

## BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

JUNE 2, 2020

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Tuesday, June 2, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via teleconference.

### Chairman Dowd

As Chairman of the Budget Review Committee, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

#### ***a) Providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video or other electronic means:***

We are utilizing WebEx through the City's IT Department for this electronic meeting. All members of the Budget Review Committee have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen in to this meeting through dialing the following number 1-978-990-5298 and using the password 273974. The Public may also view this meeting on Comcast Channel 16.

#### ***b) Providing public notice of the necessary information for accessing the meeting:***

We previously gave notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, through public postings. Instructions have also been provided on the City of Nashua's website at [www.nashuanh.gov](http://www.nashuanh.gov) and publicly noticed at City Hall and Public Health Department.

#### ***c) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access:***

If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via phone or Channel 16, please call 603-821-2049 and they will help you connect.

#### ***d) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting:***

In the event the public is unable to access the meeting via the methods mentioned above, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that **all votes** that are taken during this meeting shall be done by **roll call vote**.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. **When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.**

Alderman O'Brien called the roll and asked them to state the reason he or she could not attend, confirmed that they could hear the proceedings, and stated who was present with him or her.

The roll call was taken with 7 members of the Budget Review Committee present:

Alderman Richard A. Dowd, Chairman  
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons, Vice Chair  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman Ernest Jette  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Also in Attendance: Mayor James Donchess  
John Griffin, CFO  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Elizabeth Lu  
Alderman Tom Lopez

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Alderwoman Kelly

I am here, I am alone, and I am attending remotely due to the Governor's order.

Alderman O'Brien

Alderman-at-Large Michael O'Brien is present, I can hear the proceedings, I am alone and I am following the Governor's guidelines for social distancing.

Alderman Wilshire

I am here, I can hear you, I am practicing social distancing and I am alone.

Alderman Jette

I am here, I am alone and I am staying home in accordance with the Governor's Order.

Alderman Schmidt

I am present, I can hear you, I am alone and obeying the Governor's Order to stay at home.

Alderman Clemons

I am here, I am by myself and I am staying at home per the Governor's Order.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, I am here alone, I can hear everyone and I am practicing social distancing in accordance with the Governor's Order.

Alderman O'Brien

All 7 voting members of the Budget Committee are present. Are there any other Alderman present that I did not call? Alderman Lu, I see you.

Alderwoman Lu

Yes, I am here, thank you.

Alderman Lopez

Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Klee

Alderman Klee.

Alderman O'Brien

Ok so far I have Alderman Lu, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Klee. Any other Aldermen? OK, Mr. Chairman, also in attendance is Mayor Donchess, CFO Griffin, Deputy Chief Testaverde, NPD, Assistant Chief George Walker of NFR.

Chairman Dowd

Karen Smith is on, CFO of the Police Department. And we have several other people on. Alright, do we have a quorum.

Alderman O'Brien

Yes Mr. Chairman, all 7 voting members are present.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, I don't think we have any communications.

COMMUNICATIONS - None

WRAP-UP SESSION

Chairman Dowd

Ok this evening we are in the wrap up session for the FY2021 Budget. We will be accepting Motions from the Committee Members first, until the Committee Members are done with their motions and then if there are any other Aldermen that are on that have motions, I will recognize them. If it gets to 10:00 and we have not completed the meeting, I am going to adjourn the meeting and we will pick it up again Thursday, the 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Before we get started, we will need a motion from Alderman O'Brien to take the Budget off the table, but before he does, tonight we will be addressing possible Motions to modify one way or the other, the Mayor's Budget. I just want to caution people that we are here to agree to disagree. I am sure that whatever motions there are, not everyone might agree with them, but when the motion passes, we move on and take it at that. John Griffin is going to be keeping track of all the motions with his calculator so we will know where we are at, at any one time. I just want to report that the Mayor's Budget that was given to us was \$284.6 million dollars, or a 3.25% increase from last year's budget. In figuring the tax rate though, you have to take into the account the county budget that gets added to the City's Budget. Please wait until you are recognized by me before you speak. We prefer not to have anybody just cutting in. We have some people from the Police Department, Fire Department which are the major departments, to answer any questions there.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

**R-20-016**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderswoman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

**AMENDING THE PURPOSE OF A FISCAL YEAR 2020 UNLIKE ESCROW FOR THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION**

(remains tabled)

**R-20-017**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman Thomas Lopez  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza  
Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderswoman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman Skip Cleaver  
Alderman Jan Schmidt  
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$50,000 TO FUND A FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE FUTURE REUSE OF THE ELM STREET MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDING**

- Requires a Public Hearing which has not yet been scheduled

**R-20-023**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess  
Alderman-at-large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Alderman-at-large David C. Tencza  
Alderman Richard A. Dowd  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright  
Alderman Patricia Klee

**AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF NASHUA TO ENTER INTO A MASTER DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH LANSINGMELBOURNE GROUP, LLC.**

(remains tabled)

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE RESOLUTION R-20-023 RELATIVE TO THE ADOPTION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 PROPOSED BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF NASHUA GENERAL, ENTERPRISE, AND SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS BY ROLL CALL**

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderswoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Dowd

So before we get started, the Budget was developed pre-COVID-19 and I think that everybody feels that due to the current situation, that we need to do what we can to make the tax burden less stressful on the residents and taxpayers of Nashua. So keeping that in mind, I would like to make the first motion so I can give you the type of motion that we will be expecting, since we have a lot of new people.

**MOTION BY CHAIRMAN DOWD TO DECREASE THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET FOR FY2021 BY REDUCING THE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES ON PAGE 255 OF THE BUDGET BOOK UNDER FY2021 "CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT" FUNDED ONE-TIME STATE REVENUE BY \$1 MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) BY REDUCING THE MONEY SET ASIDE FOR THE LIBRARY PLAZA RENOVATIONS PROJECT TO \$ZERO DOLLARS (\$0.00) AND APPLYING THAT \$1 MILLION (\$1,000,000.00) TO REDUCE THE IMPACT TO THE F72021 TAX RATE**

ON THE QUESTIONChairman Dowd

First of all, that's the way or that's the type the motions ought to be so that Mr. Griffin can track what we are trying to do by any of the motions. We have had discussions with the Mayor and Director Marchant and others concerning this project. It is a project that we would all like to see happen and it would certainly help the downtown and the library area and all the area around the river that we are trying to reconstruct. But this is not the year to do it. We are going to take \$1 million dollars that is one-time funds for the State; it will not impact anything else in the Budget at this point, on this motion. So I would like to have discussion now on that motion if anyone would like to talk about it. Yes, Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. This is a motion that I will definitely support. While I agree with you that the project would be a nice thing to get done, I think there are small things that we can do, community clean-up, things like that to just kind of spruce up the area in the meantime. And we can do these fundamental changes at a better time. \$1 million dollars is a lot to spend on what amounts to an outside landscaping project. What I would rather see is to help people in the form of reducing the tax rate, so I will support as well. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Your motion, I support it, I would like to see the Plaza fixed, it would enhance that area that unfortunately has been long neglected or overused (inaudible). You are cutting out the \$1 million dollars, are you totally earmarking the \$1 million dollars to the tax rate? There are other issues where maybe some of that money could maybe go a little farther in helping some of our Divisions?

Chairman Dowd

Well this is just a start. There are other motions that I am sure we will be entertaining and as we go along, and we get closer to the end, if modification need to be made we can go back. But right now, I think this is important that we apply this totally to the tax rate with everything else being considered. There are other things in the Budget that people may want to impact and can do so by separate motion. Alderman Schmidt?

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I agree with you, I'm afraid. I don't want to; I think this project is really important to the people that use the Library and the people that use downtown. But I think that this year we have to be more prudent. And so the \$1 million dollars would be better assigned to lowering the tax rate. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Yes? Is that Alderman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

It is. I appreciate you bringing this forward and it makes a lot of sense. I echo some of the sentiments that I would like to see the Library Plaza done. I wanted to know if there is a plan in place if we do this, would it happen next year. I just don't want it to get pushed, you know, 5, 10 years out.

Chairman Dowd

We will have to address the Project again and see where the funding lies. Of course that would help tremendously by the people that represent us in Concord. But we will have to see when the funds are available. It may not be next year, because 2021 and even possibly 2022 are going to be tough budget years. But I think downstream we will try to get back to that project. Anyone else? Seeing and hearing no one, Alderman O'Brien would you call the Motion?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Dowd

Thank you very much. Now you've seen the type of Motions to be made. Alderman Wilshire has a motion.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO RESTORE \$207,062.00 FROM THE MAYOR'S BOTTOM LINE CUT TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET ON PAGE 129 AND REDUCE THE DEPARTMENT CERF FOR 2021 THAT WOULD INVOLVE FOUR LESS VEHICLES BEING PURCHASED IN THIS UPCOMING BUDGET**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Wilshire

That's my motion.

Chairman Dowd

OK, alright, the money you are talking reducing from the CERF Account, again I believe is one-time money that came to the City so, again, it is not...

Alderman Wilshire

Correct that was a one-time.

Chairman Dowd

And has little impact and basically it is a wash because restoring the \$207,062.00 to the bottom line of the Police Department and pushing four vehicles off so that we are not spending that money either. If nobody objects, I would like to have Deputy Chief Testaverde chime in and/or Karen Smith.

Deputy Police Chief Testaverde

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. While, of course, we would like these vehicles in the timely fashion that they were scheduled, we totally understand the position that the City is in. Even before the Pandemic, with the health insurance plight that was before us, we want to be part of the solution. So this will not inhibit our ability to do our job on a daily basis and we are totally fine with that. We appreciate the efforts you have made.

Chairman Dowd

And it is to allow you to hire to your budgeted full staff, right?

Deputy Police Chief Testaverde

That's correct sir.

Chairman Dowd

Ms. Smith, did you want to add anything?

Karen Smith, Nashua Police Department

I'm all set, thank you sir.

John Griffin, CFO

Mr. Chairman? CFO John Griffin. I tried to explain this the last time we met, but the elimination of the four vehicles is not going to have any impact on this year's budget. What basically needs to be cut is the interfund transfer in the interfund transfer area. That's the appropriation, that the half of a million. I can further explain it if you need me to, but that's the money that would need to be cut to reduce the budget which you are adding to.

Chairman Dowd

So the four vehicles wouldn't be bought out of funds, out of the 2021 Budget, where is the money coming from?

Mr. Griffin

That money has already been appropriated, Mr. Chairman, in the CERF fund. So in order and I hope I am making sense, in order to make it a wash, we should reduce, if that's the will of the Committee, we have to reduce the \$207,000.00 from a live appropriation that's in this particular budget.

Chairman Dowd

Ok so the \$500,000.00 that was going into CERF is coming from one-time funding isn't it?

Mr. Griffin

No that's an annual appropriate that we generally – we generally put \$500,000.00 in the CERF Account every year, knowing it is not enough and backfill it with escrows, appropriations not spent.

Chairman Dowd

So if we take the \$207,062.00 less going into CERF and apply it to the Police Department, that's a wash on the end number of the Budget, correct?

Mr. Griffin

That's correct. And then what we could do if it's the will of the Committee, is when we look at the CERF worksheet at the end of the Budget, we can eliminate the four or postpone the four vehicles that you speak of. That's the way we would do it because you are not only appropriating the Budget, you are approving the CERF spend at the end of the Budget. We can get you those pages as well.

Alderman Wilshire

So I will amend my motion to do what CFO Griffin just described.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO AMEND THE MOTION AS DESCRIBED BY CFO JOHN GRIFFIN**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Alright, do any of the members of the Committee have any questions?

Alderman Clemons

Yes, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

I expected it. Mr. Clemons? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

So just so I am on the same page and so that we are all on the same page. So the motion before us is to reduce CERF by \$207,062.00 and add that to the Police Department Budget, is that correct?

Chairman Dowd

The Budget, as it stands right now, is going to have \$500,000.00 put into CERF, every year we put money into CERF. And I talked to the Mayor today, we really need to look at how that CERF Budget functions anyway. But we were going to be putting half a million dollars into CERF this year. So this motion says that we will be putting in, instead of half a million, we will be putting in \$291,224.00 into CERF and moving the \$207,062.00 to the Police bottom line.

Chairman Clemons

OK, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions on this Motion? Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you. Is the CERF in the Budget Book, is there a page number?

Chairman Dowd

Yes. I can tell you, one second.

Mr. Griffin

Mr. Chairman, you do want to look at Page 252, that's where the reduction and the appropriation come from.

Chairman Dowd

Right. The transfers (audio cuts out). I think she was looking for the list of CERF vehicles which I thought I had earmarked here.

Mr. Griffin

Go to the blue pages, on Page 340.

Mr. Chairman

340?

Mr. Griffin

Yes, so you could identify the ....

Chairman Dowd

Oh yeah, I've got it right here.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, Alderman Dowd. I just wondered, I don't need to see the vehicles, so the figure is in that interfund transfer?

Chairman Dowd

Yes. Every year we put money into CERT, usually not enough and that's why at some point we need to have a discussion on how CERF works. I don't want to get into it tonight, it's too long a question. But instead of putting \$500,000.00 into CERF we would reduce that by \$207,062.00, put it in the bottom line of the Police Department. At this point, we would still be putting \$291,224.00 into CERF. Alright? Any other questions on the Motion? Seeing none, Alderman O'Brien, please call the roll.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Dowd

Very good. Alright, are there any other motions? Mr. Griffin, you want to make a motion? Go ahead, did you have something you wanted to ...

Mr. Griffin

Oh not, I'm all set. You may want to identify those vehicles.

Chairman Dowd

I think we were going to let the Department pick the four vehicles.

Mr. Griffin

That's fine.

Chairman Dowd

They may already have done that.

Deputy Police Chief Testaverde

Mr. Chairman, Jim Testaverde, yes, we have already done that and we can send those over.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, send them; to Mr. Griffin then. Any other motions? Alright, I have another motion.

**MOTION BY CHAIRMAN DOWD TO REDUCE THE FY2021 ONE-TIME STATE REVENUE FUNDS FOUND ON PAGE 251 BEING PLACED IN GENERAL FUNDS CONTINGENCY, ACCOUNT NUMBER 70112 "CONTINGENCY FOR EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES" BY \$1 MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) LEAVING A BALANCE OF THE FUNDS GOING INTO THE ACCOUNT FOR EDUCATION TO ONE \$ONE MILLION NINE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,900,000.00). I FURTHER MOVE TO APPLY THIS \$1 MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) TO REDUCING THE GENERAL BUDGET BY \$1 MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) AND APPLYING THESE \$1 MILLION DOLLARS (\$1,000,000.00) TO REDUCE THE TAX RATE**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Any questions? Alderman Schmidt?

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you. Could you explain a little bit about where the \$2.9 million is, please?

Chairman Dowd

Absolutely, if you look on Page 251, we have one-time funds from the State from the Educational place, it was \$2.9 million dollars. We are putting all of that money, before the motion, into contingency. For instance, there's \$450,000.00 in there on contingency for deferred maintenance for the school department. I wouldn't touch that, if I did anything, I'd add to it. So these things are all in contingency and will have to be authorized by the Board of Aldermen for the Board of Education to spend. The list came from them and I am not picking on any one item, but I think it is the time that we need to take that \$1 million dollars and do what we can to reduce the overall tax rate at the end of the year. Any other questions? Follow up?

Alderman Schmidt

Follow up. Do I remember that some of this money was going to be used for a bridge?

Chairman Dowd

A bridge?

Alderman Schmidt

Yes, wasn't the School worried about replacing something that was in really bad condition. Perhaps I am in the wrong category.

Chairman Dowd

I don't think we are building any bridges.

Alderman Schmidt

No, computer bridge.

Chairman Dowd

Yes some of that money would still be used to buy the computer equipment.

Alderman Schmidt

Ok so we are only taking one third of it, sort of. Ok, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, did I hear Alderman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

You did. My question is, I was under the understanding that some of this IT money for the chrome books, etc., was earmarked specifically for that. So I am wondering if us just cutting that makes a difference knowing that they have to use the money for chrome books which is one of the top line items on this.

Chairman Dowd

No, are you thinking of the money that's coming down because of COVID-19? That's a different bucket of money and it has to be spent on COVID-19 expenditures, they are getting – John maybe you can help me, \$3.4 million dollars from the State?

Mr. Griffin

Something close to that, yes.

Chairman Dowd

And they haven't determined exactly how they are going to spend that yet, but it could be for a number of things including computer equipment to help on distance learning. You all set Alderman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

I mean I just wanted to follow up if I may.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, the money is listed on page ...

Alderwoman Kelly

I'm looking at the page, I'm looking right at it. I'm looking right at it. I mean I think I am concerned; I currently don't feel like I can support this. I need a little bit more information if there are others who can speak to this. But I am uncomfortable with changing the School Budget knowing how many years they have been consistently, you know, were given less. I know that they have been asked to increase their ELL teachers, etc. I mean \$1 million dollars is nothing to shake a stick at.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah Alderman Kelly, this is not part of the School Department's Budget. It's not part of their 2. Whatever per cent increase. It's not part of the regular School Budget. It is extra funds that were coming down from the State to be earmarked, to be spent by the School Department. They came up with a proposed list that they wanted to allocate it to working with the Mayor. All of that money is going to be in contingency until they come and say, we want to spend the money for X. Then we authorize it to be spent, much like we did with the ELL positions last year.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yep I remember that.

Chairman Dowd

This is not part of the School Board Budget.

Alderwoman Kelly

I understand, I get what you are saying but I am looking at the item list and I am wondering if we reduce it by \$1 million dollars, where are they going to get the money for the things that are here. And there is nothing on this list that I look at and say, "Oh that can wait". I mean Chrome Books in a time when all of our students are remotely learning, ELL teachers, I mean, there's very little fat there and that's my concern.

Chairman Dowd

I certainly would agree with not wanting to severely impact the School Department, but they are going to get \$3.4 million dollars and they can buy computer equipment with that, based on the COVID-19. The last time that I had talked to them, they had not specified where they were going to spend that \$3.4 million. So I think that if somebody wanted to modify that amount to bring it down a bit, that's fine. But I think that we need to find money that doesn't impact our major departments, that can reduce the overall tax burden on the citizens of Nashua. Are you all set Alderman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

I wish I had some more information from specifically the School Department about how those things you are talking about, the CARES Act, etc., I just want to make sure we are not balancing the budget on the backs of our children. I understand that it is a tough year.

Chairman Dowd

Well if this motion does pass, this will go to the Full Board at some point, probably not until the 23<sup>rd</sup>, when we pass the final budget. If there are concerns, you can raise them at that time and it can be modified at that time. So now I have Elizabeth Lu and then Alderman Jette.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you.

Alderwoman Lu

The CARES Act, the \$3.4 million, is required to be spent on things or expenses that have already been incurred, is that correct?

Chairman Dowd

I don't believe so, no. It just has to be anything that has been impacted by COVID-19. One of the things that is impacted is the extra use they are getting out of their Chrome Books and that money can be used to replace the ones they need to replace and possibly even buy others if they continue distance learning. And then I don't know how they want to spend the rest of the money; I've sort of asked the question a couple times and don't have an answer yet. So I feel fairly comfortable with what we are doing and if we find something different between now and the wrap up, we can make changes.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, and the Chrome Books we will need to spend \$700,000.00 on, have they already bought them (inaudible).

Chairman Dowd

I am having a hard time understanding.

Alderwoman Lu

I wondered if they have already bought the Chrome Books, whether they ended up buying them already in March?

Chairman Dowd

I think the Chrome Books they were looking at, because this Budget and all of this stuff was made before COVID-19, what they were looking at is that Chrome Books only have a certain life span, if for no other reason technology. They need to replace a number of them and I think they came up with that number to do the replacement. But now with the added use that the Chrome Books are getting because of COVID-19, I think they are eligible out of that \$3.4 million dollars. All set?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, so for years we have been complaining that the State is not providing us with enough money to support education; certainly a lot less money than they are supposed to be giving us. So this year, they finally give us this extra money for education and what are we doing? If this passes, we are not using it for education, we are using it to reduce the tax rate. It's like the State of New Hampshire taking the Tobacco sale money and not using it to reduce tobacco use but using it to balance the budget. I think it's a wrong way of approaching this. So I am against this. And I don't think we ought to vote for this tonight and expect to be convinced otherwise at a subsequent Full Board Meeting. I think we ought to, you know, personally I am going to vote against this tonight. If you can convince me otherwise at the Full Board Meeting, I may change my mind. But right now, based upon the information I am being provided, this seems like a misuse of the education money that the State is providing us.

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin do you want to address that at all, as to the application of the money.

Mr. Griffin

Certainly, I think the Mayor might want to speak as well. But the money comes in through the School Department State Adequacy Aid, it was coming over combined with the former Kindergarten Funding. It is \$2.9 this year; it was close to \$2.9 last year. And it was to provide relief for the School Department, but it is not compelling because we know that the School Department's Budget, as Mr. Donovan indicates, is about \$150 million and we get \$38 million of aid. So the taxpayers is a consequence piece most of the funding for the School Department. So hopefully that helps. Just to keep the board here, we started with a 4.5 tax increase. The first million brought it down to 4.2 and this million takes it down to 3.8 or 3.76 to be more exact. So in trying to combine a lot of competing efforts, and again, as you said Mr. Chairman, pre-COVID and post-COVID and as the Mayor indicated in his remarks, trying to make sure we balance the needs of the City, School and other departments.

Chairman Dowd

Also I am pretty familiar with this Budget Book, probably too familiar. And I can tell you right now, I cannot find another place in the Budget anywhere where we can reduce \$1 million dollars and not decimate our departments and that's not something I am in favor of. Trust me, I have been involved with the education and the School Department for 16 years. If I didn't think that they could survive with this cut, especially with the monies they are getting through the COVID-19 Relief State money I wouldn't have brought it up. But I think it is the only place we can get the amount of money to bring the tax rate down to something that is more reasonable.

We have been averaging about 2.6%. Even with this, we are down just under 3.8%, so taxes are going to go up. This is not a good time for the people of Nashua to be having to shell out more money than they have to for taxes. So is there anyone that would like to speak to this motion? Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

I would please. I have a question I think it would be for you, are we entirely sure that this won't decimate the Budget of the School and affect them in a way where they are going to have make layoffs?

Chairman Dowd

No, again, this is not part of their School Budget. These are things that they would be spending over and above their School Budget. For instance, deferred maintenance is an example of one of the spending items on the contingency list, is normally out of Capital Improvements and is not part of the School Budget. So some of these things on there are not part of the School Budget anyway. They work to the benefit of the Schools, but they are not part of the School Budget. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman? Thank you. Yeah so just to kind of emphasize your point, it is one-time money coming from the State of New Hampshire. It is not anything in the presentation or that we got from the Superintendent and it is not money that is coming from the tax base. So it is coming from the State of New Hampshire as a separate appropriation almost. So instead of directing to toward the School, we are directing it to reduce the property tax burden. And so I you know while I appreciate the fact that I would like to have them have, in better times I would like to have them have this money. But I think where you said they could potentially make up the money with the COVID funding, I think that would make them; whole on a lot of these things. I am going to support your motion, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

OK anyone else? Seeing no one, Alderman O'Brien would you call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd

5

Nay: Alderman Jette , Alderwoman Kelly

2

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman O'Brien

I am now ready to accept any other motions that someone might have relative to the Budget. And by the way, when we run out of motions, that's when I am going to ask for a final vote on the Budget to go back to the full Board of Aldermen. So does anybody have any other motions they'd like to address. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Yes, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I would like to make a motion to restore \$391,224 of the Mayor's bottom line cut to the Fire Department for Fiscal Year 21 Budget.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO RESTORE \$391,224 OF THE MAYOR'S BOTTOM LINE CUT TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021 BY MAKING THE FOLLOWING CHANGES: PROPOSE TO TAKE THE REMAINING \$291,224.00 OF ONE TIME MONEY CURRENTLY ALLOCATED FROM THE ONE TIME STATE REVENUE TO THE CERF ACCOUNT AND PUT THAT TO ZERO AND PUT THAT BACK INTO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET. IN ADDITION ALDERMAN CLEMONS PROPOSED TO TAKE \$100,000.00 OF THE \$1,000,000.00 WE JUST REDUCED FROM THE ONE TIME STATE MONEY GOING TO THE SCHOOL AND ALLOCATE TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Clemons

And I would like to speak to that.

Chairman Dowd

Ok, you heard the motion. Alderman Clemons would like to speak to the motion.

Alderman Clemons

Yes. So basically what effectively this would do is restore \$391 – almost \$400,000.00 of the Mayor's \$500,000.00 cut to the Fire Department. It would effectively put CERF at Zero in 2021 any money into CERF. It would also leave \$900,000.00 remaining to reduce the Fiscal Year 21 tax rate from the previous motion that you made.

The issue here is that we have the Fire Fighter's Contract which is going to come before us in the next coming week or so and right now there is currently no money in there for that raise. And what this motion is going to do is allow some room for that increase to the Nashua Fire Department so that we can have them have some money for their contract. And so there may need to be additional adjustments after this, but I think it is important that we recognize the fact that the Chief came before us and basically said that the cut that the Mayor made to the Budget is not going to be sustainable for any contract that comes forward to us. So these folks have been working almost a year without a contract and even if we don't pass this one that's before us, we should recognize the fact that they have been dealing day in and day out with the COVID-19 problem. And on top of that, for the last 4 or 5 years have been doing the Safe Stations Program without any extra compensation.

So I think it is in our best interest to do this and that's the purpose for me making this motion. And I hope people could support it. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Could I address this for a moment?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, go ahead Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Alright I think there's a misunderstanding regarding how much money there is available to the Fire Fighters. I can go through the figures and you will hear from CFO Griffin as well. There is not sufficient funds yet to fund the 17% raise that is proposed in the contract. But in Fiscal '20, our current budget year, we included \$438,000.00 and that is still there to cover an increase for Fire Fighters. And in the current budget there is also money to cover a raise, not as much as is in the contract.

But as John Griffin and I went through this with our budget team today if you were going to fund and I am going to give you two scenarios which I discussed with you Mr. Chair today.

The way the School Department reports and calculates the amount of a contract for a single year, the wage increase includes – the wage increase say it's 2 ½ or 2 or 1 ½ or whatever it is, includes the step increases that will be incurred in that year. If you use that and I am going to call this Scenario I. If you use that method of determining what the wage increase is going to be, including the cost of living increase and steps to do a 2.5% raise, in Fiscal 20 and another 2.5% raise in Fiscal 2021, 2 ½ % each year, you would only need to add \$51,000.00 to this year's Budget.

Now Scenario II – if you are not including the step increases as part of the wage increase that you are trying to fund, then, of course, you are increasing total compensation by more than 2.5% , if you are seeking 2.5 plus the steps, that is Scenario II, there is still \$438,000.00 in last year's budget which would cover that and you would need to add, and CFO Griffin and I went through this in detail today along with the other budget team members, you would need to add \$245,000.00, in this year's budget to fund step increases plus 2.5%. So I don't know where this, maybe somebody doesn't understand, I am not disagreeing that Alderman Clemons was presented that information. But the information is not really – if you go through the numbers in detail – not accurate because there is a \$1,144,000.00 in the Fire Department's proposed budget for wage increases. I did reduce that by \$500,000.00, but that still leaves \$644,000.00 in the Fire Department Budget for wage increase. So I believe the figures are accurate. If you want to fund 2.5% plus the steps there is not enough that is not correct, but the addition there would need to be \$245,000.00. If we were just doing 2.5% including the steps, you would only need to add \$51,000.00.

Chairman Dowd

All set Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

But could John, could you make sure that I have accurately reported what we came up with.

Mr. Griffin

Yes Mayor. Chairman Dowd, that calculation that the Mayor just described is accurate.

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Through you to CFO Griffin, what would be the amount that we would need to add to the Budget this year to cover the contract that is before the Board of Aldermen?

Mr. Griffin

In consultation with the Fire Department, their recommendation is \$150,000.00 which I agree with.

Alderman Clemons

So if I understand you correctly, in order to – with the contract that is before the Board – if we added \$150,000.00 that would be enough money for next year to fund that entire contract without any layoffs or anything like that.

Mayor Donchess

There's another misunderstanding, that is not what he is answering.

Alderman Clemons

OK well that's what I am asking. I am asking how much money would need to be added to the Budget.

Mayor Donchess

Yes, he's answering the question how much would we need in this year's budget, the current budget to fund the contract given what has been proposed. In other words, add to the budget that we are operating in right now.

Alderman Clemons

No, that's not my question.

Mayor Donchess

I know but that's what he answered.

Alderman Clemons

Ok.

Mr. Griffin

Ok, sorry.

Mayor Donchess

So the question is, how much would you need to add to the Budget to fully fund the contract that's proposed and that number is, well correct me if I am wrong, but the \$500,000.00 that I cut right?

Mr. Griffin

Yes, the number that we discussed the Fire session is (inaudible) and that's the calculation necessary in Fiscal21 that's absolutely correct.

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman if I could continue?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. So what my motion does, is get us closer to that \$500,000.00 so we can take up the contract that is before us and be able to give it a favorable recommendation. So with that in mind, and again, that's still you know \$100,000.00 or so, \$109,000.00 or so short of where ideally we would need to be but it is a heck of a lot closer to the number that we need to get to. And I am confident that if we work together, we can find that further together. So with that said, I am going to keep my motion as is.

Chairman Dowd

Comments on the motion? No one? So everyone understands the motion that Alderman Clemons has put forth, to take the balance of the money that was – Alderman Schmidt?

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you. No I don't really understand. I don't really know where the money is coming from or where it is going to. Would you just – a clear sentence on the process of the movement of the money?

Chairman Dowd

Ok what he is suggesting is taking the balance of the money that was going to be put into CERF, remember we just reduced it with the Police Department. The balance there was \$291,224.00. So that money would be, instead of going to CERF would go into the Fire Department Budget plus the \$1 million dollars that we just passed from the one time money to the School Department, he reduced that by \$100,000.00 giving \$900,000.00 towards the tax rate and taking \$100,000.00 and adding it to the \$291,224.00 from CERF for an amount of \$391,224.00 to be applied to the bottom line of the Fire Department. I hope that was ...

Alderman Schmidt

That was concise, yes, that was clear. Does that mean that the Fireman's Budget as it comes to us or the Fireman's Contract comes to us, that we can pass that, will this cover it?

Chairman Dowd

John you can jump in but it would not be (audio cuts out) enough money to pass the existing contract, they would still be short a certain amount of money, I think \$150,000.00 or something like that. If we pass the contract as it came to us, we would have to find it somewhere in the remaining budget in 2021.

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Chairman, I think the answer is that you'd still be \$150,000.00 short this year, the current year that we are in and CFO Griffin can correct me if I'm wrong. I believe given Alderman Clemons motion of \$391 you would still be short \$109,000.00 in Fiscal 21. Do you think that's correct, Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

Yes Mr. Chairman and Mr. Mayor that is correct. Just one subtle point, if we take the \$500,000.00 that was going to go into CERF and subtract the \$207,062.00 I don't get a different number.

Chairman Dowd

I think what it is, is it should be after the \$207,064.00 it is the balance.

Mr. Griffin

Right, I got \$292, (audio inaudible).

Alderman Clemons

\$292,938.00?

Mr. Griffin

Right so \$292,938.00 plus \$207,062 is \$500,000.00.

Alderman Clemons

OK I did my math wrong.

Mr. Griffin

That's ok.

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yes? Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

I am going to amend that to what CFO Griffin just said, so it is \$392,938.00.

Chairman Dowd

Ok. Any other discussion on the motion before us? Alderman Lu?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, Chairman Dowd. Is there any, so that would leave the contingency...

Chairman Dowd

It's hard to hear you, can you move closer?

Alderwoman Lu

That would leave the contingency for the education zeroed out, correct?

Chairman Dowd

No. No, no, no. What he was proposing was – we just took \$1 million dollars out of that contingency and he wants to take of that million that we just reduced from that contingency account, he wants to take \$100,000.00 of it and apply it to the Fire Budget and leave \$900,000.00 to address the original motion.

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, I see. I just wanted to suggest is there a reason why it would be a good idea to leave State assistance in the for education priorities and just reduce the education budget, you know, the allocation so that we haven't received funding from the State and then reverted it, but let it go to education priorities as a contingency but we reduce their budget in another way?

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, I wouldn't suggest taking the School Department's Budget with what they came in at and reducing it at all., personally. I would leave the School Budget intact. They did a great job of getting down to what the Mayor asked them to get down to. I don't think in my personal opinion we ought to be touching any more of that. What we are talking about is State money that came down that even as we speak with this part of the Budget, we are not giving to the School Department initially. What we are doing is we are putting it in contingency and as they come to us with things to spend, we will have \$1.9 million to give to them instead of \$2.9 million. I know that \$450,000.00 of that is for, at least that's what they have earmarked so far for deferred maintenance. That deferred maintenance should be a lot higher. When you have \$1. Billion dollars in schools building, you know, that amount of money to maintain them is kind of really low. Ok?

Alderwoman Lu

Thank you, I just wanted to suggest, I just wanted to throw that out there, I wondered if it would disincentivize the State from ever sending aid down again if we divert it away from it ....

Chairman Dowd

No I think there's a lot of activity in the State to even add more money to education so I don't think it would defer them at all. They are trying to give us more money than they are giving us already. Right now it is tough to get it through part of the cycle, but we will see. Alright, Alderman Klee?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have a comment and a question. But first my question would be through you to CFO Griffin, and that is with this, if this were to pass, what would be the effective tax rate at this point?

Mr. Griffin

So as I mentioned we were at 3.76, with the \$100,000.00 reduction from the million of the school, it would rise to 3.87.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much and may I continue Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yes.

Alderman Klee

Thank you. I guess my next comment would be, in truth, we 've been talking about the Fire Fighter's Contract and so on. It is something we need to look at seriously and whether we pass this one and send it back after another one is yet to be determined. But I think we need to put something aside and budget as if we are going to pass something. I appreciate exactly what the Mayor had to say about you know if we maintained it at 2. – whatever the rate was that he gave which you know may seem reasonable and so on.

But they have gone a year without a contract. And all the things that Alderman Clemons has said about them, the Safe Stations and so on, I have been trying to do a lot of homework to find out, were they given any extra funds and so on for it, and from what I've been able to gather, they haven't. And they have stepped up and done a yeoman's job. I really would like to be able to do something for them. You know, we don't know what is going to happen when the contract comes before us and we all sit down and talk, but I think I'd like to at least budget something, at least part of that, if not all of that \$500,000.00 back to them. So that is my comment, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Ok anyone else? I've been trying to, I think we recognize at one point that there wasn't quite enough money in the FY2021 Budget to give any kind of a raise, appropriate raise to the Fire Department and I think we should add some money back. But I don't think we ought to go as high as \$392,938. If the Fireman's Contract passes, we will have to come up with a balance of money at that time. But if we put some money back in there, if things change, we could still give them a decent raise. It might not be what is in the current contract, but it might be something less, at least in '20 and '21 and maybe they move things to the out year. But I am conflicted because I have always supported the Fire Department and they a hell of a job for us. There's no better Fire Department in the State of New Hampshire or in New England than we have. And we do have to support them. It is a question of balancing the support we can give to the Fire Department with what the taxpayers can afford and that is what has been weighing on my mind. Any other comments on the motion? Seeing none, Alderman O'Brien would you call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Wilshire Alderman O'Brien 3

Nay: Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 4

**MOTION FAILED**

Chairman Dowd

The motion fails. I would be willing to address a similar motion with the numbers we have heard if somebody wants to make that motion. No? Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Can you remind us what the numbers were that we heard?

Chairman Dowd

I think I am going to throw that potato to Mr. Griffin. I think the number is the \$245 which would allow 2.5% raise plus steps.

Mr. Griffin

That's correct, Mr. Chairman.

Alderman Wilshire

I'll make that motion.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO TAKE \$245,000.00 FROM THE REMAINING MONEY THAT WAS GOING INTO CERF AND APPLY IT TO THE BOTTOM LINE OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET TO ALLOW FOR WAGE CONTINGENCY**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Kelly

I have a question.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

Just a clarification that if it is coming from CERF to the bottom line it is not, the effect is null essentially?

Chairman Dowd

Effective what?

Alderwoman Kelly

It is coming from CERF....

Chairman Dowd

It's actually not coming from CERF. It is coming from the funds that we were going to be putting in CERF and reducing that number. Mr. Griffin is going to have to do the math on what is left. But I'm not even sure, we may need that money anyway. I think I heard, correct me if I am wrong Mr. Griffin, that if we put \$245,000.00 back in the bottom line cut for the Fire Department, you'd have enough for a 2.5% raise, plus steps.

Mr. Griffin

That's correct. That would leave \$47,938.00 to be transferred as part of this Budget into CERF.

Chairman Dowd

Ok. Do you understand your motion Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

I do, thank you very much.

Chairman Dowd

So my feeling on this is that it gives us a base to work with, with money in the FY21 Budget. If the full contract passes, we will have to adjust on the fly to cover the difference in cost. We can address that when we talk about the Budget. There's a Public Hearing on the 10<sup>th</sup>, followed by a Budget Meeting to discuss the Fireman's Contract. Are there any questions on the motion on the floor before us?

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Well I've got Alderman O'Brien first, he put his hand up.

Alderman O'Brien

Yes thank you Mr. Chairman. I am very disappointed that Alderman Clemons' motion did not pass because it would seem to have been a prudent motion that would have done exactly what we wanted in taking care of the Fire Fighters and practically fund them pretty level to the City and may I say, the City negotiates the contract. That is the Mayor appoints Legal, we have duly elected the Board of Fire Commissioners, the Fire Chiefs. And they came back and brought to us that deal that is on the table. And I wish there wasn't a long-term negotiation. What would have happened if this came back pre Covid-19, probably this would have been passed. And this is the misunderstanding that I think a lot of the rank and firemen may not actually gather. Here they were asked to things with COVID-19, they were as much as the general population of America not prepared for it. And I guess some of the firefighters from what I understand had to wear bandanas, not the masks. When they went to approach the hospitals, they were told, we need them for our own.

So the original motion, although this pending motion probably will do a little bit of something, it will help. But much of the step increases that we are basically talking about, they are imbedded into the contract anyway. So I think Mr. Griffin can explain that, that they are naturally going to happen. It occurs when people get their education or promotion of other different things. If you want examples, if you want somebody to dive into the water to rescue somebody who is drowning, you have to meet that certain certification to become a Certified Diver. And when you become a Certified Diver, then you are up into that type of matrix on that. So although this will take care of part of it, but I don't know, I can support this, but it is a far cry from what we originally intended to do with the Clemons' motion. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

My concern is that it gives us a base of money in the 2021 Budget. We don't know what is going to happen with the contract. And by the way, we will know what is going to happen with the contract before the final vote on the Budget. But it will not establish, as coming out Budget Committee that we have some amount of money in there for an increase. If we put too much money in it and the contract fails, and comes back sometime with less, then we've got all this money in contingency that we might not have needed; although I think we probably would use all of it if it is there.

If the contract passes, as it is currently written, without being modified, then we are going to have to do something either at the Budget Wrap Up on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, or whenever the contract comes back to us for final passage. I don't think this negates anything to do with the contract, I think it just puts an amount of money in the FY21 Budget that will give us a good balancing point. I think I had someone else who wanted to speak.

Alderman Clemons

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. Like Alderman O'Brien I was disappointed in the vote previously but I will support this because it does, it gets us halfway where we need to be or almost halfway where we need to be. But this is the issue that I have and I hate bringing up one Department over another and things like that. I asked every single Department what they – you know how many new employees they were going to have and such. The Police Department had a lot of vacancies so they are filling vacancies. But the School Department, you know, is hiring 17 new people. New employees. So that to me, if I understand some of them are very important, some of them have to do with Federal Mandates and things like that, so I get that. We probably had to have some of them.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Clemons, you are a little off topic there.

Alderman Clemons

Well I am speaking about the Budget and how it relates to this motion. Because how it relates to this motion is that the – we are trying to add money to the Fire Budget so that they can give their existing employees a raise. So that they can give the employees that have been working on the job without a contract for a year a raise. And yet in another part of the Budget, we are telling another Department, yeah go out and hire 17 new people. Me, I don't know, it doesn't send the right message. And I am not saying that the 17 people that the School Department is hiring is wrong, which is why I was trying to get us closer to the \$500,000.00 for the Fire Department so that they too could take care of their personnel needs. I am going to support this but we are only about halfway there.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? So I think this motion is trying to get some balance. I certainly believe that the Firemen deserve to be compensated for what they do, because as I said, I have always respected and appreciated everything they do. But we have to take the view for the entire City of Nashua and the taxpayers and if we can help them a little later, then during this pandemic, when people are suffering in a number of different instances. We have got to strike a balance and I think that's what this motion does so I am supporting Alderman Wilshire's motion.

Alderman O'Brien

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Could this legally, you know I am concerned here, coming in at the lower type of number, could that be legally construed as part of us getting involved with the negotiations because we are setting a price and underfunding it and therefore when the parties – it seems like if there is no money the parties are going to have to back to the table. And so therefore, are we dangerously close in negotiations?

Chairman Dowd

Again, we are going to address the Fireman's Budget before we pass the Final 2021 Budget. So at this point, I would say "no". If the current contract gets passed, on the 10<sup>th</sup>, we will have to adjust the numbers on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. But this gives us a little bit of a base to work with. Any other comments? Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah just to Alderman O'Brien's point, most of the conversation has been about Aldermen essentially expressing their intention to support or not support a bill that we still have to hear. So either funding part of it is a negotiation or funding it before we've even voted on it seems like it would be a negotiation. I think it would be a good idea to focus on the budget rather than messages we are sending and that kind of stuff.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? Seeing no one, would the Clerk please call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd	7
Nay:	0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Dowd

Alright, any other motions that anyone would like to make at this time?

Alderwoman Kelly

I would like to make a motion.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

And forgive me if I don't put this exactly perfectly and maybe I can get some help here. But I would like to restore \$300,000.00 to the contingency for the school to bring us in line with what we have given back to other Departments.

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO RESTORE \$300,000.00 FOR THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderwoman Kelly

So you reduced it by \$1 million, I'd like to give back \$300,000.00.

Chairman Dowd

From where?

Alderwoman Kelly

The contingency for educational priorities.

Chairman Dowd

No, no – I understand that. But where are you getting the \$300,000.00 from? We have to take it from somewhere to put in somewhere.

Alderman Wilshire

Alderman Dowd?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Alderman Wilshire

Alderman Wilshire

The one-time money, the one-time million that we ...

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes

Chairman Dowd

Ok so you want to reduce the \$1 million dollars that we were going to put towards the tax rate to \$700,000.00 and put \$300,000.00 back.

Alderwoman Kelly

Correct.

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin, did you follow that enough to be able to ...

Mr. Griffin

Yes, to adds \$300,000.00 to the appropriations.

Alderwoman Kelly

I understand that.

Chairman Dowd

Did you want to speak to it Alderwoman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

So I know that you had mentioned that you would potentially consider a different number and I've been listening to the motions on the floor. I appreciate we are all in a tough Budget season, we are all trying to help the various Departments and give them whatever they need; whether it is coming up to full compliment or allowing the Police to be in a place that they can support the things that are going on in the City right now.

I think that this is in line with what we've done for the other Departments and I urge us to look at the things that are on that page and consider it in terms of what is going on right now. And I know we say COVID is coming that's got a lot of strings. I just think that we can be as fair as we can here and not continually nick away at the school. I feel very strongly the adequacy aid that we told the Schools to wait for and push for, should go to the schools. I understand that there are a lot of intricacies to a City Budget. But the money was supposed to be for an inadequate access to education and I think trying to move it to a Fire Department or the bottom line, just puts us at a disadvantage.

Chairman Dowd

Ok, anyone else want to comment on the motion before us? Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

I am going to vote against this for a couple of different reasons. The money, the \$1 million dollars was taken out of the \$2.9 million general fund contingency. So in other words, the money is there, but it wasn't particularly earmarked although it was designated to chrome books and as Chairman Dows said, deferred maintenance, to which I agree thoroughly with Chairman Dowd. This deferred maintenance has a cost factor of \$460,000.00 and I would like that to remain the same. But basically there's several other choices where the money could by the School Department could pick and choose on where to best spend the \$1,900,000.00 remaining, therefore, that's a lot of money, again that's not a drop in the bucket for them to decide and they could put that to their programs that seem appropriate.

And I have no doubt that the School Department can do that. I seem to remember last Budget year there was a motion brought up by one of the Aldermen to increase the School Department Budget to include some teachers and everything. Well that money sat in the School Department account until almost the very last and then was applied to something. And you've got to keep in mind with the School Department, we do not have control over the bottom line. I mean we have control over the bottom line, but we give them X amount of money on their particular budget and they determine where to spend those particular funds. It is not like where we can designate where they can be earmarked. So I am confident that the School Department can handle the almost \$2 million dollars remaining in the General Fund Contingency for prioritized programs. So I am against this motion.

Chairman O'Brien

OK Alderman Klee, then Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again I am going to ask a question of Mr. Griffin through you. How does this taking this \$300,000.00 back out effect the tax rate? It's at 3.76 right now, correct? How does that affect the tax rate?

Mr. Griffin

It's at 3.79.

Alderman Klee

It brings it to 3.79, thank you so much.

Chairman Dowd

So that's what it is after the 300?

Mr. Griffin

Correct.

Chairman Dowd

Ok. Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah just for context as to what Alderman O'Brien was talking about. During the last Budget Season, I think Alderman Kelly was the co-sponsor on it . We did increase the number of paraprofessionals that were available to the teacher, because their ratios were dangerously high. And then later on in the year, ultimately this District had some State Investigation to that effect as to whether they were delivering effective service. So we increased it slightly more as well in Strategic Reserve Contingency. So as they were able to fill positions, they would be able to recruit more paras. One of the reasons we weren't able to get the paraprofessionals fully hired to fill those roles, was actually because we were trying to split hairs and have one person work at like three different schools. So they were having trouble finding somebody and as soon as we added a person it was more easy for them to hire somebody who would be able to work a reasonable job instead of like three part-time ones.

Before we ended up having to spend that money however, the State recognized that we had additional funding needs and so we didn't end up using that money ourselves. But we did end up increasing some of the deficit. If memory serves, we added like 3 or 4 positions and I think the number that the School Board originally estimated was much higher, it was like 9 to 12. The School District has always been under funded. It is always the one that gets the largest cuts. I believe that we do not cut the Fire Department's Budget at all. I think we have been fully funding them and meeting their needs as best we are able to at every opportunity. But that also means that because we do cut the School District's funding, there's a lot more unmet need. And I don't think their needs are going to be reduced at all given the COVID-19 Crisis.

The staff and the teachers have to really pivot and come up with new protocols and teaching strategy. And I don't know what the fall is going to look like either, because if you have to reduce classroom size, you are going to need to have enough teachers to teach the class. So I kind of see what Alderman Kelly is trying to do here, and I would just caution members of the Committee against saying, the School District is getting more money, so if we cut it in half, there's still more money left over. That was all already kind of an apology funding source. If you are already making major cuts in our education and underfunding it in a lot of areas, our schools are not stellar performers, they need more resources. And we are cutting in half, out of necessity, resources that were given to them specifically. So I would just caution against continually subdividing how much resources the School will get because that's what we have been complaining the State has been doing for years.

Chairman Dowd

Ok anyone else like to comment.

Alderman Clemons

Yes, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Yes. So I unfortunately I won't be able to support this amendment either. The reason is, is because the – like you had said at the beginning, Mr. Chairman, the amount of money that the School is going to get in COVID money could be used to supplement some of the or almost all of the \$1 million dollars that we took from the bottom line here. And in addition to that, the only Department that is hiring new people is the School Department. So while I understand that there may be a need, there's a lot of needs around the City right now. But I think the School Department is going to be very well off. I originally at the education meeting portion of the Budget Hearing was going to vote to amend the School Department by cutting you know the \$500,000.00 or so for the 17 new positions. In having spoken to several of the – some teachers and some other folks in the community, and some people on the School Board, they have told me that those are positions that are to them well-needed. So I have changed my point of view on that but I really, I can't in good conscious add anything more to their Budget or anything more to their side because we really are in a tough spot and I think that they can make up that money with some of the COVID funding. So I am going to vote "no".

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else that would like to – Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, thank you. So I think that when you look at the general overview of our situation, I think one of the things that is well recognized is what makes cities or towns outstanding, what makes Nashua such a great place to live has always been that we have such a great school system. But we have short-funded our school system for years now and I think it is starting to catch up with us. The needs of the schools have increased dramatically especially with what has been pointed out to us, so many different languages that are spoken by students entering our schools. You know, the difficulty that our schools have with dealing with that and teaching those kids appropriately. It takes a lot more resources to deal with that. When you look at how much Nashua spends on schools, we think it is a lot of money but I think when you compare what we spend, when you compare it with what other cities and towns in New Hampshire spend, we are spending less than the average, let me just say that. So it's not like our School Department is getting most of our money in comparison to how other cities and towns meet those demands.

The other thing is that this money that was provided by the State, when we first found out how much it was going to be, I don't remember exactly that there was a deal made or an agreement made or any kind of a binding thing, but I remember the Mayor announcing that a certain amount of that, that money that was allocated for education was going to be used for education. There was another amount allocated to the City that was going to be used by the City. And here we are taking that money away from the school and using it for other purposes. If the School Department had known that we weren't going to give them this money, their budget probably would have looked differently. They probably would have held on to the original budget that they were requesting. But they made an agreement with the Mayor to reduce it to the amount that he was requesting, but with the understanding that they were going to get this additional money as well. So I voted against taking this money away from the School a few motions ago and I will support Alderman Kelly's attempt to restore at least part of it. I think that's the right thing for us to do.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you, Alderman Jette. Alderman Schmidt?

Alderman Schmidt

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Maybe people have forgotten but the Department of Justice is currently investigating Nashua for inadequate services. And part of this money was to go to the ELL, Behavior, Paras, Psychologists, the money is essential for the schools.

And if we could restore a little bit more of it so that we don't take a full third, but less than that, it would certainly make a huge difference and we could still use the \$700,000.00 for reducing taxes. I will vote for this and thank Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Perhaps this was asked and answered and I apologize if it has been, I just wanted I guess reiterated for my own purposes. If we pass this motion, what does it bring the tax rate to?

Chairman Dowd

I think Mr. Griffin said 3.79%.

Alderwoman Kelly

From the 3.71 that we were at correct?

Mr. Griffin

3.76% Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

That's where we will be if this passes?

Mr. Griffin

It was 3.76.

Chairman Dowd

And it will go to 3.79 if this passes?

Mr. Griffin

That's correct.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you for that clarification.

Alderman Clemons

Ok thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderwoman Kelly did you have something. No I was just saying thank you for the clarification I had it wrong.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, any other comments on this motion?

Alderman Clemons

Yes, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

OK Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. You know there's – I am struggling with this budget as it is. It is funny, last year I made the comment that if \$10.00 was the difference between you making your taxes and losing your house, that you were in serious trouble. But that was in an economy when we had a very low unemployment rate here in Nashua. As the Mayor said the other night, we have over 10,000 people in Nashua who are unemployed. That is a humungous number. It's a number I don't think this City has really ever seen in modern history. We have a budget that is going up by almost 4%, in a year when over 10,000 people in the City don't have jobs. I just feel like we are trying very hard to balance service and give people the most for their money that they do have to spend.

The School Department, this year because of the State Aid, is doing very well. And I for one can't understand why when they could get the money from emergency funds to supplement some of the things that they would have spent with this \$1 million dollars, why we would try to add some of it back, most unnecessarily in my opinion when we are facing – and again it's .3% it is not a lot. Last year was the year we needed to go up. This year we need to go down in the Budget. You know? And the other thing, to a comment previously, our education money is mostly raised through property taxes. There is well set precedent to put education money that comes from the State towards the property tax rate. We have done it before in the past, there is precedent there for it. It is not a misappropriation and so I, you know, and in the past, I have been for and against doing that, depending on the situation, and depending on what was going on at the time.

I have seen this before; I have seen this play out before. I think the Board of Education is getting a good budget from us. So I am not going to support this motion and I hope that rest of the Aldermen will heed that advice as well.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else who would like to speak? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

I just want to clarify that I think this is a clarification. The money that is being made available from the State and Federal Government for COVID-19 related expenses is not money that is replacing, it's not found money. It is not money that is replacing stuff that the School Department or any other Department in the City was going to spend anyway. It is to reimburse the City for expenses related to COVID-19 which were unexpected, which are being spent because of COVID-19. I think there is a misperception that this is bonus money that we are getting to substitute for money that we needed. You know, before COVID-19 the needs of the School Department, the Fire Department, the Police Department, the Department of Public Works were all there.

This Budget was built to meet those needs before COVID-19. COVID-19 happened and we have had to spend a lot of extra money that we weren't planning on and the COVID-19 money that we are getting from the State and the Federal Government, is to reimburse us in part, not entirely, but in part money we wouldn't have spent otherwise. At least that's my understanding.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Schmidt.

Alderman Schmidt

Just quickly, the COVID-19 funds will have strings attached. They will be able to be used for specific things, I'm sure ELL teachers are not part of that. The School gave us a decent budget, we passed it. This money is outside that and needed by the School if we can possibly make it.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly, I think I see where you came from your 300K number. The 700K would be the Chrome Books which we think the COVID money can handle and it leaves the money for the rest of the deferred – all of those things are going to be deferred like one of them is a pre-school building that they are looking to acquire or rent, I forget which. But all that money is going to into contingency in the General Budget until the School Department asks for it. But I can see where you are coming from because a if it's \$700,000.00 all the rest of those line items could be covered as stated. So I think I'll be supporting this motion. OK, any other comment on the motion? Seeing none, Alderman O'Brien please call the roll.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: \Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd	5
Nay: Alderman Clemons, Alderman O'Brien	2

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Dowd

OK I am going interject with one small motion here. I'd like to make a motion to restore the \$20,394.00 cut to the Citywide Communications Budget, Department 157 on Page 148 to allow for the shift of .2 time for police IT technician to become a back up to Mr. Mansfield regarding communications networking and setting up the City's Emergency Radio Equipment. If you refer to page 146, you will see the explanation and the recent upgrades and changes in the communications infrastructure. The new network has become more challenging to troubleshoot. To assist in troubleshooting and to provide additional back up person to learn the radio communication side of information technology, we have requested an additional part-time employee that would assist with networking issues that arise. There is also software that may eventually link to the radio system that will require an IT Networking Specialist. This person was full-time in the Police Department. The .2 was taken out of the Police Budget and was put in the Citywide Communications Budget but then it was cut by the Mayor. I've had discussions with the Mayor and I think he's OK with us putting that back in because if Mr. Mansfield is an entity of one on this networking of emergency communications, and heaven forbid anything happen to him, we need to get somebody else that's up to speed on this and this is the first step in that direction. So the motion is to add \$20,394.00 to Citywide Communications Department, Department 157.

**MOTION BY CHAIRMAN DOWD TO ADD \$20,394.00 TO CITYWIDE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, DEPARTMENT 157**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Any discussion.

Alderman Clemons

Yes.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman O'Brien beat you by a whisker.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Mr. Dowd. Just again my numbers, you put this as an increase of \$20,000.00.

Chairman Dowd

\$20,394.00 yes.

Alderman O'Brien

And this is intended to be a raise?

Chairman Dowd

No. No. He's full-time in the Police Department, now he's going to be like .8 in the Police Department and .2 in Citywide Communications. If we didn't add this to the Communication Budget, we'd have to put that \$20,000.00 back in the Police Department Budget because this guy is full-time and we don't want him to be cut in advertently and that is what happened. So we'd like to move him .2 into Citywide Communications, they work together extensively now but it would give him more of an opportunity. I can have Deputy Testaverde talk to it if you'd like.

Deputy Police Chief Testaverde

Yes Mr. Chairman. You pretty well hit the nail on the head. Right now if God Forbid, Bill Mansfield slips on a bar of soap in the shower, the entire City radio system I think would go down. And originally when he started it was predominately and I am making up some figures here just to give you an analogy, it was about 80% knowledge in radio systems and maybe 20% in IT. Now those numbers have flip flopped with technology over the years. And the head of our IT is about 100 feet away down the hallway from Mr. Mansfield and they work together often and this was, as you said, to have a little bit of redundancy, back up a continuity plan in case Mr. Mansfield were ever to leave us. It's always good to have someone else familiar with the systems. As far as the financial side of it, I followed what you said, Mr. Chairman, and I don't think I can say it better unless Karen Smith wanted to chime in and clarify anything.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions on this motion? Oh there she is.

Ms. Smith

I'm all set thank you.

Chairman Dowd

You're all set, OK. Any other questions on this motion. Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

I just want to say that if anything did happen to Mr. Mansfield, we would certainly need someone to fulfill that role until we got someone else. But I think having a second person have some intimate knowledge of Citywide Communications is really important.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, he's responsible for all the radios; for Fire, Police, Emergency, I think DPW as well. And it is getting more and more technical relative to the networking and the software involved. And I think this is a very strong move on the part of the City to ensure that our Communication System is up and running correctly. They are also going to be involved in the replacement of the towers up at Kessler Farm. That got delayed a little bit until next year because of COVID-19 but that's a project in itself too. So I think this is a very important move. Any other questions or concerns on the motion.

Alderman Clemons

Yes, Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Clemons

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, so is this, through your motion is this just coming from are we just adding money to the Budget or is this coming from the rest of CERF?

Chairman Dowd

At the moment we are just adding it to the budget because we are talking about pennies here.

Alderman Clemons

I have no problems with that I guess, but I would prefer if we can, there was money left over I believe in CERF.

Chairman Dowd

You are free to make an amendment to the motion to take it from CERF if you 'd like to do that.

Alderman Clemons

I would do that, I would move that we reduce CERF by the amount you said originally, I can't remember what it was.

Chairman Dowd

\$20,394.00.

Alderman Clemons

That number and put that back into Citywide Communications.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO TAKE \$20,394.00 FROM CERF AND PUT INTO CITYWIDE COMMUNICATIONS**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Ok you've heard the amendment to the motion, are there are any questions or concerns on the amendment? Seeing none, would the Clerk please call the roll on the amendment.

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Dowd

Alright, the motion before us now is to restore the \$20,394.00 cut to the Citywide Communications Budget, Department 157 on Page 148, to allow for the shift of 20% time to the Police IT Technician to become a back up to Mr. Mansfield regarding communications networking and setting up the City's emergency radio equipment and fund this by taking the \$20,394.00 from the monies that was going to be put into CERF. Does everybody follow that. OK any questions on the motion, discussion? Seeing none, Alderman O'Brien would you please call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

Chairman Dowd

Are there any other motions? I don't see anyone at the moment. I do have one question, I noticed that Director Kleiner is on the line. I have a concern over where we are at right now with people signing up for the high deductible. I know that if a lot of people sign up for the high deductible, it saves the City a lot of money and I'd like to know if that money is an off-set to the \$3 million dollar health insurance increase and if not, why not? Where does that money go? Director Kleiner?

Kim Kleiner, Director of Administrative Service

Good evening, Alderman Dowd. Yes, I understand the question. We are still in the process of evaluating all of the open enrollments. On a few of the Divisions that I have been able to get accurate totals on, we have not seen as much of a shift as we would have liked to see from the HMO to the High Deductible Health Plan.

I will, at the end of the week, have a better insight on the total, as we are still waiting for some open enrollment from the School Department to flow in.

I can tell you that we have met with Tom DeLacey and his group from Workplace Benefit Solutions. What they have suggested is that the reduction that we have seen in health care expense, which has resulted in a little higher of a fund balance than we would have normally seen at this time, coming close to the Fiscal year end. They strongly suggest that we keep that fund balance as is, as they expect over the coming year, as more procedures are rescheduled, that we will make up those expenditures over the next two years. So that's basically where we are now and as much information as I have. But at least the couple of the Departments that I have looked at, we have not seen as high of a shift as we wanted to see.

Chairman Dowd

So I know at one point there was a number thrown out if everybody switched to the high deductible, we'd have another \$6 million dollars to play with. I'd like to get a read out before the final budget passes on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of where we are at even if that money can be earmarked to reduce the tax rate further.

Director Kleiner

We will make sure that you get that Alderman Dowd.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you.

Director Kleiner

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Any other motions? Do I have a motion for final passage of the budget as it stands at this point?

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF THE BUDGET AS IT STANDS**

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin would you give us the updated information if you can?

Mr. Griffin

Yes, Mr. Chairman. The new appropriation number that should be put in the amended Resolution is \$282,884,408.00.

Chairman Dowd

Ok, so I am going to paraphrase Alderman Wilshire's Motion that we currently recommend to the Full Board of Aldermen the amended Mayor's Budget based on the motions that will appear from tonight's meeting to a number of \$282,884,408.00. Is there any discussion? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Could I ask CFO Griffin, through you, if I may, does he know what percentage increase that would cause in the tax rate?

Mr. Griffin

Right, if I may Mr. Chairman, 3.79 and this is a calculation, I probably should have mentioned this earlier, but this was a calculation that the Treasurer and myself advised the Mayor as to revenue projections. So pre-COVID. So we started off as you may recall with 4.5% tax increase and you've moved that down right now, based on the best information we have to 3.79. So as Treasurer Fredette always reminds me, this is somewhat of a moving target, but based on what we've seen, we should be able to come in at that tax rate increase.

Alderman Jette

Ok thank you. Could I follow up?

Chairman Dowd

Sure, follow up question.

Alderman Jette

So do you know what the current average tax bill is in Nashua and what that would mean to the individual taxpayer this 3.79% increase?

Mr. Griffin

If you could hold on for one second, so if we take that 3.79% increase Alderman Jette it is going to create a tax rate of \$22.59. So if we take a \$250,000.00 home, that's a \$5,647.00 bill. That may be too high but let me compare it to the 21.76 right now. We take the 22.59 minus the \$21.76, that's \$208.00.

Chairman Dowd

All set Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

Just to make sure I understand, so if this passes the way it is, and the rest of the projected numbers work out the way we think they might, the average homeowner in Nashua could expect an additional \$208.00 per year for their taxes.

Mr. Griffin

I'd like to change that a little bit Alderman Jette if I may for a home that's assessed at \$250,000.00 the increase would be \$208.00 and I'm not sure if that's the average home.

Alderman Jette

Ok, thank you.

Mr. Griffin

The increase would according to my calculation it would go from \$21.76 to \$22.59 an .83 cent increase per thousand.

Chairman Dowd

You'll also remember, Alderman Jette, last year, we struggled to get the tax rate under 3%; we got it to 2.99 something. And in the end, it ended up being 2.6% so right now and I'm sure if Mr. Fredette was involved it is a very conservative number. So I think that we have made a significant impact and because of the \$3 million dollar health care hit, we don't have a lot of leeway to play with. It's \$6 million dollars over the last two years and we are trying to address that, because we can't continue to accept \$3 million dollar increases in health care every year because it will drive our budget crazy. I have Alderman Klee, did Alderman Clemons want to speak after Alderman Klee?

Alderman Clemons

No I'm all set, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Klee.

Alderman Klee

Yeah, I just have a quick question and again through you to Mr. Griffin, you referenced the revenue pre-COVID, I know it is going to be difficult for you to probably even answer this question. But with what has happened, do you expect a decrease in revenues. Because at this point, while they are fighting in D.C. as to whether or not they would fund revenue losses for State or Municipalities, right now it is not looking promising. So keeping that in mind, we've lost a lot of revenue or potential for revenue. What is your feeling as far as our revenue. Do you feel it will be hurt or is that a question that Mr. Fredette will have to answer?

Mr. Griffin

I could give you a general picture from where I stand and where Mr. Fredette stands. Rooms & Meals Tax as we reviewed on the revenue, that's a big number for the City, that's \$4.5 million. It seems like the Rooms & Meals took a significant hit over the last few months. Hopefully that rebounds going forward with the reopening. So that is \$4.5 and then as the Mayor mentioned in his slides, the highway tax, gas tax that funds the highway block grant run a million, six. That helps fund the paving program we have and the trust fund. So we have to watch those very closely. At this point, I am getting reports from the newspapers and there doesn't seem to be urgency on the part of the Governor's Officer let's say that we are going to have a revenue problem, but I just don't know how that can be if people aren't eating out and renting facilities and rooms. But we will watch it very carefully, we are in good shape for Fiscal '20 but we definitely have to watch the numbers in '21 and make sure we make the proper adjustments at the right time.

Alderman Klee

May I ...

Chairman Dowd

Sure, follow up?

Alderman Klee

Thank you, it's probably more commentary than anything. As a person who is part-time in Concord as well as many of the others here, revenue is going to take a hit there is no doubt about it. I see the reopening happening, but it is going to happen slow. This summer, where we get a lot of travelers and so on, I think it is going to be hit hard. More and more businesses are doing remotely so I don't think there's going to be as much travel for them, even staying in our hotels. There's fighting in Concord, we don't know where it is going to go as to affecting the business tax and trying to reduce that again which means less revenue for the State which means less revenue for the municipalities. We always foot the bill for the State. So I don't want to hold too much hope that our revenues are going to bounce back and I think we need to keep this in mind when we are doing our budget. Just a comment I had to make, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else? Ok the Motion on the floor is to recommend to the Full Board of Aldermen the revised Mayor's Budget as indicated by the motions that were taken this evening and passed to the amount of \$282,884,408.00 a 3.79% perceived at this moment, tax rate. So would the Clerk please call the roll?

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**Chairman Dowd

Ok, thank you very much the Budget will be moved to the Full Board of Aldermen. I believe, Alderman Wilshire, on the 23<sup>rd</sup> or the 9<sup>th</sup>? I think the 9<sup>th</sup> would be too soon.

Alderman Wilshire

That's a week away, I think that's fine.

Chairman Dowd

I think it has to work its way through the process and we will either see it maybe on the 9<sup>th</sup> but more likely the 23<sup>rd</sup>, it has to be passed by the 1<sup>st</sup> of July obviously, that's when the new Fiscal Year starts. There is one, the only thing that we will have left for Thursday, the 4<sup>th</sup>, is there was a motion that was referred to the Budget Committee, which is on the 4<sup>th</sup>'s Agenda, which I have here. Let me read it to you?

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yes?

Alderman Clemons

Just before you move forward on the Agenda, can I just clarify? Can I formally request that the Budget not come forward until the second meeting in June through you to the President of the Board? And the reason that I would like to see that is there's a couple of things that are going to impact this Budget that I think we should have better numbers on. One is the Fire Department Contract, the Fireman's Contract. And then the other one is what you were talking about with Ms. Kleiner, which is the numbers for the healthcare. I think the further that we go along in the month, the closer we can get, the more savings we are going to see on that end. And it would give them time to get those numbers together. Plus, I think, with the Fireman's Contract, we want to know what we are doing with that before we move forward with the Full Budget at least.

Chairman Dowd

I think you are right Alderman Clemons.

Alderman Clemons

I want to put my request in formally.

Chairman Dowd

I think you are right Alderman Clemons, and it had a slim chance anyway of the 9<sup>th</sup>, so Alderman Wilshire, the 23<sup>rd</sup>?

Alderman Wilshire

That works for me, that makes sense.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alright, so again, one of the items on the Agenda for the 4<sup>th</sup> and I think we can handle it tonight because we are not voting one way or the other on it as far as passing it or not passing it. R-20-039 was referred to the Budget Committee which is authorizing the Pennichuck Corporation and Pennichuck Waterworks Inc. to issue taxable bonds of up to \$75 million dollars. That really needs to go to the Pennichuck Special Water Committee and not Budget. So unless anyone has any concerns, I am going to ask that that motion be referred to the Pennichuck Special Water Committee and off of the Budget Agenda. Does anybody have any concerns on that? Alright, we will not have a meeting on Thursday. I'm sure that upsets everybody. And our next meeting then will not be until the Public Hearing on the 10<sup>th</sup>. There are two items on the Public Hearing Agenda – one is the Fireman's Contract and I can't for the life of me remember the other one. There's two Public Hearings and then the Budget Meeting will be after that where we will take up the Fireman's Contract and the other item that comes before us for a Public Hearing. Alright, let's see is there anything else?

GENERAL DISCUSSIONChairman Dowd

I just want to thank everybody for the time and effort that we went through to put the Budget together. I know we started out at a tough place because of all the health insurance costs and then got hit with the Pandemic and I think that we have taken a significant move to help the taxpayers of Nashua with relief. Are there any other remarks from any of the Aldermen?

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

POSSIBLE NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO ADJOURN BY ROLL CALL**

A viva voce roll call was taken which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Schmidt, Alderman Jette, Alderman Wilshire  
Alderman O'Brien, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Dowd 7

Nay: 0

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting was declared closed at 9:14 p.m.

Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.  
Committee Clerk