

REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JANUARY 16, 2003

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Thursday, January 16, 2003, at 7:05 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Lori Cardin presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon, Vice Chair
Alderman Stephen C. Lamos (arrived @ 7:28 p.m.)
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

Members of the Committee absent:

Also in Attendance: Lucille Saia, Manager, Public Health
Richard Reine, Deputy Director, Solid Waste
Sally Hyland, Recycling Coordinator

Chair Cardin

Alderman Lamos is on travel this evening, and will not be with us.

COMMUNICATIONS – None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-03-149

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$12,000 FROM THE
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY AND COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chair Cardin

I believe that you are here Rich to speak on this?

Richard Reine

Yes I am.

Chair Cardin

Okay if you would like to give us some idea of what this is.

Richard Reine

I want to give you a little background on what bio-diesel is. We have a pilot project from the state to accept some money from the state on bio-diesel. What bio-diesel is – it is one of the fastest growing alternative energy sources in the United States. It is a diesel replacement where they use a mixture of petroleum based diesel 80% and 20% bio-diesel. It is made from virgin vegetable oil such as soybean or rapeseed as well as some recycled restaurant oils. It has a BTU content and in fact a very high settaine content, which allows it to be used as a fuel. Some people are using bio-diesel in a 100% mixture, other people are using it in a more common blend of 80%/20%. It is all natural. It dissolves in water and it has much lower toxic emissions that a regular diesel product. One of the things that we have been looking at in the Public Works Division in the city is alternate type fuels. Bio-diesel is one opportunity that we are working with the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services where they have a grant for this type of research. The city, the Public Works Division applied for -- there was an RFP that was put out by the state office, and we applied for a grant for this pilot project to utilize this bio-diesel in a portion of our fleet – a portion of our solid waste collection fleet. We were successful in being a candidate for this money. It is up to \$12,000 have an experimental, one-year pilot project to evaluate the positives of bio-diesel as well as the areas of concern.

One of the areas that is concerning to all people who use bio-diesel is its properties of what they call gelling or waxing. Any type of diesel you have an issue with when it gets colder it can wax up and gel up and cause some issues. You have to put additives into a diesel to make sure that doesn't happen at certain temperatures. The concern is with bio-diesel what is that formula – the right mix for that where you are not putting too many additives in there to decrease your fuel efficiency and defeating the purpose of using an alternative fuel, which is less toxic and less emissions.

We were one of the candidates, we were a final candidate for this \$12,000 grant, and approval of this resolution will allow the city to accept this funding when it becomes available. The funding would supply us with a rental of a tank and the necessary infrastructure – a pump, a 20-amp electrical service as well as a pad and a barrier for this, and they would also fund the incremental cost difference between regular diesel and bio-diesel. Bio-diesel is more expensive because of the availability of it at this point. They would fund that during this one-year project. We would expect to receive this grant in July of '03 so this coming spring/summer we would expect to see this grant. Some of the recent restructuring of the state government may affect the grant timing and potentially the availability of the funding, however, this funding comes from what they call the petroleum overcharge settlement of the mid '80s and that settlement dictates that funding must be used for energy reduction purposes and efficiency projects so we have been in contact with that office and they have told us with a high level of confidence that those funds should be available. We are moving forward to put the necessary pieces in place so when it becomes available we can accept it.

Chair Cardin

Used grease from restaurants?

Richard Reine

Yes, as a matter of fact they do that. We won't be doing that.

Alderman Deane

If you knew what they did with that fry-o-lator grease you might have used it – they make shampoo out of it. They make a lot of things out of that.

The one question I had is there are no matching city funds for this right?

Richard Reine

There are no matching funds. What we will be required to do is evaluate the performance of this bio-diesel and put a report together, which we would do internally to describe the pros and cons.

Alderman Deane

Thanks Rich.

Alderman Plamondon

Thank you Madam Chair. Besides the \$12,000 gain for the city to try this out, what will be the anticipated savings to the city on this 20% mix with our current diesels?

Richard Reine

I think the actual monetary savings to the city?

Alderman Plamondon

Yes.

Richard Reine

I don't think there is savings that you could quantify in a dollar value. I think that some of the points that bio-diesel would help – national security is one of the pieces by reducing the reliance on imported petroleum. It also improves the environment because it decreases the toxic emissions that come from a regular diesel or fuel – the carbons, particulate matter, nitrates, those types of things as well as it helps the farmers because now it gives them an outlet for their different types of vegetables that they grow, which are manufactured into the vegetable oil.

Alderman Plamondon

In other words, it wouldn't be accurate to assume that we would be ordering 20% less diesel fuel for our fleet?

Richard Reine

No. The mixture that we would be getting is 80% diesel with 20% bio-diesel so it would be blended down at the refinery and then it would be shipped to us in 80/20 so you would still have 100% diesel it would just be a different mix.

Alderman Plamondon

Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

R-03-150

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$15,000 FROM THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE THE BEAUTIFUL ORGANIZATION**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DEANE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Sally Hyland

New Hampshire the Beautiful is an organization – a non-profit agency – statewide agency that has a grant program. We applied for this \$15,000 grant to help to defray the cost of recycling bins, which we will be purchasing as part of our overall program for the solid waste automation and expanded recycling, and we expect to be purchasing those bins fairly shortly. The program will be getting underway we expect in the summer. This grant will not cover the entire costs because we are purchasing 22,000 bins, but it will help to defray that cost. The city has benefited from this grant program in the past. We have gotten help with bins back in I think it was 1990. We got a \$5,000 grant from the organization. We also applied for and received a grant to distribute containers for recycling over at the senior citizen housing for the Nashua Housing Authority. More recently we got the sign from New Hampshire the Beautiful that is up at the household hazardous waste small quantity generator waste building at the Street Department. They have been a long time supporter of the city's recycling efforts. This grant will be used for more recycling bins.

Chair Cardin

These 22,000 bins are to replace the bins that are currently in use?

Sally Hyland

They will be in addition to the bins that are in use now. We expect that people will need an extra storage because we will be expanding the number of materials that we will be taking from the waste stream. We will be adding cardboard and mixed paper, tin cans, etc. With all of that additional material we will give people two bins. We will continue to collect curbside every other week so we feel that they will be needed.

Alderman Deane

I had talked to Deputy Director Reine. This will help reduce the previously approved lease/purchase that we had for the bins and containers by \$15,000 as well so we should – if we get this and it goes through we should show a reduction of \$15,000 in that lease/purchase that was approved for I think it was \$1.2 million.

Richard Reine

For the carts and the recycling bins totaled about \$1,072,000 and with this \$15,000 there would be a decrease from that total.

Alderman Deane

The carts and the bins were \$1,072,000?

Richard Reine

Yes, in that lease/purchase there were several pieces of equipment and breaking out the collection carts for the automated program as well as the recycling bins those total \$1,072,000 so from that we would be able to save \$15,000.

Alderman Deane

That \$1,072,000 included vehicles correct?

Richard Reine

No, that was just the containers. I did bring that.

Alderman Deane

Can you give us a breakdown of that again?

Richard Reine

The total that was approved was \$1,394,014. That was the 22,000 carts, the 20 recycling bins, the 4 automated bodies, which were purchased, and the 8 cart tippers. The trucks for the automated bodies were purchased under the previous lease/purchase agreement.

Alderman Deane

Aren't two of those still sitting on hold upstairs in Public Works?

Richard Reine

No, they have all been approved.

Alderman Deane

There are two vehicles that are sitting in there that have been sitting in there for about a month.

Richard Reine

For solid waste?

Alderman Deane

I think so.

Alderman Plamondon

I just want to make sure I understand. Are you saying that the purchase cost for 22,000 bins is in excess of \$1 million?

Richard Reine

No. That is the total for all the collection carts, which would be the automated 96-gallon carts – there are 22,000 of those as well as the 22,000 recycling bins.

Alderman Plamondon

What is the anticipated cost for the bins themselves?

Richard Reine

They should be in the range of \$4 each to about \$4.15 each – in that range. We are evaluating our quotes that came back from our request for proposals right now.

Alderman Plamondon

Definitely over \$100,000?

Richard Reine

Just under. Probably about \$88,000.

Alderman Plamondon

\$15,000 will definitely help on this. My next question if I might continue – do we have any kind of idea or monitoring of the current bins that have been distributed over the past several years that have disappeared?

Richard Reine

No, we don't have any ability to monitor those at this point. What we do have with the automated collection carts is those will all be serialized with serial numbers, which would be recorded at the time of distribution and we would have a database for that so we would be able to track where they are and the location, but with the recycling bins no we don't.

Alderman Plamondon

My line of questioning is I'm just wondering. I don't know of any fines or anything for someone taking the bins when they move or whatever and I am wondering if it wouldn't help if some legislation was put in that maybe on the bins we could imprint Property of the City of Nashua improper use or whatever with a fine. I'm trying to think ahead here.

Richard Reine

You're right. We have that on there. On these bins it will be Property of the City of Nashua – it will have the city logo as well as small logo from the New Hampshire the Beautiful organization. The language on there really doesn't defer. I think people may mistake it that it is theirs and they take it to their next residence or some people may utilize it for another reason, but it might be something we need to look at.

Alderman Plamondon

Maybe we can get together. I would be happy to sponsor legislation along those lines.

Richard Reine

Thank you.

Alderman Deane

What about an ACL unit? We could get one of those.

Richard Reine

ACL?

Alderman Deane

Instead of AVL. We could put homing devices on the carts and have automatic cart location. For about \$3 million or \$4 million we could do that.

Richard Reine

Alderman Deane believe it or not the technology is out there right now with these carts where they have microchips placed in the lids and with those microchips there is a – when the cart is dumped there is a scale on the arm, which reads that and then that microchip is tied in with a certain address and certain communities charge residents for that trash – that trash is charged back that way. It is a technology that is out there right now. We haven't ordered ours with the optional microchips.

Could I make one more comment please?

Chair Cardin

Sure.

Richard Reine

I just want to point out that we had this on the Board of Public Works agenda for last week. That meeting was delayed. It is going back to the Board of Public Works on the 23rd for approval so this inadvertently came to you prior to the approval. It was intended to be approved by the Board of Public Works first.

**AMENDED MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE
PENDING APPROVAL FROM THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
MOTION CARRIED**

MOTION CARRIED

R-03-151

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman-at-Large Steven A. Bolton
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Marc Plamondon
Alderman Lori Cardin
Alderman-at-Large Fred Britton
Alderman Kevin E. Gage

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION
OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES AND APPROPRIATION INTO SIX #342 SPECIAL
REVENUE ACCOUNTS FOR DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM SERVICES**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Lucille Saia

These are basically the grants that we have applied for in the past. Specifically we applied for a couple of years ago and before that immunization, FTC, HIV counseling and testing, HIV prevention services, which is distinguished with our van service that we have and tuberculosis control.

The grant that we didn't have two years ago is lead poisoning for children that I have also applied for. It is a \$10,000 grant that they have offered to Nashua. I think that will compliment the current grant that we have from the EPA, which is for \$23,000.

With the grants, most of them are level funded. For instance, a couple of years ago we received \$70,000 for immunizations. This next fiscal year we have been offered \$72,500 and I have applied for that full amount. This will go into effect July 1st. With that grant also with immunization they have also offered us or we can apply for it, which I did, \$15,000 to do what is called focus groups. They want 4 focus groups done on ethnic minorities to see what some of the barriers might be, and we intend to collaborate with the Minority Health Coalition for that.

HIV prevention services as well as the FTD HIV I just want to make note that we not only do that for Nashua residents we do that for surrounding communities. For instance people come to our clinic as we are having tonight at the Public Health Department from Nashua, Hudson, and we service them also. We also see with our HIV prevention grant we do counseling and testing and Hep C testing at the Methadone Clinic in Hudson.

Both tuberculosis and the lead grant are specifically for doing case management, which means that we actually see people in the homes that might have TB or what is called latent TB, which means that they have potential to develop an infection later on and we see children with high elevated lead levels.

Alderman Deane

Rich Reine had brought up the Governor is holding back on some of these grants. Have you heard anything about this department relative to holding money?

Lucille Saia

I have not heard that. This year the grants were actually – two years ago they were done earlier and with the new Governor in place I was told that they wanted to have them in by a certain time. We have not heard that they are being held back. Most of them were for a set amount of money, which we applied for the full amount of the money. The only grant that I really don't know how much money we are going to get is the HIV prevention and that is because that is a competitive grant. We typically in the last 2-3 years have received over \$100,000 for that grant. Certainly there are concerns with the new Governor in office, but I have not heard anything.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Chair Cardin

Are there any other questions?

MOTION CARRIED

Chair Cardin

Thank you very much Lucy. Keep up the good work.

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

DISCUSSION

Chair Cardin

I got an e-mail from Paul Newman regarding the Community Development Block Grant – kind of a tentative schedule for upcoming meetings. At our next meeting in February typically we have a hearing on past performance and needs and would like to invite the groups that are in multi-year funding commitments and to discuss the progress of their projects. That is up and coming and our busy season is a little bit ahead of us so if anyone has any other suggestions or questions as to anything.

Alderman Deane

For the multi-year funding I would like to see written report on where they are on their project, what they have expended, and ...

Chair Cardin

You would like to see a written update on the multi-year funding projects that are out there?

Alderman Deane

Absolutely.

Chair Cardin

I will ask Paul Newman if he can contact those that have multi-year projects.

Alderman Deane

It doesn't have to be elaborate, but I think it would be easier for us to track if we got something in writing from the different groups and organizations that are ...

Chair Cardin

Maybe when they come in to present they can bring something – just a synopsis about the status of their projects.

Alderman Deane

Yes.

Chair Cardin

I think that is a good idea.

Alderman Tollner

Maybe prior to them coming to us we can ask them what these groups that are looking for money are also doing from a fundraising perspective on their own behalf. That is a question that comes up with some of these groups – in addition to looking for funds from us what are they also doing themselves as far as raising money and have they gotten funds from other entities.

Chair Cardin

Are you talking about people that are going to be applying for funding this year?

Alderman Tollner

Right.

Chair Cardin

Okay. That is separate I guess from what we were just discussing on on-going projects.

Alderman Tollner

Right.

Chair Cardin

Okay. Let the record show that Alderman Lamos has joined us. I just handed out a tentative schedule for CDBG meetings and discussions and the whole process for CDBG. We would like to invite the groups that are on a multi-year commitment for CDBG funding to give us an update and Alderman Deane recommended that we get a written update as to where the projects stand, which is a very good idea.

Alderman Lamos

I agree with Alderman Deane and again I apologize to the committee for my tardiness. I just got back from travel so again Madam Chairman my apology to you and the committee.

Chair Cardin

We didn't expect you at all Alderman Lamos so thanks for joining us.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Committee Clerk Pro Tem