we were ...

Alderman Tollner

Then I will add that to the list.

Alderman Cardin

The one that he said was in progress was the traffic pedestrian safety improvements – that is the one on Concord and Hills Ferry.

Richard Seymour

For \$40,000 yes.

Alderman Cardin

And that is well on its way to being ...

Richard Seymour

Those are into design. They are both averaging about 50% but one is closer to 60-65%.

President McCarthy

Does this amount cover the entirety of what is going to be done on the project or just the design?

Richard Seymour

The design is being done in house and the construction will be done in house, therefore, we are able to do it because we are doing it in house. Otherwise it wouldn't happen.

President McCarthy

If we are doing it in house why do we – is the appropriation that is in the capital budget simply for materials?

Richard Seymour

It is for materials; curbing, asphalt...

President McCarthy

Labor is budgeted elsewhere in the normal accounts of the Street Department?

Richard Seymour

Correct.

Alderman Rootovich

Where are these guardrails on Ridge Road?

Richard Seymour

I can't tell you exactly. I know they are out there. This is something that we determined in the last couple of months and I haven't had a chance to visit the sites myself.

Alderman Rootovich

If we are going to put up guardrails may I suggest about 20 feet at the Governor's lane –we have a drop in the right hand side that goes down about 20 feet – about 2 inches after the tar that drops. That is probably the most prominent area to put those guardrails.

Richard Seymour

I will look into it.

President McCarthy

Are there any other comments from the Board?

Alderman Deane

Alderman Rootovich brought up the guardrails – is the sentiment to remove that or leave that?

President McCarthy

I am not one way or the other on it. My personal preference for guardrails in that area is not to do them. The Ridge Road one may make some sense. The Gilson Road one I would consider to be a detraction from the area in general. I don't know how the Ward 5 Alderman feels about it.

Alderman Lozeau

I trip over things and would just assume not have them.

Alderman Gage

The impression I got from the Director is that we're going nowhere with it. I don't think he will miss it at this point.

Alderman Deane

I don't think they are going nowhere with it I just think it is something they haven't spent any time on because they are working on other items.

Alderman Gage

I was just quoting the Director.

President McCarthy

He said no substantial work had been done on them.

Alderman Gage

He said it was going nowhere – that is what he said.

Alderman Deane

Could I have the Director come back up here? Thank you. Are we going nowhere with this?

Richard Seymour

We have selected those two areas because we felt that they were in need of guardrail. We had excess funds like I said that came from the D.W. Highway guardrail project and that was obviously money that is going to be well spent in those areas when it is completed.

Alderman Deane

You have selected areas you just haven't gotten to design and ...

Richard Seymour

Exactly.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

President McCarthy

Is there any other discussion on the items on these two pages?

Alderman Cardin

I would like to see the \$40,000 of the 65508, \$40,714 left here – as you know there have been many – I don't know about on Concord Street, but on East Hollis Street, many kids hit by cars at that East Hollis Street grocery store heading toward the Hudson Bridge. I would like to see that money left in here.

Alderman Tollner

Let me try and clarify the at least the first page on the list. The ones to remove are 603-02, I think Mrs. Nelson said a little work needs to be done so remove 641-06 and leave 641-07 in place, leave 651-39, leave 651-53 since there is a grant match for it, remove ...

Alderman Rootovich

I am not sure what he means by remove...

Alderman Tollner

Leave on the list or take off the list.

President McCarthy

What Alderman Tollner has suggested so far is that the ones he would support deleting the funding for are 603-02 and 641-06 correct?

Alderman Tollner

652-25, half of 653-10 – the impression I got from the Alderman of Ward 5 is I don't really care for guardrails – the Alderman from Ward 9 thought that guardrails were important on Ridge Road. That is it.

President McCarthy

I think the Ridge Road guardrails are well out into Ward 5 by the way. I don't know that we are looking at the area Alderman Rootovich mentioned or not.

Alderman Rootovich

I just look again at what we are going to pay and we are talking about putting guardrails on probably the two streets that are less used than anywhere in the city, to hire a consultant while our people are painting light poles.

President McCarthy

I would support cutting all of 653-10

Alderman Tollner

That is fine by me.

## Alderman Deane

I side with Alderman Rootovich. I would ask that – it is nice to get a good sense of what people like and don't like, but if you are going to file some legislation to deal with this I would go with your heart – go upstairs and lay it out on the table what you want out, put the thing in, bring it down, and if it has to be amended we will amend it. I think going through this – it is good to get a sense of where people stand, but ...

## President McCarthy

My belief is that there are several members of the Board who may decide what to do with R-05-184 based on the outcome of the transfers off of this list. That being the case if those members are so inclined I would like to reach an understanding on what legislation is likely to pass on this list so that we can move along with the budget.

## Alderman Deane

But Alderman McCarthy let's get our feet back on the ground here for a minute. I believe the 700 account that we went through – this is difficult and next to impossible for two big ticket items, which are under the authority of the Joint Special School Building Committee, which will make a substantial difference in the tax rate are unavailable to this committee. To date as far as I can see we are dealing with about \$85,000 worth of money here off the front page, which doesn't amount to didly. I think the intention of Alderman Rootovich to include some of these items that end up having 3 or 4 different mechanisms in place between a band, a bond, state, federal funds, state loans, revenues – all of these other things that come into play – it is not what it appeared to be from the get go. If the feeling is that the budget will be passed by cutting some of these items out of the 600 account on the front page that amount to about \$100,000 I don't think that is going to happen – that is just my opinion.

I think the big numbers are on the back page and I think we have realized that the big numbers aren't available to us. Is that correct to assume Mrs. Anderson?

## Carol Anderson

You could either use some of them to help pay down the debt and add it to the \$4.8 million or you could re-assign it to other projects that we are going to be bonding at the end of this year if these projects are completed.

## Alderman Deane

You probably can't answer the question, but how would that affect the reduction in the proposed tax rate increase by re-directing those to different purposes? Are we going to get the same bang for the dollar? We are not are we? It is not going to belike a direct...

Carol Anderson

It is not a direct no – it is limited like we are saying to the principal and interest. I think one of the places we really get the benefit from though is if you do re-direct it to some of these existing projects that are ongoing whether it is the Senior Center or the Fire Station – these bonds are already sold so if you can put those proceeds if you are not going to spend it, if you can re-direct them to other projects and not have to bond –that would be my recommendation.

Alderman Deane

That doesn't equate to the fact that ...

Carol Anderson

It is not a dollar...

-  
Alderman Deane

We are not looking to reducing the proposed tax rate increase – with every million dollars we can buy down for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a point – that doesn't work in this case.

Carol Anderson

Not in this case. You would have to go by what the bond is and then you would apply what the principal and interest is – what I was getting at is if there is already \$2 million that is in the budget now, and then we have taken \$4.8 million also in surplus from the School Capital Reserve, the abolishment of that, which was bonded debt too.

Alderman Deane

Other than the Southwest Park project and the balance in that and the balance that is in the parking garage account in the 700 series there is really the other money that is in the North and South High School Project is under the jurisdiction of the Joint Special School Building Committee so we are looking at about \$1 million or so to re-direct as bonded...

Carol Anderson

Yes.

President McCarthy

Are we currently paying penalties on the Southwest Park?

Carol Anderson

Yes we pay rebates.

President McCarthy

How much?

Alderman Deane

We paid a quarter of a million dollars last year.

Carol Anderson

But that wasn't just because of that that was because you have to rebate the excess interest that you earned on that.

President McCarthy

We would save some money additionally by re-directing those older bonds simply by avoiding the penalty balances?

Carol Anderson

Right and especially where we have already paid for the land for the fire station – the city is out that amount of money and now we are starting to pay monies on the riverwalk. We have some money there. We have some money that we are paying on the Senior Center. We have already incurred so we can stop that clock if we re-direct.

Alderman Tollner

The resulting genesis of what Alderman Deane was just talking about though is if it is \$1.1 million - \$1.2 million I think was mentioned earlier, it really won't help this year, but it will definitely help next year correct when we have those bonds listed because we won't have to pay – we don't have to bond that amount next year.

Carol Anderson

Right, but it is not a dollar for dollar, but you are right in a long-term plan that is a very fiscally responsible thing to do.

Alderman Tollner

Okay so this is one opportunity that we have discussed in the past on and off if we are able to

make a decision today that would help next year's budget this is one that definitely would.

Carol Anderson

Yes.

Alderman Bolton

You can't make a decision today. You have to hold a public hearing before you do anything.

Carol Anderson

Exactly.

Alderman Tollner

I am just saying the idea that we were talking about.

Alderman Bolton

It will help us every year for the next 20 years, and about 18-20 it helps us an awful lot because we will be done entirely with payments at that point.

Alderman Tollner

If I can provide some feedback – the items that we discussed tonight that Alderman Rootovich presented, at least on the first page there was legislation here to remove those items, and I think Alderman Deane is correct there is probably going to be somewhere between \$80,000 and \$90,000 – I would support that legislation if it were to come to the Board as well as if we went to the 700 series if we are able to do what we just spoke about I would support that as well, which is I know separate from the budget that hopefully we will try to get a vote on tonight.

President McCarthy

I actually calculated somewhat more. It basically came to about \$125,000. We had two \$18,000 items, a \$65,000 and a \$25,000.

Alderman Dion

First of all I would like to thank Alderman Rootovich for his research work and the motion that he originally made. I never saw so many holes shot out of a motion as I did watching this as we are sitting here tonight. In fact, there were more holes shot at this motion than Wyatt Herb gun battle at the O.K. Coral. What I would like to say is that Mr. Chairman I appreciate you thinking that changes could offset the stalemate as far as the budget is concerned, but Aldermen Deane and

Tollner are correct that the amount that we are looking at so far is so insignificant that it would have nothing to do with bringing the cost of the budget increase down – so insignificant – too bad that we couldn't go along with the nearly \$5 million in cuts – that would have brought it down to a reasonable tax increase. I am sorry to say that it can't be done.

Other than making some serious cuts in the budget, there is no way we can get down to a reasonable tax increase. We can talk about \$40,000 here and \$18,000 there it will not amount to \$3-4 million that we have to cut so we are just wasting our breathe. Thank you.

Alderman LaRose

On page 2 we had talked about cutting the school flooring replacement. What happened to that?

President McCarthy

That is an item that came out of the School Capital Reserve Fund.

Alderman LaRose

Thank you.

President McCarthy

As a technical matter on that issue ... **tape flipped** ... one item.

Carol Anderson

But you took a vote on that one to – what would you do reverse the vote that took it out of the reserve fund?

President McCarthy

It seems to me that it was in a fund that we were able to get rid of. We transferred it, and now we think that the purpose went with it and can't be changed after it was appropriated into the capital account. It would seem to me that the Board by the same sort of vote could resolve that.

Carol Anderson

I would be a little leery on dissolving it only because originally that was in the School Capital Reserve Fund at the time...

Scott Cote

I just wanted to save you that time – we actually got a project update tonight that the project was

2/3 complete, and depending upon the schedule of the balance of the flooring materials we expect to have it encumbered within the next week or so.

President McCarthy

That saved us a lot of discussion.

Scott Cote

I thought I would try and do that for you.

President McCarthy

Thank you. Are there any motions regarding O-05-184?

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF O-05-184 AS AMENDED BY ROLL CALL**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN BOLTON TO INCREASE LINE ITEM 575-99999 BY \$15,000**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Bolton

This is the library, and this is the amount that will assure us of keeping the library open on 36 Sundays in the next fiscal year and provide the same level of service to the community at least in regard to that important aspect of the library's programming. I was certainly heartened by the comments of the Alderman from Ward 6 that \$125,000 was an insignificant amount so I am sure an amount that is roughly just 10% of that will present no obstacle given the importance of this program. Thank you.

Alderman Tollner

When I was listening to Mr. Dionne the impression I got was that they were definitely going to be open half of the Sundays, and he said that the Trustees were working on a number of projects, and he was very confident that they would be able to come up with that money so I am not sure that it is necessary for us to add in \$15,000 for the library. If during the course of the year hopefully they open up the library and if some time during the course of the year the Trustees are unable to do it I am sure that we can find some money in the overall city budget to compliment their budget. Thank you.

Alderman LaRose

As much as I would like to say yes on this I have to agree with Alderman Tollner. I think that if the

Trustees can't find a way of getting another \$15,000 that as we progress through the year I certainly would be supportive of finding \$15,000 to make sure that library stays open on Sundays during the winter months. I won't support the amendment as much as I would like to. I think that the best course of action is the course of action that Alderman Tollner suggested.

*A Viva Voce Roll Call was requested, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Alderman Cardin, Alderman Bolton, Alderman McCarthy  
3

Nay: Alderman Tollner, Alderman Vitale, Alderman LaRose, Alderman Gage,  
Alderman MacLaughlin, Alderman Deane, Alderman Lozeau, Alderman Dion,  
Alderman Rootovich

9

## **MOTION FAILED**

President McCarthy

The motion before us is that of final passage of R-05-184 as amended by roll call. Is there any further discussion?

Alderman LaRose

Because Alderman Rootovich may be coming in with a resolution on this it actually has nothing to do with the budget perse – what happens is if we find extra money it is like going to surplus to reduce the amount that we have to raise and the budget stays the same?

President McCarthy

Basically three steps to this process; one is we set the appropriations, two is we set the amount that we are going to take from surplus and other sources and put towards reducing taxes, and three is we set a tax rate base.

*A Viva Voce Roll Call was requested, which resulted as follows:*

Yea: Alderman Tollner, Alderman Vitale, Alderman LaRose, Alderman Cardin, Alderman Deane,  
Alderman McCarthy

6

Nay: Alderman Gage, Alderman MacLaughlin, Alderman Lozeau, Alderman Dion,  
Alderman Rootovich, Alderman Bolton

6

## **MOTION FAILED**

Alderman Tollner

I will be more than happy to work with Alderman Rootovich on his legislation.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER THAT THE AUGUST 4, 2005 SPECIAL MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Attest:

Paul R. Bergeron, City Clerk