

# COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

August 6, 2024 at 5:45 PM

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Morgan, Terrio, Kantor, Long Burkush

Messrs.: A. Thomas, C. Dobbins, P. Chiesa

1. Quarterly Report regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds submitted by Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director.  
*(Note: Submitted for informational purposes only; no action is required.)*

Alderman Burkush stated Anna I was looking at the CIP reports that you submitted on the ARPA funds and it looks like there might be some leftover funds in those accounts like the Healthy Food, Healthy Cornerstore Program and maybe the Community Health Workers. Do you expect to expend all of the money in those accounts?

Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, answered we have submitted plans to Director Belanger to show how we are going to expend the rest of that money over the next period which ends as you know in December 2026. We are planning to expend the funds, however, every year we have given back dollars and scaled back these projects. Currently, that is not our plan.

Alderman Long asked so the next submittal we get will show expenditures for all of the ARPA funding that you currently have.

Ms. Thomas replied yes you should be getting all of that.

Alderman Long stated I know that I also asked for the operating budget for people that are hired. I need the report to show that those expenditures will also be made because I know in some like healthcare workers, last I knew it was maybe 10 or 13.

Ms. Thomas responded no but I can send all of this to you. It is something we already supplied to Planning. We actually have an entire complement of 14. One of those is a police officer. We get the money and then give it to the PD. So we have 13 in the Health Department funded by ARPA. You will see what is being spent in the budget is obviously their salary and benefits incrementally every month. Especially in the CHS project, that is mainly people where the other projects can help pay for infrastructure changes and enhancements to increase access to health foods. That is a little different but we have projects right now in seven of the public schools to fit up food pantries so they are going to be putting in invoices for equipment and all of those things to be able to establish those in the schools. You will see that incrementally coming in.

Alderman Burkush stated it looks like if we take those numbers and multiply them out there will be some money left.

Ms. Thomas replied I don't know where you got that alderman but I would be happy to supply you exactly what we give Planning.

2. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$163,000 for CIP 410325 Gunshot Detection (Police).

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

3. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$400,000 for CIP 610625 80 Merrimack Street (Residence at Chestnut Phase II).

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to approve.*

4. Communication from the Police Department requesting to extend the project end date for CIP 410224 Crime Analysts to 12/31/2026.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

5. Communication from Ted Kitchens, Airport Director, requesting project extensions for CIP 710622 Airside Improvements and 710822 Terminal & Building Improvements to 6/30/2025.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

6. Communication from Finance requesting to change the CIP project number for School Parking Lot Rehabilitation to 711925 and the Rail Trail Maintenance to 712025.

Alderman Long asked regarding the Rail Trail maintenance, is this the \$100,00. We are taking money from the school parking lot rehabilitation and transferring it to rail trail maintenance correct? What does that rail trail maintenance consist of?

Caleb Dobbins, Chief Engineer, responded we are not taking any money and transferring it to something else. This was just a numbering issue. We came before the Board and asked for an early start-up for school paving so we could get that going when school was out. They had assigned the number 711925 to that project and that is what was approved. However, when the full budget package came forward for approval, a different number had been assigned to it. This is really just a technical correction regarding the project numbers. To answer your question relative to rail trail maintenance, we are reviewing all of the rail trails because there was a separate CIP allotment. We are looking for anything that needs to be repaired whether there is fencing down or something like that. It would be similar to Parks deferred maintenance

but more focused on the rail trails themselves because no money has gone into those since they were created.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Terrio**, it was voted to approve.*

7. Communication from the Planning & Community Development Director requesting line item adjustments to CIP 810820 Planning Study, Zoning Ordinances.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

8. Communication from the Planning & Community Development Director requesting various CIP project extensions.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

9. Communication from Ryan Cashin, Fire Chief, requesting line item adjustments to CIP 411323 2021 Swift Water Grant.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

10. Communication from the Fire Chief requesting authorization to seek reimbursement from the state for Fire Department members that attended the Trench Rescue Technician and Confined Space Rescue Technician classes.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to approve.*

### NEW BUSINESS

Communication from DPW requesting authorization for the Director or their designee to execute construction agreements with CSX for funded public works projects, including trails, roads, signals, bridges, etc.

Alderman Terrio stated I just want to make sure I understand this. So the city is going to be encroaching on CSX property?

Mr. Dobbins replied yes. This request is for a multitude of projects that are coming up like the Amoskeag Bridge project, EPD's CSO project as well as the RAISE project that is going to be going over the CSX line. In all of those cases, we will be technically impacting their property in the sense of...even if we are working over their rail lines and not touching anything on the ground in any way, shape or form, CSX is very specific as to the language within their contracts in order to even step foot on their property.

Alderman Long asked so my understanding is the only issue with CSX is they don't do the indemnity that we normally have in our contracts.

Mr. Dobbins answered that is correct. We worked with the Solicitor's Office to be able to mitigate anything that we are going to be doing by making sure that when we go forward with any of the contracts we will be putting in language relative to the indemnification that the contractor typically does to the city. In these cases, we will probably put something in there along the lines of indemnifying the city and CSX for anything relative to those projects. We have been working in conjunction with the Solicitor's Office.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Terrio**, it was voted to approve.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Kantor**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, 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