

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

May 5, 2009

4:30 PM

Chairman Garrity called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

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

Messrs: K. Sheppard, C. DePrima, S. Maranto, T. Soucy, T. Bowen, T. Clougherty

Chairman Garrity addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Sewer abatement request (19 Streamside Drive).
(Note: EPD recommends an abatement in the amount of \$207.36 be granted.)

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman O' Neil, it was voted to approve the abatement request.

Chairman Garrity addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Communication from David Mara, Police Chief, regarding retention of vehicle slated for replacement.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman Garrity addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. Communication from Ronald Robidas, Security Manager/ADA Coordinator, regarding CIP expenditure for ADA training.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to discuss this item.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have had some discussions recently with the Chair of Access Manchester, Eric Sawyer. Eric was asking me questions that I honestly didn't have the answers to and I think it is because our whole ADA approach lies with different pockets. Some are responsible for personal ADA issues. Others are responsible for physical whether it is on-street or building improvements. I am just wondering does anybody know if there is an effort to try to coordinate? We seem to have different folks with different responsibilities with ADA.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to table this item.

Chairman Garrity addressed item 6 of the agenda:

6. Communication from Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, requesting authorization to accept funds in the amount of \$17,425 from the State Department of Environmental Services for Household Hazardous Waste Collection Projects.
(Note: An amending Resolution and budget authorization has been submitted.)

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman Garrity addressed item 7 of the agenda:

7. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, requesting approval on behalf of the Parks & Recreation Department to accept a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to be used towards the 2009 Recreational Trails Program and a grant in the amount of \$58,316 in FEMA reimbursement for repairs of flood damage to the Piscataquog River Bridge.
(Note: Amending Resolutions and budget authorizations have been submitted.)

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to discuss this item.

Alderman Shea asked Kevin, we set aside about \$1.6 million to be applied towards the bridge repairs over at Piscataquog and is this \$58,316 more than that amount or does it lower that amount? Were these funds anticipated for some other problem or project that is already spoken for? In other words, can they be applied or is that something different?

Mr. Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, replied I am not too sure. This is a Parks Department project.

Alderman Smith stated I think I can clarify that. One is damage to the bridge down at the river park from the floods and the other is the Biron Street Bridge over the Piscataquog.

Mr. Chuck DePrima, Acting Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, replied right, it is two separate things.

Alderman O'Neil asked is the one in the park a pedestrian bridge?

Mr. DePrima replied yes, it is.

Alderman Shea stated okay.

Alderman O'Neil asked do we have to come up with any new matches on this grant?

Mr. Sam Maranto, Planning & Community Development Department, replied Alderman, as far as I am aware we are all set and there are no matches for the additional \$25,000.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman Garrity addressed item 8 of the agenda:

8. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, requesting approval on behalf of the Health Department to accept an additional \$729 from the Department of Health and Human Services for CIP # 210109 Homeless Healthcare.
(Note: An amending Resolution and budget authorization has been submitted.)

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman Garrity addressed item 9 of the agenda:

9. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, requesting approval on behalf of the Health Department to accept a grant in the amount of \$123,792 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for CIP # 214509 Homeless Health Care – American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.
(Note: An amending Resolution and budget authorization has been submitted.)

Alderman Gatsas asked is this new stimulus money?

Mr. Timothy Soucy, Public Health Director, replied yes, this is new stimulus money.

Alderman Gatsas asked what can these dollars be used for?

Mr. Soucy replied we contract out the health care for the homeless project the mobile community health team at CMC. This is \$123,000 to be spread over two years. It is about \$62,000 per year. They are going to add a half time nurse to the healthcare for the homeless team and a part time administrative assistant. So none of this money is actually sitting with the City. It is part of the contract with the healthcare for the homeless project.

Alderman Gatsas asked are there any other stimulus dollars coming?

Mr. Soucy replied this is all that we have so far.

Alderman Gatsas asked are you expecting anymore?

Mr. Soucy replied we haven't heard much on the public health side. There are some IT issues that we are looking at for an electronic medical record system to be used with our school health division and some upgrades there but that is all that we have on our plates so far.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman Garrity addressed item 10 of the agenda:

10. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, requesting approval on behalf of the Police Department to accept a grant in the amount of \$2,478 from the NH Department of Safety for the implementation of the NH Clique Campaign program.
(Note: An amending Resolution and budget authorization has been submitted.)

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman Garrity addressed item 11 of the agenda:

11. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, requesting approval on behalf of the Economic Development Office to accept a grant in the amount of \$15,000 from the NH Department of Transportation to conduct an economic development impact study for the proposed expansion of the Manchester Convention Center.
(Note: An amending Resolution and budget authorization has been submitted.)

Alderman Shea asked Leon, are there any matching funds required of this?

Mr. Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, replied no, this is a straight grant.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman Garrity addressed item 12 of the agenda:

12. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, requesting approval on behalf of Manchester Water Works of an amending resolution and bond authorization related to two projects which will require the City to bond the full amount of the projects in order to receive grant funding in an amount equal to 50% of the annual principal and interest payments through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan.
(Note: A Bond Resolution and budget authorization has been submitted.)

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to discuss this item.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am actually in favor of this but I would like to have Tom speak to this to help me understand this. I want to make sure I am reading this right. I am in favor of this project. I know it appeared the EPA working with DES actually did a pretty good job of...this is part of stimulus right?

Mr. Thomas Bowen, Water Works Director, replied yes, it is.

Alderman O'Neil asked is this the way typically, at least on the water side, projects are going? Where you have to commit and then there is a reimbursement. Am I reading that right? Is that typical? It is nationally how they are handling it?

Mr. Bowen replied it is for all water and waste water projects. They are handled exactly the same way.

Alderman O'Neil asked to the best of your knowledge... I don't know if these were your only projects in the queue but they were at least some of the highest priority I think.

Mr. Bowen replied these are the only two that made the initial priority list. There is a possibility there may be additional funds available in the November/December time period but all of it has to be committed by February of next year.

Alderman O'Neil asked does it create the opportunity for future projects? Water Works for example, does it create any hardship that we have to give the funds up front to get reimbursed?

Mr. Bowen replied no, there is a little bit of staff time involved.

Alderman Gatsas asked the only two projects that you have in here Tom are the \$2.5 million project and the \$33,000 project?

Mr. Bowen replied yes.

Alderman Gatsas stated I thought there was money in there for relining...

Mr. Bowen interjected they were on our request but they were low on the priority list. I think the cleaning and lining project was in the 80's out of 264 and we had two or three other projects that we had put on. DES set up a points system and they applied the points system to the project and the projects fell where they did.

Alderman Gatsas stated now, I read this request and it says that there is hope that a low pressure sewer can be installed at the same time.

Mr. Bowen stated the Town of Goffstown is looking maybe to put a sewer in but that has nothing to do with our projects at all.

Alderman Gatsas stated there were great discussions many years ago about running water out past Straw Road. That was always discussed. I don't know if it was ever done.

Mr. Bowen replied no, it was not.

Alderman Gatsas asked why wouldn't that be a priority going into the city of Manchester where this is a Goffstown project?

Mr. Bowen replied the projects that we put in for stimulus funding were to offset some of our in-house capital projects for the year and next year. Also to purchase some equipment to save us money. The small efficiency program that we had at the treatment plant that did get funding. One of the priorities was not expansion to serve new areas unless there was significant hardship. This area of Goffstown is the area along the Piscataquog River that has flooded, I believe, three out of the last five years and there are 230 or so homes in the area and that is what brought it up and gave it the highest of the priorities.

Alderman Gatsas asked is any of this funding coming directly from Water Works?

Mr. Bowen replied no.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to approve this item.

TABLED ITEMS

14. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, requesting on behalf of the Highway Department additional funds in the amount of \$21,000 for Traffic Signal Improvements.
(Tabled 3/31/09)

This item remained on the table.

15. Discussion relative to CIP bond projects.
(Note: Report attached from William Sanders, Finance. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Planning & Community Development, identifying the source of funding for Hackett Hill Development Project CIP # 650300. Report of the Committee on Joint School Buildings attached as per the Committee on 3/31/09. Communication from Pam Goucher, Planning & Community Development, with updated project balances on 4/10/09 and also identifying CIP Project #510807 as available for transfer to contingency. Item tabled 2/17/09.)

This item remained on the table.

16. Report of the Committee on Joint School Buildings, referred by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, recommending that the Committee looks for funding for the School District Life Safety Projects.
(Tabled 2/17/09)

This item remained on the table.

17. Report of the Committee on Joint School Buildings, referred by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, recommending that the Committee looks for funding for the Life Safety (MFD) project recommending sprinkler installation at the Smyth Road, Jewett Street, Gossler, Bakersville, Hallsville and Wilson Street schools.
(Tabled 2/17/09)

This item remained on the table.

18. Report from Mayor's Housing Task Force.
(Note: Referred by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen 12/16/08; Awaiting additional information regarding HOME funds. Tabled 1/06/09.)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Timothy Clougherty, Facilities Division, stated joining Kevin and I tonight is Kevin O'Maley, our new Chief Facilities Manager. I don't know if he has had the opportunity to present in front of the Committee or not and I wanted to introduce him. We were here a couple of months ago to discuss the potential for a new Highway facility. A couple of years ago we were awarded monies for design services. We had done some preliminary work through CDM. We are now faced with the opportunity to move forward. As we had reported, we went out on the street with a Request for Proposals for qualifications and we have completed that process. We received thirteen applications, interviewed five different firms and it came down to one firm that we have as a tentative selection. We are negotiating with them right now as far as what the scope of services could be in moving forward with a new Highway facility. Some of the things that we are talking about are initial tasks. We will be interviewing some of our employees and making sure we understand exactly what the program is. We will be getting an exact size for the garage areas as well as administrative office areas. We will be laying out different areas on the site where it would fit such as salt sheds and things like that. We will be looking at different traffic patterns. We are also going to be verifying the subsurface conditions that exist. We have environmental evaluations that have been done that we will be verifying. We are here to talk to the Committee tonight about moving forward as we had recommended a couple months ago.

Alderman Shea asked Tim, on the initial designing and other blue prints, is that taking into consideration, adding other departments to the site or is it just filling in with what the Highway needs might be?

Mr. Clougherty replied we have charged the design contract with the scope that would include expansion of our garage area to accommodate other maintenance needs that the City currently has, as may be allowed. What we have asked them to do is to make sure that we interview and tour those maintenance facilities. We have to understand what the

requisites would be should the Board choose to incorporate those onto the Maple Street property and to also provide us with some alternatives that would allow for additions in the future, should the real estate allow us to do that and should the Board so choose to do that in the future.

Alderman O'Neil asked Tim, regarding the comment you just made, I speak for myself, I have been an advocate of a centralized vehicle maintenance facility in the city. I don't know that you have formally received direction from the Board on that. I think it has been discussed many times over the years. Is that one of the items you are talking about?

Mr. Clougherty replied exactly.

Alderman O'Neil asked but at some point you would need the Board to say that we want a centralized vehicle maintenance facility?

Mr. Clougherty replied if that was the desire of the Board.

Alderman O'Neil asked when you mentioned alternatives for additions, are you talking about the office space part or the mechanical maintenance part or just general storage?

Mr. Clougherty replied probably for both as prudent homework. Right now we are specifically talking about interviewing what the Fire Department's needs are relative to vehicular maintenance. All the other vehicle maintenance things that the City does on its own that would be Police and Parks as well.

Alderman O'Neil asked but if we physically just because of a need for space, wanted to move a department into the office building that could happen, correct?

Mr. Clougherty replied it all depends which department we are talking about. Real estate wise we could have some complications. It depends on the size of the department.

Alderman O'Neil stated let's say for discussion sake a small to medium size department.

Mr. Clougherty replied we would add another floor to the building. Administratively I think it could be accomplished. Parking wise and things like that those are things...

Alderman O'Neil interjected would that determination need to be made sooner than later?

Mr. Clougherty replied it is our anticipation that the current site will accommodate the Highway Department and any other added departments, yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated I know for instance, I believe the thought is to move the officers from the Clay Street building to there. That is part of your own department.

Mr. Clougherty replied that is part of our initial charge. We would be liquidating the 275 Clay Street property.

Alderman Smith asked if this all goes through, how are you going to utilize your equipment and material because it is going to be on the same site? Have you made provisions for that on how you are going to operate?

Mr. Sheppard replied we have looked at that. We have looked at that with a previous consultant and that is one of the charges of the proposed consultant as well. Our thoughts are that we would be building on the east end of our site. Once that is constructed we would move operations over to that end of the site and then demolish or reuse an existing building. It would be difficult. We would have to find off-site parking probably during construction but we feel it could be accomplished.

Alderman Smith stated there used to be an asphalt plant there. I know the Highway Department made their own asphalt there at one time. Is that clean now? Do you know what the situation might be now with contaminants?

Mr. Sheppard replied we have had a phase one and a phase two environmental study done on our site. I don't anticipate that the environmental studies will be a major problem for that site based on what we plan.

Chairman Garrity asked Kevin, is it known yet if that existing site will be okay for centralized maintenance for the City or is that part of the reason why you want to go out for another consultant?

Mr. Sheppard replied that would be a part of the study. One of the things we really want to look at is how do we get this thing constructed? Can we do it in three phases or four phases? I know an Alderman has mentioned that. Can we phase this over time, over two, three or four phases? Tying down a cost of a new facility, right now we have numbers around \$25 million. That is a conceptual, off the cuff, number that is based on square footage and different uses. I think if we can bring it to a point where we can better define the cost, we will be able to come back to this Committee and to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and have a better idea of exactly what type of money we are talking about and what type of funding, over time, we would need to get this constructed.

Alderman Gatsas stated Kevin, the Police Chief is sitting back there and he is listening to a \$25 million expansion and they don't have place to store records. I guess my question and my problem is, when I look at it, we have got \$2 million that we are going to invest in design, roughly. That is what is available.

Mr. Sheppard stated one million is available.

Alderman Gatsas stated I look at this project and say, if we aren't doing this project and I think that if I talk with Bill Sanders today, he tells me that for a \$22 million bond project it is \$1.8 million in debt service. I kind of look at this and say that if this is my company, I understand what the financial constraints are today, why am I going to spend \$1 million when I know I don't have \$1.8 million to pay for it? We can come up with a design; it can sit on the shelf for three years and never do anything. Police is sitting back there saying when do I get a bite of the apple because we don't have enough room. I think it makes more sense to sit down and attempt to do what we did with equipment purchases when we had everybody in a room and we ask how can we make sense of this? Can we find another piece of land that is adjacent to the Highway Department and build up more stories because it is less expensive to go up than out? There have to be some ideas that we can talk about, look at and conceptually see before we spend a million dollars. If we don't have the money to build the building for the debt service than we are going to spend a million dollars and it is going to sit around for two or three years. I would rather see us take that money and not that looking to a design of a building isn't important...I understand that the Highway Department is in as bad shape as the Police Department but I think that we need to take a look at where we are going as a City and how many different \$22 million projects we are going to try and absorb and not have the money to pay for them.

Mr. Sheppard replied I don't disagree with that thought. My only concern is that the Highway Department has been in need of reconstruction of being rebuilt for probably 15 years. We have talked about it for at least that long and I think many Aldermen are familiar with that. We have the opportunity as Tim mentioned to move forward. We have looked at a lot of other sites, actually we have looked at every large parcel in the city and we basically come back to the Highway Department as being the parcel for the Highway Department. I don't disagree that maybe we should be looking at other departments as well but I know this site will work. It is not the best site but it will work for the Highway Department. I understand that money may not be there to construct the Highway Department right now but we want to bring the design to maybe 30% or 40%. At that point, those plans, at worst case, could get shelved. I don't think we are going to lose anything. I don't think we are going to lose any design costs if we shelved those plans at that point. I believe at that point those plans could be pulled off the shelf and brought to a final design when the time was right. This will allow us to identify those costs. Identify the potential of phasing and to me get this project off the ground. I feel, as in the past, if we don't get this project off the ground, it is not going to happen.

Alderman Gatsas asked 70% of the project design is what cost?

Mr. Sheppard replied I am talking about 30% to 40%.

Alderman Gatsas asked at 30% or 40% what is that cost?

Mr. Clougherty stated we are probably going to be somewhere between \$500,000 and \$700,000.

Alderman Gatsas asked if this was your company you would put \$700,000 on the shelf and let it sit there?

Mr. Sheppard replied if it was my company I would probably have a better idea of future revenues and when I would be able to fund a project such as this. So I would, subject to future funding being there, which I am hoping it is...the City is at a point where our facility needs to be replaced and it needs to be replaced sooner than later.

Alderman Gatsas stated if my memory serves me right, when this Board is talking about budgets you are usually in the audience so I would hope that at some point you are listing to the discussions and there is no question...certainly if there is a position in the bonding that there is a million dollars that leaves for debt service that certainly that wouldn't replace it but my understanding is that doesn't happen for three or four years. To spend \$700,000 today to say maybe there is a spot for a million dollars in debt service four years from now, when you have Police sitting back there saying, okay when do I get a bite at the apple. As I said to you when we sat down together and collectively said let's bond the equipment over a ten year period and let's get it done because everybody needs to participate, I think we came up with a quality product. I think that we need to get everyone together and see what we can do to make sure that all departments have the availability of space. I don't know where the money is going to come from to do the project. Why would we spend \$700,000 if we don't have the money in the budget to do the project in two or three years?

Alderman O'Neil asked if we were ahead of the game and we had actually gone on to design, I don't know if I picked this up from Tim or Kevin at the School Board, but you have actually seen construction prices if we were out on the street today, come in considerably lower than estimates, am I correct?

Mr. Clougherty replied certainly.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know if that is just applicable to building construction; it might be applicable to road construction as well.

Mr. Clougherty replied it is all across the construction industry.

Alderman O'Neil asked Tim, if you had to throw a number out what would it be? Is it 2%, 5%, 7%? I know you have actually bid some projects fairly recently.

Mr. Sheppard replied I would say it is at least 10% to 20%.

Alderman O'Neil stated if we are out we could actually save some money on this thing now. I know we are a long way off. I happened to be there for another meeting and happened to walk through the garage a week or two ago and I will tell you that those mechanics at that facility on Maple Street deserve a great amount of high praise from the elected officials. They do great work with the worst facility to operate in. I am actually more concerned about their safety than I ever was, after walking through there. I will tell you that all it is going to take is a serious injury or a fatality by one of the mechanics hurt because we don't have the proper facility. We can forget about the \$1.8 million debt service. The safety of our employees working on the equipment needs to be addressed. I have to believe there is also an operation value by having a facility that is a modern day facility. It would allow us some efficiencies. As I said earlier I am a firm believer in a centralized maintenance facility and I don't remember reading this in the previous work but there has to be by building a modern day facility some significant energy savings. That is certainly not a very energy efficient building. My opinion, and this is only my opinion, is that there may be another round of stimulus money and if we can get this thing moving along than maybe we can take a shot at getting it in. There is money to build fire stations right now. We are not in a position to do that but there is stimulus money to build fire stations today. Finally, regarding other opportunities, I don't know if Alderman Gatsas was going down the road of putting Public Works and Police together and I don't want to speak for him if that wasn't his intent, I can see some logistic challenges with that. There may be some opportunities we should learn from some of the recent storms that our primary emergency operation center is next door to the police station. There became some challenges to that with the floods. Maybe we do need for the good of the citizens an off site. I know we have the back up at the Rines Center but even that is a crude set up. I know way back there was talk about, when we were talking about building the new clubhouse at Derryfield, putting Parks and Recreation merged there. I am talking physically merged in for office space. Therefore that space was rentable. I remember we can go back and look at the buildings but there was a discussion about that when we were building the new clubhouse. Some insurance office or something would love to get a hold of the office space where Parks is. I think there are a lot of opportunities. I like keeping things moving. We need to be ready to strike. We are not going to be able to get into a stimulus discussion if we don't start moving forward with something. I believe there is an opportunity there. I appreciate the efforts to sit here and have the discussion about moving forward.

Chairman Garrity stated I have also walked through that garage. It is in pretty bad shape. I think we can all agree that \$25 million is not in the crystal ball for the near future when it comes to budget. I think Alderman Gatsas has a point. We are going to spend \$700,000 and we don't know when we are going to be able to afford to bond \$25 million for a new facility. I don't deny that that facility needs replacing. Those mechanics do a great job and they are working like cavemen in there. It is a pretty bad place but where

we are going to get the \$25 million for the \$1.8 million in bonding, I don't know. I don't see it down the road for at least a couple more years. That is just my opinion.

Alderman Gatsas stated Alderman O'Neil, you were on the right track. I had this conversation on Friday with Kevin when this discussion came up and I said that maybe we need to take a look. There is land that is on the other side of the Highway Department that is owned by Water Works. There is a carpeting place on the other side of that project. There is a lot of land in that vicinity that certainly going up any architect will tell you... The Police Department needs as much square footage on the first floor as probably the Highway Department, which is not very much because most of their operations are on upper floors. If you went up five stories and instead of building a 30,000 square foot building you could build a 50,000 square foot building where you can have everything centralized. It is just something that we should have a conversation about because the cost is not going to go up on a double cost. If we send out this plan and spend \$700,000 without someone giving us a conceptual of whether it can or can't work and whether we should or we shouldn't do it... It especially comes down to what money we have available to pay for a project. I think it is important that we have those discussions before we spend money if we are not too sure that we are going to be able to have anything that is not just going to sit on the shelf. I have walked through that garage and everyone is absolutely correct. It is deplorable. There is no question but talking about it and having someone design it is not going to change the condition until we have the money. Then we can say we can move forward and build something. I think, again as we did when we did the vehicle buy, we ought to sit down and maybe have someone in the room that can tell us that we are all washed up or the things that you need from a Highway Department, a Police Department, don't work or don't go together. I just sit there and say okay, if we do a \$22 million project here, how much longer is Police going to have to wait? I know they are looking for space. They don't have enough space now for records. The conditions that they have aren't exactly top shelf either. All I am saying is that I am not opposed to looking at it. I just think that before we spend money we should have an idea or something to broaden the horizon and move forward for less money. Obviously the building that Police has you can move Information systems in there and a bunch of other smaller departments. I think that was on the plate even before I got to this Board, when they were talking about building a new police station. I think conceptually somebody needs to sit down and have those conversations.

Alderman Shea stated what I am hearing is that the repair area for the Highway is really in bad shape.

Mr. Sheppard replied correct. That would be our highest priority.

Alderman Shea stated that should be our first priority. In other words to me before we start spending \$500,000 or \$700,000 for a design, we should take care of that problem immediately. If somebody is going to be hurt or injured or if there is lack of equipment

in that area because of the type of maintenance that is required and so forth, to me I would think that is our first priority. When someone sits down they should be saying what are we going to do about this facility now? Rather than waiting three years from now. That is what I find appalling. We should do something now to help that situation. When we start examining does it make more sense to put \$500,000 or \$700,000 into a design for a facility when the very existence of employees are jeopardized by, I wouldn't say they would be condemned by the Department of Labor, but I am just saying shouldn't we try to do something in our thinking to help these people? That is where I am focusing. Before I would approve anything of that magnitude, I really do feel that we should do something in that regard.

Mr. Sheppard stated we have held off on a lot of projects. For example all the windows in our building are single pane windows and they have been the same windows since late 1940's when it was built. Our facility could use a few million in upgrades just to make it current for today's standards. It has always been put off. I am not too sure there will ever be a day that someone will come forward and say there is \$22 million or \$25 million to rebuild the Highway Department. I think we need to be at a point to be ready to move forward should the funds be available. Perhaps we can run on parallel tracks as Alderman Gatsas had mentioned. There is no reason we can't move forward with the Highway Department design as well as at the same time if we move in a faster manner looking at the Police facility and looking at their needs. That is going to cost money to define the Police Department's needs. I know there was another Committee that was looking at the needs of Police and Fire in the future. I don't think there is any reason that we can't be looking at all three. The first phase of the Highway Facility is going to be talking to the employees, talking to us, and taking a look at our space needs. The same thing needs to happen with the Police Department. Someone needs to be sitting down with them and interviewing them and taking a look at where they are now and where they need to be in the future. They can happen at the same time, I believe, on parallel paths and perhaps it turns out that it is in the same area as the Highway facility. So I don't disagree with Alderman Gatsas. I think they can run parallel at the same time.

Alderman Shea stated maybe my question is inappropriate but is it possible for someone to design a project that would initially allow for improvements to the facility that is badly in need of improvements, by using less design money and more construction of a facility that would fit into ultimately a project that would also involve other types of elements to it? This is what I am trying to say...

Mr. Sheppard interjected I understand the question.

Mr. Clougherty stated I understand exactly what you are asking, Alderman, and it seems like a very logical approach but the monies that we are talking about for design and construction we are really not going to be able to solve any of the major problems that we

have at Highway by redirecting those design monies towards construction. Does that answer your question?

Alderman Shea stated it probably does but I don't like the answer.

Chairman Garrity asked it is \$1 million, right? That is in the account?

Mr. Clougherty replied there is currently \$2 million. The Mayor's budget proposes bringing that down to \$1 million.

Chairman Garrity asked has anyone at Highway gone out to get a price to say how much it is going to put some lifts in the garage?

Mr. Clougherty replied we actually have two lifts that we have acquired that we are going to be installing.

Mr. Sheppard stated from what I understand we have height limitations in our garage as well so putting in heavy equipment lifts...

Mr. Clougherty interjected these are the lighter equipment. They can do three-quarter tons and sedans. They are not going to provide all of the lifting needs that a modern garage would for our five-ton dump trucks, our refuse packers and some of our other heavy equipment.

Alderman O'Neil stated I could never support spending one penny to improvements at the existing building. I couldn't support that at all. If there were some safety issues that we could address immediately than maybe. That building is...what...70 years old? As Kevin said it has not had a penny put into it over that time period. It is tired. It doesn't meet the modern day needs of a true Public Works Department. Alderman Gatsas and I can have a difference of opinion on when money may become available to build the facility but at some point there will be money available. It will be a good time fiscally for the City to build the facility. Right now, if you use Tim's 10%, we would save \$2.5 million off the estimate, if we were building it today. I think we need to keep something going and be in position to move when the opportunity is there whether it is the City's fiscal situation that changes or again I believe that we may be able to identify some stimulus money moving forward.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Smith, it was vote that the Highway Department move forward. Aldermen Garrity and Gatsas voted in opposition.

Mr. Sam Maranto, Planning & Community Development Department, stated essentially we are seeking approval from the CIP Committee and the full Board to accept a grant that we received from the Workforce Opportunity Council. We would like to get that on the

May 19th so we can have permission to authorize and accept that. The amending resolutions and start-ups are here but we would like to have them approved on the 19th.

Chairman Garrity asked is there a match for the City?

Mr. Maranto stated just allowances which we have present funding from Neighborhood Pride from 2009 for materials and supplies. It is a minor amount. It is about \$5,000 or \$6,000. That would be with CDBG funds that we have already. We need to have it approved by the 19th.

City Clerk Matt Normand stated if the Committee so desires we can bring the report in tonight and the resolutions and budget authorizations would come into Finance on May 19th.

Alderman O'Neil asked for the project description, do we have to meet specifically as it is described here, the memo that was handed out today?

Mr. Maranto stated the Workforce Opportunity Grant.

Alderman O'Neil stated it says that the program includes Neighborhood Pride in which participants work on beautification projects along city right-of-ways, parks and the academic academy geared towards youth with cultural, language barriers or learning disabilities. My questions is, if I wanted to see all the work done in parks, is that allowed under this? I saw work on Commercial Street. I personally didn't think it was the appropriate place for them to be working. It was a safety issue to begin with. I believe they belong in our parks throughout the neighborhoods of the City.

Mr. Maranto stated the grant calls for several different locations. If that is the desire of the Board I guess we could do that.

Alderman O'Neil asked what are the locations because I don't have that info?

Mr. Maranto stated we are working with Renie Denton at the Community Resource Center. We have a couple of crews. We have younger kids who work in the parks because of concerns of safety. Those are 14 and 15 year old youths. The youths at 16 and older would be working on right-of-ways. We have worked on Canal Street, as you said, in the past. We are looking at a couple other areas to be identified. There are two components. The last two years, as you know, we have done basically the beautification program. We also have another program geared towards immigrants and low income youth that have language, cultural barriers or learning disabilities and they are going to be learning ESL/GED preparation, job search.

Alderman O'Neil stated I have no problem with that part of it. My issue is, the portion of young people that are out working, where are they working?

Mr. Maranto stated we do have latitude with that, Alderman. If you do have a concern about certain areas we would assess that.

Alderman O'Neil stated I would rather, from a safety standpoint, they be in parks not on the right-of-way. There was absolutely no safety taken into consideration last year on Canal Street. Kids are working out in the middle of the street. At an event that just went on, there were police officers down there setting up barricades and none of that happened during this project. I believe we can accomplish the same goals and meet everything. We need to get them out of the right-of-ways. I don't think that the necessary funds are there to provide the safety for them in the right-of-ways. We can't hire police officers to stand there. Get them in the parks or wherever. I don't know if there are restrictions for working in parks throughout the city but I think in most wards of the City they could be doing some work. I think back to the old days of the Workreation program, which I don't know if that is what we were thinking of with Chuck, but they used to be in the parks. That is where I personally would rather see them, instead of the right-of-ways.

Mr. Maranto stated there are some restrictions about how much work they do but we will work with Parks to determine locations.

Alderman O'Neil asked are you telling me that we can make a commitment tonight and they won't be working in the right-of-ways? I think the needs are in the parks and I think it is safer in the parks.

Chairman Garrity stated how about we get a list for the Board members of where they are going to be working. Can you do that Sam?

Mr. Maranto stated we have also done some public facilities as well that we have made improvements to.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to accept the grant.

13. Communication from Bruce Thomas, Engineering Manager, requesting approval to utilize funds in the amount of \$35,110 from CIP #713206 (South Willow Street/South Maple Street Intersection Improvements) to pay for a portion of the remaining local share of the Candia Road Project.
(Tabled 3/31/09)

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

Alderman Shea stated I am wondering....

Chairman Garrity stated I think we should probably leave this one for the CIP budget meeting for next week. It would be my suggestion to leave them all for that meeting if that is alright with the Aldermen.

Alderman O'Neil stated I know we received a communication from Ken Edwards. Is that for next week or is that for tonight?

Chairman Garrity stated I would believe that would be discussed with the CIP budget. I think that is a budget item and that is what we are going to be doing next Tuesday night.

Alderman O'Neil stated I happened to see Mr. Edwards in the audience. I know we are running out of time. Will that item be brought up next week?

Chairman Garrity replied yes. I just want to stick to one item for next Tuesday because it is the budget and we don't want to be all over the map, if that is alright.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to retable item 13.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee