

SPECIAL BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 26, 2020

A special meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 7:16 p.m. at City Hall in the Auditorium, 3rd floor.

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman, presided.

Members of Committee present: Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Ernest Jette
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

Members not in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Also in Attendance: Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Bobbie Bagley, Director Health & Community Services
Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development
David Fredette, City Treasurer

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS - None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-20-012

Endorsers: Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman Tom Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF ONE MILLION ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,100,000) FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION BUILDING RENOVATIONS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Wilshire

Question, maybe for either Director Cummings or Director Bagley. With these renovations, will you need to move out of the building? What will happen with your labs, is there someone that can answer those questions?

Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development

Thank you Madam President, Tim Cummings, Director of Economic Development. To answer your question, yes there will be a need to temporarily relocate out of the building; something in the order of magnitude and it is still in flux but 50%, maybe it would be more economical to move the entire building out. We are having that conversation now, no decision has been made. It would take about a year's worth of construction, so it would be a temporary relocation of about a year of whatever is moved. Originally going into the conversation we were looking at, again, about 50% or two of the groups relocating. The Labs would be continuously used and would remain open.

Alderman Wilshire

During the construction?

Mr. Cummings

During the construction.

Alderman Wilshire

OK.

Chairman Dowd

So if we, heaven forbid it doesn't happen, have any issues with the current virus, would you just coordinate with the hospitals and do it that way rather than ... Director Bagley?

Bobbie Bagley, Director Division of Public Health & Community Services

Director Bobbie Bagley, for the Division of Public Health & Community Services. I am sorry Alderman Dowd, can you repeat the question?

Chairman Dowd

I just heard Vice President Pence has now been put in charge of making sure the virus doesn't spread, and they are probably implementing things. Since you are going to be in a temporary space, which I assume doesn't have the lab capacity that you have in your building. Are you going to coordinate with the hospitals to handle anything that you need to have done?

Ms. Bagley

So with the response to the COVID-19 anything that we do with regards to public health response will involve engaging and working with our community partners at the hospital as well as with our first responders and our emergency management director. We don't do any testing in our Lab with regard to viral screening, so any tests that will need to be done, samples will be collected and they will be sent up to the State Lab or through the CDC. So that type of operation or performance will not occur at our Lab locally.

We basically use our Labs for environmental health water testing, which the construction and architect teams have assured us that we will be able to have use of the Lab and they will work around that space so that we can continue that type of work. We are also hoping to be able to continue some of the counseling and testing in the guardian area for the STD clinic and they have assured us that we will be able to work around that as well. But anything around the COVID-19 will not be happening on-site at the Division of Public Health & Community Services.

Chairman Dowd

OK great thank you. I'm sure people out there had that question so I thought I'd throw it out and see.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. My comments are more to Director Bagley; I am very excited about this for you. You people over the years in my previous life being on the Fire Department, we used to come down and see your facility to get the flu shots, speaking of which is the pending issue right now of everybody's concern. But the thing that always struck us that the building kind of went into past tense very much over the years. It was originally a school and then got taken over by Public Health and unfortunately never really went through any major upgrades. I really, at this particular time, would like to compliment you, your staff of nurses, your outreach people who run out of that particular building and including your patients that come in to see you. I know that there was a handicap chair lift that sometimes worked and everything. The building did not have an elevator so it wasn't completely accessible to all floors. And other things, I know you had a heating system that you probably had to say the Rosary on certain cold days in the winter. I want to really thank you and your Division for your patience and everything and it gives me great pleasure to see that this has finally been resolved and we are going to have a quality facility for our Public Health. So I wish you the best of luck with it.

Ms. Bagley

Thank you Alderman O'Brien. And we appreciate it, because it is and has been a long time coming and so we appreciate your consideration for us on behalf of moving forward with the building renovations so that we can continue to serve Nashua the best way that we can and in a building that is deserving of that.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you, any other comments?

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Dowd

The only thing that I will mention is, again, that the Budget season is rapidly approaching and I've heard it rumored that the Budget books will be coming to us sometime between now and the next meeting at the latest for the Full Board. The Budget Committee especially needs to go through that book thoroughly and look at the implications. I have heard from all of the Department Heads and I don't think I've heard of Department Head yet that is coming in as what was requested. So it is going to be an interesting Budget season. So the more you know about the Budget book and the inter-relationships between the different sections of it, and I am having the Chief Financial Officer put together a little blurb on how those things all inter-relate. I think that's a good thing for everybody, so I will be getting that out as soon as possible.

Also, we are going to be generating the schedule. I've talked to Donna today and she is putting together the initial dates. It is going to be tricky, lack of space and of course we all know how few dates we have for meetings. But that will all be set up right through the Public Hearing and then the final approval before we approve the Budget for 2021. Any questions on the upcoming Budget season? No? OK.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN
MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 7:25 p.m.

Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Committee Clerk