

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

October 5, 2021 at 7:30 PM

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Roy, T. Sapienza, Sharonov,
O'Neil, Levasseur, Terrio, E. Sapienza, Shaw, Barry, Gamache

Absent: Alderman Hirschmann

CONSENT AGENDA

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways, subject to funding

1. Sidewalk Petitions

Residential:

87 Greenwood Court

53 Pond Drive

138 Fleming Street

41 Sewall Street

Commercial:

395 S Main Street

80 S Commercial Street

85 Youville Street

Information to be Received and Filed

- 2.** Communication from Peter Chiesa, Deputy City Solicitor, providing an update on pending lawsuits against the City.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

3. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Thirty One Thousand Dollars (\$131,000) for FY22 CIP 410722 MHRA Community Policing."

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for FY22 CIP 410822 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program Award-HazMat."

COMMITTEE ON LANDS & BUILDINGS

4. Communication from Mark Gomez, Chief of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery, requesting an ordinance amendment to Section 96.04 Parks Operating Policy to change the curfew hours.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

5. Advising that the update on the Revolving Loan Fund has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Hirschmann and Barry who were absent)
6. Advising that the Financial Report for the first month of FY22 has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Hirschmann and Barry who were absent)
7. Advising that the Finance Department reports:
 - Accounts receivable over 90 days
 - Aging report
 - Outstanding receivableshave been accepted.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Hirschmann and Barry who were absent)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

8. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$131,000 for CIP 410722 MHRA Community Policing be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Barry who was absent)
9. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$25,000 for CIP 410822 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program Award - Hazmat be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Barry who was absent)
10. Recommending that the communication from Leon LaFreniere, Planning & Community Development Director, requesting approval of the City's updated HUD Section 3 and Minority Business Compliance Plan be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Barry who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

11. Recommending that the request from Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, to eliminate one (1) Financial Analyst I, grade 19, and add one (1) Financial

Analyst II, grade 22, be approved.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Hirschmann and Barry who were absent)

12. Recommending that the request from Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, to add one (1) Police Community Program Coordinator, grade 19, be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Aldermen Hirschmann and Barry who were absent)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

13. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Faltin Drive, south side, from Faltin Drive to a point 40 feet west
Alderman Shaw

On Valley Street, north side, from Taylor Street to a point 105 feet west

On Taylor Street, west side from Valley Street to a point 75 feet north

Alderman Sapienza/ Alderman Terrio

RESIDENT PARKING ONLY DURING SCHOOL HOURS

On Maple Street, east side, from a point 30 feet south of Bridge Street to a point
90 feet south

Alderman Roy

RESCIND 2 HOUR PARKING

On Maple Street, east side, from a point 76 feet south of Bridge Street to a point
44 feet south (ORD 10035)

Alderman Roy

RESCIND RESIDENT PARKING ONLY DURING SCHOOL HOURS

On Maple Street, east side, from a point 30 feet south of Bridge Street to a point
46 feet south (ORD 10034)

Alderman Roy

(Unanimous vote)

14. Advising that the request from Robert Drinkwater of Meet New England to use the Arms Lot on Sunday, October 24, 2021 for a Car Show has been approved with the stipulation that no 2-step or burnout contest be held.
(Unanimous vote)

15. Recommending that the Hope I recommendations made by Schonna Green, Director of Homelessness Initiatives, be approved with the exception of the Homeless Bill of Rights.
(Unanimous vote)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALDERMAN O'NEIL,
DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN CAVANAUGH, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS
APPROVED.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

16. Communication from Alderman Levasseur advising of his resignation from the Planning Board effective 9/16/2021.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to accept the resignation with regret.*

17. Communication from Katherine Easterly Martey advising of her resignation from the Manchester Housing & Redevelopment Authority.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Roy**, it was voted to accept the resignation with regret.*

18. Nomination(s) to be presented by Mayor Craig, if available.

Mayor Craig stated pursuant to Section 3.14 (b) of the City Charter, please find below the following nominations which will layover until the next meeting of the Board.

Board of Health

Rev. Richard Clegg to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2024

Manchester Public Television

Brad Cook to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire October 1, 2024

Manchester Development Corporation

Kyle Baker to fill a vacancy as a regular member, term to expire March 1, 2023

19. Confirmation(s) to be presented by Mayor Craig:

Police Commission

Manny Content as a regular member, term to expire September 15, 2024

Board of Registrars

Claudia Carr as a regular member, term to expire May 1, 2022

Planning Board

Todd Connors moving from an alternate to a regular member, term to expire May 1, 2023

John Goeman as an alternate, term to expire May 1, 2022

Conservation Commission

Donald Waldron as a regular member, term to expire August 1, 2024

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Roy**, it was voted to confirm the nominations as presented.*

- 20.** Application for Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, RSA 79- E, for property located at 1211-1217 Elm Street.

Alderman Long moved to approve the application. ***Alderman Cavanaugh*** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur stated I have a question that maybe Leon can answer. If this is granted and the new people sold the property does this go with the new buyer or would they have to reapply?

Leon LaFreniere, Planning & Community Development Director, responded I believe it goes with the property.

Alderman Levasseur stated I was wondering about that. I am very concerned that this project has not started.

Robert Gagne, Assessor, stated when the conditions are recorded, this goes with the property.

Alderman Levasseur asked does it begin today.

Mr. Gagne answered the relief period begins once they receive the CO for occupancy. If it takes them two years to get to that point, then it is five years after that.

Alderman Levasseur asked so does the rate at the time the CO is received apply instead of the current rate.

Mr. Gagne responded it would be the current value.

Alderman Levasseur asked once it is completely redone and upgraded does it get a new valuation.

Mr. Gagne replied yes but we freeze the value for that period of time.

Alderman Levasseur asked so if it is a five year carry over from the day it actually starts it could be seven years.

Mr. Gagne responded right but there is no additional value for those first two years because the work is not done. They are going to pay on what is there today for those two years and once it is...

Alderman Levasseur interjected and then it will be the same for the next five years.

Mr. Gagne answered yes. The difference is for the next revaluation we will up the base rate for the value like we worked on for this revaluation. The idea is that you insulate them from the increase in value because of the improvements, not because of the market. If values go up 20% between now and 2026, that value that they are paying taxes on will go up 20% but they will still have the relief from the improvements.

Alderman Levasseur stated commercial went down and the rate is going to be, let's say for arguments sake \$18. They are locked in at \$18. The value may go up in two years or whatever but they are locked in at \$18 right.

Mr. Gagne responded yes. Their value didn't go down. It went up but not as much as everything else.

Alderman Levasseur stated I am fine with that but this project...I think I was on the Planning Board and we approved it two years ago and there has been absolutely no movement. I just don't know when they are going to get their CO. I don't think it should start until they get the CO and I think it should be valued at the time they get the CO.

Mr. Gagne replied that may be something we want to consider for changes in the future but as it exists today it doesn't accommodate that. When we had the public hearing on this, there was a question I believe from Alderman Hirschmann on whether there were any back taxes on this property and there are. There is about \$50,000 in outstanding taxes on these two parcels right now.

Alderman Levasseur stated she told us they were.

Mr. Gagne stated she told us she didn't know if they were but that she would pay them if they weren't.

Mayor Craig stated they actually paid them today.

Mr. Gagne stated I checked on my way up to the meeting at 6:45 PM and they weren't paid.

Brenda Masewic Adams, Tax Collector, stated the taxes have been paid on both properties. It is currently pending. Tomorrow it will be posted and should zero out.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Roy being duly recorded in opposition.

- 21.** Communication from the Board of School Committee requesting that any revenue received from the sale of Hallsville Elementary School be set aside to help defray the cost of a future school building.

Alderman O'Neil asked does anybody know what the past practice has been with school buildings. It has been a while since this has come up.

Mayor Craig answered they are city owned buildings and it is my understanding that it comes back.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked any expenses moving forward are on the city right and not the school district right.

Mayor Craig replied right.

Alderman Levasseur asked who brought this forward.

Mayor Craig answered a school board member.

Alderman Levasseur stated I asked you two weeks ago. I said we are taking this building back and we are responsible for everything now. If we do sell it, now they want us to give them the money.

Mayor Craig replied that is their request.

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Levasseur**, it was voted to receive and file.*

- 22.** Communication from Timothy Clougherty, Deputy Public Works Director, requesting that the Mayor be authorized to sign the following documents related to the solar array project at the City landfill:
- Amendment to existing lease agreement from 1 MW to 3.3 MW
 - Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement
 - Notice of Solar Facility Lease Agreement
 - Easement Deed

Chaz Newton, Solid Waste and Environmental Programs Manager, stated I just wanted to be given an opportunity to present to the Board the updated documents with respect to the solar array project on the closed landfill. We also want to communicate that there is a change in the size of the project from 1 megawatt to 3.3 megawatts. With us today we have Everett Tatelbaum, Vice President for Development at Kearsarge Energy and Zach Hallock, Energy Services Advisor and Consultant to the City of Manchester from Competitive Energy Services who are both here to provide an overview of the solar project.

Everett Tatelbaum stated thank you to the Board and Mayor. It has been a long project to get to where we are but a really successful one from our perspective and the city has been great to work with. We passed out a couple of quick slides to give an update of where we are in the status of construction. As Chaz noted, there are a couple of documents that are before the Board tonight to update and confirm the taxes and everything. I am with Kearsarge Energy and we have been around since 2009 and really have a focus on these sort of projects with municipalities and public organizations working on brownfields, landfills and environmental sites.

Zach Hallock stated I am the Energy Services Advisor with CES and have been with the city for a little over 10 years now. Myself with the company for three, and I have been on this project from the start and am a trusted advisor to the city. For a little bit of a perspective on the timeline, since roughly the summer of 2018, the city participated in a CES run RFI along with the city of Boston to look at large scale renewable projects. That culminated in late 2018 when an RFQ was released for on-site solar PV. In January 2019, we participated with city officials in a site walk looking at seven potential locations. Of those seven potential locations, the landfill was selected. Kearsarge was one of eleven respondents to this process and with a little over 350 pricing iterations between financing, locations and several other ownership options through the summer of 2019 we completed the review of all of these proposals, conducted interviews and then in September 2019 requested best and final pricing and that resulted in Kearsarge winning this competitive bid process.

Mr. Tatelbaum stated once we were awarded the contract, 2020 was obviously an interesting year for a lot of reasons and we spent a lot of time working with Eversource, which is the longest lead time in any one of these solar projects in New England that we work on to get their approval and connect the site to the grid. So we went through a long study process with Eversource. We were also watching the Legislature in NH to see if the metering program would be expanded. When we bid the project it was still limited at 1 megawatt. We presented options for what would happen if the Legislature allowed the expansion. In 2020 that didn't happen. By the end of 2020 and spring of 2021 we started working with Tim and his team at DPW to permit a two-phase project for DES where we said we will build 1 megawatt if that is all that is available by the time we get to construction in terms of Eversource and the approvals but we had them look at a larger site in case the Legislature came through so we could be prepared for that outcome. In April of this year, we signed the contracts, the lease and the power purchase agreement which gives the city energy cost savings. In June, as you may know the Legislature passed the bill that was signed into law that allowed the project to expand. So we went to DES and said we are going to build phase I and phase II this year. By September we had the permits and construction started. We started stockpiling material. If you have been by Dunbarton Road, the ballast blocks for the site were starting to arrive in June and July ahead of the permit approval because we

wanted to be ready to build the project given that there are major financial impacts for the project to turn on in 2021 so we can take the federal tax credit which is the core of the financing that enables us to pass through energy cost savings to the city in tax revenue. Down at the bottom of slide four you will see some of the benefits including \$20,000-\$25,000 a year of energy cost savings and the taxes that the city will see. Over 20 years, that is obviously a substantial number in addition to no upfront costs. So the development, the work with Eversource and all of the construction is done by Kearsarge and we signed these long-term agreements with the city to pass through those benefits that include the equivalent of 500 homes with green energy. Slide five shows you some of the project metrics. It is across 12 acres, which is really the flat part of the top of the landfill. We can't build on the slopes because the construction includes ballast blocks. There are no penetrations which allows the...the solar does not interact or interfere with any of the existing monitoring or the below cap environmental issues. This similar type of construction my company has done on upwards of 12 sites in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York and now New Hampshire. The site consists of over 8,000 individual modules that are about 3.5' by 5.5' each and they sit on concrete ballast blocks. If you drive by Dunbarton Road now you will see the crew. There is a site civil work crew moving ballast blocks and about 12-15 IBEW electricians who wire up the panels. That will be happening every day until about the end of November. Slide six has a nice picture of what it looked like on Friday afternoon. The ballast block goes down first with some leveling stone where needed. The steel is erected on that and the panels are bolted on there and then wired up back to the inverters. The materials are all on-site and the modules are arriving. We have them at a warehouse in Massachusetts so we are just staging them onto the site as needed because there are space constraints. So this month the modules will be bolted on and we are doing some time lapse photography which we would be happy to share with the city obviously. By the end of November, they will finish the wiring and we hope in the first week or so in December to connect with Eversource and turn the project on. It is a multi-year process to get to where we are and once we are in the field it is two or three months of construction. I think that is where we are which is really a success story. I definitely want to thank the city for getting us to this point. If there are any questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Alderman Terrio asked is the lease 20 years.

Mr. Tatelbaum answered yes.

Alderman Terrio asked and you are going to pay the city \$6,000/year for the lease.

Mr. Tatelbaum answered the \$6,600 is the taxes.

Alderman Terrio asked is that your only payment to the city.

Mr. Tatelbaum responded the benefits come through the tax agreement. The pilot program is before the Board tonight and then energy cost savings which were part of the agreement that was signed in April through the net metering program. The city is getting a 5% discount on all of the power generated by the site and that rides with the Eversource retail rate so there is no risk of being under water. It is part of the Eversource metering program.

Alderman Terrio asked what was the cost to build the site.

Mr. Tatelbaum answered about \$7 million.

Alderman Terrio asked so at the end of 20 years is the city going to have to pay you \$400,844.

Mr. Tatelbaum replied if you choose to purchase the system. Otherwise, we are on the hook to decommission it.

Alderman Terrio asked so if we don't buy it from you then you will take it apart.

Mr. Tatelbaum responded yes and we are obligated in the lease to do so. There are also earlier buyouts as well. The city has the option at multiple opportunities at fair market value to take the system if you see the value of power going up and you want to control it. Otherwise, we are obligated contractually to remove it.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I see you have 15 electrician jobs here. How many construction jobs are there total on that project?

Mr. Tatelbaum stated Kingsbury is the site contractor and they probably have a dozen guys there. During the height of construction, it is probably 30 guys.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked after it is complete, how many man hours does it take to operate and maintain per year.

Mr. Tatelbaum answered we are on site only probably quarterly. Once they are built, it is a very passive piece of construction. Long-term there are not a lot of local jobs.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so solar doesn't create permanent jobs.

Mr. Tatelbaum replied I think Kingsbury would say that you would be spending \$700,000 or \$800,000 on ballast block installation and obviously the electricians work a few months. It isn't unlike a commercial building where there is a lot of upfront work and then it is just building maintenance. So every quarter give or take we will have a technician on-site who is inspecting the inverters and doing preventative maintenance. Part of the benefit is that it is a passive use and not a lot of activity on-site.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I appreciate you saying that. I see so much in the media about solar creating jobs but they are temporary jobs at best. Thank you for that.

Alderman Levasseur stated you didn't have to come here tonight except to amend the agreement. You are actually starting construction. I drove by the other day. So you have everything moving over there and you want to go from 1 megawatt to 3.3 megawatts. I don't see us getting three times the amount of our taxes. Explain the difference between 1 megawatt and 3.3. I imagine it is a lot. You went into this with only 1 megawatt in your mind I assume. 3.3 sounds like there should be a lot more money coming back from Eversource. I read an article by Nancy West yesterday online that says our rates are probably going to double. That means your value is going to

probably double because you will be getting your electricity free I guess because I don't know what the exact cost is. You are going from 1 megawatt to 3.3 megawatts but we don't get a dime more and I don't understand how that works. You are obviously going from 1 to 3.3 for a reason and it is going to be making a lot more money and we are getting \$6,000/year for a really nice piece of land.

Mr. Tatelbaum replied the net meter and credit sales agreement signed in April, which was part of the initial bid, is a pro-ratified percent off all the power generated by the system. So the city's benefit actually in April with the smaller system was about \$8,000 or \$10,000 a year and now it is \$20,000 to \$25,000 depending on Eversource rates. That is an agreement. The city is completely aligned with Kearsarge on this that the larger the system the more energy cost savings for the city. That is in the core agreement that was previously signed. Why it needs to be amended now is to amend the exhibits in the back which established a minimum guarantee on the kilowatt hours it will generate. It is consistent with the city's goals. What we are doing with the amendment is memorializing the larger project and the minimum guarantees are tied to the larger size. The savings are 5% of the cost of the energy that we sell to the city and that rises with the retail rates. Your second point about the retail rates rising, I know in working with DPW and Zach's firm that they choose Kearsarge I think because we rise with the retail rates which means that as the retail rates go up, your 5% share will go with that and you have no downside because if there are supply challenges or spikes with Eversource or if their retail rates go down, you will still save 5%. We are not charging you \$.12/kilowatt hour no matter what Eversource does, which would mean that the retail rates would impact the city. In this case, we are fully aligned so if Eversource rates double, your savings will go from \$20,000 to \$40,000. The way we price our agreement with you is just 5% of whatever the Eversource meter credit rate is.

Alderman Levasseur asked are we getting any direct power. You said something about getting 5% of the power. You are not hooked up to anything we have in the city so that comes through?

Mr. Tatelbaum answered the Eversource net metering program, which is a Public Utilities Commission Program, works by setting a tariff amount for Eversource to

connect to a project like ours at a distributed site where it is easy to generate power. It goes onto the Eversource grid and they log the value of that energy and at the end of the month says the project generated \$20,000 worth of net metered credits and working with CES that gets allocated to a city account. So the city account now shows a credit balance of \$20,000 and Kearsarge bills the city for 95% of that \$20,000.

Alderman Levasseur stated you said one word that is making me very nervous and that is decommission. So the city can buy this back at \$400,000 which is going to be a steal in 20 years if it is running at the same capacity it is today. Whether or not we would want to do that, I would obviously advise to do it. You said the word decommission which sounds to me like they are not going to work anymore in 20 years or they are not going to run at...I don't know what percentage they are going to be running at. Maybe 50% of what we will be getting now. Can you explain decommission a little better?

Mr. Tatelbaum the modules themselves are warranted for 25 years. There are appraisers I have seen that will appraise solar farms for 45. The lease is 20 which is often a bylaw in many communities we work with where they can't sign leases for more than 20 years. It is also a risk question for cities and municipalities so the industry standard is 20. The warranties are longer than that. The decommissioning is there for the city's assurance that we would be in default if we didn't show up and decommission the system. We also have in the lease the obligation that we have to fund the decommissioning and that is working with CES. We are on the hook financially to be prepared to decommission the system if the city requests it.

Alderman Levasseur replied when you use the word decommission that means removal also correct.

Mr. Tatelbaum stated it means returning the site to its previous condition.

Alderman Levasseur stated thank you. They are kind of cool to look at for a while. There is one down off of Elm Street next to my old restaurant and when they first put them in they are neat to look at but once they put the fence around it and they put the black shades on I think it looked better. Are you going to put a fence around this and

put the black shades on them or is this just going to be open for everybody to see while they are driving down the highway?

Mr. Tatelbaum answered since the Dunbarton site is already fenced in, we are not adding a separate fence. It is already a gated property.

Alderman Levasseur asked are you going to put black shades around it or is it going to be open.

Mr. Tatelbaum responded we are not touching the city's fence and adding any black shades.

Alderman Roy asked what is the life span of one of those panels.

Mr. Tatelbaum replied the vendors warranty them for 25 years. There is a system in Beverly, MA that has been running for more than 30 years so the expectation is that they have the ability to do that.

Alderman Sharonov moved to approve. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Craig stated this will be the largest municipal solar array in the state when it is done.

Alderman Levasseur stated but it isn't owned by the municipality.

Mayor Craig replied it is a municipal solar array on municipal land benefitting the municipality.

- 23.** Communication from Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, requesting authorization to execute Municipal Work Zone and Municipal Sidewalk Agreements related to the NH DOT Huse Road Bridge Rehabilitation Project on behalf of the City.

*On motion of **Alderman Roy**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to approve the request.*

24. Report(s) of the Committee on Community Improvement, if available.

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$23,334 for CIP 212022 Oral Health Program be approved and referred to the Committee on Finance.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

The Committee on Community Improvement respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$1,503,370 for CIP 411022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant SCBA be approved and that includes a city match to be bonded at a later date and referred to the Committee on Finance.

*On motion of **Alderman Roy**, duly seconded by **Alderman Cavanaugh**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

*On motion of **Alderman Barry**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.*

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

27. Report(s) of the Committee on Finance, if available.

The Committee on Finance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Thirty One Thousand Dollars (\$131,000) for FY22 CIP 410722 MHRA Community Policing.”

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) for FY22 CIP 410822 2020 Homeland Security Grant Program Award-HazMat."

"Authorizing the utilization of an increase in State Adequacy and Relief Aid for a supplemental appropriation of \$10,847,571 to the Manchester School District pursuant to Section 6.05 (a) of the City Charter in Fiscal Year 2022."

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Five Hundred Three Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Dollars (\$1,503,370) for the FY2022 CIP 411022 Assistance to Firefighters Grant-SCBA."

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$23,334) for the FY2022 CIP 212022 Oral Health Program."

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

Alderman O'Neil moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.

Alderman Roy duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Sharonov and Levasseur duly recorded in opposition.

28. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Thirty One Thousand Dollars (\$131,000) for FY22 CIP 410722 MHRA Community Policing."

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“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty-Four Dollars (\$23,334) for the FY2022 CIP 212022 Oral Health Program.”

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

Alderman Sharonov stated I am going to be talking entirely about the third resolution which concerns sending \$10.8 million to the Manchester school district. I think it would be more appropriate to send this money to the taxpayers and lower the tax rate. I asked Sharon previously and the tax rate would be lowered by approximately \$1.18 per \$1,000. With the revaluation that we had this year, I think a lot of people will get property relief from this and this is one-time money that we can use instead of giving it to the schools.

Alderman Roy stated first of all this money came down to us as intended for the school district. We were notified a while ago and we approved the school district applying for these funds. They got them which is great. As far as the tax relief, if we put it towards taxes, let's remember this is one-time money. A year from now that money won't be there so the \$1.18 that you are saying will benefit everyone will come back to haunt us because we won't have the money. It doesn't make any sense to me to kick the can down the road. These funds are needed at the school district. They applied for them and I will be voting in favor of it.

Alderman Shaw stated I will be voting in favor of returning this \$10 million to the school district and I would like to give my reasoning. This money was taken away from districts all over the state because of remote learning and I will explain that in a minute. The tax rate will be lowered anyway slightly because of the estimated revenue from the revaluation which will lower the tax rate from the \$24 it is now. The reason that I said it was taken away because of remote learning is because the state pays...we as Senators and State Reps fought very hard to get a bill passed that would have the state revert back to 2019 numbers because of Covid vacancies in the schools all over the state which lowered what we call the ADM, which is the Average Daily Membership and the Free and Reduced Lunches which is what all of this money is based on every year. In

2019 it was here. We wanted to revert back to the 2019 numbers and the request in the Legislation was passed but it was too late to be included in our budget here and in many other places across the state. I feel that this money belongs to the school district and it is funded every year by the state and it will continue to be funded in the coming years. It might be slightly lower next year but if we give all of this money to taxpayers this year, it won't maintain consistency. As Alderman Roy said, it could create a spike next year in the taxes because it won't be the same as the \$10 million that we are returning back to them this year. I hope everyone understands what I am saying. I understand the revaluation effect very personally like everyone else but I feel that we will have some relief and a lower tax rate because of this estimated revenue from the revaluation. I feel that this is the best compromise for the city because it returns the money that belongs to the schools back to the schools and we will still have a lower tax rate from the revaluation and a more stable tax rate in the years to come.

Alderman Levasseur asked when did we know we were getting \$10.8 million. Can anybody answer that question?

Alderman Long responded June 24.

Alderman Levasseur stated so we thought we were going to get the money but we didn't know about it until after we put the budget together. That is fact right?

Mayor Craig replied yes.

Alderman Levasseur stated Alderman Long put a budget together and he begged...he worked hard to get his budget together and asked for a \$500,000 reduction in the amount of money that the school district was going to get so we could help the Police Department with their \$500,000 request. Is that correct?

Alderman Long responded no. I did not request that during the budget.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you didn't ask for a \$500,000 reduction from the school district.

Alderman Long answered I did not.

Alderman Levasseur stated well we had a conversation but whatever. It doesn't matter.

Alderman Shaw stated well we talked about it but we didn't do it.

Alderman Levasseur stated I know that it wasn't brought up that night. I know that it was discussed before we actually put the budget together and I know it was an issue for a lot of people on the Board. Anyway, Sharon if the money is slated specifically for schools why are we allowed to have this debate? Is there something we don't know? Why would it be allowed to go towards tax reduction? The way they are making it sound is it has to go to the school district so I am confused on why we have the option of not giving it to them. Is it literally in writing where it says it must go to the school district?

Sharon Wickens, Finance Director, answered it is not. They came forward with three options and one doesn't really apply to us so there are two options. We can give it to the school district or do nothing and let it fall to the tax rate. Those are your two options.

Alderman Levasseur asked so we can't keep some of the money for us. We are not going to vote not to give them the money so can we keep some of the money and give them the balance?

Ms. Wickens replied I don't know if we can do that. I would have to research that.

Alderman Levasseur stated so we are not going to vote not to give them the money but I thought we could keep some for our side. When we only have \$400,000 in the contingency account and forgave...

Mayor Craig interjected if you did that you would override the tax cap on the city side.

Alderman Levasseur stated we forgave a \$1 million loan to the school district. They could pay us back with this money correct. Maybe we should table this until we get an answer on whether or not we are allowed to keep some of that money.

Mayor Craig stated if the city keeps the money you would be overriding the tax cap on the city side.

Alderman Levasseur stated so we can give it to the school district but it won't be an override of the tax cap.

Mayor Craig responded right it would not be an override on the school side.

Alderman Levasseur stated we should have some answers to these questions and table this until the next meeting.

Alderman Levasseur moved to table the \$10.8 million resolution.

Mayor Craig stated there is already a motion on the floor.

Alderman Levasseur replied a motion to table always takes precedent. You have been doing this for a long time and you know that.

Ms. Wickens stated it would not override the tax cap if the city kept the money. First, I am not sure if we can do that. There was still some room in the expenditure cap for the city so we could spend it to pay a loan or something. I am not sure if we can do that.

Mayor Craig stated but the intent is for the school district to have the money.

Alderman Sharonov duly seconded the motion to table. Alderman Sharonov requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Roy, T. Sapienza, Shaw, Barry, Gamache and O'Neil voted nay. Aldermen Sharonov, Terrio, E. Sapienza and Levasseur voted yea. The motion failed.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I am looking at option 3 here which as previously stated is really option 2 because the other one doesn't apply to us and what it says is "apply the increased revenue to lower the tax rate." That kind of spells it out right there doesn't it to answer Alderman Levasseur's question?

Alderman Levasseur asked who put that in writing for us. Somebody must have put it on the agenda.

Mayor Craig answered that is different than putting the money in the budget.

Alderman Levasseur responded yes but it did say that it can go to the tax rate. We wouldn't be discussing this if it didn't say it couldn't go to lower the tax rate. Now we are being told we don't know.

Ms. Wickens stated I am not sure if you can do a portion. You can certainly apply the entire thing to the tax rate. That is how I read option 3. I am not sure if you can apply just a portion as you suggested.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated if we are not sure why don't we table this until we are sure.

Mayor Craig replied we just took a motion to do that and it failed.

Alderman Sharonov asked do we know what this \$10.8 million is going to be spent on. Can somebody explain that?

Mayor Craig answered yes. The Superintendent and his team can come up.

Karen DeFrancis, Business Administrator, stated \$5.5 million of the \$10.8 million...during our budget and when we came before the Board we were not aware that we were going to get this money so in order to keep our current staff maintained we needed to take \$5.5 million out of our ESSR funds to support those positions. What we would do now is not utilize those ESSR funds and that would free those up to go

towards unfinished learning. Basically \$5.5 million of the \$10.8 million will be for unfinished learning in our classrooms.

Alderman O'Neil asked unfinished what.

Ms. DeFrancis answered unfinished learning.

Mayor Craig asked what does that mean.

Ms. DeFrancis stated I will let the Superintendent explain that.

John Goldhardt, Superintendent, stated because of the Covid pandemic, students that were not able to be in school in person full-time, they did not get fully proficient and there is unfinished learning. This gives us an opportunity with additional tutoring and supports and interventions to bring the students back to where they should be.

Ms. DeFrancis stated \$250,000 would be allocated towards our buildings. The reason for that is during the budget process we had anticipated closing either wings, floors or buildings at the high school level. However, we are going out to the community to present our facilities study and that is not being done until October/November so until we hear back from the community, we have not closed those wings at the high schools so we are adding \$250,000 back which we originally deducted from the budget. Also, in the past two years the food service department had a shortfall and that was due to the pandemic. \$300,000 was the first year and \$1.4 million was the fiscal year we just closed, FY21. We are allocating \$1.4 million towards food service. If we don't utilize that much, we would put the balance towards the unfinished learning. Title I and IDEA, those funding sources have also been somewhat reduced because of the pandemic and looking at the free and reduced calculations so we have \$750,000 allocated towards that and again that goes into the classroom towards those programs. Our staffing needs throughout the district, as well as classroom needs, comes to \$500,000. We do anticipate that \$2.5 million of the \$10.8 million will be one-time estimated funds because our enrollment is slightly dropping. So we would utilize \$2.5 million on one-time

expenditures which would be technology infrastructure, clear touch panels in the classrooms, additional unfinished learning costs and dual immersion materials.

Alderman Sharonov asked is this new spending something that you knew about in June or whenever we were approving the budget or is this something you just came up with.

Ms. DeFrancis answered it had been discussed during the budget process and when we came in front of the aldermen we did say that if the state passed the additional funds we would come and ask for an additional appropriation, which is what we are doing now. However, we did not receive notification until our budget was passed.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated there is a perennial discussion about how much money the state gives the schools and Manchester and most other towns complain that we don't get enough from the state. Here is an example of the state sending money to the schools. The legislator talked to us earlier about it and she has a problem going up there now because they say to her we give you money for schools and you don't use it for the schools so why should we give you more. This is a simple matter. If you don't spend it on the schools today, they are not going to give you any more. It is just like in your own life. If you gave your child money to go to college and he spends the summer in Europe spending that money, you wouldn't give him any more the next year would you? It is that simple. If we don't spend it on schools, the state is going to stop sending it and the schools need it.

Alderman O'Neil stated I am going to vote for this tonight. I would like to see something in writing regarding what this unfinished learning entails. We don't have anything in writing.

Amy Allen, Assistant Superintendent, stated at the Joint Education Committee meeting I presented our Learning, Recovery & Acceleration Plan that outlines...

Alderman O'Neil interjected is that something that can be copied and handed out.

Ms. Allen responded sure.

Alderman O'Neil stated I apologize. I am going to be clear that I am voting for this but I would like to know what unfinished learning is because that is the first time I heard that term.

Ms. Allen stated what you will get outlines the first and second year proposal and it would be about \$46 million going back to the students.

Alderman O'Neil stated Karen I know you didn't get ahead of yourselves with the money before it was approved but there has to be some money going someplace else in my quick math.

Ms. DeFrancis responded I can go through the numbers again. Are you talking about coming up to \$10.8 million?

Alderman O'Neil replied yes I didn't come out to that amount.

Ms. DeFrancis stated \$5.5 million is for the learning lost that we took out of ESSR funds, \$250,000 is for not closing the wings or floors at the high schools, \$1.4 million for the food service, \$750,000 for Title I and IDEA, \$500,000 for staffing needs throughout the district and \$2.5 million for estimated one-time funds for technology. We anticipate that \$2.5 million of the \$10.8 million we will not see the next year so we will use that on one-time funds which will be for technology infrastructure such as clear touch panels and unfinished learning costs and dual immersion materials.

Alderman Long stated with respect to the \$10.8 million, what percentage is going towards academics in your opinion. Sitting on that Joint Education Committee, I figured about 75% to 80%.

Ms. DeFrancis responded basically everything on here is academic except for the closing of the floors in the high schools which is \$250,000. Even when you look at the estimated one-time funds, infrastructure and the clear touch panels are direct instruction

so that is in the classroom. I would say the majority of the \$10.8 million is going towards academics.

Alderman Long stated we finished our budget the second week in June. The state voted on its budget on June 24. That is why we didn't know this was passed. Next year, they are anticipating \$7.5 million or more from adequacy which is a 4.5% increase. We are going to have to override the tax cap if this \$10.8 million isn't approved tonight. So what is happening is not only are you taking this money away from the schools but you are taking next year's money away from the schools too because we will have to override the cap to accept that expenditure and that is not going to happen on this Board. I am in favor of this. In my opinion for whatever it is worth, we are the governing body. The court gave that authority to us so we can do whatever we want with this money. In my opinion we are the governing body, however, if we take money for the city that is overriding the cap. We would have to take a vote to override the cap to put the money in the city coffers and not send this \$10.8 million to the school district.

Alderman Levasseur stated when the government sends you food stamps, you use them for food. They didn't send us anything that says...they said here is some money and they didn't say you have to direct it to schools otherwise we wouldn't even be having this discussion. They gave us an option to do one, two or three things. When they slap us on the hand for not giving tax relief and say they aren't going to send us any money down the road, maybe they should send us \$10 million and say this is directed to property tax relief. That will never happen but they did send us \$10.8 million and say you can appropriate it the way you want to appropriate it. I agree with Alderman Long on that. I am not trying to take all of this money but there certainly should be a portion of this money going towards tax relief. We have probably 12,500 students in this city and over 27,000 homeowners the last time I check so now it is probably doubled so there may be 40,000 homeowners. There are property owners all over the city and they all have children. When they get their tax bill in December after this election is over and their rents go through the roof, who is it going to affect? It is going to affect the children when they are not getting all of the necessities that they need because their taxes went up or their rents went up because they are going to get hit hard; a lot of people are going to get hit hard in this city. So when we say it is about

the children and the school district, I have sat on 12 boards here in the last 20 years. Never once has the school district ever had their budget cut by this Board. Never have they ever had a zero balance. Never did we come in and say we are going to give you last year's number. As a matter of fact, the first two years I sat on the Board they got \$8 million increases. In the last 10 years, they have gotten the tax cap number. So they have never actually seen a cut before and all of the sudden a monster check of \$10.8 million comes down. They asked us to forgive a \$1 million loan, which this Board did, and now they want the whole \$10.8 million. It is funny how they want all the money but they never want to share it with the taxpayers in the city who are going to get creamed. That is not including rate increases on gas, oil and every other thing that we have coming in. This is an opportunity to help everybody in this city, not just one small group of people that we all love and care about but right now things are just really getting crazy with the cost of everything and we all know it. Take the vote you want. I can't believe that I can't get a straight answer of how much we can portion this and you expect me to vote on this tonight. I think that is ridiculous.

Alderman Roy stated Karen if my memory serves me right, you had to apply for this money correct.

Ms. DeFrancis answered no. That was for the ESSR funds. This is money that comes from the state based on the adequate education numbers.

Alderman Roy asked didn't you need to apply for this money.

Ms. DeFrancis responded no. It was the state legislation that determined how much the school gets for adequate education aid. It was supposed to be based on...basically our enrollment was dropping so it was supposed to be based on last year's enrollment but what the new legislation allowed was for it to be based on the pre-pandemic enrollment. That is when our enrollment was higher. They are going to base the formula on the higher enrollment, which is giving us more money.

Alderman Roy asked so the Legislature looked at that information and saw the need within the school system and sent the money down for the schools correct. I believe the

confusion is when they sent it down, the state laws says there are three ways it can be appropriated. However, the intent and my belief is the intent from the state legislature was this should go to the schools.

Mayor Craig stated it literally was state adequacy aid and relief aid for schools state-wide.

Alderman Long moved that the resolutions ought to pass and be enrolled. ***Alderman O'Neil*** duly seconded the motion.

City Clerk Normand stated are we splitting the question.

Mayor Craig stated we had a motion to approve all three and then we went into discussion.

Alderman Roy asked so we are not separating these resolutions and they are all going to be together.

City Clerk Normand stated it might be clearer if we split the question and let's deal with the school appropriation first.

Alderman O'Neil stated let's vote on the first two resolutions first.

City Clerk Normand stated and this also includes the SCBA and Oral Health resolutions that were reported in this evening.

Mayor Craig called for a vote. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

Alderman Long moved to approve the \$10.8 million appropriation for the school district. ***Alderman O'Neil*** duly seconded the motion. *Alderman Sharonov requested a roll call vote. Aldermen Sharonov, Levasseur, and E. Sapienza voted nay. Aldermen O'Neil, Terrio, Shaw, Barry, Gamache, Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Roy and T. Sapienza voted yea. The motion carried.*

29. Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Fifty Five Million Dollars (\$55,000,000) to pay for the 2022 CIP 712722 Various Capital Improvement Projects by the Environmental Protection Division, and for the payment of all other incidental costs related thereto. Projects include but are not limited to: design and construction of upgrades to the wastewater treatment plant, expansion of sewer service area and projects necessary for compliance with the Clean Water Act.”

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Roy**, it was voted to waive the reading by title only.*

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted that the Bond Resolution be Enrolled.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Terrio stated concerning the revaluation, I have heard a couple of proposals. For instance, I heard people say that we can suspend the revaluation and I heard from several real estate agents that the company that did the revaluation grossly underreported or made a mistake on the commercial properties which then pushed the tax burden onto residential properties.

Mayor Craig stated we can have Mr. Gagne come up again.

Mr. Gagne stated to your first question, we have to do a revaluation every five years. You cannot postpone it.

Alderman Terrio responded I am talking about the tax increase. Can the tax increase be postponed?

Mr. Gagne stated I don't understand the question.

Alderman Terrio stated basically we would apply the tax cap increase to everybody equally.

Mr. Gagne stated it is going to be a uniform rate that everybody pays. When the DRA estimates the rate, it will include the impact of the revaluation plus the impact of anything in the budget. That 1.87% will be reflected in the one tax rate that everybody pays.

Alderman Terrio stated I think the person that was saying this said base it on the old valuations.

Mr. Gagne replied no that can't happen.

Alderman Terrio stated I heard anecdotally from several real estate agents that the company that did the revaluation undervalued commercial property which then pushed the tax burden onto residential property.

Mr. Gagne responded they have no reason for them to be doing that. There is nothing in it for them to do that and I would challenge that real estate agent to provide me evidence of same.

Alderman Terrio stated I am not saying there is anything nefarious. I think that maybe the formula they used or the system or what have you is broken.

Mr. Gagne replied the test of that would be to have that real estate agent point out to me what commercial properties the new value is wrong on. Other than that, I can tell you that the commercial owners don't think their values are wrong. If anything, they think they are still high.

Alderman Terrio stated but a lot of them are getting tax cuts. I can't imagine that they would look a gift horse in the mouth and say...if you are getting a tax cut how would you argue that.

Mr. Gagne responded I feel the same way. They have to look at the relative position they are in. In the hearings that we held, there were a lot of commercial property owners that came in to challenge their values.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated there is a well-established process in place to challenge these correct.

Mr. Gagne answered yes and they get two bites at that – the informal hearing process and once they get their tax bill they can file an abatement.

Alderman Levasseur asked have there been any other revaluations throughout the state at the same exact time as us. Are there any other cities or towns that we can compare to us as far as what the commercial is?

Mr. Gagne replied yes. Keene, Salem, Londonderry, and I am sure there are others.

Alderman Levasseur asked have the percentages been the same.

Mr. Gagne answered for those that it has been five years yes but some of those municipalities do revaluations more often so the increase was less but it was over a three or two-year period.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you are allowed to do it more than every five years.

Mr. Gagne responded you can do it every year.

Mayor Craig stated right but you have to pay for it.

Alderman Levasseur asked is there any way you can check to see what the percentages were as far as the people who did the five year. I don't know if there is anything exactly in sync with us. If there was going to be a massive increase in values, it would have been two years because that is when we saw our values go up and down

on residential and commercial. So anything within that two-year period would probably be relevant to what we are asking or looking at.

Mr. Gagne answered I can look into that. Do you want everything in the state?

Alderman Levasseur replied no just if you can find some good comparables. If you find something that is an outlier, that would be nice to know also. I think they are all being done by Vision Appraisal right?

Mr. Gagne responded no there are other companies out there.

Alderman Levasseur stated it would be nice to see what the other companies did.

Alderman Shaw stated I have a personal friend who lives in Keene and I was talking about the evaluation with him. His went up 54% and their tax rate is \$37 per \$1,000.

Alderman Barry stated earlier this evening the Committee on Public Safety met and there was a presentation by the Manchester Police Department Traffic Division in reference to changing the traffic pattern at Parker-Varney and Northwest Elementary schools. It is going to be one hour before school and one hour after school. Both schools are in favor of this and it is a one-month trial. They will report back to the committee in a month to let us know how it is going.

Alderman Barry moved to accept the report and adopt its recommendation. Alderman Cavanaugh duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Shaw stated I had a few calls this weekend from people who were walking in the area around the rail trail south of South Beech Street behind Shaws and up to Gold Street. There were a couple of encampments in the woods out there along the path that a lot of the kids take to go to Memorial when they walk to school. They found needles and some of them were filled with heroin. They called the Health Department and Fire Department. They did the things I told them to do because they called me first. There

was some confusion as to who you call. I approached one of the members of the Fire Department and I asked him if there was some way they could talk with AMR and the Health Department and come up with a hotline number so that we would all have one number to call and they could tell you okay if this is between the hours of 8 AM and 4 PM call this number which would be AMR or whatever. So there would be one hotline number for people who find needles because I guess it depends on what time of day it is as to who is in charge of going to get the needles.

Mayor Craig asked are we using the dispatch number at DPW.

Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, stated Anna could probably speak to this also but the Health Department, Public Works, and Fire saw that happening so we worked together and came up with a chart that we are almost finished with. We always push the Manchester Connects application because there is typically quick reaction, especially during the work day. Just so you know, if it is during the work day on public property, Public Works does it. It used to be the Health Department but they have taken on a lot of work so now we are trying to take care of the needles within the city's right-of-ways and trails. After hours, it is typically the Fire Department. If there is an emergency response, they will work with AMR and the Health Department will help coach private property owners as necessary. I am not too sure whether it is by dispatch or who would be best to take those calls.

Mayor Craig stated I agree that there should be one clear point of contact and what happens behind the scenes happens behind the scenes and we work that out. I thought it was dispatch or Manchester Connects.

Mr. Sheppard stated Manchester Connects works well especially during the work hours or definitely the next day we can respond if it is on public property.

Alderman Shaw stated I just want everybody to be on the same page. It is difficult because they call me and the first thing I say is Highway. I guess there was some misunderstanding because Highway referred them to Health.

Mr. Sheppard responded that must have been after hours.

Alderman Shaw stated it might have been after 5 PM.

Mr. Sheppard stated we can get out the flow chart. We spoke with Anna and the Fire Department and developed a draft that we are all comfortable with. We can send that as well as a contact number.

Alderman Shaw stated I am not complaining because the response has been quick but it is just the initial call being sent to different departments which is confusing to some people.

Mr. Sheppard replied that shouldn't be happening and that is why we worked together to put that together.

Alderman Shaw stated this resident said that they wanted to go and get some tongs and a stick and at least release the heroin from the needle so that no kid would find it. I told them not to touch anything. We need to get everybody on the same page because they call us immediately when they find something.

Alderman O'Neil stated we have to come up with one number whether it is 2 AM or 2 PM on a Tuesday or a Sunday. There needs to be one number.

Mr. Sheppard responded that will be the intent.

Alderman O'Neil stated it doesn't matter if it is dispatch at Public Works or Fire dispatch. There needs to be one number.

Alderman Long stated on the same subject, I was at a landlord meeting on Elm Street with 27 landlords. Is the Health Department asking people to put the needles in plastic bottles and taping them? That is what I thought I heard at that meeting. Anna there is no initiative with the Health Department with respect to people who are picking them up

to put them in plastic jugs and taping them up right? You are not advocating for that correct.

Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, responded no I am not advocating for that.

Alderman Long asked is there an issue with getting rid of these needles. Is there an issue with a company...I know in the Health Department you have a vendor that picks up those used needles and there is limited capacity? Is that still an issue?

Ms. Thomas answered we have a vendor that we pay for because of all the immunizations and everything do. There is a cost per box that we fill and it is expensive. We don't accept community needles. We only manage the needles that we are using for our purposes. There is a needle exchange as you know in this community and certainly the partnership that we have had for years now with both the Fire Department and DPW has been...at first the Health Department was doing it on the weekdays and then the Fire Department in the evenings and on weekends. We are no longer doing the weekdays like that. DPW has really stepped up to the plate to do a lot of that work. We will work with people on education and how to properly dispose of them if they have them themselves. There are some people who are diabetics or others who don't know how to handle their own personal needle use and we will coach them in that regard. Other than that, we are not accepting community needles because it has a significant cost.

Alderman Long asked and we have no medical facility that will take used needles.

Ms. Thomas responded that is a really good question. In Nashua, the hospitals will take the needles and that is something that we are brokering now with the hospitals to see if they will provide that service.

Alderman Long asked Kevin are you over capacity with used needles. Do you have a vendor that will take up to a certain amount?

Mr. Sheppard answered I don't know. I believe we work with the Health Department as far as where we dispose of the needles. I think we work with the company they used. I haven't checked but I think that is what we are doing. We actually pick up quite a few needles but we are disposing of them properly.

Alderman Long stated I had a constituent call with availability of another company that sets up in cities and takes used needles. I don't know what the price comparison is but I can get you that information.

Alderman Terrio stated Anna you may have already said this and I apologize but if a diabetic or somebody has a clean needle...I remember in the old days they would tell them to throw a bunch of them in a coffee can and throw it in the trash.

Ms. Thomas replied yes and that is for their personal needles. There are questions about are they supposed to take them somewhere but they can personally dispose of them as long as they are labeled and tied up. We give them guidance on that. The personal ones are not our biggest concern. It is really what is out on the street and unfortunately being left out.

Alderman Terrio asked what happens to the dirty ones after you get rid of them. Are they burned or just thrown in the trash and buried?

Mr. Sheppard answered they are properly disposed of. I believe we work with the same company that the Health Department does. I don't believe we just throw them in the trash.

Alderman Terrio stated okay so you give them to this company and maybe they throw them in the trash.

Mr. Sheppard stated well there would be a liability for them if they do that.

Alderman O'Neil asked what does the Fire Department do with them because I call the Fire Department and they either send a firetruck out or AMR comes and gets it.

Andre Parent, Fire Chief, stated as far as the Fire Department goes, we have containers. We collect the needles and put them in the containers and usually AMR takes them up to the hospital and disposes of them for us.

Alderman O'Neil stated so either the Fire Department or AMR uses the hospital.

Chief Parent responded yes. We have containers at the fire stations and AMR has their own containers and once those are full we take them to the hospital.

Alderman O'Neil asked do your containers go to the hospital or do you have a vendor that picks them up.

Chief Parent answered we have AMR pick them up and take them to the hospital.

Alderman O'Neil stated so I have been calling the Fire Department because I thought at one time that was the process.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I want to personally welcome the newest alderman to the Board, my brother Ed Sapienza, the new alderman from Ward 8.

Mayor Craig stated I want to mention that we have some Halloween festivities coming up. Halloween at City Hall and downtown trick-or-treat will take place on Friday, October 29 from 3 PM – 5 PM along with the Bookmobile. City-wide trick-or-treat will be on Sunday, October 31 from 6 PM until 8 PM. As a reminder, the Health Department is still providing Covid-19 vaccination clinics on Mondays from 9 AM until 11 AM and Wednesdays from 2 PM to 4 PM. You do not need an appointment. They are available to anyone age 12 or older and their address is 1528 Elm Street. If anyone has any questions, their phone number is 603-624-6466. In terms of November, based on information that I received from Matt, the Board said they would like one meeting on November 16. We need a vote on that.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to suspend Rule 1 of the Board and hold one meeting in November on the 16th.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, 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.

City Clerk