

REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

November 16, 2005

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Wednesday, November 16, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Lori Cardin presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman David D. Lozeau

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon, Vice Chair
Alderman Kevin E. Gage

Also in Attendance: Alderman Richard LaRose
Michael Mansfield, Assistant Fire Chief of Special Oper.
Phillip Costa, Crime Prevention Spec., Nashua P. D.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-05-321

Endorsers: Alderman Richard LaRose
Alderman David D. Lozeau
Alderman-at-Large Paula I. Johnson
Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich
Alderman Lori Cardin

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE SUM OF \$201,000
RECEIVED FROM COMCAST INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #305-6012 FOR
THE PURPOSE OF FUNDING EDUCATIONAL AND GOVERNMENTAL ACCESS EQUIPMENT
AND FACILITIES**

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman LaRose

The contract that we signed with Comcast appropriates \$201,000. I believe we will be receiving \$151,000. I forget if it is December of January and then the next two following years we will receive another \$25,000 per year to make up the \$201,000. As the body says it is for the equipment and facilities of our two new channels that we will have. We will have a total of three. One will be the channel 16 that we have now, one will be an educational channel, and one will be a government/public access channel, which may end up being just a public access channel. That is in discussion now at the Cable Television Advisory Board. What they are trying to do now is set up some policy I guess and hire a manager and then we will go from there.

Chairman Cardin

Thank you. The Resolution says the city will receive \$151,000 by November 30, 2005, \$25,000 by October 1, 2006, and \$25,000 by October 1, 2007.

Alderman Lozeau

I am just wondering who has authority over expenditures for these funds? Is it the Cable Television Advisory Board or does it have to come back to the Board of Aldermen?

Alderman LaRose

I am not sure. It hasn't been set up yet. I have been to a couple of facilities. The two facilities that I have been at in Bedford and Londonderry, they get that money, but they have to present their budget to their appropriate legislative body. It is not someone gets the money and they do what they want with it.

Chairman Cardin

That makes sense to me.

Alderman Tollner

I would think that for the purchase or if there is any contractual arrangement that would have to go to Finance.

Alderman LaRose

It also depends on how the Board of Aldermen set the whole thing up. Cable Television Advisory Board can only give us an opinion on how they think it should be done. I think they will probably come up with a couple of different ways we could pursue it, and the Board of Aldermen will decide on how they will do it.

Alderman Lozeau

If you think about it that is not a whole lot of money for something like that.

Alderman LaRose

No, but we're going to be getting that 1% that was added on that will generate between \$175,000 and \$200,000 a year.

Chairman Cardin

That is part of the franchise fee?

Alderman LaRose

The franchise fee. I know that in Londonderry and Bedford I am pretty sure the whole franchise fee goes to their cable network, but like Bedford raises \$200,000 and I forget if they are at 4% - Bedford raises \$400,000 at 4%. We raise close to \$800,000 at 4%.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any other questions, comments or concerns? The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-321.

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-322

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman Lori Cardin
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$143,317 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS GRANT PROGRAM INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #332-6318

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Cardin

We have Michael Mansfield the Assistant Fire Chief with us this evening.

Michael Mansfield

Good evening. Back last year Nashua Fire Rescue applied for this grant to upgrade and also augment their current confined space rescue equipment that we have within the equipment of the organization. In addition to that we have also obtained this funding to properly train all of our Nashua Fire Rescue personnel in confined space rescue so that if we do continue to have these types of incidents in the city we have the personnel properly trained to be able to respond to these types of incidents safely and efficiently.

Alderman Lozeau

This 332-6318 is there a description on that account as to what the funds can be used for? It is not on the legislation.

Michael Mansfield

It is specifically to be used for program operations and safety. It is listed equipment \$114,146 and training is earmarked for \$65,000.

Alderman Lozeau

Thank you. If I may – when we get a special revenue account we requested that a description of that special revenue account also be listed in the legislation so that it is not just a number it is also a description. Thank you.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any other questions?

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-323

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman Lori Cardin
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$68,000 AWARDED UNDER THE FIRST RESPONDER STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM PORTION OF THE 2005 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #332-6319

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Michael Mansfield

Again through the Office of Emergency Management, we applied to the State of New Hampshire for these Homeland Security funds for the purpose of funding two rapid response traffic and site control units as the Resolution states. These traffic and site control units are going to be housed at the DPW garage, and will be utilized by the Nashua Police Department and more specifically the REACT personnel in the event that we have an emergency that requires this type of equipment to be used to re-route traffic and so forth throughout the city.

Alderman Lozeau

Would that be the description of account 332-6319 for traffic and site control units?

Michael Mansfield

Traffic and site control units – it is basically barriers, traffic cones, those types of things to re-route traffic safely throughout the city when necessary.

Alderman Lozeau

Are they going to be green, orange, yellow...

Michael Mansfield

I don't know at this point. By the way this is a non-match grant.

Chairman Cardin

The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-323. Is there any other discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-328

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman Lori Cardin
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich
Alderman-at-Large Paula I. Johnson
Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale
Alderman Robert A. Dion

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$280,110 AWARDED UNDER THE FIRST RESPONDER STATE HOMELAND SECURITY PROGRAM PORTION OF THE 2005 HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM, INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #332-6320

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Michael Mansfield

As the Resolution states, the purpose of this is for the purpose of four (4) diesel portable light and power units. Again these units were sought after by the Office of Emergency Management within the city to properly light any area necessary in the event we had any major incident ongoing. It could be used to light up an incident scene. It also could be used to light up any area that we find necessary to use as an evacuation shelter and so forth. We have very limited capability with respect to this at this point within the

City of Nashua, and we felt that this was a priority for us to try to procure.

Chairman Cardin

No matching funds required?

Michael Mansfield

This is a no match fund grant.

Alderman Lozeau

That is a lot of light.

Michael Mansfield

It is a lot of light. It will provide us with the capability of lighting multiple scenes and multiple areas at the same time. These portable light and power units are going to be specified by the DPW. They will also be maintained and stored by DPW as well.

Alderman Lozeau

Just a comment on both you and the officer here tonight that you guys are doing a great job procuring Homeland Security funds. I know you have to stay on top of it, but I am sure the city appreciates all of the funds that you are bringing to the city.

Michael Mansfield

Thank you.

Alderman LaRose

This is going to be used by the Fire Department and the Police Department if need be?

Michael Mansfield

They could be used by any department within the City of Nashua that finds it necessary for them to be utilized, but specifically for use in the event that we have an emergency where it necessitates us lighting the emergency scene itself and/or locations that we find that need the lighting as a result of us utilizing these areas for evacuation points and so forth.

Alderman LaRose

How are you going to transport these lights?

Michael Mansfield

We have multiple units within the City of Nashua that can be utilized to transport these from point A to point B regardless of whether it is Nashua Fire Rescue vehicles, DPW or Nashua Police Department.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any other questions or comments? The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-328.

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-331

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman Lori Cardin
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE SUM OF \$51,572.50 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6232 "2005 BUFFER ZONE GRANT – HOMELAND SECURITY"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Phillip Costa

Good evening. Thank you. This money is again coming from a Homeland Security Grant. We are going to utilize these funds to purchase inter-operable radio communications equipment. Right now if there is an emergency that will need multiple jurisdictions to respond with the new radio system that we have here at actually Manchester as well for a city environment, we can't communicate with the surrounding municipalities. This will help us address that shortcoming.

Alderman Tollner

I have heard about this. I have spoken to a couple of people. When you say it will help us address it – it will take care of it right?

Phillip Costa

We will be able to purchase some radios – not enough with this grant. We have other grants in the pipeline to help address all of it, but that is how we are going to fund this through this grant and then another one.

Alderman Tollner

So with the grant money that we see here whatever radios you purchase will be able to facilitate ...

Phillip Costa

Right. I think this is going to get us 10 radio systems. Several cruisers will have it. Some of the command vehicles will be able to have it.

Alderman Tollner

There is no match?

Phillip Costa

No matching requirement.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any other questions? Seeing none, the motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-0331.

MOTION CARRIED

R-05-332

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Alderman Lori Cardin
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon

RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$1,000 FROM THE SAM'S CLUB FOUNDATION INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6231 "SAM'S CLUB FOUNDATION 2005"

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Phillip Costa

This is some money from Sam's Club that will be utilized for some investigative equipment for the Special Reaction Team and for the Crime Scene Unit. Again there is no match.

Chairman Cardin

Are there any questions? The motion before us is to recommend final passage of R-05-332.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

HELD IN COMMITTEE

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From: Paul Newman, Manager, Urban Programs Department
Re: Plus Company and Area Agency HOME Allocations

DISCUSSION

ADJOURNMENT

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**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LOZEAU TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Committee Clerk