

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

May 6, 2008

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, Domaingue

3. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2008 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$1,500) for the FY2008 CIP 612508 Community Assessment Project.”

“Amending the FY2008 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Thousand Seven Hundred and One Dollars (\$5,701) for the FY2008 CIP 210808 STD Clinical and DIS Program.”

“Amending the FY2008 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for the FY2008 CIP 210108 HIV Counseling & Testing Program.”

“Amending the FY2008 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$5,900) for the FY2008 CIP 210308 Immunization Services.”

“Amending the FY2008 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty One Thousand Five Hundred Fifty Three Dollars (\$21,553) for the FY2008 CIP 210708 School Based Dental Services.”

“Amending the FY2008 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) for the 2008 CIP 214308 Pandemic Flu Planning – Phase III Program.”

“Amending the FY2006 and FY2008 Community Improvement Programs providing for the reduction of Sixty Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Two Dollars and Four Cents (\$60,262.04) from various CIP Projects.”

“Amending the FY2008 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy Five Dollars (\$1,875) for the FY2008 CIP 713408 Chronic Drain Project.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Eighty One Thousand Dollars (\$81,000) from Contingency to the Building Department.”

On motion of Alderman O’Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to amend the amount in the seventh item from \$60,262.04 to \$59,535.52 to reflect the adjustment made during the Board meeting. Alderman Gatsas voted in opposition.

On motion of Alderman O’Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to waive the reading of these Resolutions.

Alderman O’Neil moved that these Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled as amended. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Pinard.

Alderman M. Roy stated from the Office of Youth Services, I’d like a written response from Marty about what the reduction of the \$50,000 will do to the Rap For Youth Resiliency program, this year and next.

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

4. CIP Budget Authorizations:
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|--------|----------------------------------|
| 210108 | HIV Counseling & Testing |
| 210308 | Immunization Services |
| 210708 | School Based Dental Services |
| 210808 | STD Clinical & DIS Program |
| 214308 | Pandemic Flu Planning- Phase III |
| 511608 | Veterans Park/Stanton Plaza |
| 612508 | Community Assessment Project |
| 713408 | Chronic Drain |

On motion of Alderman Ouellette, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted that the budget authorizations be approved subject to the final adoption of related Resolutions.

TABLED ITEM

5. Resolution:

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Forty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$48,000) from Contingency to the Manchester Police Department.”

This item remained on the table.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Gatsas stated there is a memorandum here from the MTA. I don't think it's coming up on the agenda anywhere else and I'd like to discuss...obviously we had some concerns from people who came in here about elimination of routes, and it was certainly some very heartfelt testimony. Does everybody have one? It came out today. I think my colleagues will remember, I had a discussion last year about the MTA. It has to do with the million dollar reserve account that they have, and if they want fully fund to get federal fund, it's due time that they use that. Those are general fund dollars. They can apply them and there would be no cut in services because those dollars would roll out of their fund. I know that they told us that they needed four or five or six or ten months of cash flow. I don't think that anybody is going to take the services that they extend to the people and just tell them, you ran into a tough problem. We're not going to help you as a city. So I think the times are tough. They've got a million dollars in that account. Certainly, if they want to show us where they've spent it in the last year, I'd love to look at that discussion, but it's something that...they've got to stop talking about the money that they need, and the monies that are available, and those were dollars that came from taxpayers when they didn't need all the money that we funded them.

Mayor Guinta stated as I understand it, MTA is actually holding its own public hearing on May 14th at 1:00, and we can certainly...anyone on this Board can attend, and certainly speak to those issues as well at that meeting.

Alderman Gatsas stated I would like something written from them, Your Honor, that tells us exactly every dollar that they have and every account that they have, whether it's obligated or not. I think there's probably an awful lot of dollars over there that we don't know about as a Board.

Mayor Guinta asked Mr. David Smith to send that communication to the full Board.

Alderman Lopez stated in reference to the million dollars that's in that account, Mr. Smith...can I have him come up here, Your Honor?

Mayor Guinta stated I just want to caution that the budget is actually in full Board, and we are in Finance, and we do have an opportunity to speak about the 2009 budget...

Alderman Lopez stated I can wait till we go to full Board if you want. Do you want me to wait?

Mayor Guinta stated I don't want to get into a long discussion this evening. If you have a quick question, I'm happy to have you ask it.

Alderman Lopez asked, Mr. Smith, the million dollars that you have into this special account in order to pay, because the federal government doesn't pay you, can we get a breakdown of that from last year as to when you used any money out of that account before you got the money from the federal government?

Mr. David Smith, MTA Director, responded I can give you all that information.

Alderman Sullivan stated Mr. Smith, those of us who are new to the Board need a little background information on this. What is the purpose of the fund? What is it there for? Is there any authority for it by ordinance or by state statute? What are those funds set aside for? What's their purpose?

Mr. Smith responded the MTA was established by City ordinance as an enterprise fund. We do our own banking. We don't bank through the City. In order to meet our payroll, in order to meet our ongoing expenses, we have a banking relationship and there is equity or there is a cash account that we use to make those payments.

Alderman Gatsas asked Mr. Smith, where did those funds come from? How did they accumulate in that fund? Are they taxpayers' dollars?

Mr. Smith responded I can't speak to the history.

Alderman Gatsas stated well, you can give us the history because I believe they are taxpayers' dollars.

Mr. Smith stated I presume they are. The MTA was established by the City; it was funded by City and federal funds. I don't know what the starting amount was.

Alderman Gatsas asked do you have any other funds in a separate account other than that one?

Mr. Smith responded there are three accounts. There's our checking account; there is a payroll account; and there is a separate account that we use on the school bus service to build up funds to buy school buses with.

Alderman Gatsas asked can you give us the average daily balances in those accounts please?

Mr. Smith responded I would be happy to.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee