

## COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

September 15, 2008

6:00 PM

Chairman Garrity called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Garrity, Gatsas, Shea, O'Neil, Smith

Messrs.: P. Goucher, C. DePrima, S. Maranto, K. Sheppard

Chairman Garrity addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

10. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for acceptance and expenditure of \$13,843.60 in funds from private fund raising efforts to be used for the Elderly Services Information System Upgrade Project.

Alderman O'Neil moved to approve the amending resolution and budget authorization. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Shea asked do we know where we are going to get the money?

Alderman Smith stated it is right in the communication.

Chairman Garrity called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Garrity addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

3. Communication from Alderman Osborne requesting assistance in securing funds in the amount of \$38,582 for installing playground equipment for children with disabilities.

Alderman O'Neil moved to discuss this item. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Garrity asked are there any ADA monies for this request?

Ms. Pam Goucher, Interim Planning Director, answered yes there is approximately \$71,000 in the account of which about \$7,500 is encumbered for making a bathroom accessible at Beech Street School leaving somewhere in the vicinity of \$63,000.

Chairman Garrity asked Mr. DePrima to come forward and explain what the \$38,000 is going to get us.

Mr. Chuck DePrima, Acting Parks & Recreation Director, stated with the exception of one playground in the City at Derryfield Park, the remaining playgrounds are handicap accessible in that they comply with current ADA standards. The playground that I believe Alderman Osborne is requesting funds to rehabilitate will accommodate somebody who lives in that neighborhood across the street who has a severe disability and cannot access normally accessible playground equipment and that is what the money would buy us.

Chairman Garrity stated I drove by there today. It is pretty much just like all of the other playground equipment.

Mr. DePrima responded yes. It has what is required by the American Disabilities Act, which are the tip downs to get into the playground and transfer points to get onto the playground if you have a moderate to mild disability. I believe the girl who lives across the street has a severe handicap.

Alderman O'Neil asked are you aware...have we ever run into this specific situation before where we have had a request like this?

Mr. DePrima answered not to my knowledge.

Ms. Goucher stated I was going to let the Board know that the equipment that Mr. Osborne is referring to that Chuck gave him a quote on would mirror the equipment at Derryfield Park. That is the only park in the City that has the type of equipment that they are looking to put in this other park.

Chairman Garrity stated Harriman Park is a small park. When you say the same type of equipment, is it the same size?

Ms. Goucher responded I guess Chuck could answer that.

Mr. DePrima stated no, it is nowhere near the size of Derryfield Park but it has the same level of accessibility.

Alderman Gatsas stated let's make that very clear. The expenditure for the handicap accessible equipment at Derryfield Park I think was less than this amount. Not all of the equipment. The section to one side is handicap accessible.

Mr. DePrima responded actually the whole playground is.

Alderman Gatsas stated not the equipment.

Mr. DePrima replied not the equipment but the way that the entire system, including that sway fun, was designed and constructed there are ramps that will actually allow a wheelchair to get all the way across that equipment.

Alderman Shea asked if for instance the little girl were to move or something, is this equipment permanent or is it something that would be flexible enough to move if another request were to come in? Is this something that is permanent?

Mr. DePrima answered it is a permanent installation of playground equipment but it is enjoyed by all kids. The biggest difference between this and any other piece of playground equipment is that they are replacing anything that has stairs with ramps so you have to increase the size of the actual area in order to accommodate those ramps. It is the same equipment. It is just that now a handicapped person can get to it.

Alderman Shea asked and once it is installed, it is permanent. Is that correct?

Mr. DePrima answered it can be removed but it is installed in concrete. It could be demolished and rebuilt but it would be a considerable expense.

Alderman O'Neil asked are we doing the installation ourselves? Is the \$38,000 for the equipment only?

Mr. DePrima answered no. That amount includes furnishing and installing the equipment by the playground manufacturer.

Alderman Shea asked and the money is available through the ADA?

Ms. Goucher answered there is money available. Obviously any that you take out of that account would limit the ability to make accessible bathrooms or put elevators elsewhere in the City but it is available.

Alderman Shea moved to approve the request. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas asked what are we going to do with the rest of the parks in the City?

Mr. DePrima answered leave them as they are until if and when another request of this type comes along.

Alderman Gatsas stated I can tell you there will be one tonight. I can guarantee you that.

Chairman Garrity asked do we have a list of requests for access to those ADA monies?

Ms. Goucher answered my understanding is that other than the encumbrance for the bathroom, there haven't been a lot of requests. This is 2008 monies.

Mr. Sam Maranto, CIP, stated Alderman, as you may be aware we spent several million dollars over the last 15 years on ADA related facilities throughout the City based on the plan that we put together back in 1994. There have not been any requests from individuals other than curb cuts that I am aware of in the last several years.

Chairman Garrity stated this would be my suggestion. I think it is a wise decision to do this but my suggestion would be to have Access Manchester look at this. Eric Sawyer is a representative on that committee. They are in our government book. Maybe we could have them look at it. I know that Eric calls me every once in awhile with ADA issues and things that we need to make adjustments on.

Alderman Shea stated I am not opposed to that but what is the intent of the ADA money? Is it for a project such as this in your opinion or is this something that is not?

Mr. Maranto responded as I indicated before, Alderman, we had a study done of all City facilities and deficiencies relative to ADA years ago and we spent several years spending \$400,000, \$500,000 and \$600,000 per year taking care of those. In the last two years, the number of deficiencies have not been that apparent so we don't fund anything other than curb cuts and this year and last year we only funded \$75,000 with the idea being that we basically addressed most of the issues that were readily visible. That \$75,000 is really set aside should something come up that we need to take care of.

Alderman Shea asked my question though is in your judgment is this an appropriate project?

Mr. Maranto responded it is an eligible activity. Again, as Alderman Gatsas indicated, it does ask the question about once we do this we may have other people come forward with requests as well and accordingly we would have to find additional CDBG funds for those.

Chairman Garrity stated that is the point of me bringing up Access Manchester and maybe having that committee take a peek at it and have a report to us for the next meeting.

Alderman O'Neil stated this is the request before us. We can come up with all of the excuses we want on why we should or shouldn't but we should either vote this up or down in my opinion. I think the world of Mr. Sawyer and we can have him look at it. We can't sit here and say we may have other requests. This is the request before us.

Chairman Garrity called for a vote on the motion to approve a request for \$38,582 to install play equipment for children with disabilities at Harriman Park. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Garrity stated we will take up Item 4 at the next meeting. Apparently there is some paperwork missing.

4. Petition to release and discharge from public servitude Westerly Cameron Street (formerly Union Street) and northerly line of Bourne Avenue (formerly Beech Avenue) submitted by John and Lorraine Buchenauer.

Deputy Clerk Normand stated this does not yet comply with Rule 19 as we have not received the report from Highway, so we would look for a motion to place it on the agenda for a future meeting.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to place this item on the next agenda for the Committee on Community Improvement.

Chairman Garrity addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

5. Sewer abatement request (37 Ashland Street).  
*Note: EPD recommends an abatement in the amount of \$256.50 be granted.*

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to grant the sewer abatement in the amount of \$256.50.

Chairman Garrity addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

6. Communication from Chuck DePrima, Acting Director Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, requesting permission for the Facilities Division to administer CIP Project #511609 roof repairs approved by the BMA on July 8, 2008.

Alderman Smith moved to approve the request. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Chairman Garrity called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Garrity addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

7. Communication from Chuck DePrima, Acting Director Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, requesting additional funds in the amount of \$40,000 to complete the Martineau Park Rehabilitation Project.

Alderman O'Neil moved to discuss this item. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Garrity stated it seems like recently with these parks projects they are all over budget or under budget. I don't know how we are doing it but what we are doing is not working. It is one park after the other. Either it is over budget or it is under budget.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know the history behind this but we have had several parks projects come back for additional funds. Did the consultant miss the number?

Mr. DePrima responded no. Simply the bids came in higher than what was budgeted for the original design.

Alderman O'Neil asked where did that number come from though?

Mr. DePrima answered from the cost estimate book and recent bid prices.

Alderman O'Neil asked are we doing that or is the consultant providing a number?

Mr. DePrima answered the consultant provides that number.

Alderman O'Neil stated I do agree with Alderman Garrity that it seems like we have had several projects in a row that we have had to find additional funding for. Is it the same consultant doing all of our parks?

Mr. DePrima answered yes.

Alderman Gatsas asked who is the consultant?

Mr. DePrima answered Rizzo Tetrotec.

Alderman O'Neil stated in their defense some things have gone crazy like fuel prices, but I don't know if it is enough to affect it to this amount. Maybe in our consultant selection we can make sure that they are giving the best or capable of providing the best prices. I don't know where we are going to get the funding.

Chairman Garrity stated that is a good question. We were dealing with floods last week and we have \$1 million in infrastructure problems over at the Police Station and hopefully FEMA or the insurance company will cover that but in my discussions with the Chief today we will probably be responsible for at least \$100,000 of it. We have some commitments that we have to take care of and the way the reinsurance business is going...if anyone watched the news AIG is not looking too well and they are a reinsurance company; the biggest one in the world. I think we should probably hold off on this until we get a dollar amount on the flood from a week or two ago and then we can discuss it.

Alderman O'Neil asked Chuck, is this bond or cash?

Mr. DePrima answered CDBG money.

Alderman O'Neil asked are there additional CDBG funds to cover this?

Ms. Goucher answered we are looking at the balances on some of the CDBG projects and there may be sufficient funds.

Alderman O'Neil asked Chuck, would it be your intent...were you going to try to get it done this fall or were you going to wait until spring?

Mr. DePrima answered it will begin this fall and finish in the spring.

Chairman Garrity asked so how time sensitive is this?

Mr. DePrima answered it is not extremely critical.

Alderman Gatsas asked can that CDBG money be used for any of the projects that were affected by the floods?

Ms. Goucher answered I am not sure they could.

Mr. Maranto stated CDBG monies cannot be used to supplant what would be considered an ordinary responsibility of the City. If it is in an area with low to moderate income individuals, which is a pretty good size of the City and it would benefit those individuals, then potentially we could utilize some funds to make improvements. I can't give you a direct yes or no right now. If you give me a 'what if' I could look into that.

Alderman Smith stated I just found out this was at Dionne Park. What does this entail? What are you going to do and what type of project is this? Is it benches, trail, lawn?

Mr. DePrima responded it is a complete site rehabilitation for that park which hasn't been redone since the 1970's. It involves removal of pavement, restoration of green space, upgrade of lighting system, irrigation system, landscaping, etc.

Alderman Smith asked how big is this park?

Mr. DePrima answered it is about ¼ acre.

Alderman Shea asked Chuck, did you say that the work hasn't started yet?

Mr. DePrima answered correct, the work hasn't started.

Alderman Shea asked is it possible for you to sit down with the consultant and try to...

Mr. DePrima interjected what we are in the process of doing right now is to bring this in within the budget that was given but I felt it would be worth possibly asking for the additional money to do the project as the scope originally had envisioned.

Alderman Shea asked can you sit down with him and then come back to this Committee and say I have been successful in limiting the amount of whatever and instead of having one quarter acre we may have a little less than that and we are going to fill in with something else and it isn't going to cost as much so that we can tweak it that way?

Alderman Shea moved to table this item. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Chairman Garrity called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Garrity addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

8. CIP Budget Authorization:  
713608 Union Street Drainage Project Start-Up Memo

Alderman Smith moved to approve the CIP budget authorization. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Shea asked where on Union Street is this?

Chairman Garrity stated it is already done.

Mr. Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, stated this is by North Acres and North Bend. This is to accept the 75% FEMA funds for this project.

Alderman Shea stated I know we have one in my ward too that obviously is on hold.

Mr. Sheppard responded we are trying to stay on top of the NH Office of Emergency Management regarding that one as well.

Alderman Shea asked when was this introduced? I was not aware of this particular one.

Mr. Sheppard answered last year I think we came to the Board to accept the Cypress Street funds as well as these funds once we found out that FEMA was going to be funding these projects.

Alderman Shea stated not that I want to get off the subject but does that impact my particular ward in this case?

Mr. Sheppard answered no. Both of them are separate projects that were identified separately through FEMA. The funds are being used here in place of the Cypress Street project.

Alderman Shea asked so would the City still be in a position to fund additional FEMA projects if this were funded? Is that correct or is this going to take as much money as you have available?

Mr. Sheppard answered no. There is still funding for...we have identified funding for the other FEMA project that you are talking about – Cypress Street.

Alderman Shea stated I know that mine has been on the books for almost four years now. I wondered how come this came ahead of it.

Alderman Gatsas stated it is in Ward 1.

Alderman Shea responded is that what it is? That doesn't surprise me.

Mr. Sheppard stated it has nothing to do with what ward it is in. It has everything to do with working with the state.

Chairman Garrity called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Garrity addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

9. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for acceptance and expenditure of \$45,000 in funds to be used for the OYS Substance Abuse Project.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to approve the amending resolution and budget authorization.

#### **TABLED ITEMS**

11. Communication from Chuck DePrima, Acting Director Parks, Recreation and Cemetery requesting funds in the amount of \$10,000 be transferred from the MER account for rust repair on one dump truck.  
*Note: Public Works Department to check with other departments for a truck.*  
(Tabled 8/4/08)

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Chairman Garrity asked has this issue been taken care of Mr. Sheppard?

Mr. Sheppard answered at the last meeting the Committee asked Mr. DePrima and myself to go back and take a look at options. One of the options...well I contacted both Water Works and Airport because we were asked to contact those departments to see if they had a vehicle available. Neither department did. We have a truck that we have funding for to be replaced this year and we are going to be trading in another truck. That is an option. Chuck has taken a look at that. Our

Garage Superintendent needs to take a look at the Parks truck as well as the one we are trading in.

Chairman Garrity asked did you guys work it out or not? You guys were supposed to work it out.

Mr. Sheppard answered not really. The truck we are trading in is a 10-wheeler and the truck he is looking to replace during the winter months he uses it to plow school lots, and a 10-wheeler really isn't the best vehicle for that. Maybe Chuck can...

Mr. DePrima stated the 10-wheeler, although we can work with it, isn't an ideal fit for us because it will have to be stored outside. It won't fit in our garage and all of our other vehicles are automatic transmissions and this is a standard and would require some training by our staff, which is entirely doable.

Alderman O'Neil stated I had to call Mr. Sheppard on another issue and we talked about this. Although it is not ideal, Chuck, one of the issues that was brought before us was it was used to haul rocks and stuff like that. It would adequately serve that purpose.

Mr. DePrima replied absolutely and we would be happy to take it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I guess from Kevin the MER is bond only so there is no \$10,000 to do the repair and you were going to get \$15,000 in a trade-in so I think our only option for now is that they use it to the best of their abilities.

Alderman O'Neil moved to have the Parks & Recreation Department use the 10-wheeler from the Highway Department. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Garrity called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman O'Neil stated I know during the floods the fleet got pushed in many departments. We had some failures at Highway with some fleet issues as well as the Fire Department. Can we get a report for the next meeting? I am very concerned that the fleet...it is a big issue and we haven't been properly funding it but if the two vectors...a sewer vector failed in the floods and then the Fire Department was running reserve pumps that might have been pushed to the limit. I am very, very concerned about the condition of the fleet and how it responded. If we can get some kind of report of the condition of the fleet I would appreciate it.

Chairman Garrity stated that was actually in the CIP folder. I held off on that for this meeting for a couple of reasons. Alderman Gatsas at the last meeting had asked for a report on cash balances from previous years. That has yet to come to this Committee and I felt that with the floods we do have potentially \$1 million of damage at the Police Department so I am holding off on that until we get the final dollar number for the floods.

Alderman O'Neil asked can they provide that information because these two factors greatly affected our ability to address the flooding issues.

Chairman Garrity stated there was a report from Highway, Police and Fire. We will try to discuss it at the next meeting. I already reached out to the Fire Chief about that today.

Alderman Smith asked just to follow-up, Kevin, what was the damage to sewer pipes and drainage? Have you estimated that throughout the City what you would have to go in and restore?

Mr. Sheppard responded Tim Clougherty has been working on that. We are currently investigating a couple of areas - one on Merrimack Street, which is outside the Police Department, and another one at Cemetery Brook that goes through the Valley Street Cemetery. We actually have a camera going through some of the lines trying to determine the extent of the damage. As far as that goes for our sewer system we could be talking \$1 million to \$2 million potentially. Thankfully that is part of the Environmental Protection Division, which is an Enterprise. They are covering those costs right now for investigation. We have an engineer who is going to look at that also. We have had some major damage.

Alderman Smith asked could you provide us a full report?

Chairman Garrity stated I am sure there is going to be a full report probably to the full Board.

12. Communication from Fred Ruscsek, Executive Director of Child Health Services, requesting reconsideration of the Mayor's 12% budget cut of FY2009 CIP allocations to his agency.

This item remained on the table.

13. Communication from Attorney Craig Donais, on behalf of Mrs. Shirley Hoitt, requesting the following:

- Arrange for the reappraisal of Mrs. Hoitt's property in which the situation of the municipal sewerage system is appropriately evaluated; and
- Expedite plans to implement the Cemetery Brook Basin sewer separation project, and more particularly, expedite that portion of the project that would most quickly improve Mrs. Hoitt's situations; and
- Install some temporary measure by which Mrs. Hoitt may avoid future backflow flooding until the more permanent changes anticipated above are implemented.

This item remained on the table.

14. Update from staff regarding potential opportunities for collaboration with the State of New Hampshire in connection with the impending move of the Manchester District Court, if available.

*Note: Additional report attached from Jay Minkarah 7/21/08.*

(Tabled 6/3/08)

This item remained on the table.

15. Communication from Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, proposing the opportunity of leasing versus purchasing vehicles within the FY09' MER budget.

(Tabled 6/3/08)

This item remained on the table.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Gatsas, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee