

PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

May 13, 2004

A meeting of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee was held on Thursday, May 13, 2004 at 7:06 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Chair James R. Tollner presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Steven A. Bolton
Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich

Members Not in Attendance: Alderman Richard D. LaRose
Alderman Kevin E. Gage, Vice Chair

Also in Attendance: Alderman Robert A. Dion
Alderman David MacLaughlin
Alderman-at-Large Paula I. Johnson
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Mike Asselin, Co-Chair, Coalition for Adequate Educ. Funding
Marilyn Peterman, Co-Chair, Coalition for Adeq. Educ. Fund.

Chairman Tollner

Alderman LaRose had a physician's appointment this evening that he couldn't get out of. Alderman Gage let me know that he had a work commitment.

We have a number of interviews tonight.

INTERVIEWS

Ethnic Awareness Committee

Sr. Sharon Walsh (New Appointment) Term to Expire: December 31, 2005

Chairman Tollner

Sister Sharon if you could be kind enough to come up. If you could just state for the committee your name and address for the record and why you have interest in serving on the Ethnic Awareness Committee.

Sister Sharon Walsh, Director of Margarite's Place

I live at 273 Lake Street where all the construction is going on. My interest in being on the Ethnic Awareness Committee is because we are having a pretty strong change in the diversity of the clients that are coming to us and also living at Margarite's Place so we are very aware of the cultural diversity that is happening. Just finished strategic planning session with both

boards; Margarite's Place and MP Housing Monday night and the demographics certainly show the future to continue to grow in that area. Whatever I can learn or help to ease in the city I would be happy to do.

Chairman Tollner

Thank you. Are there any questions from committee members or colleagues?

Alderman Rootovich

I just want to thank you for your willingness to serve. We sincerely appreciate your time.

Chairman Tollner

I think you are a perfect choice given your work and commitment to the community. You are from a very diverse community, and I think you will lend a lot to the group. Do you have any questions of us?

Sister Sharon Walsh

I guess I can find this information out – how often they meet and who else is on the committee. I can find that from somebody at City Hall probably tomorrow.

Chairman Tollner

I do think they meet once a month. It is I think during the day, and I will ask Sue or Dawn to send you an e-mail and let you know the other individuals that serve on that committee.

Sister Sharon Walsh

Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Thank you very much for your willingness to serve.

Fire Prevention Code of Appeals

LouAnn Fornataro (New Appointment)

Term to Expire

October 31, 2006

Chairman Tollner

Please come up. Please state your name and address for the record, and let the committee know of your interest in serving on the Fire Prevention Code of Appeals.

LouAnn Fornataro, 105 Brook Road, Mt. Vernon, NH

I own a business at 207 Main Street in Nashua.

Chairman Tollner

Questions from the committee members?

Alderman Johnson

Thank you for coming tonight. How did you find out about this opening?

LouAnn Fornataro

The Fire Marshall's Office called me.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you.

Alderman MacLaughlin

I am wondering if there are any rules regarding residency on this level of appointment.

Chairman Tollner

If one is willing to donate their time to serve on a committee there isn't – usually what we hope is that they are either a resident of the city or in this case they have a business within the city limits.

Alderman MacLaughlin

Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Are you familiar with how often they meet and the amount of time that you will dedicate?

LouAnn Fornataro

Yes.

Chairman Tollner

Do you have any questions of us?

LouAnn Fornataro

I do not.

Chairman Tollner

Any other questions from committee members or colleagues? Thank you very much.

For the people that are interviewed tonight the way it works is we will interview the candidates or the interviewees, the committee after we finish with the interviews will vote on the candidates in committee, then that will be passed along to the full Board of Aldermen. Usually in the case of having a meeting tonight we don't have another meeting for about a week and a half so we will vote as the full Board of Aldermen probably in this case at the next full Board of Aldermen meeting, which will be the 4th Tuesday in May. The Aldermanic Office will get in touch with each one of you and let you know.

Hunt Building Board of Trustees

Roberta J. Woitkowski (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: December 31, 2008

Chairman Tollner

If you could state for the committee your name and address for the record and your interest in serving on the Hunt Building Board of Trustees.

Roberta J. Woitkowski, 17 Lee Street, Nashua

Just over a year ago one of the Hunt Trustees asked me to volunteer to be a proposal grant writer for the Hunt. I accepted that challenge, and since then I have been writing proposals for grants as well as doing other things for the Hunt. Last year's centennial exhibit I helped with the posters of the other buildings and identified the similarities and differences with the Hunt with a poster exhibit some of you may have seen. Last year's Holiday Stroll when the Hunt magically became Santa's Castle I helped at that event also. I believe that I would like to continue my work at the Hunt and increase my efforts at the Hunt as a Trustee. I am enthusiastic about the Hunt Building, its architecture and history. I think I would be a good candidate for the position.

Chairman Tollner

Are there any questions from committee members?

Alderman Rootovich

Again I just want to thank Roberta for wanting to serve. I can see that you are excited, enthused, and ready to take on the responsibility. That is great to see. Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

I too want to thank you for your willingness to serve. I had spoken with an acquaintance of yours who thought that you were very willing and had some time that you could serve the city in this capacity both former Alderman Fredette and Joe Gregory.

Alderman Deane

I would like to ask Roberta a couple of questions. Are you aware of the issues at the Hunt Building now?

Roberta J. Woitkowski

With the building renovation yes.

Alderman Deane

Have you seen the report that was sent forward by the architects?

Roberta J. Woitkowski

Yes I have read both the draft from Wrist, Frost, Shumway as well as the HTB Crem, Ferguson report.

Alderman Deane

How do you feel the availability of getting grants to perhaps take care of some of those problems over there? Are there areas where you think you could focus on getting some funds for those repairs?

Roberta J. Woitkowski

I believe there are different federal grants that are available. For instance there is a State grant that we applied for and are just waiting for the final signatures and money transfers from the State. I would rather not say what it is from right now since it hasn't been officially announced, but I believe there are different agencies with whom we can work and different people in the Community Development Division – there is a grant writer there who I have spoken to recently to try to broaden the people with whom we speak about grant funding for the renovations.

Alderman Deane

Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Are there any other questions? Do you have any questions of us?

Roberta J. Woitkowski

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No thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Thank you very much.

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

John Motta (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: December 31, 2006

Chairman Tollner

I don't see him out there.

William Sousa (New Appointment)

Term to Expire: December 31, 2005

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Chairman Tollner

If you could just state your name and address for the record. If you could explain to or convey to the committee your reasons for wanting to serve on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee.

William Sousa, 59 Concord Street

First of all I want to do my civic duty. Secondly I grew up in this town and as a kid myself, my brothers, my sister player on all the ball fields and one of the reasons that I want to be on the advisory board is I have children that play sports. I have nephews that play sports. It would be great to make sure that not only they had the same kind of experience in this town that I had, but future generations also had that great experience.

Chairman Tollner

Are you aware of how often the group meets and the time commitment and the responsibilities?

William Sousa

No I am not.

Chairman Tollner

Questions from committee members?

Alderman Rootovich

Mr. Sousa have you attended any of the Park & Rec. Advisory Committee meetings to date?

William Sousa

I have not.

Alderman Rootovich

You are well aware of what they do as an advisory board to the Park & Rec. Department?

William Sousa

Yes. I actually got to talk to Mr. Panny at a soccer conference a couple of weeks back.

Alderman Deane

Mr. Sousa are you involved administratively with any programs in the city currently?

William Sousa

I am not.

Alderman Deane

Do you coach or participate in any programs with your children or nephews?

William Sousa

Currently I sit on the Board for the Nashua Girls Soccer Association Memorial Day Tournament.

Alderman Deane

Big tournament. Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Alderman Johnson

How do you feel about opening up Stellos' to adults for soccer?

William Sousa

I have heard a lot about it and read a lot about it in the paper. I don't know where I stand fully on it

at this time, but what I have heard and what I believe in – I am one of these people who say if you can generate revenue for the city then generate revenue for the city. If that is a possibility then I am all for it.

Alderman Johnson

Do you feel that if a stipulation is made that it is all right to break a stipulation and open it up?

William Sousa

That is a good question. I would have to think about it, put some more time into it. Again my base theory is that if it can make revenue then I would take the revenue I think.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Are there any other questions? Do you have any questions of us?

William Sousa

No.

Chairman Tollner

Just so I think they meet – at least when I was on the Parks & Rec. Advisory they met once a month down at Greeley Park. The commitment is a little bit more than meeting once a month at Greeley Park for a couple of hours. You go around to different parks. I think what Alderman Deane was getting at is you do have quite a bit of communication, conversation with the different leagues and entities around the city – just to give you a heads up on that.

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Annette C. Godwin

Re: Military Veterans Tax Credit Increase with Attached Petition

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED

From: Dorothy Clarke, Assistant Corporation Counsel

Officer Craig Hammond, Nashua Police Department

Re: O-2004-16 “Prohibiting the Parking of Unregistered Vehicles”

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH THAT THE RULES BE SO FAR SUSPENDED AS TO ALLOW FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THE AGENDA WAS PREPARED
MOTION CARRIED

From: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Re: O-04-16 – Prohibiting the Parking of Unregistered Vehicles

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED

From: Dorothy Clarke, Assistant Corporation Counsel
Re: Amendment to O-2004-02 – Increasing the veterans' tax credit

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED

From: Maureen Lemieux, Director of Administrative Services
Re: Veteran's Tax Credit

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO ACCEPT AND PLACE ON FILE
MOTION CARRIED

APPLICATION TO LICENSE HAWKER'S, PEDDLER'S, ITINERANT VENDOR'S LICENSE –

None

APPOINTMENTS BY THE MAYOR

Ethnic Awareness Committee

Sr. Sharon Walsh (New Appointment) Term to Expire: December 31, 2005
273 Lake Street
Nashua, NH 03060

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF SR. SHARON WALSH TO THE ETHNIC AWARENESS COMMITTEE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2005
MOTION CARRIED

Fire Prevention Code of Appeals

LouAnn Fornataro (New Appointment) Term to Expire October 31, 2006
207 Main Street
Nashua, NH 03060

MOTION BY ALDERMAN BOLTON TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF LOUANN FORNATARO TO THE FIRE PREVENTION CODE OF APPEALS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE OCTOBER 31, 2006
MOTION CARRIED

Hunt Building Board of Trustees

Roberta J. Woitkowski (New Appointment) Term to Expire: December 31, 2008
17 Lee Street
Nashua, NH 03064

MOTION BY ALDERMAN BOLTON TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ROBERTA J. WOITKOWSKI TO THE HUNT BUILDING BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2008
MOTION CARRIED

Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee

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John Motta (New Appointment) Term to Expire: December 31, 2006
32 Preserve Drive
Nashua, NH 03064

William Sousa (New Appointment) Term to Expire: December 31, 2005
59 Concord Street
Nashua, NH 03064

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO HOLD THE APPOINTMENT OF JOHN MOTTA TO THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN TOLLNER TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM SOUSA TO THE PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2005
MOTION CARRIED

Planning Board

-
Stephen G. Farkas (Re-Appointment) Term to Expire: March 31, 2007
15 Chelsea Court
Nashua, NH 03062

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN G. FARKAS TO THE PLANNING BOARD FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE MARCH 31, 2007

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Johnson

I would like to get his attendance record because I have been told he hasn't gone to very many meetings lately so I would have to think twice on a re-appointment if he is never there.

Chairman Tollner

I will ask Sue and Dawn to get that to you.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED

Review & Comment Commission

Lauren Byers (Re-Appointment)

Term to Expire: November 24, 2006

6 Wanda Lane

Nashua, NH 03062

MOTION BY ALDERMAN BOLTON TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF LAUREN BYERS TO THE REVIEW & COMMENT COMMISSION FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE NOVEMBER 24, 2006

MOTION CARRIED

APPOINTMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Hunt Legacy Trustees

Arthur Olsson (Re-Appointment)

Term to Expire: December 31, 2005

169 Coburn Woods

Nashua, NH 03063

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF ARTHUR OLSSON TO THE HUNT LEGACY TRUSTEES FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2005

MOTION CARRIED

Ira F. Harris Lecture Trustees

Judith Cudhea (Re-Appointment)

Term to Expire: December 31, 2005

2 Rogers Street

Nashua, NH 03064

MOTION BY ALDERMAN BOLTON TO RECOMMEND THE CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDITH CUDHEA TO THE IRA F. HARRIS LECTURE TRUSTEES FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 2005
MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-04-41

Endorser: Alderman-at-Large Steven A. Bolton

JOINING THE COALITION FOR ADEQUATE EDUCATION FUNDING

MOTION BY ALDERMAN BOLTON TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Bolton

Here from the coalition are Marilyn Peterman and Mike Asselin and I believe they have some brief remarks if you would entertain those.

Chairman Tollner

If you would like to come up. When you do address the committee if you could just state your name and address for the record.

Mike Asselin, President of Danville, New Hampshire, Co-Chair of the Coalition for Adequate Education Funding

Thanks for giving us this opportunity tonight to speak to you. Long and short of it is we are seeking the joining of the Nashua Board of Aldermen to the Coalition. This effort started approximately a year and a half ago by the Board of Selectmen in Danville. There was a lot of concern around the type of legislation being submitted to the State concerning the funding of adequate education. We currently have in our coalition approximately 72 communities. I have listed the cities here on the list that have joined so far. You probably are aware that the Nashua Board of Education has joined our coalition recently. Basically I want to point out that this is a very constructive group. I realize that this is a very tense subject up at the State in terms of funding of adequate education. Given the number of communities that are part of our coalition there are a lot of different thoughts of how to address it. We approach things from an open mind. Basically our goals and principals are fairly straightforward. All children should have access to a quality education, the tax structure needs to address the ability to pay for those educational costs, we need to participate in the process to work out the long-term funding solution. This is primarily the point of the coalition is that the legislature has had seven years if you will from the Claremont Decision to work out a funding solution to

adequate education and has not been able to do so.

We believe that it will take the involvement of the municipalities and the school boards to ultimately work with the legislature and come up with a long-term solution. Otherwise I fear that we face a continuation of long-term debate and disagreement and that will never end as we are seeing now.

Our organizational structure – basically if you become a member any of your Board of Aldermen can become involved. Any of your citizens in your community can be appointed by your Board to become involved. I will get into what that consists of a little later. Basically it is one vote per organization. We do show by the way the separate decisions by each organization when we submit our opinions to the legislature – we show for instance if the Nashua Board of Aldermen had a particular position we show what that is as well as all the other boards that belong what their opinions are on a particular position. There is no financial burden. There are no dues, no fees; you are free to leave at any time if you feel that the coalition goals are not the same as your goals. I want to emphasize that this is a non-partisan issue. A membership consists of Democrats and Republicans. We work with both Democrats, Republicans, and Independents in the House and in the Senate.

The issue is not more spending; the issue is how are the costs being distributed in paying for adequate education and in providing an appropriate level of funding through the education trust fund for adequate education. At this time, I want to emphasize that we don't have a favored tax approach. We don't really see our function as coming up with the tax approach other than recommending to the Legislature various ways of how the proper tax revenue can be generated.

A little specific information on Nashua – 1998 was the last year of the education trust fund. Nashua received \$142,000 from the State. In 1999, which was the first year of the adequate education grants Nashua received a little over \$25 million, which I am sure you are well aware of. Now in that year assuming you didn't have any tax increases that funding represented a \$5 per \$1,000 decrease in your tax rate. As I am sure you are also aware of, in fiscal year 2005 looking at the past two years of funding grant levels Nashua is losing anywhere between \$2 million to \$4 million in adequate education grants depending which bill and which plan you are looking at. As you know that is up to date. I would like to add as you are well aware of in the newspaper not only do we have a decreased funding in adequate education grants we also seem now to have a disagreement about how much money is available in FY '05. Is it \$429 million for the grants or is it \$199 million? That issue is still not resolved. Obviously if it becomes \$199 million what I have seen in the newspapers Nashua will get no money for the adequate education grants. You won't be making up let's say \$3 million you will be making up your \$22 million.

A little bit of history, but very important here in understanding why we exist – when Claremont II happened the education funding grants for education amounted to 8% of the state's education costs. Adequate education grants started in '99 it represented 27% of the state's education costs. Since '99 the legislature has not kept up with the annual increases in the adequate education costs because currently it only represents 21% down from the 27%. To make matters worse moving from 2004 to 2005 they are not even keeping up with inflation. They actually have a \$23 million decrease, which is part of the reason you are seeing so much debate in the legislature on how to distribute the \$429 million that they were originally talking about. They are actually decreasing the total amount of money in the education trust fund for 2005.

All of the education funding bills with the exception of one, SB 302, is only because the Senate Finance Committee recently amended it, they all have the CPI limit. What that says is the future additional funding to the education trust fund, which funds the grants, would be limited to an annual increase of 2.5%. A little problem here – the annual education increases is in the neighborhood of 9%. That difference of 6.5% annually according to the estimates of the New Hampshire Senate for Public Policy is a transfer of \$90 million per year from the State obligation to the local obligation. Keep in mind this is in addition to your current funding decrease that is being proposed so every year there would be a transfer of that 6.5% that is in annual increases over to your local taxes that the State should be paying for according to Claremont II, but wouldn't be if the CPI takes affect.

Something you don't hear much about, but very critical – Claremont court case. One of the critical factors in the case was something called a tax rate disparity. It measures the ability of a community to pay for education in the sense that they take the 6th highest education tax rate in the State of New Hampshire, divide it by the 6 lowest tax rate in New Hampshire, and that gives you the ratio they call the tax rate disparity ratio. In the Claremont court case that factor was 6.46. With adequate education funding grants '99 it became 2.55. What that says is your lowest tax rate instead of being 6 times less became 2.5 times less across the state. A little problem here – that ratio has been increased, but that makes sense because the State has not been keeping up with the annual increases in the cost of education. Right now it is 3. With the bills that are before the Senate and the House we have estimated that factor will increase to 4. It is going in the wrong direction.

Future activities – in the next couple of weeks we will be making a major announcement where we have formed a group – we have pooled together different groups in the state whose agreed to work with us and defining what adequate education is. Not a number pulled out of the ear based on what the current tax structure can support, but define it in terms of educational terms –what it is. Just so you are aware this group that will be working on this at a very broad base – besides ourselves the New Hampshire Board of Education, New Hampshire Department of Education, the Children's Advocacy of New Hampshire, the Claremont Coalition, the Coalition of Communities, the New Hampshire School Board Association, and the New Hampshire School Administrator's Association. We are all contributing members into this committee, which will define what adequate education is and what its costs are. The intent is once we reach a consensus is move that into the legislature to pass a bill defining what adequate education is. We can therefore come up with a cost of what it is and then everybody can work toward okay how do you fund that cost.

If the funding for adequate education was increased we already know that would represent a total tax rate decrease for at least 75% of New Hampshire tax payers and certainly in the City of Nashua would be among those whose residents would see a total tax rate decrease. Bottom line is the Board of Aldermen have a choice – you can decide to fight this issue on your own or you can decide to join us, work with other communities to a long-range solution. We believe that it is better to work as a group and collectively have more strength and impact upon legislatures as being part of a larger group. We are continuously growing this coalition. I should mention as we get 1-2 new members a week this is something we will continue growing and move forward with the various activities. Probably within the next year we will be well over 100 communities participating in this coalition.

Alderman Rootovich

Have you approached the Manchester Board of Aldermen yet?

Mike Asselin

No. We have not yet. We do intend to approach them. What we wanted to do first was approach Concord, which we did, then approach yourselves, and then Manchester is next on the list.

Alderman Rootovich

The reason why I asked is because they are sitting pretty favorably right now – they really make out substantially well so I am just curious as to whether they will join on to this since they are sitting pretty well right now.

Mike Asselin

It is true that it certainly was favorable for them, however, what we are going to point out to them is that in the long run the CPI is going to have a very negative affect upon their school funding. Even they are going to see a transition of state obligated funds from the state to their local tax base. Even they are going to suffer under the CPI. I have to believe that they will want to fight that aspect of education funding.

Alderman Rootovich

Can I ask what the coalition has – their primary action plan that they have done to date that has made any impact up in Concord at all?

Mike Asselin

That is a very fair question. There have actually been a number of things. The Constitutional Amendment that was proposed we joined up with the other coalitions such as the Children's Advocacy and the School Board Association, the Claremont Coalition – we believe that we had a direct impact in the outcome of that vote, which helped defeat that constitutional amendment. Something that we can attribute directly to ourselves was we focus our attention on convincing the Senate Finance Committee to take the CPI out of SB302. That was us that actually did that in influencing the committee. We have found that we have grown to a point that we are having an influence on legislators. Of course we want to grow the coalition. We are very interested of course in participation by larger cities because that brings additional weight to our positions particularly the things that you agree with. We are about to exercise a effort to convince the House and Senate that whatever bill they pass this year not include a CPI so we are just about to start that now.

Alderman Rootovich

Thank you very much.

Marilyn Peterman, resident of Amherst, Co-Chair of Coalition for Adequate Education Funding

We understand that this is going to be a long process. The legislature has been at it for 7 years and before that during all the time that they haven't really gotten it right. The second thing I want to emphasize although Mike said it was that this coalition is in fact non-partisan. If we don't approach it that way then I don't think that there can be a win/win situation for all of us. Part of our objective on a year by year basis is to try to convince boards such as yourself and boards of Selectmen and others – school boards throughout the state, to encourage people to run for office in the form of Representatives and also in the Senate who are more inclined to support an adequate education and a fair and adequate method of funding it. We haven't set a goal yet in terms of how many legislatures we would like to see this year, but there are certainly people who we can point out to in certain towns and communities that these people have voted against the interests of those communities. We are going to hopefully enlist the help of the members who join the coalition to their own legislators and their own political interests to recruit folks to run for seats, to help little by little affect the legislature. As my legislators so aptly pointed out sort of not an excuse, but as a matter of fact was that there just hasn't been the political will it seems to make this adequate education funding work for all of the communities throughout the state. Again we hope that the Board of Aldermen in Nashua will consider joining us as a group and Mike will continue to work hard at making presentations to bring more of the member communities and boards and school boards into the coalition. The greater the number the more clout that we will have. Thank you for having us.

Chairman Tollner

I would also like to recognize Alderman Bolton, and thank him for inviting you. Are there any further questions? Thank you.

Alderman Bolton

I don't want to reiterate what we have heard much more adequately expressed than I could, but focusing on Nashua's dilemma, the loss of education funding over the last two years and the potential loss in future years, and the erosion of even an equal dollar amount as the percentage of the cost we have to pay is frankly the biggest budgetary issue that this city faces. There is no other single thing we have done over the last three years that has caused the tax rate to go up in this city by more than what the loss of education funding has done. Two years ago we got in excess of \$29 million in our education grant. This year we will get \$22 million. That is a big bitter pill that we have had to swallow. I think it is clear that this organization is becoming a voice, and if we want to have input, if we want to be at the table as this organization makes its recommendations and performs its studies we ought to join.

Further it is also clear that we need the resource that this will provide to help us convince our own legislative delegation as to what is in Nashua's best interest – something that for whatever reason we have lacked over the past two years when unfortunately 1 out of our 2 Senators and the majority of members of our House have gone along with the changes in the law that have reduced aide to this city. I have to assume that they did that without knowing the impact it would have on us. I can't believe anyone who was elected from Nashua would have willingly gone along with something that would raise local property taxes in the way this has. For all of those reasons I hope the committee

will support, and I hope the full Board of Aldermen will support joining the organization. Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Are there any additional comments? Thank you Alderman Bolton.

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES

O-04-11

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman-at-Large Brian S. McCarthy
Alderman-at-Large James R. Tollner
Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich
Alderman Robert A. Dion
Alderman Lori Cardin

CREATING AN ALDERMANIC LIAISON TO THE HUNT BUILDING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I brought this piece of legislation forward for a number of reasons, but the main reason was I looked back at what happened at 14 Court Street and how that building fell into disrepair and there was no oversight. Now we have an opportunity with some funds available to put a plan in place to make sure that we take care of this building. I think it is in this Board's best interest to understand exactly the issues that the Hunt Board of Trustees face. They work with a budget of about \$39,000, they can't use the facility in the summer time because of the intense heat inside, there is water infiltration in the walls, there are roof and drainage issues, and I think this Board should be brought up to speed on what is happening in Library Hill. We should not let this building fall into disrepair. It will take some money to repair it. A report that was brought in last Wednesday as was mentioned by Roberta – I had given a preliminary report to the Human Affairs Committee, but I will make sure that every member of the Board gets a copy of that report. Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Is there any further discussion? Thank you Alderman Deane.

MOTION CARRIED

O-04-15

Endorsers: Mayor Bernard A. Streeter
Board of Aldermen

DISPLAY AND USE OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE
MOTION CARRIED

O-04-16

Endorsers: Alderman Marc W. Plamondon
Alderman Robert A. Dion
Alderman-at-Large David W. Deane
Alderman Lori Cardin
Alderman Kevin E. Gage
Alderman Kathryn D. Vitale
Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich

PROHIBITING THE PARKING OF UNREGISTERED VEHICLES

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO AMEND O-04-16 BY CHANGING THE FINE TO \$125 AND ADDING AN ADDITIONAL CLAUSE AT THE END, WHICH STATES:

“, AND THIS FINE SHALL BE INCLUSIVE OF THE COST OF TOWING”

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Tollner

In the correspondence from Dory Clarke it says “upon further discussion with the police department a suggestion has been made to amend the above referenced legislation by changing the fine to \$125”, and as Alderman Rootovich had stated and adding the clause at the end, which states “and this fine shall be inclusive of the cost of towing”. This amendment would assist the city in collecting its reimbursement for the city’s outlay of towing costs. We will vote on the proposed amendment first. Is there any discussion on the amendment?

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE AS AMENDED

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Deane

I just wanted to make a few remarks about this. We have some serious problems with people doing business and illegally tagging cars and leaving them on the city streets and moving registrations back and forth, license plates back and forth – officer Hammond I spoke with him and I believe Alderman Dion spoke with him as well – faces numerous challenges with the parking issues in the city. The amount of money that we spend in manpower alone to deal with these issues is ridiculous. I spoke with him and told him that any legislation that he felt would ease his job in dealing with a lot

of the problems to just bring it forward and I know others would co-sponsor it as well. We have vacant lots that were made use for the Broad Street Parkway construction – the buildings weren't down for more than 3 months and those lots are filled with cars.

The woman that did the job over on the corner of Pine and West Hollis where she did the landscaping – if she hadn't done that it would have been filled up with cars. The police department – collecting the money is going to be one thing, but it is really a serious problem, and I hope this will help.

Alderman Dion

As Alderman Deane has stated this is something that we need for enforcement, to strengthen the enforcement legislation that we presently have. We have a problem in the city with people running businesses outside their homes, selling cars, moving plates from one car to another, and it is getting out of proportion. The police department needs some more teeth in the law and I believe this will certainly help them and I urge the committee to pass the amendment and pass the ordinance.

Chairman Tollner

Thank you. Is there any further discussion?

MOTION CARRIED

HELD IN COMMITTEE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN BOLTON TO TAKE FROM THE TABLE O-04-02

MOTION CARRIED

O-04-02

Endorser: Alderman-at-Large Paula I. Johnson

INCREASING THE VETERANS' TAX CREDIT FROM \$100 TO \$200

Chairman Tollner

What we will do is we will entertain public comment for those individuals that are here tonight. One thing that I just want to make sure everybody is aware of this legislation was submitted in February. What we wanted to do is a number of people have called and we said we were going to discuss it tonight in committee. Regardless of the outcome tonight and I will be very positive, when this legislation is approved it will not affect anybody's tax bill until November. Is that correct Mr. Fredette? Okay. I just wanted everybody that is here tonight as well as people that are watching on TV at home to be aware of that.

What I will do if the committee is okay with it open up for some comments from the public.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO AMEND O-04-02 BY REPLACING IT IN ITS ENTIRETY WITH THE PROPOSED LEGISLATION THAT WAS PLACED ON OUR DESKS THIS EVENING

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Bolton

Now I think would be an appropriate time to let the public speak.

Chairman Tollner

I am not sure the public has seen this yet. This is the first time I have seen it.

Alderman Johnson

Mr. Chairman maybe you should read it.

Chairman Tollner

When the public comes up if you could provide us comment on your opinion as far as increasing the veterans' tax credit. Maybe we can handle the comments that way, but what I will do is read the proposed amendment and it states "The City of Nashua hereby adopts the provisions of New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 72:28, as it may be amended from time to time, relative to a veterans' tax credit. Effective April 1, 2004, the veterans' tax credit shall be \$200.00. Effective April 1, 2005, the veterans' tax credit shall be \$300.00. Effective April 1, 2006, the veterans' tax credit shall be \$400.00. Effective April 1, 2007 the veterans' tax credit shall be \$500.00. This stated veterans' tax credit shall replace the standard veterans' tax credit in its entirety and shall not be in addition thereto. The requirements for the veterans' tax credit shall be as stated in New Hampshire revised Statutes Annotated 72:28, as it may be amended from time to time. Proof of eligibility shall be submitted to the assessing department."

For everybody that is at home and in attendance tonight I think the original version was to increase the veterans' tax credit from \$100 to \$200, but the proposed amendment would change that from the first year from \$100 to \$200 and then four years after that \$100 each year. Are there any questions on that before you all come up to comments and that way we can be clear and you can provide appropriate comment? No questions on the amendment? Okay.

If you are interested just come up to the microphone. If you could state your name and address prior to providing this committee with comment.

Griffin Dalianis, 90 Walden Pond Drive

Thank you Chairman Tollner and Aldermanic Board. It is always a pleasure to come before you. Tonight you see in this audience many, many leaders of our veterans' organizations in this city. There are many others that are at home watching this. I want to be perfectly clear that I have been affected by not this bill, but the last bill for the 100% service connected disabled veterans. I want that perfectly clear on the table.

I am speaking for a number of WWII veterans that cannot be with us tonight. The House, the Senate, and the Governor signed SB45. This gave the right to the citizens in towns to raise the 100% service connected disabled veterans from \$1,500 to \$2,000. I believe they have already passed. All war time veterans to have their tax credit raised from \$100 to \$500. I will not speak on the amount because I believe that is up to you. The end of this month will be a three-day event in Washington celebrating the dedication of a WWII memorial. IN 1940 the 197th Artillery unit from Nashua left New Hampshire and traveled to Australia. They did not come home until 1946. They served in several battles with distinction, and they do have a granite block up at Duchane's Oval for them in recognition of their service.

When WWII started in 1941 almost 5,000 men and women left New Hampshire to serve in the armed forces. Nashuans are buried in the fields of France, the cold shores of EuroGima and many other places. New Hampshire ranked 2nd in the nation per capita in sending service personnel into harms way. That didn't just happen because in New Hampshire we believe in patriotism, freedom, and our state motto says it all; Live Free or Die.

New Hampshire has sent many men and women to fight in every war that the United States has been in including the Revolutionary War giving us freedom from the rights to tyranny, depressing ourselves in our manifest destiny. We needed then and we fought for it then to make our own laws to govern ourselves. New Hampshire has over 130,000 veterans. Nashua has approximately 3,300 veterans that we will be addressing tonight. There are many more veterans, but they do not own homes. Some are living on the streets as we all well know.... Tape flipped.

Several hundred of these veterans that you are talking about tonight and will vote on served in WWII. From that war over 1,500 soldiers, sailors, and marines are dying off every single day. It won't be long before they are all gone – our greatest generation. Every time this body of civic leaders, yourselves, get up at every meeting and say the Pledge of Allegiance why do you think you have that right? It was born on the soldiers' backs who came back from the war – they were lucky if they were safe – came home wounded and paralyzed and for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice. These veterans went to war because they were called. Some got lucky and weren't in combat area at all, but they still spent their time. Remember freedom and democracy are not free someone always pays the price. I know in your hear of hearts you will do the right thing. Thank you very much, but I do want to read a poem and many of you have probably heard this, but I think this is a poem that we all should remember again. "It is the veteran not the preacher who has given us the right to religious freedom. It is the veteran not the reporter who has given us the freedom of the press. It is the veteran not the poet that has given us the freedom of speech. It is the veteran not the campus organizer who has given us the right to assemble. It is the veteran not the lawyer who has given us the right to a fair trial. It is the veteran not the politician that has given us the right to vote. " With that ladies and gentlemen God speed in your job.

Lena Zompetti, 18 Apache Road

Dr. Dalianis spoke very eloquently. Even though the Washington, DC Monument honoring the veterans of WWII had not yet been completed the officials decided to open the monument for viewing because the veterans of WWII are dying at the rate of 1,000 per day. The officials felt the

aging and dwindling numbers of WWII veterans should be afforded the opportunity to view the long overdue monument dedicated to the most remarkable American generation of the century. The WWII veterans are dying at the rate of 1,000 per day and yet according to today's Telegraph article entitled "Aldermen to Consider Veteran Tax Credit" the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee Chairman is quoted as saying "There is no rush to pass the legislation. We have to look at things in moderation." He wants to be prudent to avoid sticker shock for city residents. How can you justify to the WWII, the Korean, The Vietnam, and the Iraq War veterans who were put in great risk, who at great sacrifice had to leave their families, put their lives on hold, and take huge pay cuts that a \$500 veterans tax credit would be too costly a sacrifice for the city and should be put on hold until the city's fiscal picture is clearer?

I have to agree with Alderman Johnson timing is important. Other issues especially sports related matters always carry a sense of urgency for approval immediately. In closing I would like to add that Alderman Johnson is one of the most principled individuals on the Board of Aldermen and her motive in sponsoring this legislation is beyond reproach. Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Is there any additional comment?

David Davis, Commander of American Legion Coffey Post

I live at 7 Radcliffe Drive as a resident and homeowner for 34 years. I have been asked to read a letter from Annette C. Goodwin who lives at 94 Dodge Street in Nashua, and it is dated March 4th of this year and addressed to Mr. Jim Tollner, Chairman of the Personnel/Administrative Affairs Committee, Members of this committee, and Members of the Board of Aldermen regarding Military Veterans' Tax Credit Increase – "Dear Alderman Tollner, Members of the Committee, and Members of the Board of Aldermen, On February 15th of 2004 an article in the "Telegraph" told us that "there are some 3,283 veterans who would benefit from the credit. Upping the tax credit as proposed would have meant as much as an additional \$328,300 would then have to be raised." The article goes on to say that the committee has decided to keep the legislation "on its plate". Another word that was used was "shelved". To many of the veterans I have talked with, and there are petitions enclosed with this letter, this decision of the committee implies that the city veterans are simply a burden and a bother to the city budget. Instead of thinking of them as a burden should we not thank God that these members of the military lived to return from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, and other places of conflict to be good citizens of Nashua? Are we not blessed that 3,283 veterans who left their loved ones here at home to protect us have returned alive? We should be grateful they did not shelve their duty. Don't they deserve this increase now instead of being shelved by the committee? What does this say about the City of Nashua? The veterans over 65 and living on a fixed income it has been especially difficult to manage the high cost of property taxes in this city. I have learned a lot by getting out there and talking one on one with Nashua veterans, and believe me they are aware of what other towns and cities are doing for their veterans compared to the non-action of the Aldermanic Committee in Nashua. Attached are three pages of signatures of military service people owning homes and living within the City of Nashua who have served their country. You will also note there are signatures as well as other supporters of them who I did not ask, but

were standing by and insisted on being included. Sincerely, Annette C. Goodwin an advocate of veterans.

I would like to remind the Aldermen again that this letter was dated March 4th of 2004. On a personal note myself as I said I was a veteran, a Vietnam area veteran having served in the Cuban Missile Crisis – it was reiterated by the two previous speakers that we are losing 1,000 or more a day. I happen to be at a luncheon today with the Governor who unfortunately was late, but he said that he was attending a funeral this morning for a soldier who came back from Iraq and we had to have a funeral for him. It lead me to believe in listening to the Governor that there is a lot that we can do not just by going to funerals and recognizing individuals for actions that happen to have come. It is the actions of the people in the past that we should also recognize. I also support the amendment that is written. Thank you for your time.

Alderman Rootovich

I just want to point out sir that in the letter it says the decision of the committee implies that Nashua veterans are simply a burden and a bother to the city budget. This committee has not made a decision. I for one will not support holding it. I have made the motion to amend it. I intend to support this as is. I just want to point out that this committee has not made a decision yet.

Chairman Tollner

I just wanted to respond too because I did speak with Annette Goodwin tonight. I have spoken with her a couple of times. The first time after the letter was written I did explain to her that it was never any intent and I think every Alderman agreed that given the fact that we were going to act on the legislation and the legislation would not affect the tax rate until November – I just want to clarify it wasn't that we were shelving it because we were not interested or postponing it because we were not interested in it – there were a number of very valid reasons why – one being the city budget – I had spoken to some people up in Manchester. They have a similar piece of legislation on their agenda. I spoke with a couple of members of that Board up there. I can't speak for them, but I am sure that they are going to pass a similar piece of legislation. When I had an opportunity to explain to her the process and what we are doing as well as speaking to her today again she was comfortable with the direction that we were taking. I did appreciate the time that she took to get these signatures.

Alderman Bolton

In a similar vein Mr. Chairman and I think you have taken some of the slings and arrows here and I really think undeservedly so. Whoever used the word shelved missed the point entirely. This has always been on the committee's agenda, it was always the intention I know of the Chair as well as all members of the committee to address it in time for the legislation to take affect at the earliest possible date. It doesn't matter whether we pass it in February or in May or in July or in September the earliest it will make a difference is on the tax bill that will be due on or around December 1st. I think one of the reasons for waiting was to allow the Mayor to give us his recommendation, which thus far we have not gotten. In all fairness to him he has not been in the city during all of this time he has been away on vacation and perhaps not addressing things in as timely a fashion as he

otherwise would. The fact is he did not support the state legislation to give us this option. I think he ought to have the opportunity to weigh in and at least give us his guidance as to why he did not support that state legislation, and what his position is on this local legislation taking advantage of the increased opportunity we have to give this tax benefit to our veterans. I don't think anyone should feel that this delay has cost anyone money, that this has been a delay because it has not been felt that it is important – I think the exact opposite is true. It has always been regarded as very important that it be addressed and addressed in a timely fashion, and as I said we have a fairly large window where we can address this without delaying the benefit to any of the impacted veterans. Thank you.

Roy Grayden, 45 East Glenwood Street, Nashua

I have lived here for 30 years. I am also a 30 year member of the Fleet Reserve Association, which is an organization that represent the Navy, Marine Corp., and Coast Guard only we're retirees – we are career military, and we have chosen Nashua – there are 21 of us that live in the City of Nashua. In Sanders heyday it was an attraction for the retirees from these organizations to come up and provide their expertise and assist in building and making Nashua what it is today. In light of the comments that I just heard as opposed to me standing here and making all the recommendations and saying what I had to say a lot of the thunder has been taken away, but yet again I do appreciate this opportunity to be able to address the Board and also say that I do hopefully in respect to the 21 retirees and the 151 members of my branch who are local and around this area that I do appreciate the effort that you are making and I do support this legislation. Thank you very much for being able to address the committee.

Byron Buckingham, Commander of Military Order of Purple Heart

The Purple Heart is everybody that is in combat wounded – combat by an enemy of the United States. I support this bill only for one reason; I think we are worth more than .02 cents. Our budget is \$180 million. IF you take the full amount, \$500, it will come to .002 of the budget. I think that figure is right. That is not very much for a veteran that has put his life on the line. My organization is very small. There are 126 that belong to my organization in the State of New Hampshire. A lot of them are disturbed mentally from the war and a lot of them don't want to come and speak because I didn't want to come up and talk about it, but my Commander said you have to come up and let them know how you feel. That is how I feel gentlemen. I hope you will do the right thing for the veterans of this city. Thank you.

Bob Burgess 32 Bates Drive

I am probably one of the so-called unrecognized veterans – those that were in between this conflict. A good many of us in our age group, it wasn't our fault the age was like it was. I spent 4 years in the Navy, I knew what my duty was, and if conflict came I knew it was my duty to perform. We are not part of this tax thing here. It is an honor to sit with these gentlemen and the woman behind me, these veterans. I am sure they went through hell and deserve all they can get, but you also have those people say during Korea, during Viet Nam that never saw any action. These people are on this tax too. I could have been in Korea and spent 90 days in and I would be eligible for this. I gave up 4 years of my life. It was my duty and my responsibility. I am not looking for anything. I don't

think I deserve it, but I don't think anybody that didn't see action in this time period say during Korea or Viet Nam, which a good many years are involved, they shouldn't be participating in this here. As we look at this I think we really have to look at the financials. I would like to give these veterans all the money we could, but the city is in dire straights now.

Alderman Bolton said we lost \$7 million over a two-year period from state adequate education. As we look at this proposal I think we ought to go with a one-year deal \$100 increase to these veterans. At this time with the financial condition of the city I don't think we should commit ourselves to 5 years down the road. It is said next year will be even a more difficult time than this year. As we look at this letter from Mrs. Goodwin she stated these are all veterans of war, but down deep there are people that never saw action. Should they be given this? I say no. I think the State should re-open that book and see who actually saw action and who didn't and the ones that saw action like I say give them all they can afford because they really put their life on the line, but anybody who sat in the states is no better than us people in my age group. We gave our time. We're not recognized here. True we could never fill the shoes of these people behind me, but we had to carry on in between or when they were done. If something broke out we were responsible too. We are the unknown veterans, the unrecognized veterans. I cannot see going up to a straight 5 years at \$100 each year. I think we ought to commit ourselves to a one year with a financial condition of the city here. We have deep troubles down the road. If you look at this recommendation in 5 years down the road say a \$300,000 home people will probably be paying \$80 just for this tax credit. As this woman in the letter stated well a lot of veterans 65 and older are having a tough time paying their taxes. Well I could say I am in that age group, but you know what I did I went back to work to pay my taxes. I didn't stop working. It is more than the veterans that are feeling the pinch on the taxes here. You have all of the elderly, the people on the fixed income, the people that are laid off, a good many on welfare – they are feeling the pinch. Like I say I am all for a one-year deal with \$100.

I strongly recommend going with this. I can't see the city committing with the financial condition of this city any more than going for one year. Like I say these people behind me I appreciate all they have done, but the troops over there in Iraq and Afghanistan I think our prayers and our thoughts go out to them. That 2,000 – 3,000 people on that list will be probably doubled or tripled really when the state gets going here so the financial burden on the city is going to be much greater than what we are looking at in figures here. I commend these people and our troops that are over there now. I think we should give them all we can. Anybody that has seen action they really deserve it, but people that sat in the states they are no better than us people that spent 3-4 years in because of our age differential at the time – we served too and we are the unknown veterans. This group here don't want to recognize us as veterans, but we were because we picked up the tab when they left off or in between. Thank you.

Michael Glenn, 2 Ryan Way

This is not a handout to veterans nor do veterans consider this an entitlement. It is just the right thing to do. Everyone who has served in the military has given service to American regardless of personal cost. As many of you in this room know my wife has been called up for a second time due to the troubles. Let us now send a message to America Nashua cares about its veterans. Thank you.

Gaetano Zompetti, 18 Apache Road

That is all this is, is respect. I think a lot of you people understand what the word respect means. Some of us that are my age, which I gave up 3.5 years of my life – I am 78 and will be 79 in August. Let's do it quick because God knows if I will be around to see it. Thank you.

Dot Nice, 8 Maywood Drive

Married to a man 23 years, Chief E9 as high as you can go – Shanghai, China – all over my husband went. I met him in '51 at Westover. We were married 52 years. He is a fantastic man in this world, and many of our military people that I have made friends with all over this world, and I know that my people here that I have been with for 8.5 years in this Chamber will do the best they can because they believe in our veterans in Nashua and don't any of you ever forget it. These men are with you. Thank you.

George McHugh, 61 Dublin Avenue

I am a Viet Nam era vet. I am one of the fortunate ones who spent my time in the Army Engineer's School as a teacher in Virginia. I was blessed. I had orders to Nam, but I never had to serve over there, however, as a teacher in the class, class after class we had a class photo posted on the bulletin board all lined up and there would be Xs through those who were not coming home. I would see my students learning in class and coming back and others not learning well, and this was very trying on me to see these young men fall because they didn't get the message in class. When I graduated as an engineer I went in the service for 2.5 years so that it delayed becoming a professional engineer by the 2.5 years. That slid my whole salary earning power far greater than \$500. I hope you will do the right thing and honor the people who have served whether they were in combat or not because when you are in supporting people in combat and eligible to be sent over yourself you know you are supporting combat and the importance of your mission. Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Is there any additional comment?

Roger Mathews, 31 Taschereau Boulevard

I do not belong to any professional veterans' association, but I am a veteran – 31 years in the military. I consider anyone who served in the military; draftee, volunteer a veteran. I think this bill is very important. There are a lot of reservists and guard people who have interrupted their lives in our generation, in this time, and are now serving overseas. We need to send them a message that the people of Nashua and New Hampshire care about their veterans. I hope you pass this very quickly because it is important to send this message now, not three months from now, not 6 months from now, now. I appreciate your time.

Claire McHugh, 61 Dublin Avenue

I am the wife of George who just spoke a moment ago. When he got through college it wasn't long, just a few weeks, before he was married and was leaving. He never even stayed 6 months with his wife. The sacrifices that were made some far greater that were made by George and I. Our son just got back from Iraq in this very year and he was there when the senior Bush was there and in Kuwait. We believe in defense and you know I am passionate about water as well because these things are essential to life. We can't live without water, but we also can't live without a good defense. I thank you for honoring the veterans with \$500 as quick as possible.

Andrea Giddy

I have lived in Nashua all of my life and I lived 28 years at the house that I am in. I have had a father, a step-dad and my son was in the air force and I help the veterans any way I can. I am a State Department Commander to the Navy Auxiliary and it is in the heart that you have to go through. It is in the heart that you have to feel and see when they come home from action and the disability that they have and everything. I just want to say that freedom is not free. God bless you all. Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

Are there any other comments? First of all I would like to thank everybody for coming tonight and commenting. I also would like to again go back a second to Annette's letter and in using the two words that she used "put on a plate or shelf" I think what she meant by that was that she wanted to make sure that the committee wasn't going to shelve it meaning get rid of it. As was stated earlier that was never the intent of any member of the committee nor of any member of the Board of Aldermen. I also would like to correct or respond to some comments that were made earlier. I can't in any way shape or form ever compare any legislation or sports legislation or any legislation that has a clock on it to this legislation. What I say in moderation the other night Alderman Dion and Alderman Rootovich came over to speak to me about the legislation and I applaud them for the support of this legislation that we have before us tonight. As Chairman of any committee before you pass legislation you have to fully comprehend the impact of the legislation and that was pretty much the intent. I think as Alderman Bolton had mentioned earlier I think tonight what we have here in front of us is a very good compromise as far as proposing the dollar amount that people were interested in, but there are a number of people – I should say some people on the Board of Aldermen as well as people in the city were concerned because we had the understanding that the legislation was going to be \$100 or \$200 and it was \$500 – what we really need to do is communicate to each other to make sure that we take the appropriate action and that the legislation is passed right the first time and everybody gets the credit that they deserve.

I think I can speak for the entire Board of Aldermen as a whole that we are all supportive of the legislation, and I think the Board will be supportive of the amendment that we have before us tonight.

Alderman Dion

Although I am not a member of the Personnel Committee when the legislation was filed by Alderman Johnson back some months ago I had a private discussion with Alderman Johnson and I said to her you know I like your legislation, but I don't think \$190 to \$200 is enough. The State has passed

legislation increasing it to a maximum of \$500. We discussed it and I said what if we do it in \$100 increments up to \$500 so it won't be so hard on the tax rate or whatever on the tax revenue I should say. We went to the city lawyers and we drafted the legislation along with Maureen Lemieux and I totally support this from the bottom of my heart. Although I am not a veteran I respect what these men and women have done throughout the years – WWII, Korean War, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and for a sideline the Cuban Missile Crisis, Panama and quite a few other places that I can't recall offhand. I have a lot of respect for these people. A lot of them are senior citizens, and being a senior citizen myself I know what they are going through as far as paying their taxes. Anything that can help them is the least we can do – the least we can do is help these brave men and women that went out in harms way to help us, to protect us. I can't see how we can refuse to help these men and women. We have done a lot of things in the past few years – we have spent \$4.5 million on Holman Stadium, we spent almost \$6 million on Stellos' Stadium, we spent \$2.4 million for the new senior center – the least we can do is spent \$1.25 million over a span of 4 years for our veterans. That is the least we can do. I urge the committee to pass this legislation.

Alderman Rootovich

We have sports heroes out there that our children recognize and cherish. We have the Michael Jordan's and other athletes of other sports, we have the movie heroes that people can't wait to go and see at the movies, but from my perspective, and I have several members of my family that served in different parts of the military, but never came back – there is no greater hero that we have than a veteran. I agree with Alderman Dion and I believe he said that it doesn't matter whether you served overseas or you served in the country the fact that you would sacrifice your time away from your family with the probability that you may be called upon to sacrifice your life there is no bigger sacrifice in the world than to do that. There is no greater hero. There is no greater hero in this world than anybody who is willing to give their time and sacrifice their life to give us the freedoms that we take advantage of each and every day, and I for one thank each and every one of you for your commitment and your sacrifice you made for myself and my family and my kids and grandkids. I thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. I support this wholeheartedly, and I encourage my colleagues on the Board to support it.

One further comment when you talked about what type of sacrifice but the financial burden, when I look at the analysis that we got from the financial department it boils down to on a \$200,000 home with a \$500 credit it comes out to \$4.00 a month and on a \$300,000 home it comes to \$6 a month, and I don't think anybody in this city is not willing to sacrifice that amount of money each and every month to support our veterans who have given so much for our country. Again thank you and I support this 1,000 percent.

Alderman Johnson

I want to thank everybody for coming here tonight. Thank you for speaking. I would like to say thank you to Mrs. Zompetti for her kind words. I want to make a comment about what was said about my husband in the paper today, and I think that was uncalled for about Johnson's husband is a Viet Nam War veteran and that we would benefit from the higher credit. My husband served in Viet Nam. He just wasn't enjoying Europe he will never talk about Viet Nam either and what went on. To write that I was saddened that the Telegraph could put something like this in the paper to

reference that my husband would benefit. This is about all the veterans that served in wars. It is unfortunate that it is about the veterans that served in the war and that it doesn't comprise all the veterans. In a time of war right now to put something like that in the paper, to say that about my husband I am shocked, and I was appalled this morning and I still am. He served this country, he served it proudly, he was one of the lucky ones that came home, but he will never, ever talk about Viet Nam. He was proud that he served. He was drafted and he was over there.

With that said and I am looking at the analysis that has come in. I believe this was from the Alderman in Ward 1 that wanted this analysis that was given to us is that correct?

Chairman Tollner

Let me clarify that – that was a request I think that the Alderman from Ward 1 had made and this is the information that she received. I don't even think she has received it yet.

Alderman Johnson

This is all well and good these analyses. Alderman Dion said it very eloquently about the money we have spent in this city. We are talking about \$1.3 million in fiber optic, but when you look 5 years out \$1.2 million for our veterans that becomes an issue. Seven million it came out almost on Stellos'. We talked about giving our veterans credit and that becomes an issue. We spent money like water out of the faucet and we don't think twice about it some of the Aldermen, but this becomes a thought in somebody's mind to give back – we are not asking them to give us we are giving back to them. It becomes an issue when we want to give back to anybody in the city. To take we don't question but to give back we think. I wrote this...

Chairman Tollner

Alderman Johnson I don't think it has been an issue with anybody – I want to clarify I don't think anybody..

Alderman Rootovich

I don't think anybody ...

Alderman Johnson

I understand, but I am just making my ...

Chairman Tollner

Anybody on this Board of Aldermen has an issue – I don't want you to leave anybody with the perception that anybody on this Board has an issue.

Alderman Johnson

I am not I am just going off of these analyses. I think it is the right thing to do. I wanted to write this

legislation at the end of the last term, but the time was not enough so I knew it would get stalled so I brought it in this year. Alderman Dion asked me to increase it and I didn't have a problem with that. I hope – of all of my legislation that I have put through – most of it never passes. I am hoping this one will be the one that will pass because it is the right thing to do and it is not about who is writing the legislation it is about the right thing to do. Thank you.

Alderman MacLaughlin

I am not a member of this committee, but I certainly do encourage the committee to make a recommendation that this go to the full Board with a favorable outcome. I am not a veteran, but I have an older brother who has been in the Army for 20 years and I have a sister-in-law who has been serving in the Army for 17 and I have a cousin who has been serving and was in Kuwait for a time and has been in there for 13 years. I have two uncles; one served in the Navy and one served in the Army. Both of those saw duty in Viet Nam. I am in awe of their service, and I certainly am in awe of the experienced servicemen that I see behind us and I have listened to this evening. It is an honor to be able to sit here and listen to that testimony and the many reason for and this is the right thing to do, and I am pleased that I sense the majority of the Personnel Committee is going to adopt a favorable recommendation. Thank you.

Chairman Tollner

I want to thank Maureen Lemieux for providing the information, Mr. Fredette also. One more comment before we vote on this. The amended piece of legislation tonight I think is a good piece of legislation. We did not have this a week ago or a few weeks ago. Again we will pass this legislation tonight. Like the appointments earlier tonight this legislation will go to the full Board of Aldermen probably at the next Board of Aldermen meeting. I think the paper will probably communicate that in an article close to the next Board of Aldermen meeting to let you all know if you want to attend. Then after that legislation is passed, which there is no doubt in my mind that it will be passed, it will affect again your tax bills that come out – Mr. Fredette when are the next tax bills that will come out?

David Fredette

Tape inaudible – speaker away from microphone.

Chairman Tollner

I want to thank everybody that came tonight to provide their comments both tonight and through correspondence.

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE OF O-04-02 AS AMENDED
MOTION CARRIED

Alderman Dion

I want to thank the committee Mr. Chairman. I really appreciate what you did tonight.

Chairman Tollner

I would like to recognize the efforts of a couple of Aldermen especially Alderman Dion and Alderman Johnson for working with the Legal Department and coming up with the amended version. I appreciate it.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you both.

DISCUSSION

Alderman Deane

About 3-4 weeks ago you were the author of a letter sent to the Mayor pertaining to the re-appointment of Betty Lasky to the Planning Board?

Chairman Tollner

Yes I was.

Alderman Deane

Has there been any response from the Mayor's office?

Chairman Tollner

I drafted a memo. Alderman McCarthy made some changes to the memo, but yes that was the intent, Alderman McCarthy and I sending that letter to the Mayor, and I have not heard or been responded to by the Mayor. I will follow up with him tomorrow. I know Alderman McCarthy has had some discussions, but I don't know what the outcome of those discussions were.

Alderman Bolton

In fairness to the Mayor he has been very busy since returning from his extended vacation. He may not have had time to address that.

Chairman Tollner

I will contact the Mayor's office, and if I have any information I will put it in e-mail to the ...

Alderman Deane

Whether you receive information or not can you let me know what you received?

Chairman Tollner

Absolutely.

Alderman Deane

That is all I want to know.

Alderman Johnson

Could you let all of us know please?

Chairman Tollner

Absolutely I will. Is there any further discussion?

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN ROOTOVICH TO ADJOURN

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared closed at 8:55 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large David Rootovich
Committee Clerk Pro Tem