

## REPORT OF THE HUMAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AUGUST 16, 2006

A meeting of the Human Affairs Committee was held Wednesday, August 16, 2006 at 7:31 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chairman Marc W. Plamondon presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner, Vice Chair  
Alderman Michael Tabacsko  
Alderman Richard LaRose

Members not in Attendance: Alderman David MacLaughlin

Also in Attendance: Lt. William Mansfield, Nashua Police Department  
Officer Phillip Costa, Nashua Police Department  
Chris Lister, Grants Coord., Div. of Health & Human Serv.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

### **R-06-100**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$9,375 FROM THE  
STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY INTO SPECIAL REVENUE  
ACCOUNT #332-6322**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Plamondon

It doesn't mention a match, but I don't believe there is one. Is there any other discussion?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-06-102**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF THE SUM OF \$250,000 FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #331-6213 “HOMELAND 2005 RADIO COMMUNICATIONS”**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Plamondon

This is a quarter of a million dollar grant. There is no matching contribution required of the City. Is there any discussion?

Alderman LaRose

Can we get a little bit of an explanation of the background on this?

William Mansfield

Alderman LaRose this was a grant that was received through Homeland Security Funds to provide the Nashua Police Department with interoperability communications with pretty much everybody else in the State of New Hampshire. Manchester and Nashua are the only law enforcement entities that are what we call an island of our own – where an 800-megahertz radio frequency bandwidth. Everybody else is on the VHF radio frequency bandwidth. Our radios are not compatible with the state radios as well as Hudson is transferring over to VHF in the very near future if they have not already. Merrimack, Hollis – anybody in Southern New Hampshire, and pretty much I will say 90% if not 95% of the State is on the VHF system.

This will allow us to put a mobile radio with VHF frequencies in it with a template that is set up by the State where we could basically communicate with anybody in the State. This would be in all the police cruisers as well as our current radio that we have, our 800-megahertz radio.

Basically if any incident occurs outside the city limits we can communicate with those personnel.

The intent is also to provide the local state police – there are 5 or 6 state police troopers that are assigned to this area, we are awaiting approval, but we intend to provide them with 5 or 6 800-megahertz radios so they are compatible with us and they can monitor what is happening in the City while they are down here. There is a lot of activity that does occur, and they can't monitor us whatsoever. That is the main purpose of the radios.

Alderman LaRose

This is communicating with police only, it is not communicating with the fire department or anything like that?

William Mansfield

The radios will be capable of communicating with fire as long as the template is designed to do that. There will be interoperability channels for the entire State, which are fire channels. I am on a committee with the State to formulate this template at this point in time. It has not been finalized as of yet for the law enforcement side, but fire will be included in that.

Alderman LaRose

How many radios is this going to purchase or is there more than just radio purchases?

William Mansfield

There will be more than just radio purchases. There will be some antennas and some infrastructure that will be put up in different areas of the City on the current radio towers and the systems that we have. For the most part, the majority of it will be spent on mobile radios. We are looking at about 33 mobile radios plus the 5 or 6 for state police as well as two portable repeaters; one will be VHF and one will be 800 megahertz so that if we leave the City and there is no powers around we can take this and be able to communicate back and forth a lot easier.

Alderman LaRose

Thank you.

Chairman Plamondon

If I remember, we just upgraded our radios to the – is the 800 the digital frequencies?

William Mansfield

Yes.

Chairman Plamondon

So this is to enable us to communicate with the lower frequencies, which is the VHF?

William Mansfield

Correct.

Chairman Plamondon

Will we be able to also communicate as a border community with the Massachusetts communities?

William Mansfield

We can do that currently with the 800-megahertz system that we have. The majority of the radio systems down there are 800 megahertz.

Chairman Plamondon

To follow up on one of Alderman LaRose's questions regarding Nashua Fire, what about Rockingham Ambulance?

William Mansfield

Rockingham Ambulance also utilize the same channels that the fire department uses so it should not be an issue with that. Just so you know currently, with our 800-megahertz system, we can talk to fire; we can talk to the ambulance service. They are all on 800 megahertz as well as the police. Everybody in the City of Nashua is on an 800 megahertz.

Chairman Plamondon

Are there any other questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-06-103**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$504 OBTAINED FROM THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE, INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT 331-6223 "DWI PATROL 2006"**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LAROSE TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman LaRose

I am assuming that this has already taken place because there is something about August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>. Is that correct?

Phillip Costa

That is correct. It didn't get on the agenda last month.

Chairman Plamondon

Are there any other questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-06-104**

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

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$2,000 FROM CONWAY ARENA INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #352-6521**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Tollner

I would like to thank the Conway family and a number of people that worked on that particular project to set this fund up; Charlie Hall, Tommy Monahan and people like that. This is what we thought was going to happen, and they have delivered. Thank you.

Chairman Plamondon

I also would like to extend my appreciation to the Conway family and the Hall family as well. This is a large benefit to the children of the City. This is funds given to the City without any strings. That is very nice as well. Is there any other discussion?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-06-105**

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter  
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon  
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner  
Alderman Richard LaRose  
Alderman Michael J. Tabacsko

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF \$3,837 INTO SPECIAL REVENUE ACCOUNT #341-6427 FROM THE NEW HAMPSHIRE ENDOWMENT FOR HEALTH**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN TABACSKO TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Plamondon

This is for planning all health care. Is this all going to be done on the public health clinic on Mulberry & Elm in the mobile unit or on French Hill?

Chris Lister

Specifically one of our partners in this effort will be the Dental Connection, which is the French Hill outlet. They are one of our partners. I actually have some written material if you would like to have that. One page 2 is the partnership group that is involved.

Chairman Plamondon

Is all of the \$3,837 going to Dental Clinic?

Chris Lister

It will be going towards the planning efforts of all of these individuals that are outlined on page 2. We will be hiring a facilitator to work through the process to determine what the program would look like. It is a planning grant. There is no match.

Chairman Plamondon

Are there any other questions?

**MOTION CARRIED**

**R-06-106**

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter  
Alderman Marc W. Plamondon  
Alderman Richard P. Flynn  
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy

**RELATIVE TO THE ACCEPTANCE AND APPROPRIATION OF TRANSPORTATION  
ENHANCEMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$362,496 AND AUTHORIZING THE  
ACQUISITION OF RAIL PARCELS IDENTIFIED AS TAX LOTS 32-55, 32-56, AND 38-96**

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN PLAMONDON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Plamondon

This is a very key piece of legislation from my perspective and from the perspective of a downtown Alderman. Here we are we have been a City for over 150 years and our downtown of which has been at buildout for at least 100 years. Getting green space is next to impossible. For the history of Nashua we have always wanted a common. That is just starting to come to fruition now with Rotary Park. These rail trail funds of converting abandoned rail beds into park land and safe pedestrian passages is key to the vitality and safety of an inner city. The current rail trail west of Main Street has been of monumental success. With success brings problems. The success overwhelms the problems. I am very excited to recommend final passage of this. I think this is most definitely appropriate usage of conservation fund monies to relieve the

congestion and especially, probably most importantly, provide a safe pedestrian access to our busy downtown streets - particularly where this particular rail bed, the Worcester/Nashua Rail Bed runs parallel to East and West Hollis Street, which both see in excess of 35,000 cars a day.

This is key legislation from my perspective. Are there any other comments?

Alderman LaRose

Do you know exactly where these parcels are?

Alderman Tabacsko

If you like, I don't have copies to pass around, but I do have photocopies of the parcels.

Alderman LaRose

Can you identify the...

Alderman Tabacsko

I can describe it – from Main Street to Spring Street, from Spring Street the next block, and then it breaks and goes all the way down – the lots that are involved start at Commercial Street and go all the way down and around where Temple Street and everything comes together – the old rail yard. That is actually quite a big parcel that goes down and around. It is two pieces that are together and then this third piece...

Alderman LaRose

That third piece is the one that is behind is it ...

Chairman Plamondon

Henry Hangar?

Alderman LaRose

No I wasn't thinking of that. The one behind that burger place there...

Alderman Tabacsko

No this is – if you would like I will ...

Alderman LaRose

The link that is missing where is that? Okay there is that little section, and then where the firehouse is that will be included in this thing?

Alderman Tabacsko

Yes.

Alderman LaRose

Okay. I was just curious to see if there was a link that was sold to private business and that we have to go around it somehow. It will be actually continuous from Main Street to Temple Street?

Chairman Plamondon

Yeah, Temple Street to the railroad, where Guildford Railroad is now. That is another key piece to mention about this because it has always been on our plans or as part of our vision that by bringing rail to Nashua that particular area of the historic location of the rail station that would be a key area of any potential downtown rail station. To have safe pedestrian access from downtown to a potential rail station – again everything is very much on the horizon, but it fits in for safety.

Alderman LaRose

The railroad bridge that goes over Commercial Street does anybody know what the status of that bridge is?

Chairman Plamondon

That I don't know.

Alderman LaRose

Okay.

Alderman Tabacsko

I don't know either, but I know it is not shown as being part of this parcel that we are talking about tonight.

Alderman LaRose

It isn't?

Alderman Tabacsko

That is just the way the GIS thing maps it. I don't know. It is not identified on there.

Alderman Tollner

If the Chairman could maybe between now and our next full Board of Aldermen meeting, because I am expecting this to be passed tonight, can get answers to two questions. The first one is the bridge – what is the status of the bridge and if this is passed it reverts to who owns the bridge. The second question I think, sitting on the Budget Committee this term, I am pretty confident that one of the Budget Committee members will ask by taking the tax lots off the tax rolls identified here in the legislation, what the dollar amount – I can guarantee you someone will ask that at the full Board meeting, so I think it might be a good idea to ask that question and ask someone to respond to both of those questions – maybe to Mrs. Hersh – answer both of those questions and put it in our packet. We have 3-4 weeks to get the answers on that, but I can pretty much promise you someone will ask that and I would rather this not go back to the committee while we are waiting on that answer.

Chairman Plamondon

We could also hold it in committee too until we get the answers.

Alderman Tollner

Put it this way, we discussed this at length at Budget so from that perspective it is a pretty conservative group of gentlemen. I am very comfortable passing it tonight, asking for the memo, and if something comes up between now and when we get the memo we can always send it back at the full Board and that way we don't lose any traction on it.

Alderman Tabacsko

I agree with Alderman Tollner. I would also point out that what we are dealing with tonight is the grant money. Where the questions came up at Budget and what we need to be prepared for is when the Budget did pass this out of committee and it will come to the full Board at the same time is the \$90,000 20% match that we will be looking for, which is going to require those answers, and we might as well be prepared for them.

Alderman LaRose

I have no problem with the logic that is being put forward.

Chairman Plamondon

Any other questions? I will leave a message for Director Hersh to send a memo to all the committee members.

Alderman Tollner

If she could cc the Board and that way we can save time at the full Board.

**MOTION CARRIED**

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

DISCUSSION

Chairman Plamondon made mention of the Nashua Heritage Rail Trail Rededication.

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN LAROSE TO ADJOURN  
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Alderman Michael Tabacsko  
Committee Clerk Pro Tem