

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

December 5, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Stewart, Trisciani, E. Sapienza, Cavanaugh, Heath

Messrs.: J. Horvath, R. Cashin, T. Clougherty, J. Belanger

1. Summary of abatement requests submitted by Fred McNeil, Chief Engineer.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to approve.*

2. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$30,000 for CIP 412324 Domestic Violence Prosecutor.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to approve.*

3. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$163,660 for CIP 711321 Deferred Maintenance-Municipal.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to approve.*

4. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$100,000 for CIP 610024 Winter Emergency Shelter.

*On motion of **Alderman Trisciani**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to approve.*

5. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$10,000 for CIP 510812 Adopt-A-Site.

***Alderman Heath** moved to approve. **Alderman Cavanaugh** duly seconded the motion.*

Janet Horvath, Recreation and Enterprise Manager, stated we received a donation recently of \$10,000. I am here to request approval for that donation to go into the CIP Adopt-A-Site program. Ms. Gail Vercauteren is a widow of Brigadier General Richard Vercauteren. She made a very generous donation of \$10,000 to our division. Richard grew up in Manchester near Prout Park, and he lived a remarkable life rising to the rank of Brigadier General in the Marine Corps. Richard's legacy was honored at a ceremony this summer out at Prout Park. Senator Lou D'Allesandro had requested the entrance of the park to be named General Richard Vercauteren Way and the request was approved by the BMA. The ribbon-cutting ceremony took place on July 11 at the baseball field in

Prout Park. At that time, Ms. Vercauteren had expressed her appreciation for the Parks Division and the City of Manchester. Not only had Richard grown up utilizing numerous parks, he also worked for Water Works and the Highway Department. The donation by Gail Vercauteren is to honor the significant role that Manchester and its parks played in her husband's life. We are grateful to Gail and we look forward to using the funds to make a positive impact on those who use our parks.

Alderman Heath stated I am grateful to Ms. Vercauteren. I attended the ceremony. DPW did an absolutely extraordinary job. It was very emotional and it was such a wonderful tribute to the General. Thank you to all of you. It was so moving to learn about his background, and that he played at Prout Park. It brought forth a lot of history. To see so many members of that community there was beautiful. Thank you to Gail for her donation.

Chairman Stewart stated very generous, indeed.

Chairman Stewart called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

6. Communication from Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, requesting an extension of CIP 412322 2021 Homeland Security Grant-Hazmat, to 8/31/2024.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to approve.*

7. Communication from the Fire Chief requesting authorization to apply for the following grants:
 - FY23 Assistance to Firefighter's Grant in the amount of \$3.5 million with a 10% cost share.
 - FY23 Assistance to Firefighter's Grant in the amount of \$50,000 with a 10% cost share.
 - 2023 Fire Prevention & Safety Grant in the amount of \$100,000 with a 5% cost share.
 - 2023 Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities Grant in the amount of \$25 million with a 25% cost share.
 - FY23 Homeland Security Grant in the amount of \$25,000 with no cost share.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked Chief, can you explain the second one up from the bottom, the \$25 million with a 25% cost share. Is that something that has to be done anyway?

Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, stated yes. That grant money is going to replace the generators at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The generators are coming to end of life. It is one of the things that we identified that we could essentially use hazard mitigation money to try to get a grant for. We feel it is a good grant to get because those things are going to come to an end.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated they are coming to an end of their natural life.

Chief Cashin stated yes and the Highway guys can talk about that a little more if you want more details on the generators. We are just handling the grant aspect of it.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked how does that fall under your department.

Chief Cashin stated that grant is a hazard mitigation grant that comes through FEMA. As soon as we talk about emergency management and hazard mitigation, the basic idea of that is we are looking to fix problems before they happen. The Waste Water Treatment Plant is considered critical infrastructure, so we'd like that to be as protected as possible. It causes less issues if something were to happen.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated ok that's about all I wanted to know. It caught my eye but it has to be done anyway.

Chief Cashin stated it has to be done. Tim can maybe talk about the cost share.

Tim Clougherty, Director of Public Works, stated the generators are original equipment to the plant. Obviously, if power is lost to the plant it needs to keep running to process waste water. It is a project we have had in planning. We spoke with the Chief and Meghan Geoffrion to see if there were any opportunities to decrease the burden on the rate payer. This was identified as a potential opportunity.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to approve.*

8. Communication from Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, requesting extensions of various CIP projects to 6/30/24.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to approve.*

9. Communication from the Fire Chief requesting authorization to be reimbursed by the state for overtime incurred while three employees attended the Trench Rescue Class in October.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Trisciani**, it was voted to approve.*

10. Request from Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, requesting to change the administering department for CIP 713024, School Facilities-Phase I, to the Manchester School District.

Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, stated this CIP project came to the Board in a somewhat reverse fashion. Usually, it comes to CIP Committee then to the full Board. This went to the full Board first, now it is coming to you. Sometimes when that happens there is a little bit of cleanup that has to occur afterwards so that is what this agenda item is about. There are two small issues. One is the administering department would just be the School District and would not include DPW. The other is there would be a little change to the project description. The project

description would be eliminating mention of the high schools, which is what is shown in your agenda. We would delete that. We would also change the language around a little bit to insure it is the Beech Street School, not the McDonough School where the new elementary school location would be. It is Beech Street, not McDonough. The Clerk has passed out to all of you the new language.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated this is a pretty massive undertaking if it should go through. My concern is if it is left up to the School District without guidance from DPW...I mean dealing with building contractors and the bidding process can be a very daunting task. Does the School District have the background, time, or ability to do something like that? DPW would have more of a background with that, right?

Mr. Belanger stated yes. Director Clougherty could probably speak to this better than I can. This is a result of discussions between those two departments, and this was agreed upon by both of them. I would guess that DPW would still be involved; they just are not going to be the official administering department as part of the CIP project.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated and that is not a slam on the School District. It is just not something they do on a daily basis, or hardly ever.

Mr. Clougherty stated I have been in regular communication with Superintendent Gillis on the project. We have been tangentially involved in the planning up to this point. We have collectively agreed that DPW will have a very heavy role in assisting the district with construction administration and procurement of their program management services. I have commented in the past week on procurement of their modulars and we have a meeting tomorrow. So, I am not uncomfortable. Certainly, Jen Gillis could confirm that. It is most appropriate this request came from the district. They have carried the water to this point. They made the proposal to the Board, and I think it is most appropriate that it be started up under the School District. Again, I have had conversations with Superintendent Gillis and with Sharon Wickens relative to our involvement in the project moving forward.

Alderman Heath asked with regard to the Clerk of the Works, many years ago we had a \$110 million renovation project and I believe at that time no Clerk of the Works was ever hired. If the School District is going to oversee all of this, educators are supposed to be educating. So, is there going to be a Clerk of the Works that is going to oversee the major developments of this project?

Mr. Clougherty answered most definitely. The project that you are referring to I actually oversaw personally. While we didn't have what is traditionally called a Clerk of the Works, we hired a firm that is called a Program Manager. That Program Manager supplied management services, administration services, as well as construction inspection services. At one point in time, we had five or six people inspecting the work that went on in that \$100 million program. I expect to have the same level if not more, project administration and construction inspection services, through a program management agreement that the School District would enter into.

Alderman Heath stated thank you. They will continue to work with you on a regular basis?

Mr. Clougherty stated that is my understanding.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Heath**, it was voted to approve.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Clerk of Committee