

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 6, 2002

Upon Recess of BMA

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen Aldermen present.

Present: Aldermen Wihby, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault, Forest

Messrs. Chief Driscoll, Deputy Planning Director Goucher, Solicitor Clark

Mayor Baines addressed item 3 of the agenda:

**3. CIP Budget Authorization:
410902 VAWA**

Alderman O'Neil moved for discussion. Alderman Gatsas duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Gatsas stated this is instituting, I guess what I'm looking at is federal funds for a 12-month period for three employees, is that correct.

Deputy Planning Director Goucher replied it is my understanding it's 100% federal funds, I don't know if Chief Driscoll is here, but he can enlighten you a little bit more, but it is federal funds.

Mayor Baines asked what did you say, Pam.

Deputy Planning Director Goucher replied I did say it's federal funds but perhaps Alderman Gatsas needed a little bit more detail on how the money is being spent, the Police Department may be able to answer that a little better.

Chief Driscoll asked if I could have the question again.

Alderman Gatsas stated the question is that there is \$100,000 worth of funds being allocated for three new positions from January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002 what happens to those three positions on January 1, 2003.

Chief Driscoll replied I assume that that money will be picked up in the regular budget of the City.

Alderman Gatsas stated again, I didn't hear you.

Chief Driscoll replied I assume that that money will be picked up in the regular budget of the City. Are we talking about grant positions, I don't have the Finance Committee agenda in front of me.

Alderman Gatsas stated it's three federal grant positions.

Chief Driscoll stated anytime we apply for a grant, it's for the duration of the grant and once those positions are expired the City general agrees prior to us accepting the grant to pick up those positions. I assume that that's what's going on here.

Mayor Baines stated it's for Domestic Violence Officer and two Victim Advocates to actively pursue domestic violence cases.

Alderman Gatsas stated so basically we are going to fund those for the second half of our budget year.

Mayor Baines asked are we required to do that under this grant or are you saying that there is just a general practice of assuming.

Chief Driscoll replied I don't think we have ever not done that, I think we enter into these grants in good faith, we make a judgment early on that we believe it's an appropriate expenditure and generally we have always renewed those grants after they expire.

Mayor Baines asked, Mr. Clark, are we required to do so. I know we've discussed this during other budget deliberations before.

Solicitor Clark replied it depends on the actual grant. I don't want to put words in the Chief's mouth but I don't believe these are new positions, I believe this is a renewal program. Does this grant end after this year or does it continue on again.

Chief Driscoll stated I'm sorry I'm having a difficult time hearing you.

Mayor Baines reiterated he asked does this grant end this year or does it continue on.

Chief Driscoll replied I don't know that at this moment.

Mayor Baines stated it is a renewal of a grant that we've had for how long.

Chief Driscoll replied I would say probably three years.

Mayor Baines stated these are not new positions.

Alderman Gatsas stated they aren't new positions but they're going to be new positions that you're going to have to have it in your budget this year.

Mayor Baines stated the Chief said he's not clear when it's expiring.

Chief Driscoll stated actually I'm not and I might ask that I be allowed to look at this and get back to you, Alderman Gatsas.

Alderman Gatsas moved to table the CIP budget authorization.

Mayor Baines asked is there a time frame on this, Chief.

Chief Driscoll replied quite frankly I don't know, I don't have the issue in front of me, Sir.

Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion to table.

Alderman Wihby stated if it does end are you proposing to put it in your budget.

Mayor Baines stated we are going to look at all positions within the budget, we haven't even met with the Police Department yet. We have a meeting set up with the Police Department in March and we're starting to meet with all of the departments now and we'll make that decision when I get into the budget process.

Alderman Wihby asked are we tying your hands if we don't decide to not fund the positions or are we hearing that you can just not fund them.

Mayor Baines replied we've been through this once before and there's a general assumption but I think that most grants you're not required...if the funds aren't available you don't fund the positions.

Solicitor Clark stated generally in most grants you're not required to actually fund it later, but there's a general presumption you will. You'll at least look at it in good faith.

Mayor Baines stated I know that on the school side I dealt with many projects that we got grants for and some ended up getting funded and some didn't get funded and we'll just deal with this during the budget process like every other request.

Alderman Shea asked, Chief, has the people employed in this grant...have they been working for the last two years and this is the third year of it.

Chief Driscoll replied I am not real clear on this grant at this moment, Alderman. We have two grants...we have had a number of people working in the domestic violence unit under a grant, we have designed a new domestic violence grant and I'm not sure whether I'm looking at the new one or the old. This very possibly is the new one.

Alderman Shea stated if it's a new one you would then have to hire a domestic violence officer.

Chief Driscoll replied yes.

Alderman Shea stated as well as two victim advocates, that is the case.

Chief Driscoll replied yes.

Alderman Shea stated if it's part of the old grant and is being assumed or part of the old grant these people are already on board and therefore you would be continuously following that.

Chief Driscoll stated as I look at this document, it's not a document that I've seen before. It would appear that this is a request for authorization to hire or to apply for a grant and get the commitment from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to support that grant to allow us to do that.

Alderman Shea stated the dates are from the first day of January '02 which has already passed to December 31, 2002, so that what you're applying for, if you were applying for a grant is retroactive.

Mayor Baines stated my understanding is these funds have come in on this installment of the grant for the next 12 months, what we are doing is authorizing to receive and use that money; that is all we're doing tonight.

Solicitor Clark stated it depends on if this is a brand new one or a renewal.

Alderman Wihby stated it says program initiation.

Chief Driscoll stated I'm sorry but I can't...

Mayor Baines stated you don't know if it's a new grant or a renewal of a grant.

Chief Driscoll replied no, I don't.

Mayor Baines stated I would recommend that we table it.

Alderman Shea stated the CIP resolution was adopted 6/11/01, so it must be something that we adopted already that's on-going.

Mayor Baines reiterated I would suggest that we table it and get more information, I would recommend that at this time.

Alderman Thibault moved to table the CIP budget authorization. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chief Driscoll stated I apologize to the Board for not being prepared but I, quite frankly, missed this on the Finance Committee agenda.

Mayor Baines stated we should be able to deal with it at the next meeting, Chief.

TABLED ITEM

Alderman Lopez moved to remove the following item from the table for discussion. Alderman Garrity duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

4. Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of up to Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$30,000) to Highway and up to Twenty Six Thousand Dollars (\$26,000) to Welfare from Contingency for New Horizons for French Hall.”

(Tabled 01/15/02)

(Note: communications from Deputy City Solicitor Arnold and Welfare Commissioner Martineau regarding this item enclosed herein.)

Mayor Baines requested the Clerk advise the committee members.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the resolution be read by title only.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman DeVries, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Gatsas asked is this property owned by the City or MHA, is Jay Taylor here.

Solicitor Clark replied the title is with the Manchester Development Corporation.

Alderman Gatsas asked are we able to remove zoning ordinances for property that's owned by the Manchester Development Corporation.

Solicitor Clark replied as I understand it this is a City program and the City itself is not bound by its ordinance.

Mayor Baines stated so the answer is yes, we can.

Solicitor Clark stated removing it for the City use, yes.

Alderman Gatsas stated even though it's not owned by the City.

Solicitor Clark stated there is no requirement that you own the property correct.

Alderman O'Neil moved that the Resolution ought to pass and be Enrolled.
Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee