

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

MARCH 13, 2006

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Monday, March 13, 2006 at 7 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane, Chair, presided.

Members of Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Fred S. Teeboom, Vice Chair
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Mark S. Cookson
Alderman Greg Williams
Alderman Richard P. Flynn
Alderman Daniel L. Richardson

Members not in Attendance:

Also in attendance: Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman Robert A. Dion
Edward Madigan, Fire Commissioner
Paul Garant, Fire Commissioner
David Lavoie, Fire Commissioner
Bruce Laughton, Fire Commissioner
Richard Soucy, Fire Commissioner
Chief Roger Hatfield, Nashua Fire Rescue
Brian Morrissey, Assistant Chief of Operations, NFR
Michael Mansfield, Assistant Chief of Special Oper., NFR
Earlene Davis, Exec. Assistant/Business Coordinator, NFR
Annie-Marie Boucher, Admin. Asst. II, NFR

DEPARTMENTAL REVIEWS

Fire Rescue & Emergency Management

- Presentation by Department Representative
- Questions by Committee Members
- General Comments

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Fred S. Teeboom, Alderman-at-Large, CTAB Liaison
Re: Draft CTAB Policies and Procedures Manual

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS- None

HELD IN COMMITTEE

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TEEBOOM TO TAKE FROM TABLE R-06-29
MOTION CARRIED**

R-06-29

Endorser: Alderman-at-Large Fred S. Teeboom
**RELATIVE TO THE APPROPRIATION OF \$53,998 FROM SPECIAL REVENUE
ACCOUNT
305-6013 “EDUCATION AND GOVERNMENT CHANNELS”**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TEEBOOM TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-06-29

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Teeboom

Yes, if you remember right we discussed this at length at a late hour and I'm not ready to discuss it all over again. But we held it because Alderman Richardson, one of my favorite aldermen, asked to read the CTAB policies and procedures. This has just now been submitted under communications. I received comments from Alderman Richardson who read it. I've incorporated a few of the comments. We had a televised, in fact, meeting first time ever Friday morning at 8:30. The committee much accepted the documents you've seen with some additional comments from the school department. We went over every single one of Alderman Richardson's comments. I'm sure he was not watching, but we went over every single comment and incorporated one or two. The draft is about ready to be submitted as a final. I would like us to proceed on this and recommend favorable passage so we can proceed for the most important next step is hire the contractor to start running the CTAB operations. I would also say that the funds for this, the contractual funds, they come out the franchise fee is 1 percent, which are contractually obligated to be spent only and nothing else only on government channel and education channel operations and facilities by contract.

Alderman Williams

Just a point of order. The motion was to put it on the table not to discuss.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TEEBOOM TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE R-06-29
MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TEEBOOM TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF R-06-29

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

My question on that, Alderman Teeboom, have the minutes been transcribed from the – you said the CTAB meeting was televised?

Alderman Teeboom

Correct.

Alderman Deane

Okay. Now 8:30 on Friday morning, unless you're retired or work 2nd or 3rd shift, normally you're working. I didn't see the meeting. Have they transcribed the minutes to that meeting yet?

Alderman Teeboom

From the CTAB meeting?

Alderman Deane

Yes. Didn't you say it was televised?

Alderman Teeboom

Yes. We don't normally get that until a few days before the next meeting. They meet once a month.

Alderman Deane

Well Alderman Richardson's questions were – did you watch the meeting Alderman Richardson?

Alderman Richardson

I did not.

Alderman Deane

You did not. So you don't know if your answers have been – have you been forwarded the answers to your questions?

Alderman Richardson

Yes. There has been a response to – my offerings in as far as improvements to the general document and the general idea of requesting the document was to look at Section 7, which defined the area of what the individuals are being required to do, i.e. a statement of work which is really what I was looking for. But given that this document is not of that purpose, it suffices in as far as a general document of roles and responsibilities. It does to answer your question. However, I do have other comments.

Alderman Deane

You have other comments. Please continue.

Alderman Richardson

Last time we discussed this resolution, we were estimating that we would be needing \$70,000 annually for any contractor correct?

Alderman Teeboom

No. The position detailed description is now being prepared by Maureen Lemieux. The salary has not yet been set. We have generally been talking about a consulting fee, a complete fee, no benefits – somewhere in between \$50 – 60,000.

Alderman Richardson

Okay. That would be for the program manager?

Alderman Teeboom

We call them program director now.

Alderman Richardson

Okay. And that would be in the area of...

Alderman Teeboom

Consulting fee of \$50 – 60,000.

Alderman Richardson

\$50 – 60,000...

Alderman Teeboom

No benefits, no overhead.

Alderman Richardson

Okay. So we're talking about amount of money here of \$53,998. Transferring that money now, you still can't do anything with it because you don't have enough.

Alderman Deane

Right.

Alderman Teeboom

Not true.

Alderman Richardson

It's not true?

Alderman Teeboom

No. This payment is made quarterly. Quarterly. So you see the first of four payments. You hire a contractor, and you hire him, and you pay him as long as you have money to pay him. That's how contractors work. In fact, some of our entire staff works. If we would cut the staff of the fire department (inaudible) it well exceeds the – we expect about \$200,000 annually against this account. The way it is structured right now, and I'd like to see it change, but the way it is structured now every quarter somebody has to come before the Budget Committee or come before the Board of Aldermen and get that allocated. I'm trying to make it so it can be all done for one year. One year at a time. We're looking into that. Remember, these are special revenue funds. They come into the account dedicated to this purpose, and sit in the account, and accumulate in the account until the Board appropriates the funds.

Alderman Deane

We use the balance to reduce the tax rate.

Alderman Teeboom

Well, you cannot use...

Alderman Deane

Instead of using it for excessive spending.

Alderman Teeboom

You cannot use this amount to offset the tax rate. I'm sorry.

Alderman Deane

Maybe we should bring the contract in and change it. We're looking at laying off fire fighters, but we're going to open up our own t.v. station.

Alderman Teeboom

Absolutely.

Alderman Deane

I don't get it. I don't get it.

Alderman Teeboom

There's a lot, maybe you don't get.

Alderman Richardson

Alderman Teeboom, so when we have a contract are we going to let this contract for a complete payment to the individual or is it going to be incremental payments over time? How would this contract work?

Alderman Teeboom

The way the City typically writes a contract, they write a standard contract that may have provisions for insurance liability or not. Just like Mr. Upton's contract or anybody else's consulting contract except in this case, and we'll give an annual rate. It'll state it will be paid probably either weekly or bi-weekly increments, we haven't captured that detail yet; it will tell and must specifically state to be funded either unless CTAB discontinues the services because it is not satisfied with the individual or because it runs out of money.

Alderman Richardson

Okay. So you don't have to have a critical mass of money then to actually go for this.

Alderman Teeboom

You never do for consultants. You just have to have the first and last payments.

Alderman Richardson

Thank you.

Alderman Williams

I just had a question. I'm going to need a little bit of an education here and it shouldn't take too long. This funding we're speaking of is basically a hidden tax. I wasn't aware of it until I got on this Board. But this is a franchise fee I see in my cable bill.

Alderman Deane

Correct.

Alderman Williams

So I'm paying it and all the other cable subscribers in Nashua are paying it. It comes to the City of Nashua in exchange for having a signed cable service with this particular company. Is that correct? Comcast?

Alderman Deane

Correct.

Alderman Williams

Are these funds that we're discussing now this \$50 some odd thousand quarter payments, is this the entire 3 percent franchise fee?

Alderman Deane

Absolutely not.

Alderman Teeboom

Let me address that. The way the contract has been structured, and you can get the contract off the web site. It's available on the web site under CTAB under gonashua.com. You go to CTAB and you see the contract listed. It was compiled together with a lot of lawyers. But there is a paragraph in there Section 2; there's a paragraph A-2. There's another paragraph I think it's A-2 or A-3. There are 3 payment structures called out. One of them is a one time payment – no, it's a payment comes in 3 increments. It's actually \$202,000 that can be dedicated only because it goes to the special revenue fund. It can be dedicated only to purchasing equipment or facilities for the government channel or the education channel.

Alderman Williams

What was the dollar figure?

Alderman Teeboom

\$202,000.

Alderman Williams

\$202.

Alderman Teeboom

At this point, \$153,000 has been received and is sitting in the special revenue account – special account just for that purpose. To spend that money, I will have to come before the Finance Committee, since I am the liaison. When it is ready to be spent on something, then the Finance Committee has to approve it. That's one account. The second account is the account we just talked about. That's the \$53,000, which represents 1 percent of the franchise fees. The third one is the big one. That's an additional 3 percent and therefore amounts to \$150,000 quarterly payments adds up to about \$50,000 right now is the estimate. That money goes into the general fund. Even though it is a franchise fee, only cable subscribers pay...

Alderman Williams

That's Nashua taxpayers.

Alderman Teeboom

That 3 percent fee – remember it all has to do with a franchise fee if you pay it – your total that you pay in your franchise bill is about 4 percent.

Alderman Williams

Okay. That was my question. So there's about 4 percent total in the bill?

Alderman Teeboom

Yes. So the 3 percent goes to the general fund. What I'm trying to do is...

Alderman Williams

And 1 percent is held back ...

Alderman Deane

For Fred's t.v. show. His t.v. station.

Alderman Williams

So 3 percent is something Fred is something Fred is not looking to touch. It's the other 1 percent?

Alderman Deane

Right. The 1 percent – when the new contract was signed, that 1 percent was set aside...

Alderman Williams

Is that why my cable bill went up?

Alderman Deane

Yes it is.

Alderman Teeboom

No. One of the reasons...

Alderman Deane

It's one of the reasons so don't say it's not. It is.

Alderman Teeboom

It was a rate increase.

Alderman Deane

It was a rate increase also.

Alderman Teeboom

That was a big one. Multiply your bill by 4 percent – if you pay \$50 like I do, you pay \$2 a month for the fee.

Alderman Williams

That's \$24 a year.

Alderman Teeboom

Yes. I can buy a lot of Dunkin Donuts for that.

Alderman Williams

\$24 for here, \$200 there.

Alderman Teeboom

12 cups of Dunkin Donuts.

Alderman Williams

No any more.

Alderman Deane

Alderman Teeboom, have you done any financials on this whole project? What is it going to cost us? Where are we going to do this? How many more people are we going to have to hire?

Alderman Teeboom

Mr. Chairman, if you had a read like Mr. Richardson and read our policy procedures manual, you would have a partial answer.

Alderman Deane

I did. I get kind of bored with it. Could you give me an overview of the project? I'll start.

Alderman Teeboom

You have to give me specific questions Mr. Chairman. I cannot answer these generalized questions.

Unidentified Male Speaker

Alderman Teeboom, can you elaborate on what the benefits would be to the community on having this particular channel available?

Alderman Teeboom

There are 3 channels. Which channel are you talking about?

Unidentified Male Speaker

I am talking about the educational and the governmental channels, which the 1 percent would be going toward or the \$53,000 would be going toward identifying a program manager.

Alderman Teeboom

That only goes partially to identify the \$53,000 it's based \$200,000 goes into operating the entire E&G channel operation at this point plus hire a program manager. This is not a high-class, high paid operation. This is a low – there's a lot of volunteerism. If you need to know what the benefits are, I suggest you go to Bedford, Manchester, you go to Concord, you go to Litchfield, you go to Londonderry...

Unidentified Male Speaker

I don't have that much time. So I was hoping for a synopsis on what the benefits – how is this going to provide a service and a benefit to the community of Nashua?

Alderman Deane

Please Alderman Teeboom, answer the question.

Alderman Teeboom

Do you feel that Channel 16 is providing you a benefit?

Unidentified Male Speaker

I'm posing the question to you, what is the benefit of this channel?

Alderman Teeboom

You can think of half – part of the benefit going to provide Channel 16 services. The other part is to provide educational services, which is described in Appendix C or D.

Unidentified Male Speaker

Is there any money in there to update from a tape recorder to a digital recording? No?

Alderman Teeboom

If it's television and (inaudible)

Unidentified Male Speaker

This is t.v. related. We have a tape recorder from 1973.

Alderman Flynn

What do we have much to weigh in on, but I know during the election – this was actually a pretty good topic for a number of people that are just for – I don't know if Alderman Cookson was at the same debates I was at, I'm not sure how that was structured – I know people talk to me about it individually. But there are a lot of people in this community despite Larry Hersh who seemed to think that there weren't an awful lot of people who were interested in this. I think he had a committee or something that was working on this for quite some time. That didn't seem to have a lot of support for this peg. But in any case, I thought during the fall when we kind of got into this and this subject kind of got a lot of attention, that there were a lot of people who are pretty excited about this channel. I'm not very excited about it tonight frankly. But just to give them their due, there were a lot of people that were very excited about this channel. I think there are a lot of people in this community that would be very excited about having this channel launched and this channel maintained. So this isn't like it's just Fred's t.v. channel. It's an interesting topic. I'm sure you can understand the bigger picture of it all. I kind of wonder myself where the continuing – how this is going to grow and how we are sure we're going to be able to live within the 1 percent budgeted for it. There's just so many other things going on right now that I'm not sure I'm really able to focus on this tonight at least. But there are a lot of people in this community, quite honestly, that came to the – I don't know if it was a public hearing or came to the aldermanic meetings, and they were very positive about it. There was a lot of

discussion about it in the debates and even my own talking with people faced to face. There were a number of times that it came up that people liked this idea very much. I myself I'm not sure where I stand on this. It's not to be treated real lightly because it could be real bonus, I guess, to quite a bit of the community.

Alderman Cookson

May I respond? Thank you. I would concur with your comments, Alderman Flynn. I was asking the questions and posing the questions for the benefit of the viewing audience who is watching. I was hoping to have the dialog a little bit of elaboration for that audience versus us.

Alderman Richardson

Mr. Chairman, is there a question before us?

Alderman Deane

The question is to recommend final passage of R-06-29.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN COOKSON TO HOLD IN COMMITTEE R-06-29

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Teeboom

What's the purpose of holding it in committee?

Alderman Deane

Alderman Cookson, would you like to answer Alderman Teeboom's question?

Alderman Cookson

I believe there is additional information that the CTAB policies and procedures manual that I believe we are in possession of now is outdated based on your meeting of Friday at 8:30 a.m. with additional comments included that have been suggested by Alderman Richardson. I'd like to see how this document has changed based on that with comments regarding Alderman Flynn's position and with what we've done this evening and his full mind not being part of this right now. I would say I think many of us are in the same position. That's my reason for suggesting that we hold.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TEEBOOM TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE R-06-15

MOTION CARRIED

R-06-15

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Steven A. Bolton

RELATIVE TO THE TRANSFER OF \$184,343 FROM ACCOUNT 597-86608 “CONTINGENCY NEGOTIATIONS – SCHOOL” INTO ACCOUNT 581-18001 “SCHOOL DEPARTMENT – PAYROLL, RESERVE FOR ADJUSTMENTS”

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Teeboom

I would like to understand more of what this consists of even though it may be the question of salaries and who approves the salaries are before the judge. I'd like to know how the \$184,343 came about. I've never seen an explanation of it.

Alderman Deane

I think you were the one that was the original sponsor of this legislation Alderman Teeboom.

Alderman Teeboom

If I remember right, I took my name off as quick as you can fly a goose.

Alderman Deane

Well what I had asked for was the salaries of the non-affiliated, and that's what – do you have a copy of this? This is the memorandum that I got from Mark Conrad. I put a copy in everybody's mailbox.

Alderman Teeboom

When tonight?

Alderman Deane

Yes. This afternoon. Why don't we discuss this at the next meeting?

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO HOLD IN COMMITTEE R-06-15
MOTION CARRIED**

R-06-06

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Alderman-at-Large Steven A. Bolton
Alderman Michael J. Tabacsko

**SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROCEED WITH THE BROAD STREET PARKWAY AND
AUTHORIZING A MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TO MUNICIPALLY MANAGE THE PROJECT AND PROVIDE THE LOCAL MATCH**

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman Richardson

Alderman Richardson discusses the acquisitions for the Broad Street Parkway.

Alderman Deane

Alderman Deane will have Sue Lovering contact Alderman Plamondon to schedule a meeting in the near future to bring in Mr. Williams from the NRPC for clarification and discussion on the parkway.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TEEBOOM TO MOVE AN UNFAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION AND
MOVE TO THE FULL BOARD**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Teeboom

Alderman Teeboom feels that nothing is going to happen and we should think about selling this property.

Alderman Deane

Alderman believes that if we don't build it, it's going to cost us \$14 million, but if we do build it, it will cost us \$6 million.

Alderman Teeboom

Alderman Teeboom would like to sell the properties and recoup whatever we can and negotiate the rest and cut our losses.

Alderman Richardson

Alderman Richardson believes at this point on the agenda they are in general discussion and would like to know if this is the point beyond which we are no longer discussion prior business?

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TEEBOOM TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE R-06-06

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Richardson

I don't favor taking it from the table and giving an unfavorable recommendation at this time. However, at the next meeting I would favor that. I would like to give one last opportunity for an adequate review of this project. At this point, I think it might be just a little premature. But we seriously need to have our views that we need a discussion forwarded on to Alderman Plamondon, the Broad Street Parkway Commission, and to the various City departments and the Mayor. We're monkeying around for a long time. We need to address this.

Alderman Cookson

Thank you. I appreciate the efforts to get to retain Alderman Plamondon's involvement in this process, but the performance is lacking at this point. I would suggest that we have Sue Lovering attempt to schedule a meeting and take the responsibility out of Alderman Plamondon's hands.

Alderman Deane

I will talk to her in the morning.

Alderman Flynn

I'm not ready to pass this on to the full Board either. I'm not sure what would happen at the full Board. I think you're going to have an unfavorable recommendation, but I'm not sure where the full Board stands on this yet. So I'd like to be sure that I've had a chance to hear as much as I can to hopefully be as convincing as we need to be when it finally gets to the full Board. If there's a chance of Mr. Williams coming to talk to us, we need to try to get ourselves as strong as possible if our position is to not recommend passage of this. Also, I thought that, and I don't know if it is possible, on that list of properties that we had were we going to get what the assessed value was for that property the year that it was taken over?

Alderman Deane

Yes. Treasurer Fredette is working on that.

Alderman Flynn

So I'd like to see those numbers as well to understand what kind of soup or stew we've gotten ourselves into.

Alderman Teeboom

Frankly, I don't care if you hold the whole motion. I just don't understand the magic words, the golden tongue and tonsils, cause I know Mr. Williams is going to convince anybody in spending \$7.2 million. He probably hasn't got much more to say than he's already said. That's probably one of the reasons why we don't see a meeting. If I were Mr. Williams, I'm not sure what it is I'm supposed to say to convince anybody. The fact of the matter is that for a long time a lot of aldermen want to

proceed and build a Broad Street Parkway. I remember 12 years ago the subject came up and it was \$23 million in the bank at that time before anybody here was involved with them. The fact is events have overtaken things. We've waited around, waited around. Finally, I think Kathy Hersh started moving with Crombie, and I think Crombie was a determined individual, as I understand it. Nothing stopped him. He just went ahead and started taking his stuff in cahoots with the people up in Concord that were just basically functionaries on this thing and said if you guys want to spend the money we've got it. Go spend it. That's pretty much the testimony we got from this lady from the Department of Transportation. No matter what memos I've gotten from different people, the fact that she said that she was basically passing instructions. So the fact of it is that nothing is going to happen with the golden words of Mr. Williams that I see. I'd be glad to withdraw my motion if somebody else wants to pick it up at another meeting.

MOTION WITHDRAWN

PUBLIC COMMENT

Robert Sullivan

Robert Sullivan of 12 Stoneybrook Road in Nashua. Mr. Sullivan wants to make sure that we adhere to standards of excellence when conducting budget hearings and discusses further the ability of citizens to once a year address their publicly elected officials in asking questions and expecting answers as much as possible at that particular meeting. Mr. Sullivan then gives some examples.

Mr. Sullivan also believes that the City is at a crossroad and it's about time that the Budget Committee start addressing the fiscal issues (real issues) that Nashua faces and gives some examples.

Alderman Deane

Alderman Deane informs Mr. Sullivan that there will be a representative from each department and every line item will be addressed.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN COOKSON TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 10:45 p.m.

Alderman Daniel Richardson
Committee Clerk