

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 17, 2005

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Monday, October 17, 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-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Robert A. Dion
Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Robert Shaw

Also in Attendance: Richard Reine, Superintendent Solid Waste
Scott Pollock, Superintendent of Streets
Wayne Husband, Superintendent of Traffic
Lt. William Mansfield, Div. Supervisor, Nashua Police Dept.
Brian Sherman, Tech, Nashua Police Dept.
Timothy Hefferan, Chief, Nashua Fire Rescue
Carol Anderson, Chief Financial Officer/Comptroller

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Janice Tremblay, C.P.M., Purchasing Manager
Re: Renewal of Cooperative Agreement for Integrated Gull Management Program

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND APPROVAL THE RENEWAL OF THE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR INTEGRATED GULL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM IN AN AMOUNT OF \$57,090.00. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #801-53075-8001-8100

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Are we still monitoring St. Joseph's Church area?

Richard Reine

Yes we are. We are monitoring that and there has been significant progress in keeping the gulls off of that. They have installed those wires and lines that keep the gulls from landing.

Alderman Deane

Are we having any problems up in Ledgewood at all or is that all taken care of?

Richard Reine

No in fact the summary report says that 330 observations that they conducted in FY '04, which is the latest data they have that goes from October 2003 to September 2004, 330 visits they didn't see any of the gulls roosting or loafing on that house or attached units at Ledgewood.

Alderman Deane

There is an abundance of coyotes at the landfill now?

Richard Reine

There really isn't. I have heard that statement too. We actually asked the USDA to do some studies, some SCAT Studies is what they are called. They determine how many coyotes are in a given area relative to the scat that is laid down. They have done some comparative analysis. The Four Hills Facility -- that 300-acre facility, compared to other facilities within the State of New Hampshire -- the numbers are nowhere near out of the ordinary. In fact, we haven't seen many populations of coyotes there at all. There are some, but nothing to a higher degree than anywhere else that they have looked at.

Alderman Deane

Thank you Rich.

Alderman Dion

Through you Mr. Chairman I would like to ask Rich Reine a couple of questions. USDA Wildlife Services how long have they been servicing the gull management program at the landfill?

Richard Reine

We have data that goes back to 1998. That has been uninterrupted service from 1998 to 2004.

Alderman Dion

Have you seen an improvement since we have had that service? What do they do?

Richard Reine

They are on site Monday through Friday from about 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. What they use is harassment techniques at the Four Hills Facility and surrounding facilities to include as Alderman Deane points out the local church as well as the Ledgewood Hills and the surrounding areas adjacent to the landfill. There is an individual specifically responsible for just dealing with these seagulls, the turkey vultures, and the other types of nuisance birds as well as rodents and things that would cause damage to the landfill cap. He has also done some work with us on the coyote population. They fire off pyrotechnics and they keep the gulls moving and off the site as well as the surrounding areas and try to keep them moving to other areas outside of Nashua.

There are a lot of areas within the city that they will find.

Mayor Streeter

Do we send them to Hudson?

Richard Reine

We send them anywhere where ...we haven't sent them anywhere specific. They have the Nashua River that they actually use to navigate. Right now we see a very high population. In fact, the population of gulls in what they call the total number of gulls that they use as an index has increased steadily from 1998 to 2004. A couple of reasons for that are these harassment techniques that they are using are also being used at other landfills in the state so the gulls are running out of places to roost and to feed.

Alderman Dion

What you are doing in reality is chasing them to one area then they chase them to another area.

Richard Reine

We are chasing them out of Nashua with any luck, and we are trying to decrease the presence. If you don't do that they become accustomed and they start roosting and that is their home base and they have their migrations from there. The numbers over the years have increased dramatically. This is one of the worst times of the year because it is their migratory time and

they are leaving the shoreline where the food supply is dwindling and trying to find other locations.

Alderman Dion

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

MOTION CARRIED

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

Re: Bid Summary and Contract Award for Snow Plow Cutting Edges required by
Street Department

MOTION BY ALDERMAN VITALE TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO HOWARD P. FAIRFIELD, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$12,100. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #553-78100-6930

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I had a question for Superintendent Pollock – what does that cover for replacement edges on our existing equipment – how many pieces of equipment do we have that these blades go on?

Scott Pollock

We have about 30 trucks that carry a plow. Each one would take 2 edges. We would replace all of the edges once and partially on a second replacement.

Alderman Deane

Depending on the winter we don't know life expectancy on the blades?

Scott Pollock

That is correct. In a hard winter we would purchase additional edges. In a moderate winter we might get by with this order.

Alderman Deane

I hope this order suffices. Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

MOTION CARRIED

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

Re: Bid Summary and Contract Award for FY2006 Pavement Marking requested by
Traffic Department

MOTION BY ALDERMAN VITALE TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO MARKINGS, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$49,998.50. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #555-59170-6944

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I just wanted to know what the timeframe was on when they plan on starting and what the date is on their completion of the work.

Wayne Husband

We look to award the contract probably tomorrow. The contract would run through June 30th of next year.

Alderman Deane

It seems to me in the past, prior to you coming here, we always award this contract this late in the year and they always go out and try to get on it. A few years ago they were striping during the day and then it snowed that night and then as the Street Department came down the street they were peeling off the paint that never bonded because it froze. You control the drop time and when you don't want them striping anymore right?

Wayne Husband

We striped all the long lines in the city back in late spring/early summer of this year. The reason that we would like to get the contract going as soon as the Finance Committee approves it is because we have three or our main arterials in the city that we do the long line on twice a year simply due to the heavy volumes of traffic – they wear on the paint. That would be like Main Street, D.W. Highway, and West Hollis. We try to do those twice a year. Having the contract in place we do all of the long lines in the city early next spring. We try to do the long lines each year as early in the fall as we can. We had our contract ready this year so that just as soon as the budget was approved we would be ready to work on it and try to get BPW and Finance

approval. We are hoping – if we can do it this week or next week and get the long lines down we can beat the cold weather.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Alderman Rootovich

You said the contract goes to June 30th and here it says June 15th. There is a \$100 a day penalty for every day thereafter that they are not complete on the markings.

Wayne Husband

Does the contract say June 15, 2006?

Alderman Rootovich

Project Schedule A.

Wayne Husband

Then I stand corrected – it is June 15, 2006. Yes we do have a \$100 a day penalty that we try to hold over the contractor because once it gets into June we have a heck of a time trying to get these people to come do long lines in the city because they are busy elsewhere.

Alderman Dion

Thank you Mr. Chairman. Wayne I noticed that the Markings, Inc. contract that you awarded it to their bid was \$53,810, but yet the amount that you are asking for is \$49,998. Is that a negotiated thing since the bid or is that figure wrong?

Wayne Husband

Typically we get a really good price from Markings, Inc. Last year we would have reallocated some of our funds to get the full \$53,000 some odd. This year we were really limited by the \$50,000 that we budgeted. We thought it best to cut back on our quantities to the extent that we could get that number under the \$50,000. We negotiated it down with the low bidder.

Alderman Dion

Thank you.

Alderman Vitale

A quick question regarding new road areas that are put down by developers and they stripe those roads at the time of development say up on the Pine Hill Road area, and some of those markings seem to have come off almost immediately. Do we go back and stripe that as a city with the builder striping that? How does that work? What kind of warranty is it on how long their stripings are supposed to last before the city takes it over?

Wayne Husband

As I understand the process until we take the city street over the responsibility is that of the developer. We can make them do that as a punch list item prior to accepting the street. Once we accept the street then the city owns the full maintenance responsibility for the long lines, crosswalks, etc.

Alderman Vitale

What about when they rebuild the street like they did in a section of Pine Hill, Indian Rock, and Coburn?

Wayne Husband

On a reconstruction type project we typically would have – the contract where the pavement might be black now – they are responsible for providing the long line and whatever pavement markings to complete their work. There usually are some jobs at the end of the summer where the perception is that Public Works still needs to lay down the long lines on those streets, but actually the responsibility is that of the contractors that are doing the work.

Alderman Vitale

I don't know if you have looked at that area, but the striping and the stop lines came off almost immediately.

Wayne Husband

They did? I will look into it.

Alderman Vitale

One other place that I got a couple of phone calls on was Coliseum Avenue and going up to the stop to Broad Street. I think that is associated with either the redevelopment of the main part of the mall there or maybe the Home Depot, but I think it is the development of the other section when that road was redone.

Wayne Husband

That work was done by the owner of the mall. They had a contractor come in and do the work. Some of the pavement markings are missing or?

Alderman Vitale

I think they came back and did it, but I was wondering how we do handle that.

Wayne Husband

Once the markings are down as I understand it out there they still have a punch list that they are working on associated with some of the traffic signals. They are about 99% done. Once we sign off and they have completed the punch list that would become our responsibility.

Alderman Vitale

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

MOTION CARRIED

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

Re: Bid Summary and Contract Award for a Communications System Analyzer

Requested by Citywide Communications Division, Nashua Police Department

MOTION BY ALDERMAN VITALE TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO TESSCO, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$38,393.59. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #536-64255-9610

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

Could Lt. Mansfield come up and explain the enhanced capability to analyze existing communication system?

William Mansfield

-
I have brought Brian Sherman our Tech with us. Brian could you explain what the analyzer does and how it will help the city out?

-

Brian Sherman

Basically it is a precision piece of test equipment. Most of our radios are now coming off warrantee and we need to repair them ourselves. It is a generator that receives and generates most of the frequencies we need. It comes with software packages to decode encryption and do some digital encryption and encoding.

Alderman Deane

This is just a tool to help you maintain the current...

Brian Sherman

Yeah it is a generator, a transmitter, a received – it does quite a bit of the measurements we need to make the repairs and keep them in alignment.

Alderman Deane

Is this hand held?

Brian Sherman

It is. It is for all of the radios; the portables, the base stations, the mobiles – fire and police.

Alderman Deane

Does the Police Department have separate radios from everybody else?

Brian Sherman

The police and fire have special radios – they are digitally encrypted – they are digital radios – they don't transmit normal analog signals. The rest of the city has normal analog radios.

Alderman Deane

The warrantee is coming off?

Brian Sherman

A lot of the units are coming off warrantee now. We have to start repairing them ourselves.

Alderman Deane

Is there a plan in place for replacement of these as they age? Did we buy them all at the same

time?

Brian Sherman

We bought a good chunk of them at the same time when we bought the system. We have been adding them here and there over the last few years as more departments or school department needs some more radios – we added some there.

Alderman Deane

You are buying police radios for the school department?

Brian Sherman

We buy them for the whole city – for every department.

William Mansfield

What we do is being the citywide communications division we are responsible for buying all of the radios for every entity within the city. There are different radios for School, Planning, Zoning, DPW, and then the Police and Fire departments have the more enhanced digitally encrypted radios out there. They are receiving a lower tier radio compared to what the Police and Fire use.

Alderman Deane

What is the replacement plan that is in place now? It is not good when you purchase everything all at once and then it wears out basically..

William Mansfield

Both Police and Fire through attrition have purchased units as we have moved along through the new system basically to build up the inventory that we have. Right now I don't foresee any – the lifespan of these radios is a fairly long time – I am talking 5-10 years that they will last. I will be doing a presentation hopefully by December to Board of Aldermen on the replacement of all of the other radios – all of the DPW radios – these are all portable radios, the School and Planning radios, and there will not be any cost to the city. It is another phase that we have to go through with the FCC and Nextel has to buy us all new radios to replace the lower tier radios.

Alderman Deane

That is what we are doing now because most of the DPW staff has Nextels so that is their two-way communication. In fact most of the city has that now don't they?

William Mansfield

I am not aware of how many different departments do have them, but the primary communication including DPW is using the citywide radio system.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Mayor Streeter

Are there any further questions?

MOTION CARRIED

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

Re: Bid Summary and Contract Award for Five Digital Video Recorders requested by
Nashua Police Department

MOTION BY ALDERMAN VITALE TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO CIS TECHNICAL SERVICES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$25,475. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #731-64192-3705

MOTION CARRIED

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

Re: Boiler Replacements at Conant Road and Amherst Street Fire Stations requested by
Nashua Fire Rescue

MOTION BY ALDERMAN VITALE TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO SAM MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS, LLC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$79,781. SOURCE OF FUNDING IS ACCT. #632-99

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I just have one comment. I look at the bids on these jobs and cost savings. I did speak with this fellow today. They are the same firm that installed the boiler over at the Hunt Building. We have a small problem over there, but he has assured me he will take care of it. I did have a discussion with him not pertaining to this, but pertaining to the Hunt Building. It is nice to see some competitive bids and the cost savings that we have here. The quality of work that this firm did over at the Hunt Building was good as well. Thank you Mayor.

Mayor Streeter

I am sure Janice Tremblay will be happy to hear that. Are there any further comments?
Anything further Chief?

Timothy Hefferan

No we are just looking forward to getting these old boilers replaced.

Mayor Streeter

Incidentally you gave a great speech yesterday at the Fireman's Relief Memorial. It was an excellent speech. Is there any further discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS - None

WARRANT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN VITALE TO APPROVE WARRANT #7 IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$8,751,538.48 OF WHICH \$1,945,117.95 ARE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE, \$4,613,785.41 ARE PAYROLL AMOUNTS, \$72,434.86 ARE PREPAY AMOUNTS AND \$2,120,200.26 ARE WIRE TRANSFERS

MOTION CARRIED

DISCUSSION

- Carol Anderson informed the committee of a check that will be cut and appear on the next Warrant – approximately 3-4 months ago the city had paid the rebate that was due to the IRS on the bonds for the 2000 year. What we have now is bonds or bands that go back to '92 and '93. These bands were issued and subsequently bonded. We are in compliance now. We have to send individual checks out that have to be cut by a certain date. Treasurer Fredette will be sending those out tomorrow. Total of approximately \$30,000 for all 6 issues.

Alderman Deane stated he had a conversation with Ms. Anderson concerning the banning process and how we shouldn't be doing that. He asked if these were a lot of different projects that never got off the ground or completed in a timely fashion.

Carol Anderson responded that these were all issued. The first one was July of '92, then January of '93, July of '93, January of '94 – there is a semi-annual computation date. There are a total of 6 bands and/or bonds. With this payment we are up to date and in compliance with all. This is from the previous administration and something that we had not been aware had not been done.

Alderman Deane commented that the seniors outing held at the High School went well and was enjoyed by all. He expressed his gratitude to the staff and students at the High School for all of their efforts. Alderman Tollner expressed his gratitude to June Caron for her efforts in this regard.

Alderman Deane thanked the Street Superintendent, Scott Pollock, and his staff for their efforts in dealing with issues that arose throughout the city on Saturday.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale
Committee Clerk, Pro Tem