

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

January 3, 2005

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, January 3, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Mayor Bernard A. Streeter presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich, Vice-Chair
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale
Alderman Robert A. Dion
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Robert Shaw

Also in Attendance: Angelo Marino, Chief Assessor
Mike Mansfield, Assistant Chief, Nashua Fire Rescue
Richard Reine, Superintendent of Solid Waste

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager
Re: Hardware Purchases to Replicate GIS Services at the
Emergency Operations Center

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO INVERCENCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$16,368.74. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #335-64192-9605-6350

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Happy New Year Angelo.

Angelo Marino

Thank you Alderman Deane – same to you.

Alderman Deane

What is the life expectancy of this equipment?

Angelo Marino

I don't know exactly, but I can tell you we have had a plotter in the Assessing Department now that we have used for GIS services for five years, and we had one problem with it in that five years, and that was the internal hard drive in the machine that went. I would imagine we will get at least ten years out of this machine.

I know the same model is also in Community Development, and they have had theirs for longer than that – it is either 6 or 7 years. They got theirs before we got ours.

Alderman Deane

Is there any special training that has to be provided to whomever is going to use this piece of equipment?

Angelo Marino

No it is merely a large format printer. There really is no special training involved.

Alderman Deane

This goes along with the software that was ...

Angelo Marino

Yes. This is the large format printer that will print any maps or documents, large format documents that would come out of the software that we have already purchased for the replication of the GIS at the EOC.

Alderman Deane

What is the purpose of the emergency operations center printing out a map over on Lake Street? What do they do with it after they print it?

Angelo Marino

When the emergency operation center is open any incident would be managed from the EOC. At that point, we will have the ability to print any maps, print any documents from the EOC at the command of the individuals in the EOC rather than having to print it here in City Hall, retrieve it from City Hall, bring it back to the EOC and then distribute it from there. That is what this would be for.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Rootovich

These aren't actually monitors – I assume they are plasma TVs. What size are they may I ask?

Angelo Marino

They are large format – I believe they are about 35 inches. They will be mounted on the wall so that we can direct any incident using our GIS without having four or five people standing behind one computer.

Alderman Rootovich

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

Alderman Shaw

I just wanted to know we had the software last month and this hardware – is there anything else that will be needed?

Angelo Marino

There will be some incidentals for the EOC. There will be some supplies. I believe we have all of the equipment acquired now, and I don't think there is anything left for the EOC. There is another hardware piece for the homeland security that we have planned for, which was mobile data terminals for fire trucks, for police vehicles, for field data collection for safety purposes, and that we originally estimated I believe it was \$98,000 in our original grant, which we were approved for from the State.

Alderman Tollner

Angelo you have communicated with the Fire Department as far as their opinion on the decision as far as the products between the three ...

Angelo Marino

Yes. I was part of the study committee to plan for the grant and apply for the grant. All of this was approved by the committee. I have a meeting this week with Mark Broder from dispatch

and IT to determine where all of this equipment will be placed so yes the Fire Department is intimately involved in this.

Alderman Tollner

You are comfortable with given the fact that there is not that much of a price difference between the three bidders – considerable price difference between the three bidders – you are getting everything you need in addition to it being the lowest ...

Angelo Marino

Yeah, it is exactly the same spec so it is the lowest bidder for the same piece of equipment.

Alderman Tollner

Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

MOTION CARRIED

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager

Re: Purchase of Thermal Imager Camera by Nashua Fire Rescue

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE PURCHASE TO FIRE TECH & SAFETY OF NEW ENGLAND, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,619. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #532-64080

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Mike has the technology on these changed since you started purchasing these cameras?

Mike Mansfield

No the technology itself has pretty much been static over the last five years. This technology is relatively unchanged since it has been developed and used by the military. It has been developed and has been used for us – 20-25 years by the military. There is really not much change. There are some minor items that may have changed, some additional accessories as far as wireless remotes and so forth are concerned, but the basic technology and the camera itself has not changed.

Alderman Deane

That was my next question on the wireless aspect of it. How has that been working?

Mike Mansfield

We have done some inquiring about the wireless remote with some of the local departments that have purchased them and they have not had any problems with them thus far. That technology is probably the most recent part of – or piece of technology that has come out that will allow us to have the safety officer of Nashua Fire Rescue roam the actual incident and still keep track of what is going on inside and look at what is going on inside with the individual inside the building or inside the incident for safety purposes.

Alderman Deane

Are the other cameras available to be adapted with a wireless remote that we currently own?

Mike Mansfield

Yes they are.

Alderman Deane

This technology field is ... **tape inaudible...**

Mike Mansfield

Again depending upon how they are used anywhere between 7 and 10 years I would estimate. We have had several of these cameras in use already for approximately 4 or 5 years without any problems whatsoever, and that is why we chose to continue with this particular product.

Alderman Deane

Average wear and tear you will get 7-10 years out of it?

Mike Mansfield

That is correct.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Shaw

Mike it says that you have 7 of these currently deployed ...

Mike Mansfield

We have 7, which are comprised of two different models, but yes a total of 7.

Alderman Shaw

Adding this additional one will it be used specifically with one truck or is it going to be a backup or what is its purpose?

Mike Mansfield

That is a great question. This particular unit will be earmarked specifically for the safety officer that we now currently have 7 days a week 24 hours a day. That individual's responsibility is going to be monitoring specifically what is going on with the wireless remote end of this with a camera being inside. In the event that we have a need to activate the rapid intervention team, which is a team that is established early on in an incident specifically for the rescue of fire fighters if they become trapped or disoriented in any way, shape or form. We will be monitoring that safety aspect of the entire incident while it is ongoing.

Alderman Tollner

In the situation that we had a few years ago with Ed Dugas down in the basement...

Mike Mansfield

October 23, 1999.

Alderman Tollner

You would be able to use this equipment ...

Mike Mansfield

Absolutely. If we had the training and we had the techniques available to us back then the rapid intervention team would have been deployed and they would have been using this technology to locate that fire fighter and probably cut down the amount of time it took to locate that fire fighter immensely.

Alderman Tollner

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any other questions?

MOTION CARRIED

-
Mike Mansfield

Thank you for your time. Happy New Year.

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager
Re: Proposal Summary & Contract Award for Shady Lane Landfill
Air & Groundwater Testing Program

-
MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO CHEMSERVE ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,013.80. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #801-53080-8001-8100

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Shaw

Good evening Rich. I just was curious what our opinion of the performance of Chemsolve Environmental has been through the past year and basically do we have any issues or are we pretty satisfied with their work? If you go back a few years I know there were some issues at one point with this monitor.

Rich Reine

Chemsolve has been doing this for several years now. They have worked on some other groundwater analysis that we require, and their performance has been above average. Their pricing is also very competitive.

Alderman Shaw

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

Alderman Tollner

Maybe this is for Janice – I know the one vendor was disqualified because his submission was missing a complete round of air analysis.

Rich Reine

Exactly.

Alderman Tollner

Do we go back and – I know there is a submission, but in the case where if they got the bid specs was there any reason why they didn't submit it? Did they not submit in on purpose to lower their bid or ...

Rich Reine

I think it was an oversight on their part, and then if we looked at the round of air analysis that they did submit we can extrapolate what their price would have been, and it puts them above the Chemserve bid.

Alderman Tollner

Okay. Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any other questions?

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

HELD IN COMMITTEE

O-04-45

Endorser: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

REQUIRING THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT TO CHARGE A FEE TO NON-RESIDENTS FOR RESERVATION OF CITY-OWNED PARKS AND SPORT FIELDS

WARRANT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN SHAW TO APPROVE WARRANT #12 IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$20,078,527.62 OF WHICH \$2,630,320.25 ARE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, \$6,009,955.89 ARE PAYROLL AMOUNTS, \$6,650.73 ARE PREPAY AMOUNTS AND \$11,431,600.75 ARE WIRE TRANSFERS

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Shaw

I don't know if this was passed out to everybody or not. I had questioned one item in the Warrant that Mrs. Anderson and Mo had followed up on. There was a line item for \$498 for a Riverside Self Storage item, Voucher #223, and this explanation on that is that apparently we were storing many of these file cabinets and bankers boxes – this is from the Legal Department I don't know if I said that – they have been stored with the Risk Management files. Previously Risk Management relocated to 14 Court Street. The Legal Department can go there as well, but there is limited space so they have to sort through them so there is a three month window here that they will be using the storage facility for. That is just the information for everybody.

Alderman Deane

Through March 31st. I asked the same question.

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION

Alderman Tollner

I am going to put in all of the Aldermens' boxes tonight a draft proposal resolution authorizing the Mayor and the City Treasurer to issue bonds not to exceed the amount of \$5,800,000 for the construction of the fire station and the associated site improvements. This is a follow up on the meeting that we had a couple of weeks ago. It will give everybody an opportunity to take a look at it. If they have any questions they can speak to the Fire Chief or I should say Deputy Fire Chief, Brian Morrissey. I want everybody to get a chance to take a look at it. If they have any questions they should call over there. If they want to be an endorser they just have to call the Legal Department and add their name on it.

Alderman Deane

I had another item under discussion pertaining to the contracts. I don't know if everybody saw this morning's paper. I was trying to understand the Human Resources Manager, Mrs. Joyce, made a comment in the paper that I didn't necessarily agree with. She stated the rejected labor agreement followed the parameters established in other union contracts. It got rejected because

now Aldermen have decided they want something else. Well I don't understand how she could say that. We met with the negotiator/facilitator of the labor agreements that were up twice I believe and for the Aldermen that weren't there prior it had been brought up that we wanted the insurances looked at. I don't think that we have decided that we want something else. That was given we gave the contract negotiator that was put on board to deal with all of

the contracts we told him what we wanted. That was one of the items that we wanted looked at and possibly negotiated so the parameters haven't changed. I think somehow, some way there might have been a communication breakdown between what we told this individual and what was told to Mrs. Joyce.

I think Mayor maybe you could talk to Mrs. Joyce and explain that to her that discussion was had and somehow, some way there was some sort of communication breakdown between the individual that was hired. We did state that. From my recollection we asked that be addressed. Perhaps other Aldermen that were there if I am wrong I am wrong, but I remember stating that. I think Mrs. Joyce ought to be reminded that we had asked him to look at that and it wasn't done. I think it is unfair for her to levy comments like that at us anyway because that clearly wasn't the case. Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

I will pass the word along. Also I would like to announce that next Monday at 4:00 p.m. President McCarthy and I are inviting the boards and commissions along with the Board of Aldermen to discuss negotiating strategies. It will be at 4:00 p.m. in the auditorium next Monday afternoon. That would be an opportunity for questions like that to be posed.

Alderman Rootovich

Is this meeting a non-public?

Mayor Streeter

It is not – no it is not a non-public meeting.

Alderman Rootovich

I would suggest that it would be because I assume including myself we will be asking questions that should be held in confidence. It would be my recommendation that meeting be held in non-public session.

Mayor Streeter

I will check with legal counsel Alderman Rootovich. I think some of the boards and commissions have some concerns about their powers and authorities. I know the Board of Aldermen has

concerns. I thought this would be a good time for our legal counsel to explain the role of the different boards, and any concerns that the Board of Aldermen has relative to future contracts as far as suggestions that might be under discussion. At this point, I don't see the need for a closed meeting but...

Alderman Rootovich

In other words, the intention of this meeting is to is for Corporation Counsel to delineate the authority between the Board of Aldermen, Board of Education, and the other boards and commissions rather than discuss or allow members of the Board to request certain things be negotiated in the contracts – I assume that is not what the meeting is for, but it is more lines of authority and

Mayor Streeter

I think you will see that the word strategy is there – strategies would include what the Board of Aldermen would like to have these commissions made aware of as they negotiate new contracts. As you know I think we have 7 coming up this year and now is the time for the Board to express their opinions relative to what they would like the negotiating teams to look at.

Alderman Rootovich

Mr. Mayor is it your understanding other than the Board of Education the other contracts that we negotiate with our current negotiator? Is that the intention this year?

Mayor Streeter

Each contract has a different negotiator Alderman Rootovich. Each...

Alderman Rootovich

I am talking about the one for the city.

Mayor Streeter

Again Ms. Clarke sometimes negotiates, sometimes Steve Bennett negotiates on behalf of the city – Board of Education has their own...

Alderman Rootovich

I understand that this individual negotiated 4 of these 5 contracts – was involved deeply in negotiation of 4 of these 5 contracts. Whether that individual made the final decision his presence and his knowledge and input was in each of those contracts. I do have some concerns. I would like to address that. Again, I don't know if it is proper in public session, but it

is my intention to bring that to light that evening.

Mayor Streeter

I will pose that question to the office of Corporation Counsel and see whether that would require going into closed session.

Alderman Dion

I too feel as though we should be in closed session on this because it doesn't make sense to me to telegraph your punches ahead of time so that the public and the users can get a blow by blow of what our intentions are. I don't think it is a smart way of doing business. I think it should be closed-door session.

Mayor Streeter

We could have a non meeting with counsel as was done with the ... If you would feel comfortable with that then we can between describe that meeting when we post it.

Alderman Rootovich

My only intention Mr. Mayor is that if we are going to have this I don't want to be – not just myself but any other colleague of the Board would ask a question and somebody would say we can't discuss that because we are not in non-public session. If we are going to have it I think it should be a strategy session and a healthy session where both sides can exchange some dialogue and hopefully as we go forward with the new contracts there is some give and take. I don't want to be or have anybody else shut off from asking certain questions.

Mayor Streeter

That seems reasonable and if it is along the lines of the previous meeting we had with the Board of Education that was considered a non-meeting with counsel. I will address that issue first thing in the morning with Corporation Counsel and also with President McCarthy who agreed today that we should follow up with this request as soon as possible.

Alderman Tollner

I have a couple of questions. I am assuming that this meeting is a result of the request that was made a few weeks back at a Board of Aldermen meeting to get all of the boards and commissions together. A couple of things – first of all I am a little disappointed that the meeting is scheduled at 4:00 p.m. because that will make it very difficult for some of us who work and work out of town to make the meeting who very much would like to be at this meeting. I don't understand why we scheduled it at 4:00 p.m., and why we didn't schedule it for 6:00 or 7:00 p.

m. I ask you to look into that. I don't think anybody surveyed any members of the Board of Aldermen as far as a time that would be good. I know there won't be a time that is good for everybody, but I think it is safe to assume if I look around and Alderman Rootovich may be in Portsmouth or Alderman Shaw may be in Manchester and myself in Wellesley until at least 5:00 or 5:30 p.m. and there is no way that we can make the meeting.

The second thing is that I would like to concur with some of the comments that Alderman Deane made regarding comments that the Board of Aldermen more or less changed their mind or was looking for something different. I don't recall meeting with anybody representing the city and changing the direction or what we had stated at our last meeting. To tell you the truth even if we did, which I don't think we have, I don't think it serves a purpose because I do think that comment – I can live with it, but I don't think it serves any purposes. It more or less kind of separates the Board of Aldermen from this process. I think if we are going to be successful in garnering some agreements with the different unions I think that we have to work together. I read that article a couple of times and that was one comment that stuck out that well the reason why we don't have an agreement is the Board of Aldermen changed the course. I was in favor of at least one of those contracts that didn't pass. I just don't think – put it this way I would not want someone who is involved in those negotiations to make a comment in the paper saying one of the reasons why we don't have an agreement is because they have changed their mind. You are kind of separating the groups that are trying to work on trying to come up with a resolution. I was a little disappointed in those comments because I think we need to support each other as we move forward.

Mayor Streeter

I think that Mrs. Joyce was referring to the meeting that was held several years ago when we had a similar meeting with the Board of Aldermen relative to future contracts and that each contract that was negotiated from that point until the most recent two did not center on health insurance. I think that is really what she was focusing on because you recall the several large contracts that were negotiated last year didn't touch health insurance at all. Then I think that this is a good time for us to sit down with the different boards because we do have a number of contracts coming up this year. I think she was referring to what happened several years ago when the previous board sat down with her and legal counsel.

Alderman Tollner

Okay. That is understandable. I also agree with Alderman Rootovich's request that we either have a non meeting or non-public meeting because I do think a number of Aldermen whether I concur with their opinion or not have a right to express their opinion and I think learning from Corporation Counsel in years past we need to be very careful with the comments we make regarding certain positioning of certain contracts for two reasons; one to be fair to everybody the unions and the city and two probably the most important one is not to put the city or place the city at undue risk on comments that someone might make in public.

Mayor Streeter

Alderman Tollner again I will check with both the Aldermanic President and Corporation Counsel. I don't see a problem in having a non-meeting very similar to the one that we had with the Board of Education.

Alderman Tollner

I just came from a Fire Commissioners meeting. Part of the discussion at that meeting was the memo that we have in front of us tonight from you and Alderman McCarthy. What I said to the Fire Commissioners – what the Fire Commissioners said to me was that we this time around there needs to be some constant dialogue and communication between the parties and they asked me as they have some communications and feedback with regard to negotiations would I be willing to be the conduit back to this Board of Aldermen and I said well without causing any legal problems that I think that is the responsibility of the liaison, but looking at like the library contract and some of the other ones I do think it is imperative that this board is kept abreast of the ongoing negotiations so that when the library contract or any contract, principal's contract – come before us we are not going from point A to point Z at one spot and we do spend some time or have the ability to digest the contract. In the end this does not serve anybody that we look at the contract and we reject it. I think there is nothing worse that could happen. Maybe there is an appropriate reason to reject it, but there shouldn't be surprises.

Mayor Streeter

I think Alderman Tollner that perhaps you are touching a little bit on things that we will be talking about next Monday. I think we need to hear from Corporation Counsel once more as to the role of the Board of Aldermen and the commissions and the status of negotiations as they proceed and so forth. I would rather have you address those questions next week rather than this evening.

Alderman Tollner

Okay. If you would allow me one other comment – what I would like to do since Alderman McCarthy isn't here tonight is I will ask Sue Lovering to survey the members of the Board of Aldermen to find out who can actually make this meeting at 4:00 p.m. and who can't because if there are 3-5 members that cannot make it I think we should schedule it at 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. when the majority of the Board of Aldermen is able to make it.

Mayor Streeter

There were a couple of reasons why it was scheduled at 4:00 p.m. – number one we have scheduled meetings like this in the past when we have invited all of the boards and commissions and we did survey them and found that late in the afternoon was preferred by them. Also as you know for the rest of the month of January it is extremely busy here at City Hall. Both Alderman

McCarthy and I felt that 4:00 p.m. on a Monday although with a week's notice perhaps the schedule could be changed, but certainly from the perspective of the different board and commission members we have – as I have said we have consistently held those meetings at 4:00 p.m. and have had great attendance. Some of them are retired and some of them are senior citizens and they felt that late in the afternoon would be best.

Alderman Dion

Mr. Chairman just to answer Alderman Tollner I could be wrong on this, but I believe Alderman Tollner that day, the 5th, is the day we are supposed to have the public hearing on the Charter change.

Alderman Tollner

Right it is at 7:00 p.m.

Alderman Dion

That is possibly why this meeting is being held at ...

Alderman Tollner

Again the memo already went out. I don't think the Board of Aldermen was surveyed. I wasn't surveyed. I don't know if any of you were surveyed. Alderman Rootovich – no, Alderman Shaw – so none of us were surveyed. I know that the Fire Commissioners meet at 5:30 – 6:00 p.m. so I am sure that they can make it. Public Works meet at 5:30 p.m. or whatever, Board of Education meets at night. I will try to rearrange my schedule, but I have to tell you that if I am not able to rearrange my schedule I will be disappointed. If other commissions and boards were surveyed to see what was a good time and this board wasn't I guess that is an issue we will have to take up with Alderman McCarthy because there are 6 of us here tonight and none of us were surveyed.

Mayor Streeter

I will say again that we have found that the best attendance when we have combined or joint meetings like this is late in the afternoon as opposed to evening. This is what we have done consistently over the last four years. I did consult with Alderman McCarthy and we both agreed that because of the tight schedule almost every evening of this month including a lot of budget meetings and so forth this is probably the best time. Also taken into account Alderman Tollner is you have raised questions several times publicly about when will this meeting be held.

Alderman Tollner

Absolutely.

Mayor Streeter

We wanted to get it scheduled just as soon as possible after the first of the year.

Alderman Rootovich

I would just encourage you to make sure that you have a majority of the Board here. The meeting itself to me would be mute if you don't have the majority there.

Mayor Streeter

I remind you that the meeting with the Board of Education I don't believe that a majority of the Board was there. I think for those that did attend found it to be very productive.

Alderman Rootovich

I am just saying if you don't have a majority there you have them all together – I think it is important that we listen to each other. The majority not only of the Board of Aldermen but for the other boards and commissions as well. If we are really going to get anything accomplished I think a majority has to be there.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further comments?

Alderman Deane

Are you looking for a motion to adjourn?

Mayor Streeter

I was looking in this direction Alderman Deane.

Alderman Deane

I am sorry I will pass the ...

Mayor Streeter

Would you yield to the Alderman from ...

Alderman Deane

Absolutely.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DION TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Alderman Rob Shaw
Committee Clerk