

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**February 3, 1998
Mayor and All Aldermen**

**Upon Recess of BMA
School Administration Bldg.
196 Bridge Street**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were thirteen aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, Shea,
O'Neil, Girard, Rivard, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann.

Absent: Alderman Pariseau

3. 1995 CIP Budget Authorization:
7.40370 Sanitary Landfill Closure - Revision #4

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman clancy, it was voted to approve the budget authorization.

4. 1998 CIP Budget Authorization:
7.30104 Downtown Revitalization Elm Street Reconstruction -
Revision #1

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Girard, it was voted to approve the budget authorization.

5. 1997 CIP Budget Authorizations:
2.20725 NCADD Carpet Replacement
2.50606 MEH Operational & Rehabilitation Assistance -
Revision #2

Alderman Clancy moved to approve the budget authorizations subject to final adoption of the related resolutions. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

In response to questions from Alderman Shea, Mr. MacKenzie advised the NCADD was an alcohol and drug center.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote. The motion carried.

6. Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$1,250,000) for capital improvements in the water supply and distribution areas.”

On motion of Alderman O’Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to read by title only and it was so done.

Alderman Pinard moved that the Bond Resolution ought to pass and lay over. Alderman O’Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

7. Resolutions:

“Amending the 1998 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for Respect Committee Activities and Planning.”

“Amending the 1997 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds for the 1997 CIP 2.20725 NCADD Carpet Replacement.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,500.00) from Contingency to the Meet Me In NH Program.”

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman O’Neil, it was voted to read by titles only, and it was so done.

Alderman Sysyn moved that the Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Rivard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

TABLED ITEM

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to remove the following item from the table for discussion.

8. Communication from Roland Gamelin, President of Riverfest, Inc., seeking the City's aid with their financial obligations.
(Tabled 1/20/98)

Mr. Clougherty advised that over the last couple of years the weather had not cooperated with Riverfest and they've had some problems with respect to meeting some of their obligations. Two of the obligations that they owe the City are with respect to Police Department coverage for the Riverfest celebrations for this past year and the year before. The original request from Riverfest was to write off the situation. On Friday Deputy Robinson and he spoke with Roland Gamelin and came up with the following arrangement:

Riverfest will pay the City \$15,000. immediately which will take care of about two-thirds of what they owe the city for services provided by the Police Department for the last two years. Riverfest with a little luck will have good weather this year and then will make good not only on this year's Riverfest but what the outstanding balance will be.

Mr. Clougherty noted that they were not recommending that anything be written off at this time, but simply to extend the time for the Riverfest Committee. Mr. Clougherty noted that they had spoken with Chief Driscoll and it appeared to be acceptable to all parties. Mr. Clougherty noted that it was his understanding that a check for \$15,000 had already been processed and the city will be receiving that soon.

Alderman O'Neil questioned the 1996 revenue shortfall asking who made up the difference, did it have to come from within the police department budget. Mr. Clougherty responded no, the appropriations are what they are, if there is a shortfall in the revenues that will affect your fund balance, but \$5,000. was not expected to have any significant impact, and the audit report showed a reasonable fund balance for the last couple of years. Mr. Clougherty noted that the parties were talking and it was felt that Riverfest is something important to the city it does bring in a lot of economic activity and at this time if we can provide a little bit of accomodation for them to help without penalizing the police department's expenditure side then let's do that. The other thing too is that the police

department is going to work closely with Riverfest Committee this year to make sure that they get all the services that they need and make sure that those are provided officially so they think should work out pretty well, they were going to change the procedures a little bit and that was agreed to as well.

Alderman Hirschmann recommended that the item be referred to the Committee on Accounts so they could keep tabs on this during the calendar year.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to refer the item to the Committee on Accounts. Alderman Wihby seconded the motion.

Alderman Rivard stated in 1996 there was \$10,000 worth of police service provided to the Riverfest, asking if that was the total bill, the full amount that was due to the police department. Mr. Clougherty responded affirmatively. Alderman Rivard commented that this was carried to 1997. Mr. Clougherty concurred. Alderman Rivard stated in 1997 they created another \$12,000 deficit so they had \$22,000. Mr. Clougherty concurred. Alderman Rivard questioned the police department having resources to pay for this noting the officers were paid, or if it was paid from somewhere else. Mr. Clougherty responded stated he was talking about two separate pieces of money. The first year, that was the year there was a contract dispute so what was anticipated by Riverfest to pay, what they appropriated to pay, was not sufficient to cover it because they had to provide the police protection through overtime because they had to call in off duty officers to cover because of the strike situation. So that kind of effected where Riverfest was with respect to the problem.

Alderman Rivard noted that wasn't the question, the question was where did the money come from to pay for this \$22,000.

Mr. Clougherty stated he was trying to respond. That this was overtime money, that was paid for out of the appropriation to the police department. What they were talking about here was the revenue, they don't appropriate revenues as part of the budget process they only appropriate expenses, so there was a shortfall in that account, it has still be kept as a receivable. The second year what they were talking about was money that was to be paid for extra detail, and that is paid into a separate account that is managed for the police officers as they go out and provide extra detail for the different utilities and services, and that was what they were talking about for the second set of money, and that was why there was reluctance to go out and do some type of forgiving on that, because that has an impact on the officers and he agreed. So they would make it whole over time, but it doesn't effect -- the services are provided through the appropriation and that is what was

within what was appropriated to the department. The revenue side is a little short, they will cover that as a receivable they didn't want to write that off at this time because we feel that they will make good on it.

Alderman Wihby commented that normally in the budget process the Chief knows he is going to have to supply police officers for Riverfest, so they would calculate that in their budget that they need that amount of money and on the revenue side it's counted as a revenue that is going to come back in. Chief Driscoll concurred.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to refer the item to the Committee on Accounts. The motion carried.

There being no further business to come before the Finance Committee, on motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Klock, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee