

**MINUTES
WORKSHOP
DOVER CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
APRIL 23, 2003
6:00 PM**

Present: Mayor Nossiff, Councilor Christenbury, Councilor Hindle, Councilor Keays, Councilor Mayberry, Councilor Tweedie, Councilor Whitmore and Asst. City Manager Mike Joyal. Councilor Quigley present at 7:05 p.m.

Absent: Mayor Pro Tem Dunnington and City Manager Beecher.

1. DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEWS

A. COMMUNITY SERVICES (Not including Recreation/Arena)

Community Services Director Pete Lavoie began by introducing Kathleen Meyer GIS Coordinator who would be running the Power Point presentation. He also introduced the following staff members: Facilities and Grounds Superintendent Paul Chalue, Wastewater Treatment Facility Supervisor Ray Vermette, Fleet Services Supervisor Sam Crowley, Environmental Projects Manager Dean Peschel, City Engineer Paul Vlasich, and Solid Waste/Recycling Coordinator Mike Moore.

Lavoie then went through the power point presentation of the Community Services Department. (See 04/23/03 meeting folder.)

Some areas that he expanded upon included:

Facilities and Grounds Strategic Plan regarding the West Nile Virus – he explained that they are working with the Health Officer at this point and have been able to keep it under control without a city-wide spraying that Portsmouth and other areas have had to do. Currently we are spending \$8,000 to \$14,000 a year, but need to constantly monitor the situation.

Engineering Strategic Plan regarding trenchless technologies – he explained that they will be using this on Dover Point Road and hope to do more with it as it results in less disruption of traffic during repairs.

Public Works Strategic Plan regarding textured crosswalks – he explained that they will put these textured crosswalks, which are slightly raised, in place on First Street, at Central Avenue/Washington Street near Bank of New Hampshire as well as at Chestnut Street near the Cocheco Park high rise as these are areas where the cross walks need to be more visible and hopes that it will help.

Also, regarding snow removal, they are looking to utilize a liquid brine solution on the roads which is currently being used in the State of Maine and appears to work well. He discussed the hydrant flushing program which is widely respected in the industry.

Next, he reviewed the Wastewater Treatment Facility and hopes that the Council will make this a part of their tour on Saturday 04/26/03.

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Regarding the Recycling Center, they are proposing a part-time attendant to allow for more operation hours to accommodate the public and have also began installing new scales which will allow for a more accurate measure of demolition debris which was difficult in the past. He explained that the recycling program has saved the city \$1.2 million in disposal costs because disposing of this amount of recycling as solid waste would have been much more costly.

Whitmore asked if PSNH has provided their portion of the LED light money? Lavoie stated yes.

Whitmore asked why the city does not charge enough for water to pay for the purchase of equipment and other items typically financed under the Capital Improvements Program.

Finance Director Jeff Harrington said the city has increased water fees to boost its capital reserve and buy equipment without bonding.

Tweedie stated it sounds like we are weaning ourselves off debt services over time, and asked if there is any estimated time that we won't have any more? Harrington stated we will never really be fully weaned.

Tweedie asked what the impact is on the water/sewer rates to raise 3.4 million over the next few years. Harrington stated not much on the sewer rates because it is already built in, but on the water side it will be about \$50,000 a year.

2. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Discussion RE: Unexpended CIP Funds (See handout in 04/23/03 folder)

Harrington reviewed the substitute resolution that was to replace the previous resolution on April 9, 2003. He stated this resolution reprograms \$356,969 of funds remaining from various capital improvement projects to street improvements, \$30,000 for purchase of hose for Fire and Rescue and \$4,701 to cover a shortfall in the Fourth Street Improvements Project. It also reprograms \$66,838 of funds remaining from School projects to the Dover High School Facility Improvements Project.

Superintendent of Schools Armand LaSelva distributed a handout outlining the School Portion of the request for reprogrammed CIP Funds. (See 04/23/03 folder). He reviewed the 5 accounts from which money was left on various projects and explained that these funds are needed for the Dover High School Facility Improvements. He hopes that the Council will act on this funding as soon as possible as they are trying to keep on the work schedule that will allow for completion prior to the school re-opening in August.

Tweedie asked if all of the \$66,838 is left over money from school projects. LaSelva stated yes. Tweedie stated that we have already funded \$500,000 for Dover High School improvements so does this extra money mean that we are going over budget?

LaSelva explained that \$250,000 of that money is for the 8 room edition currently being added to Dover High School. The other \$250,000 was for inside improvements but is not going to be enough for what they hope to get done. He stated that both the Joint Building Committee and the School Board have unanimously endorsed the reprogramming of these funds for this purpose.

Tweedie asked what will be the additional improvements.

LaSelva stated they will be revamping the Guidance area to include all of the guidance Councilors and the school psychologist into one central area as they are currently in different parts of the building. Also, they will be renovating the machine tool area into additional art studios as there are 100 students each year turned away from the Arts program due to lack of space.

The Administration Area will be renovated to accommodate the Principal, Deans and Vocational Ed director as well as the nurse's station which is in desperate need of expansion for the 1,600 students currently enrolled.

Harrington then explained the rest of the Expenditure Report.

Tweedie asked about the \$206,848 being reprogrammed from the Recreation Indoor Pool deck and why aren't we finishing it.

Lavoie stated that the City Manager told them to hold off on this because we needed the money elsewhere.

Whitmore discussed the reprogramming of street funds stating that it seems that it seems that the account will be almost at the original request when all is said and done.

Tweedie discussed paying on the bonds for several years and asked what if we were to use the interest to pay off these bonds, what effect would that have on the tax rate in general?

Harrington stated that these funds would have to be reprogrammed to another purpose or used to pay down the debt and have to be amortized over the life of use. He stated there would be no major impact on the tax rate.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Quigley moved to adjourn, seconded and passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Valerie A. French
Deputy City Clerk