

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

April 21, 2009

Upon Recess of BMA

Mayor Guinta called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen M. Roy, Gatsas, Sullivan, J. Roy, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Ouellette

Absent: Alderman Murphy

3. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2007 and 2009 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Two Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars (\$1,239,624) for the FY2009 CIP 711109 Annual Bridge Rehabilitation Program/Design Nazaire Biron Bridge.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of One Million Two Hundred Thirty-Nine Thousand Six Hundred Twenty-Four Dollars (\$1,239,624) for the 2009 CIP 711109 Annual Bridge Rehabilitation Program/Design and Construction Nazaire Biron Bridge.”

“Amending the FY2009 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) for the FY2009 CIP 713709, Intersection Improvement Project.”

“Rescinding a Resolution “Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for 2009 CIP 712009, Elm Street Mast Arm Replacement Project.”

On motion of Alderman M. Roy, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to waive reading of the Resolutions.

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted that the Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled.

4. Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the 2009 CIP 713709, Intersection Improvement Project.”

On motion of Alderman M. Roy, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to waive reading of the Bond Resolution.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman M. Roy, it was voted that the Bond Resolution ought to pass and layover.

5. Appropriating Resolution:

“Resolution ‘Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2010, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of said program’.”

On motion of Alderman M. Roy, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to waive reading of the Appropriating Resolution.

On motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted that the Appropriating Resolution ought to pass and layover.

On motion of Alderman M. Roy, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to refer the FY2010 CIP budget resolution to a public hearing at 6 PM on Monday, May 4, 2009 at Memorial High School.

6. CIP Budget Authorizations:

711109	Annual Bridge Rehab. Program Design-Nazaire Bridge
713107	Granite Street Reconstruction – Phase 3
713709	Intersection Improvement Project

Alderman O'Neil moved that the budget authorizations be approved subject to the final adoption of related resolutions. Alderman M. Roy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated I know that these projects are very vital to the City and I know that there is obviously a lot of stimulus money that everyone wants to talk about. Seeing that these projects are shovel ready, has anybody looked into possibly getting some of this stimulus money to take care of these projects so we might find other projects we could do with our money?

Mr. Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, stated as others have, we have been taking a hard look at all of the stimulus money. The NH DOT Commissioner has done a very good job spending the stimulus money on state highways and I say that because I wish more of that money came down to the City. I did speak to the Mayor and I did express my concern to the NH DOT regarding that. They are funding three different types of projects: TE, Bridge Aid (State), as well as Highway Aid. Highway Aid we are not eligible for. Bridge Aid (State), the Nazaire Biron Bridge is actually getting an 80% federal share on that and the City is paying 20%. For TE we did not have any projects on that list. I understand why the Commissioner of the DOT is funding the way he is. The legislation came down that it is supposed to go to existing programs and funds and that helps the ten year plan. The City is getting money in other areas, such as Transit. I believe they are moving up the Airport access road and things like that. I didn't mean that as a slight to the NH DOT Commissioner by any means. He has done a great job in moving the money through existing programs. We have looked at that and there are no funds available for us.

Alderman O'Neil stated from reading some articles in various government magazines, unfortunately we are not unique. This is common throughout the country that transportation money just didn't make its way down to municipalities.

Mr. Sheppard responded correct. I have talked to other public works people in other states here in New England and it is the same. Again, I think by what the Commissioner has done he is helping to move other projects in the state's ten year plan so we may see other projects in future years a little bit quicker than what we are right now. Again, I am not slighting what he did. I think he did a good job in moving that money forward and taking care of a lot of the state roads. It is too bad that we are not seeing a lot of that. One area of the stimulus money that we are looking at and working with the Mayor's Office on is the City I believe is getting \$1.1 million in energy efficiency funds and we are working to put together a plan for that right now.

Alderman DeVries asked so Kevin since we are only getting 80% of the cost to repair at least the bridge are you recommending that we put this project off? I mean we are in a tough budget and since we have to come up with 20% maybe we shouldn't be doing this project this year.

Mr. Sheppard replied my answer is that we agree with the recommendation. We did get \$1.66 million in additional funds from the Granite Street project that were not needed. That money will go towards Nazaire Biron. Last year it was a project that we felt should have been done and this year we feel it is a necessary project to move forward.

Alderman DeVries asked is this a red listed bridge?

Mr. Sheppard answered yes it is.

Alderman DeVries stated there is one other red listed bridge in the City. Is it Queen City?

Mr. Sheppard responded I believe this may be the only red listed bridge right now. The next bridge we are looking at is by the post office – the one over the railroad.

Alderman DeVries stated it is not the same type of bridge. So in your opinion this is a red listed bridge and certainly of a high enough priority that we ought to find, as we did, the extra dollars left from the Granite Street project and take care of this bridge?

Mr. Sheppard answered correct and I just want to clarify that when I say red listed that doesn't mean the bridge is unsafe. It is a safe bridge. It just needs to be repaired.

Alderman Lopez asked what was wrong with that bridge? We did two other bridges. That was the last bridge we did wasn't it? I mean what did they do wrong that we have to put this money into it?

Mr. Sheppard answered it was about 12 years ago and actually back then it wasn't a full redecking of the bridge. Basically we are going to be digging out the full decking of that bridge and reflooring that whole deck. The last time that bridge was worked on they dug out any concrete or areas of concern, which gave it an additional ten to twelve years of life. Now we are at the point that that full decking should be replaced.

Alderman Lopez asked in your professional opinion, I mean I know you have the money but is somebody pushing that this be done?

Mr. Sheppard answered no nobody is pushing. This is something that we have actually brought forward. I don't believe any Alderman or anybody else has pushed us to move this project forward. This is something that we believe should be funded. I understand the economic times. Could it go another year? Possibly. You never know until you actually take up the asphalt and take a look at the bridge deck but this is an important project to move forward.

Alderman Lopez asked it is not going to fall down?

Mr. Sheppard replied no I don't believe it is going to fall down.

Alderman Gatsas stated I would ask Alderman Lopez to take a ride under it and go slow and look up. Don't go too slow though.

Alderman Shea stated I just want to mention that we are getting 80% and we were moved up because we had that 20%. Like I said a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. I don't know if Alderman Lopez is going to go and become a bird under the bridge.

Mayor Guinta called for a vote on the motion that the budget authorizations be approved subject to the final adoption of related resolutions. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

TABLED ITEMS

7. CIP Budget Authorizations: (for extensions)

212708	New Citizen Assimilation Initiatives-Planning
214008	Cities Readiness Initiative-State
214108	Naccho Accreditation Improvement-Health
410008	Homeland Security Grant-Fire
511008	Martineau Park-Parks
610408	Concentrated Code Enforcement-Building
611408	Manchester Micro Enterprise Program-MicroCredit
611608	Neighborhood Pride-Business Incentive-MEDO
710508	School Sidewalk Program-Highway
810008	ADA Compliance-Planning
810108	Community Development Initiative-Planning
810808	Vista Initiative Program-Health
210607	School Based Dental Services-Health
412407	Public Safety Interoperability-Fire/Police
412607	Security Fiber Connections Project-Fire
510907	Parks Improvement Project-Parks/Pisc. Trail Phase III
511407	Black Brook Dam Removal (Watershed Restoration) Project
511607	Bass Island Flood Damage
611507	Revolving Loan Fund-MEDO
710807	School Sidewalk Program-Highway
710907	Annual Bridge Maintenance-Highway
810707	Community Development Initiative-Planning
810807	Master Plan Support-Planning
810907	Neighborhood Revitalization/CBD Impr.-Planning
410006	Mobile Data Terminal/AVL'S-Fire
612406	Neighborhood Revitalization Program-MEDO
810306	Economic Development/Master Plan-MEDO/Planning

810606 ADA Compliance-Planning
650300 Hackett Hill Development-MEDO

On motion of Alderman Garrity, duly seconded by Alderman M. Roy, it was voted to remove Item 7 from the table.

Alderman Garrity stated I would like to move the CIP budget authorizations forward with the exception of 650300, Hackett Hill Development – MEDO. That is going to be discussed at the next CIP meeting.

Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman M. Roy stated I have a parliamentary question for the Chairman of CIP. Doesn't it need to be extended and referred?

Alderman Garrity responded yes just the last item.

Alderman M. Roy stated I agree with what you are trying to do. I just want to make sure it is done properly.

Mayor Guinta called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee