

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

March 4, 2025 at 5:45 PM

Chairman Morgan called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Morgan, Terrio, Kantor, Long, Burkush

Messrs.: Mayor Ruais

1. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$500,000 for CIP 211723 Opioid Litigation Settlement Trust.

Alderman Kantor stated I was wondering where this money is specifically going.

Mayor Ruais replied these are the dollars that come from state that go into the CIP fund set up for it and we as a Board determine where it goes.

Alderman Kantor stated I 100% support Hope and Randy. I just wanted to make sure that we weren't giving money to needle exchange programs and low barrier shelters. I was just checking.

Mayor Ruais responded this is just to accept the money that is coming in from the state from the opioid litigation settlement.

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

2. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$201,000 for CIP 611125 Hope for New Hampshire Recovery: Hope Connections.

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

3. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$125,000 for CIP 611225 447 Union Street Community Engagement Training Center.

Alderman Kantor stated I was wondering what the Community Engagement Training Center is.

Mayor Ruais answered that is the group from Nashua. It is a non-profit organization run by a pastor and his wife and they purchased 231 Merrimack Street. They do a lot of work in the community and they offer a lot of services like childcare services. That is the kind of work they do in Nashua. The rectory portion of the church they bought has 16 units in it. This is what we talked about a few meetings ago. It has 16 units that they

want to convert to transitional housing. As the memo speaks about, the transitional housing is high barrier and there is going to be a case manager on-site to insure that people are moving through the process and getting connected to existing services as well as saving money, getting employment and accessing SUD or mental health services for a transitional period of time. As they are doing that, they are putting money away so they can ultimately get into stable housing.

Alderman Terrio asked so they will be paying rent and this will be self-sustaining.

Mayor Ruais responded yes. That is the beauty of the project. The overhead that they have over there is relatively small. Sixteen people is what they can initially start with. The funds that are being obligated tonight are paying on the programmatic side but also paying for upgrades to the facility so they can get up to 30 individuals. No matter how many they start with, they will be paying rent so that makes it self-sustaining in the long-term. This is just start-up funding similar to Hope where they are going to be able to bill for Medicaid so we won't have to continue to fund these in perpetuity.

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

4. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$125,000 for CIP 611325 231 Merrimack Street Affordable Housing Program.

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

5. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$100,000 for CIP 711221 Sheffield PS Force Main.

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

6. Communication from Peter Marr, Chief of Police, requesting a change to the project description of CIP 410525 ARPA - Park Enforcement.

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

7. Communication from Denise van Zanten, Library Director, requesting an extension to the completion date of CIP 712424 Carpenter Library Interior Abatement & Painting to June 30, 2026.

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

8. Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning and Community Development Director, requesting that the administering department for CIP 810725 SNHU Arena Capital Improvements be changed from Finance to DPW-Facilities.

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

9. Communication from the Planning and Community Development Director submitting the FY25 Second Quarter ARPA Funds Report.

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

10. Communication from Ryan Cashin, Chief of Fire, requesting permission to donate a vehicle to Hope for NH Recovery in support of its Hope Connections program.

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

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Terrio**, it was voted to approve.*

A True Record. Attest.



Clerk of Committee