

BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

A meeting of the Budget Review Committee was held Monday, September 21, 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:

To access Zoom, please refer to the agenda or the City's website for the meeting link.

Meeting ID: 817 7924 5183 and *Passcode:* 189376

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The public may also view the meeting via 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 and publicly noticed at City Hall and Nashua Public Library.

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.
Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Also in Attendance:

Mayor James Donchess
Kim Kleiner, Director of Administrative Services
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman Elizabeth Lu
John L. Griffin, Chief Financial Officer/Comptroller
Dan Donovan, Chief Operating Officer

ROLL CALL

Alderman Kelly

I am here, sorry, I was trying – I could not unmute, sorry. I am here, I am alone.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Shoshanna. Alderman-at-Large Michael O'Brien is present. I am alone and am practicing social distancing and I can hear the proceedings. Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

I am present, I am alone and I can hear everyone.

Alderman Jette

I am here, I am alone, I can hear you all and I am staying safer at home.

Alderman Schmidt

I am here, I am alone.

Alderman Clemons

I am here, alone at home.

Chairman Dowd

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

Alderman O'Brien

Also, Mr. Chairman, in attendance we have Aldermen Cleaver and Lopez. Also in attendance Mayor Donchess, John Griffin, Chief Financial Officer, and expected possibly is Dan Donovan, Chief Operation Officer.

Chairman Dowd

I see Mr. Donovan on.

Alderman O'Brien

And also too I also too I just also see, Mr. Chairman, Alderman Lu, has also joined us. Is there any other Alderman that I have not called? Thank you, seeing none, Mr. Chairman we have 7 members present.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you, we also have Director Kleiner on with us and I think you mentioned John Griffin. Ok. So the first item of business is public comment. Is there anyone on from the public that would like to make a comment before tonight's meeting on anything that is on the Agenda? Hearing and seeing none we will move on to Communications.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS

From: John L. Griffin, Chief Financial Officer/Comptroller
Re: New Hampshire Retirement System Update

There being no objection, Chairman Dowd accepted the communications and placed it on file.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-20-066

Endorsers: Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Jan Schmidt
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Skip Cleaver
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE NASHUA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS AND SUPERVISORS, AMERICAN FEDERATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS, AFL-CIO FROM JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021 AND RELATED TRANSFERS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIENTO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Donovan, would you like to explain the contract?

Dan Donovan, School CFO

Yes, this is a very simple one-year contract with a small increase of 1.5% to cover July 1st of 2020 to June

30th of 2021. The main reason for the shortness, the brevity of the contract is this group, which is a very divergent group, it has what we consider senior level directors in the School District as well as much, some lower level people. So what they were really looking for this year was to have some sort of salary scales. So it mentions that in the contract so they hope that by the time they negotiate their next contract, which should probably be a longer-term contract that they will have these, at least these salary scales produced, so they can feel more comfortable with the levels of each one of the individuals. So other than that, there are no significant or other changes to the contract, there's a couple of wording things, but there's no other cost items in the contract.

Chairman Dowd

Is the action that was taken relative to the president of the union a cost item?

Mr. Donovan

(inaudible) allowing that person to go to a membership meeting, some sort of union meeting, right?

Chairman Dowd

Just like the other unions, right?

Mr. Russo

Yeah that's not new yet, that's been in for a couple of years now.

Chairman Dowd

Ok I assume, Mr. Russo, that you're the President of the Union.

Mr. Russo

I am the President ... I am sir.

Chairman Dowd

For those that don't know, Mr. Russo works for the School Department. Any other questions relative to the contract? Anyone? Ok I think it's a relatively effective contract for a one-year contract and a reasonable rate. With that, the Motion on the floor is for final approval of R-20-066 approving the cost items of collective bargaining agreement between the Nashua Board of Education, the Nashua Association of School Administrative & Supervisors, American Federation of School Administrators AFL-CIO from July 1st, 2020 through June 30th, 2021 and related transfers. 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

R-20-067

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
 Alderman-at-Large David C. Tencza
 Alderman Patricia Klee
 Alderman Thomas Lopez
 Alderman Jan Schmidt
 Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly

Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright
Alderman June M. Caron
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

ESTABLISHING THE USE OF FUND BALANCE FOR TAX RATE

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Ok the Motion on the floor is for final passage of R-20-067 Establishing the Use of Fund Balance for Tax Rate. Mr. Mayor are you or is John Griffin, who is going to address this.

Mayor Donchess

Well I can begin, Mr. Chair.

Chairman Dowd

Ok.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. So this essentially \$4.5 million dollars of the surplus, revenue that was received over and above the projections in the Budget. It assigns \$4.5 million for tax relief, which is the number we have projected throughout the entire budget process. It does provide that part of the – the technically unassigned fund balance money is being used for this, but the surplus is flowing into the unassigned fund balance, so in essence the surplus is making this tax relief possible. This is something we've done every year and without it, the tax rate would, of course, be very adversely affected. So we are recommending that you approve \$4.5 million dollars for tax relief.

Chairman Dowd

Ok are there any questions and I believe we have also been joined by Alderwoman Gathright.

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. Just a question, what do we anticipate the tax rate to be, the tax increase to be with this once this gets passed?

Mayor Donchess

Below 4 but not that much below 4.

Alderman Clemons

Ok so just under 4%?

Mayor Donchess

Correct.

Alderman Clemons

And do you know what the tax rate will be per thousand or what it will go to?

Mayor Donchess

Well it will add about 90 cents to the tax rate.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Per thousand.

Chairman Dowd

Ok I believe I also saw Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

I get questions Mr. Mayor about this \$4.5 million dollars in surplus and the question is what is the total surplus and people wonder why we end up with such a surplus. Obviously if the ... you know people ask if we budgeted a tighter budget, which wouldn't allow for such a surplus, the tax rate would be lower to begin with. So why is that we end up taxing so much so that we end up with a surplus, that we then can apply to the next year's or part of it to the next year's tax rate. Can you explain that for people who ask that question?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, of course. Well first Alderman Jette, I would like to congratulate you because I heard you speaking today about how this is your 50st Anniversary as a practicing lawyer, which is impressive, all in Nashua, so congratulations on that.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Well the issue of whether we budget, so you've asked – the first answer is because we budget conservatively. We conservatively estimate revenues particularly to make sure that if revenue does not meet those expectations, so that we make sure that we at least get the budgeted revenue into the City. This has been a practice that the City has been using for, I mean this, really decades, many you know, numerous decades. It is part of the reason in terms of our conservative budgeting in this fashion, it is part of the reason that we have AAA Bond Rating.

So the steps we are taking really are, do not result in higher taxing. If we had budgeted, now we are talking the surplus out of Fiscal '20 right, the budget that ended June 30, 2020, a few months ago. If we had budgeted \$4.5 million dollars less in revenue, we would not have \$4.5 million dollars now to buy down the tax rate. So in the end, the lower, if you were to project lower revenues, or excuse me – higher revenues, if you were to project higher revenues, it would result in a tax rate that was \$4.5 million dollars lower but then you wouldn't have the \$4.5 million to apply against the tax rate, so the tax rate would jump up \$4.5 million dollars. So in the end, it is tax neutral, it does not result in higher taxes. Do you follow what I'm saying?

Alderman Jette

Yes, I do. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Isn't it also true that we have to be really careful of not having a budget that we exceed during the year because even prior to some Legislation that changed; it used to be extremely difficult to go back and add money to the budget in an emergency situation? And that's why our Bond Rating is higher, because we keep the money in reserve and have it in case of unknown unknowns. Mr. Griffin can jump on that if he wants to. But I think, we've always, all the budgets try to be very conservative, including the School Board Budget as well.

John Griffin, CFO

Yeah, Mr. Chairman if I may, what the Mayor had indicated is absolutely correct. It is much easier to conservatively budget revenue and enjoy applying it against the tax rate and trying to be real close and the revenue doesn't come in and then we have to other things like use fund balance. So it's a good strategy, it's duly noted in our ratings reports from Fitch and Standards & Poor's. It has served us well. Furthermore, we anticipated, when we put this together, a \$5.25 million dollar surplus in revenue; predominantly for motor vehicles registrations interest on investments and we are applying the \$4.5 to the tax rate, recommending that and the remainder of that surplus would go to grow the unassigned fund balance which we project to be about \$30.8 million dollars, when we close all the books. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Ok, any other questions. No? OK, the motion on the floor is to recommend final passage of R-20-067 Establishing the Use of Fund Balance for the Tax Rate. 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

R-20-069

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws

RELATIVE TO THE RE-APPROPRIATION OF FISCAL YEAR FY2021 ESCROWS

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO RECOMMEND FINAL PASSAGE BY ROLL CALL

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Ok the motion on the floor is to recommend final passage of R-20-069, Relative to the Re-Appropriation of Fiscal Year 2021 Escrows. Mayor, are you going to address this?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, Mr. Chair, thank you again. So again this is part of the annual budgeting process that we undertake. This is the escrow process that we've done for many years. The funds that we are dealing with here are the money that we have saved during the course of the year and not fully spent the budget. So we try in many ways to save money throughout the course of the Fiscal Year and we are able to, in this case, save about \$4 million dollars, below what we actually budgeted.

It comes from various different accounts. Again, it is because people are cautious during the course of the year. And as usual, we redirect and these are already appropriated money, this is money that was appropriated or voted by you last year, last Fiscal Year, Fiscal '20 was unspent and is now being redirected into other uses that have arisen since that time. The largest number, which it has been for a long time, is nearly half of this money goes to CERF, in other words the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund. You will recall that we only budgeted several hundred thousand for CERF, the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund. We really need to buy on an annual basis more like \$3 million dollars or a little bit more, somewhere in that range; \$2 to \$3 to \$3.5 million dollars' worth of equipment. So the biggest item here is \$1.85 million dollars, would go into the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund, pushing the number that we would be appropriating for the current year or for pushing the money that would be directed into CERF from the budget and from the escrows to a little over \$2 million dollars.

The other significant items – there is \$200,000.00 that is going to go to the City Building ETF. Now this, we have a reserve account that is used when there are repairs needed for City Building. And we try to maintain a balance there, and \$200,000.00 would be directed into that Reserve Account. You recall that we have a lot of GOFERR money, GOFERR meaning CARES Act money directed through the State of New Hampshire from the Federal Government that is being used to make the COVID-19 related changes to City Hall. If we go over the GOFERR money, and that's still an "if" this is the Reserve Account and it would be at most \$100,000.00 on about a \$900,000.00 project. But in the end we may come closer to hitting the number. The funds from that project would come out of the City ETF, the City Buildings Reserve Account.

The other item, another example is money has been used for this account for example to fix the front door when it was broken, to patch up the roof at the Court Street Building. To make just general repairs when they are necessary. So that account is down I believe, but Ms. Kleiner can correct me if I'm wrong to around \$100,000.00, so we are suggesting increasing it by \$200,000.00.

Another major item would help us complete the first significant improvement to the Riverfront, \$410,000.00 would go to Riverfront Lighting. That is a project that has been designed, the project is designed. This would appropriate money to complete the project. There's about \$200,000.00 already appropriated into the project. This would enable us to complete us. This would not be the final time that you see this; this just reserves the money or budgets the money. We would, of course, come to you with the contract and showing the design and all the work that is going to be done at the time – as soon as the money is budgeted really, in the very near future, because you would need to approve the contract, the contract would need to be approved, at least by the Finance Committee.

Another big item or a significant item of \$200,000.00 is to fund the cost of barriers. This has to do with the expanded outdoor dining. This would not purchase all of the barriers, which would cost about \$400,000.00. What this would do is enable us to rent some barriers and buy a few more so that we could offer outdoor dining again next season. As you recall the outdoor dining season is going to end in November. It has been, in my view and I think all of the people that I've talked to downtown, a very large success. It has saved small businesses downtown which easily could have failed if we had not done this. It has changed really the atmosphere downtown and made it much more pedestrian, people, walkable, people friendly. The number of people downtown and therefore the strength of the downtown economy has been increased

significantly by this. If you go down there especially late Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday nights, there are many people down there, especially when the weather is better. But I even noticed last night the weather was 50 degrees, there's a lot of people eating outside downtown. So we have saved a lot of small businesses and made a big improvement to the City. So we are suggesting that this project be continued with these funds. And again, you would get, you know, you would still need to authorize legally that we would be able to undertake that. So this is not the last time you would see this. But is budgets the money, puts it aside so that if you decide to go ahead, we would be able to have the funds to do it.

You see, there's a \$200,000.00 item for the Public Works Building. The reason for that is we have been anticipating that the sale of Burke Street would yield \$3.9 million dollars and the bond issue that you approved contingent subject to that sale, projected \$3.9 million dollars. But now it appears and this hasn't yet, now it appears that it is going to sell for \$3.7 million instead of \$3.9 so that would close that gap and leave that project, assuming the sale closes, would make that project whole.

Now there are smaller items that you can see and you can ask about. I won't go through all of the different items on the list. Mr. Griffin and Ms. Kleiner are here to answer any questions concerning any of the items, as well as myself. So I will stop there, Mr. Chair, and simply answer any questions that any members may have.

Chairman Dowd

Ok are there any questions relative to the items on that list?

Alderman Clemons

Yes. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I just want to say that I think this is a really good list, there's a lot of needs on there that are being taken care of. And what I like about these escrows is that this is already money we've taken from taxpayers. And I think that that's the important thing to understand about these is that this is not affecting next year's tax rate. This is money we already took from the taxpayers and we are reappropriating that money elsewhere and for different purposes. And the reason we are able to do that is because we number one – we budget well. And two – we have Departments in this City that also carefully spend their budget so we are able to do this year after year and I think it's a good process because we can really whittle down some of the things that you know are some ongoing issues that we are trying to take care of like the lighting around the Riverwalk or new things that come up like the barriers on Main Street. And it gives us flexibility to be able to do those types of things outside of the regular budget. So I wholeheartedly support this and I hope the rest of my colleagues do as well. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Ok thank you Alderman Clemons. I believe that the Police Department wants to have a comment and Chief Carignan has returned.

Police Chief Carignan

Hi folks, I just finished the citizens' portion of the Police Department Academy. So I just walked from that meeting right in here and I think it went pretty well. I appreciate you folks sitting here taking the time to listen to us today because you know the equitable trust is critical for us to be able to manage our business. Alderman Wilshire has always said it best, this is how we plan for our snowstorms. We can't predict

homicides, we can't predict major events that happen in Nashua, and we can't budget for it. As we have talked about in the past if we have to plan for a major homicide to happen and put aside \$60,000.00/\$70,000.00/\$80,000.00 then we are not able to put sectors out on the street, we are not able to send officers to schools, we are not able to do any of that stuff. So it is critical for us to have that fund that's available to use only in the event that we need it. If you remember the first two years this was started, there was a set of money put in and in the first year we didn't have to use any of it. The following year we started, we had a couple of homicides that took a lot of the budget up that we had to use, but we've been very judicious in how we've spent it, we have been careful in how we spent it.

But if we don't have that money in the Expendable Trust Fund, we can't plan or manage for any of the major incidents that come up on a regular basis. We have all the documents to show everything that we have ever spent that money on and its importance and I just think it's critical to be able to maintain services for us to have that money.

Mayor Donchess

Could I add to that Mr. Chair?

Chairman Dowd

I was just going to ask one question; do we know what the balance is in that account right now?

Chief Carignan

Yes, right now it's \$340.00.

Chairman Dowd

Oh, ok.

Chief Carignan

Yeah \$340.62.

Mayor Donchess

Well first I'd like to thank the Chief for participating in our Virtual City Academy. This is the first time we've done it virtually. I'm sure he did a good job. I just agree with what the Chief said, we need to put money into that account.

Chief Carignan

Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Ok, I guess my question now or very soon will be where are we getting it from. But Alderman Lopez, did you have a question?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah, I had a question for the Mayor and a comment to go with it. Well I guess I have two questions; the first is along the Riverfront, I just want to clarify that we are talking about street lighting to illuminate the section by the Library another project that had been talked was LEDs to decorate a power station. So just was looking for clarification on that, but then also on the Capital Infrastructure Committee's raking projects, the Vietnam Memorial over on Ledge Street, next to Lajoie Field, the walkways there have been in poor

condition for several years now, it annually receives a high ranking of something that should be done, particularly because the number of older Veterans who use that area and are at risk of fall. I have talked to Parks & Rec in the past about the cost of having that area resurfaced and it has been estimated in the past to be around \$35,000.00. Is there any consideration being given to that, because I think it's important for us when we are making public statements about how we budget very effectively and we meet all the needs of the City in advance and because we are so amazingly effective at this, we have a surplus to assign to these projects, I think it is important that we remember to address some projects that may be falling by the wayside while we are doing that that are particularly important to special populations like Veterans, like people who have loved ones in the Vietnam War, people in that area.

Mayor Donchess

Well thank you, I wasn't really aware that the sidewalks or the walkways are in bad shape, so I'd want to look at it. But that's certainly something we can try to figure out as to how that could be done. I did mention one special project for seniors which is – there is money in here to convert a tennis court down at Shady Lane to a pickle ball court, which is pickle ball becoming a much more popular sport for seniors especially. But going back to the walkway, I was not aware of that and I would be glad to check that out and see if we can find a way to make those repairs.

Alderman Lopez

Ok I appreciate that; it did come up at the Town Hall Meeting we had two years ago and it's been regularly ranked on the CIC but there have been a lot of projects coming forward. So I'd love to get a little more attention to it.

Mayor Donchess

But your first question, Alderman Lopez, was about the Riverfront.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah which lights are we doing? Are we doing cosmetic lights or are we doing safety lights?

Mayor Donchess

This would light the walkway, the Riverwalks from the Main Street Bridge west to the Cotton Transfer Bridge and would light the Cotton Transfer Bridge. So all those walkways would be lighted and the Cotton Transfer Bridge would be lighted as well. So it is mostly kind of safety but it will look nice as well so it will serve a dual function. We have seen and I going to ask, I mean to – I spoke to President Wilshire today and I meant to mention this which I will mention now having to do with the Riverfront. There's a group of people that's done a beautiful lighted kayak event now twice and it's grown each time. I think we should do a recognition for them; just to congratulate for doing such a wonderful job just totally on their own.

Alderman Lopez

And naked people?

Mayor Donchess

We've seen how much people enjoy the Riverfront as we have begun to enhance it and that's why this project is so important. If we can light the Riverwalks so people can walk safely there and have it look nice during, you know, at night. They will be able to see the Cotton Transfer Bridge that will be lighted as well, people can walk across there. So this will be a considerable enhancement which will compliment all the efforts being made by our citizens and others who enjoy the river as one of those things being this lighted kayak event.

Chairman Dowd

Director Marchant had a meeting at the Library several months ago with the architect relative to the lighting and I can tell you the lightings are attractive, functional and I am 99% sure they are LED's and downward glowing light for the most part. So I was very happy to see what the architects had come up with for lighting design.

Alderman Lopez

Can I ask for clarification?

Chairman Dowd

Sure.

Alderman Lopez

That was for the Library's Courtyard project or is that project also going to include the lighting on the trail? Because in the past, I believe we have created a TIF District specifically to address needs like that and there were a lot of concerns with regards to lighting down along that Riverwalk Trail, it's referred to as "The Library Walk". But there also used to be trees there and there are not. So I don't know where we are with that. But Director Marchant had that meeting with us and had drawn attention to it in the past.

Mayor Donchess

I think she just had a public meeting on the issue of the lighting. Now remember this is only part of the whole Riverfront Enhancement Project. If you look at the entire design to be funded by the TIF, the Riverwalks east of the river on the southside near the Library as you Alderman Lopez had mentioned, that will be improved as well. But this is just the first part of it and ...

Alderman Lopez

I thought there was a plan. I just wanted to comment on that part of it so people didn't think we are improving the part where nobody lives while neglecting part over by the senior center where everybody is concerned about. So that is in the pipe and I want to make sure that that's known. And I would definitely appreciate some attention to the Lajoie Fields and the Vietnam Memorial Walkway as well.

Mayor Donchess

Definitely – now I agree that we want to, of course, make improvements down towards the Senior Center, but I only take exception to the fact that no one lives west of the bridge. There are at least 1,000 people that live within a stone's throw from Clocktower to Cotton Mill, more like 1,500 people. The Lofts 34, there are a lot of people who live right around there. So there will be ...

Alderman Lopez

The entire neighborhood of Cottage Street, they're backyard is completely unlit and there's things going on back there which makes them nervous and they typically use that very frequently. So there are neighborhoods down there, they just don't get as much attention as some of the other areas.

Mayor Donchess

Well, yeah so you are saying no one, I thought you meant west of the river no one lives.

Alderman Lopez

They don't live directly on it because we own that property, but it's a very steep hill and they are all looking down on it and they all use that as a shortcut, especially since there's a foot bridge on that side too that they can use to get to places like Margaritas and the (inaudible) inside of the river. So there's a lot of foot traffic that takes advantage of that and it's mostly specifically those neighborhoods and those neighborhoods in general, people forget that they are there because it's basically you are going down Temple Street and people think more towards the center of town and they forget that between Temple Street and the River there are a lot of neighborhoods.

Mayor Donchess

Definitely, Cottage Street is actually a really nice street, so we definitely want to, that's part of the plan. If you look at the Riverfront Master Plan, that's definitely in the plan, this is just the first small stake.

Alderman Lopez

OK, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Ok any other questions, comments relative to the items on the list? Alderman Jette?

Alderwoman Kelly

Yes, I've had my hand up as well, Alderman Dowd.

Chairman Dowd

Ok I'll have you right after this, ok?

Alderman Jette

Thank you. So I think I've raised this in the past and several people have mentioned this to me as well and I have a concern that you know the Budget Review Committee, when we put together the Budget we spent a lot of time, a lot of nights reviewing all of the requests by the Departments on how to spend the money, the City's money for the next Fiscal Year. And what happens is that we budget, we raise a certain amount of money we end up in most years we end up with surplus because we raise more money than we spend. And some of the projects that we have approved we haven't spent the money on so we have this surplus money, part of which we earlier agreed to put it towards next year's tax rate. And now we've got this other surplus here that we are funding projects and I don't know if I am right about this, but funding projects that didn't make it through the vetting process by the Budget Committee or the Capital Improvements Committee. And didn't get funded in the first instance and I am concerned that we are now with this surplus money, we are now funding projects without, maybe without the complete vetting that you know should be done.

These projects are getting picked out, I'm afraid, by very important but special interest staff they are not competing against the rest of the projects that were competing when we went through the budget. I don't know if I'm right about that. But I'd like to know what the Mayor has to say about that. But whether or not it would be wiser in the future, that when we have a surplus like this, that we hold it in surplus and when we review next year's budget, you know, these various projects let them compete against all of the other projects that are being proposed by the Departments, so that it's a level playing field. Things that were nice and you know very worthy but didn't make it during the Budget Review Process are now getting a second shot, a second bite at the apple. And these other, some other projects that we may have not funded because of the lack of money are not getting funded again. So I don't know if any of those concerns or criticisms are valid. Mayor, I would appreciate what you have to say about that.

Mayor Donchess

Well the – first of all going back to the list, the major item is money going into the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund. When we passed the budget, we put very little money into that in anticipation of the fact that we would direct unexpended appropriations into that account. So that's nearly half the money and again that was fully expected. That's mostly true of the other money that is here on the list, the other expenses that are here on the list. Really there aren't staff added with this. There are a couple part-time salary things, you know, \$4,000.00 is one of them out of several million. So I don't think it's really true that none of this was anticipated, we've done the escrow process for numerous years and I think the Departments' attempt to save money during the course of the year, so that when they save money, by doing that, they can use the money for something that's extremely necessary.

If you go through the list, I mean which one of these things would we not do? I suppose that pickle ball courts, \$55,000.00 is not a necessity, but you cut \$55,000.00 on this list, you're really not going to see it in the tax rate very much. Most of these big expenditures are things that we really have planned for and in some cases just have to do, CERF being one of them, the Police Overtime being another one. Certainly, the Riverfront is something we've planned on for a long time. If you hear about some of the software expenditures that need to be made, Ms. Kleiner can talk about those; those are smaller items. So I didn't address them individual by I think it's a long-established process and people are planning for this throughout the year. So you know we could budget higher and then not have saved money at the end and put these projects in. That would be another way to do it, but it wouldn't – it's not that these projects haven't been planned for and it's not that the escrow process is – it just comes out of the blue because it's a long established practice.

Chairman Dowd

Just one thing, we are talking about 2020 money. The budget process we just got through was FY 2021 Budget so different colors of money. Also, I am sure that the Mayor and Mr. Griffin have consulted with all the Departments to get an idea of which of these projects should be funded and priorities. And as the Mayor said, we do this every single year. We don't ever cover anywhere near enough in Capital Improvements every year. We end up woefully short. So these are the types of things that can get covered if at the end of the year we end up with this money. I don't know if you wanted to add anything to that Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

There are a lot of things, it's not like we just put everything on this list. There are a lot of things that were requested that aren't here. And some of our favorite, so-called "pet projects" don't get funded at all. For example, I mean I really like the Library Park but that is the park that would be between the Library and Court Street. I think that would be a great addition but there wasn't enough money; we didn't put anything to that. So there wasn't enough money, these other things are far more necessary. I mean would I rather, you know in terms of what I emotionally would love to have. Would I rather have that park than you know \$100,000.00 to the cost of budgeting and planning software? Well, that doesn't sound, I would rather have a park but that is necessary and if you get into the details, they really need that. And so we I think we are mostly meeting needs and a few things, I mean \$55,000.00 for the pickleball but that, of course, is for the seniors. The rest of this stuff is – there is \$25,000.00 to be the local match for engineering on the Locke Street Project. We have a big million dollar grant there. We are trying to get that going. We need to have local match, things like that. So it's not just – there are no frivolous expenses in the list.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you. Alderman Wilshire.

Alderwoman Kelly

I was supposed to be next Alderman Dowd.

Chairman Dowd

Oh I'm sorry, I had Shoshanna next. I'll get right back to you Lori. Shoshanna?

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you, I guess the raised hand thing is hard for you to see so I'll interject my voice next time. So I just had a couple of questions. I think that this list makes a lot of sense. I think my question is some of these things are kind of popping up to me as potential projects that may not go forward or may not be needed if COVID continues the way it is. So for example, conference and seminars, even the pickleball courts, what happens to that allocated money if that stuffs get stalled due to just what is going on in the world right now?

Mayor Donchess

Well you'd need to ask the individual departments. I mean I think conferences and seminars now are virtual but people still pay for them. There's only a small amount allocated to that need. The pickleball, you know, it's an outdoor sport, people are still playing pickleball. They will still play it during COVID and it's like tennis, it's a little closer than tennis but not that much, it's like doubles, usually they play doubles. So the chances of infection there are really very low. So I don't think that that would be a project that we would delay based upon the continuation of the COVID pandemic.

Alderwoman Kelly

Can I follow up please?

Chairman Dowd

Sure.

Mayor Donchess

The conferences and seminars, we would have to, we would need – like \$20,000.00 is for the PD for conferences and seminars. Is the PD still on here?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, I believe so. Yes.

Chief Carignan

Yes, still here.

Mayor Donchess

That's the biggest. Could you answer that question regarding the PD.

Chief Carignan

Can you just repeat it? I didn't get the whole part of it.

Mayor Donchess

The question – well Alderwoman Kelly could repeat it but it had to do with the conferences and seminars. There's \$20,000.00 going to the PD for that and the question was, well what if there aren't any conferences and seminars because no one is traveling because of COVID-19.

Chief Carignan

So one of the issues we've had with that, we had a surplus of money from last year from some of those trainings and conferences that we have to attend to. Some of them are being held virtually now so we still have to pay for them and some of them we are slated to go to and they haven't been cancelled yet. So a lot those trainings are things that were carried over from last year that were mandated trainings, we weren't able to get to so we are pushing them into this year.

Chairman Dowd

Does that answer your question?

Alderwoman Kelly

I think my additional was, if we do not do that does it go back to more a procedural, does it go back to the fund again, say if the barriers don't happen.

Mayor Donchess

If this money does not get expended, it comes back to you again. Yeah it's an unexpended appropriation and a surplus item. If these projects didn't get done, they could show up in the escrows. If we decide well, we are not going to do that, money would be available in unexpended and it could be redirected at the end of the Fiscal year.

Alderwoman Kelly

And if I could follow up one more time, please?

Chairman Dowd

Sure.

Alderwoman Kelly

I forgot my question. I'm getting old.

Mayor Donchess

No, you're not.

Alderwoman Kelly

I feel like I'm getting old my brain is gone. You'll have to come back to me; I'll remember it I'm sure.

Chairman Dowd

Ok, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I just wanted to talk a little bit about the escrow process and why it's important. We have been doing this escrow process every year since I've been on the board and we won't go how far back that is. But it has been awhile and we've always done this. To me it's like you know we've done everything we need to do during the year. We do it prudently. We do it you know with an eye towards let's get the best we can for the money we have and let's move forward. And these Departments that had surplus, we have always tried to work with them, the Departments that have it or need it to do things like the Board of

Aldermen was the benefactor or beneficiary of money from the City Building Fund. So the renovations to the Chamber came out of that because at year end, the Board of Aldermen would have you know \$15,000.00 left over because of a part-time position and we were able to put it into that fund so that 10, 12 years later we could help pay for some of the renovations to the Chamber. And that's what we have to do to get projects done. And not to mention just buildings, like the Police Chief said, crime – the expendable trust fund for crime. I mean you just can't budget for it and that's what we use this for. And I think it's important that we go through this escrow process. And I'll say, like the Mayor, there were probably 10 times this many requests for this funding, and I am sure all the Departments said, "I want to do this, this, this" and these were the ones that rose to the need I guess in the contemporary time. So that's all I have. Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Alderman Dowd?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Alderman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you, I remembered my question and thank you to Alderman Wilshire for that explanation. She's been on the Board a long time but some of us that are new, it's nice to get a refresher of what that process is and also for anyone watching to kind of hear that is sort of normal business that we are going through here.

My question was and again this is just for anyone who is unsure how this process goes, anything over \$10,000.00 still comes back to the Finance Board to be vetted, that is true.

Mayor Donchess

The number is now \$25,000.00.

Alderwoman Kelly

That's right. But that is the case, so anything about \$25,000.00 is still going to come before a Committee before getting any sort of approval?

Mayor Donchess

Correct.

Alderwoman Kelly

Ok just wanted to make that clarification, so thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Ok any other questions relative to this?

Alderman Clemons

Alderman Dowd?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Clemons and then Alderman Jette.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I just wanted to just add on to what Alderman Wilshire had stated. That's to the process and the process for this is that it goes to the Budget Committee, it goes to the same Committee that overlooks the budget, then it goes to the full Board of Aldermen to be approved. So it's not like it goes to somewhere else, we could reject any of these if we wanted to, we could change any of these if we wanted to, we could amend it tonight or some other time. But that's not typically the process, but it is in our hands to do that. This is a long- time process that fills the needs that we can't necessarily do within the budget so we do it now. And I particularly like the process because again it is money that we have already collected from the taxpayers so we are not asking them for anything more. We are simply taking the money that we have already taken from them and reappropriating it to other things that will ultimately benefit the entire City. And again, it comes through the same process that the budget does. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Ok, Alderman Jette.

Alderman Jette

I just wanted to say that I'm not against any of these particular projects. The point I am trying to make is that it is true that we are the Budget Review Committee and it is coming before us and we are reviewing it. But I don't know how many projects there are here, are there 25? And we are being told that this is a small portion of what all the Departments would like to do if they had the money so maybe there are 100 projects. And we – I am just making the point that we as the Budget Review Committee, you know, we are not seeing 100 projects that are competing for this money. We are seeing the projects, whatever number there is here, if there's 25, we are just seeing the ones that have been picked by the Mayor and the staff and I don't know who has come up with this list.

We have the right to approve or reject this list but we are not seeing all of the other projects. You know, for example, the project that Alderman Lopez mentioned about the sidewalks. We are not seeing all of those things and they are not all competing against one another. We are getting a culled list culled by somebody and I'm not saying this is not the ideal list from all of those projects. I am just pointing out that it seems like – I know this has been a long going process and I appreciate the experience of Alderman Clemons and Alderman Wilshire and yours. I am just repeating what people have said to me and what I myself have thought, another way of doing it. I appreciate what Alderman Clemons says, this is not new money that we are increasing the taxes for to get from the taxpayers, it is money that we already have. But if another way of doing this would be to hold that money in reserve and let all of these projects compete against the rest of the projects when we consider next year's budget. Just another way of looking at it and I just wanted to express my thoughts about it. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Jette, now remember that the Budget itself works the same way. I mean we get – I as the Mayor propose to you a budget. And it has specific numbers in there. And it's not like I have gone through it all and made a proposal to you. There's a lot of things that have been "culled" before you get the regular budget too. I mean if we put everything in the budget that every Department asks for, I mean you'd have a much higher proposal than what you go. So we start with budget guidelines and we try to keep the level of increase down to the extend that that's advisable. So you know it's really the same process as the Budget itself. I mean as Alderman Clemons said you could delete or change any of these items if you wanted. You the majority of a vote of the Board of Aldermen, you have to approve this. You could change any of the line items, but that's true of the Budget itself. So I don't see it being that much different than the Budget Process.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah it's not the job of the Board of Aldermen or the Budget Committee to go out and seek these projects from the different Departments; that's why we have an administration headed up by the Mayor who works with the Departments to come up with this list and present it to us and we can approve, we can reject, we can change, just like the regular budget process. But we would be micromanaging if we all of a sudden started trying to cull this list from all the Departments in other parts of the City to see where we want to spend it. That's the Administration's issue; it comes to us for approval. So that's the way the process has worked for the 10 years I've been on the Board and I won't say how many Alderman Wilshire's been on, but quite a while. Anyone else? Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

I couldn't agree anymore with what you just said. We have an Administration and that's what we trust them to. We have a Legislative Branch and we don't micromanage the City. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez

I was wondering how the Infrastructure Committee fits into this. My understanding is from the City Charter and that is also a review process. But clearly, it's too slow or (inaudible). If the Mayor could explain the difference between projects like what is proposed versus those sitting on the back burner for a number of years. I know in some instances there may be that you need a certain amount of money by a certain amount of time in order to kick a project off, or there might be a grant match or that kind of stuff. So if you could just kind of go into that a little bit?

Chairman Dowd

Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Alright now you were breaking up a little bit as you were speaking so I didn't quite get the entire question but I think you were asking me what procedure do we go through to try to decide which are the most important projects?

Alderman Lopez

Well more specifically, you're not doing exactly the same thing that the Capital Infrastructure Committee does annually which is what was discussed where they take all of the projects that the City Departments have. They put them on a wall, they rank them, they review them, they go through them and then they make recommendations to the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor as to how those should go in the budget. So that happens around January or so of every year but there's a specific reason why using escrow funds in this particular case has an advantage versus just funneling it back in to paying down the taxes. And I mean some examples might be that if there was a need to start a project now rather than wait until the entire budget (audio cuts out) Could you talk about how it makes more sense to use escrow money for these particular projects then to wait for a Capital Infrastructure Committee?

Mayor Donchess

Well now you were talking the Capital Improvements Committee, I think.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah sorry.

Mayor Donchess

Because when you use the word “infrastructure” I am thinking about the Aldermanic Infrastructure Committee. Well first of all, most of these projects would not go to ... most of these expenditures would not go to the Capital Improvements Committee because they are either not Capital Improvements in that sense or they are too small. For example, \$25,000.00 for radar signs, you know, flashing speed signs to keep traffic slower. That would not go to Capital Improvements Committee because it's not big enough. So CERF, the biggest expenditure here – Capital Equipment Reserve Fund – that does not go to the Capital Improvement Committee because it is an annual appropriation that's done every year.

Now a few of these things might, certainly the Riverfront Project would but that has gone to the Capital Improvements Committee and it has been – and to the Board of Aldermen – and you've reviewed it and approved it yourselves. So that is definitely on our priority list. City Buildings, ETF, that money wouldn't go to the Capital – excuse me – to the Capital Improvements Committee because it is just an appropriation into a reserve account. Now the barriers that also actually wouldn't go because a lot of that is just rental. So yes, we want to purchase a few and that came up so suddenly but that's not really something that would go to the Capital Equipment Reserve Fund or excuse me to the Capital Improvements Committee.

So I think these are largely a different type of project. Pickleball would be too small, you know, these matching funds are too small. So most of this, probably the only thing that would go were it a new project to the Capital Improvements Committee is Riverfront, I don't really see another one.

Alderman Lopez

There are projects on that list too, but I wanted to point that out because I know Alderman Jette has been on it and I am sure Aldermen Dowd and Wilshire have attended them. But it's important (audio cuts out) because when you hear constituents they have heard of this Committee or this process, that kind of stuff it doesn't always mean that it's the right one or that it's the best one for the job. I've heard some of the comments by other Aldermen here saying that this is an opportunity to take long-standing projects that we've wanted to do and use money already taken from the taxpayer to do those so that it doesn't raise the tax rate and there's (audio cuts out) in doing that but some of the projects aren't necessarily long-term and we haven't wanted to do them for years.

It's more jumping on them now gives us the opportunity to strike when the iron is hot. The roadways barriers for example, completely unforeseen. For the Police to continue their trainings, nobody expected COVID-19 to show up, I feel like I'm (audio cuts out). So there are examples where using the escrow funding does provide flexibility and it is important in the context of you know is there an advantage to do right now versus do later on. I don't think it necessarily serves anybody to really try to get every single City project and City Department re-submitted and then (audio cuts out) here in September just to look at the smaller money that that escrow (audio cuts). And that's the missing piece here is that we do have our City Chartered Capital Improvements Committee ranking is used to inform the budget projects, we have that. But in using the escrows they way that we do with them that number one we are using it conservatively and making sure we don't run out of money in City Departments midstream and having to (audio cuts) from the speed of Aldermen to refund them.

But additionally it's (audio cuts) our credit rating and it gives us that flexibility (audio cuts out). Some projects are good for longer-term planning and it's important to keep them on the radar but some projects are small and nimble and we can get them going by using this process. There are going to be (audio cuts out) sentiment that we should stop everything and just pay down the tax rate. And there's definitely merit to looking at the cost benefit of making all activity (inaudible) on dropping property tax rates. But if there are ways that we can continue to do that, then we don't need to throw the baby out with the bath water. Last year we were in a pretty difficult position with the tax rate and what it looked like (audio cuts) but we worked

with other mechanisms so it didn't really turn out to be that way. So this is just one of many tools that we have and it's kind important not to use it for everything.

Chairman Dowd

Ok thank you Alderman Lopez. Are there any questions relative to the list? I'd like to go back to Chief Carignan.

Chief Carignan

I am here folks; I apologize I am just helping Lieutenant (inaudible) through the Citizen's Academy the last section so I missed that part and I apologize.

Chairman Dowd

You really are multi-tasking.

Chief Carignan

I'm jumping between two

Chairman Dowd

So the Executive Trust Fund for major crime is at a ridiculously low amount. What do you think would be the minimum that should be funded in that, just to be safe?

Chief Carignan

I think \$100,000.00 is where we absolutely need to be. And again guys, if we don't need that money it stays here 'til next year, but its there. You know, we had the year before last we had who dunnit homicide that ate up over \$78,000.00 very quickly. So those can get expensive and it's something we can't predict. But if we don't need it, we don't use it. We've been in a fairly low crime – so far this year knock on wood. Hopefully, we won't need it and if we don't need it next year, we are only asking for the difference to keep it right around \$100,000.00 per year.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah with the way things are going right now with a number of different avenues, things could happen. And I think we ought to be prepared for it. So my question, before I make a motion is going back to the Mayor or Mr. Griffin, do you want us to increase this dollar amount by \$100,000.00 or do you want us to take it from – my first guess would be \$100,000.00 from CERF? Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Chair, now I think the number on this list is \$48,000.00 right? So the gap there is \$52,000.00 correct?

Chairman Dowd

Chief is that right?

Chief Carignan

No we are down to \$430.00.

Mayor Donchess

Isn't the

Alderwoman Kelly

The fund line is \$48,000.00, that's what the Mayor is referring to. So to get up to \$100,000.00 it's \$52....

Mayor Donchess

Doesn't line 23 assign \$48,000.00 into that account?

Alderman Clemons

Yes.

Mr. Griffin

Mr. Chairman, Mr. Mayor, there's two expendable trust funds in the Police Department. One is the one that the Chief is bringing up which is the Expendable Trust Fund for Police Overtime. Then there's another Expendable Trust Fund in this case it's called "General Expendable Trust Fund". This is how we are going to be able to fund the cost associated with the officers that are going to be trained and attend the training and certification. So Ms. Smith and I work together to position those funds in that Trust Fund in case they don't need them. So again the one that the Chief would like to fund and the Mayor would like to fund tonight, that's \$100,000.00 in their Police Overtime, that's not on this list. They do need the \$48,000.00 for the General Expendable Trust Fund to the extent that they need to pay the officers, well they are going to pay the officers but if they need that amount of money that would certainly help.

It does appear that bringing the \$1.85 CERF down to \$1.75 may work, because that's the largest amount. What that means though as the Mayor has indicated several times, we need to close the gap is Fiscal 22 Budget between the needs and the Mayor said \$3.3 million or \$3.5. We are going to have like a \$2.8 million dollar balance if we approve the \$1.75; we have a \$2.9 balance if we approve the \$1.85. So we are getting close but if there's any questions I'd be happy to answer them on that. I just want to make sure that we have the distinction between the two Police Department Expendable Trust Funds.

Chairman Dowd

Ok I believe I saw Alderman Lu. Did you have a question? Alderman Lu? Evidently not. Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Yes, before you make your motion, I do have a question. As what Chief Carignan says, you never know if there could be an additional homicide in the City and coming from my roots on the Fire Department, they can't guarantee you there's not going to be a five alarm fire either. So therefore, what money would it cover if we were to have a major fire in to the City and should that also be included in this possible amendment?

Chairman Dowd

Anybody want to cover that? Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

I could take a shot. Generally those five alarm fires, hopefully we don't have any, but to the extent there is overtime, crews called in, companies called in, that's been successfully funded by the Fire Department's

Budget since I've been here, since 2010 and probably prior to that. But I don't think there's any Fire Executives on the Zoom here, but historically they've been able to fund it through their budget.

Alderman O'Brien

I do take some umbrage to that because if it comes out of their Fire Department Budget then I am concerned if Chief Officers would not go to greater alarms to protect the safety and needs of his members because of funding needs. And then second too is that they do occur, I've had a couple, but to have it come out of the Fire Department Budget, that's almost like saying that we don't have any fires. We do. And to have it come out of the Fire Department budget that means something else doesn't get purchased. And if something else doesn't purchased, what's missing in the Fire Department?

Mr. Griffin

If I may Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

The Fire Department, I see the difference and Chief Carignan can help me out here, but the Fire Department is working on fires that hopefully get extinguished very quickly. So they use the companies on board, they call in companies, they have mutual aid, etc. I think what Chief Carignan's talking about is that if there is a homicide in the City that's going to take a lot of effort and overtime and the sustainability of the detectives that are working the cases etc. So there's a little bit of a difference but I'm not going to be able to speak for Chief Rhodes or Chief Carignan on this. But I think that's why he needs the \$100,000.00 because it's for those instances where there's some type or crime that needs intense sustainability of figuring out who did it.

Chief Carignan

Yeah thanks John if I could jump in, that's exactly what we are asking for. We have cases, shootings, stabbings, on a weekly basis that we investigate that takes two, three, four days to complete and a full compliment of officers. But those we absorb in our normal budget as the cost of doing business. Why we have this contingency fund is for any major incident like a homicide, a who dunnit homicide, double homicide. We've had times we've had two in the course of three weeks. Those take up a tremendous amount of resources and require a lot of officers to work 24/7 for a long period of time. And that's what those funds are generally used for, for us. I am not taking away – the Fire Department is extremely busy, they go to the fires, but like us they absorb a lot of that in their budget too.

Chairman Dowd

I think that there's a slight (audio cuts out) difference here is both the Fire Department and the Police Department have mutual aid. The Police Department only has mutual aid if there's an insurrection, if you will, and they need a bunch of officers coming from Manchester. In the Fire Department, if we have a major fire, we have mutual aid from – I've seen as far as Lowell, Manchester, Merrimack, you know. And we don't have to pay for that and they don't have to pay for mutual aid for the Police Department either if we have troops come down from Manchester or the State. They pay for it. Just like if we go to help up in Manchester, it comes out of our budget, not out of their budget, I believe right? And so it's a little bit different. If we have a major crime in Nashua it's not going to drive mutual aid, it's going to drive a heck of a lot of overtime in the Detective Bureau and investigations that can be quite expense. I can think of a few over the past few years. Some of them cost even more than \$100,000.00 we are talking about. But having \$400.00 in the account is crazy. So unless there are other questions, I'm ready to make a motion. Alderman Lopez is this related to the issue?

Alderman Lopez

Yeah I thought it was important to note that while we have been talking about homicides and murders and that kind of stuff, we are seeing a surge in overdoses so that suggests that there is considerably more drug trafficking taking place in the City than we have been able to interdict as successfully as we have in the past. So that's an example where this is a lot of investigation and follow through and that kind of thing. There have also been a number of minor crimes that are only minor because nothing really has come of them significant, fireworks are the most obvious example. Those are a nuisance until they land on somebody's roof and then we do the Fire Department to come and manage a large-scale event. So there are definitely some areas where the City could better support the Police in making sure it has the resources and the tools to address either events that are happening in too subtle of a way for us to pick up on in the middle of a lock down where there are no behaviors to observe or people to question. Or issues that you know, deterrence is the best bet rather than trying to figure out who exactly "dunnit".

And it's important to note this because there's been a lot of misunderstanding or misinterpretation in my opinion of the whole "defund the Police movement". And a lot of what the defund the police movement is actually advocating for is better training for Police or funding (audio cuts out) in different ways. And I think in recognizing the risks that certain crimes or certain behaviors might prevent and training officers to better address those, we are able to apply a less militaristic approach. That's something that Nashua has done very, very successfully for years. I think a lot of communities are looking at how we do it, specifically as an example. And so I wanted to point that out that we do have the need for unanticipated issues to be addressed, we just haven't entirely figured out the system yet.

Chief Carignan

And if I could just make – Alderman Dowd I'm sorry.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, go ahead Chief.

Chief Carignan

Thank you, I'm sorry for going out of order. I just want to be clear, all of our narcotics enforcement and our overdoses enforcement, that all comes out of our normal budget and our asset forfeiture fund so those are not items that we would use this \$100,00.00 for. We are talking those major crimes that require a lot of manpower and resources. But I appreciate what Alderman Lopez says, absolutely training is huge for us and it is the reason why our agency is at the level of professionalism that it is. But the funds we are talking about and asking about is just those major incidents.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else?

Alderman Lopez

Well if I could just reply? What I was trying to get out was preventing those major events with these resources is probably a better goal than answering them after they've already happened.

Chairman Dowd

Alright. I am going to make a motion to reduce Line 22 on this list by \$100,000.00 and allocate it to a new line for the Police Expendable Trust Fund to cover Major Crimes.

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO AMEND R-20-069 TO REDUCE LINE 22 ON THE LIST BY \$100,000.00 AND ALLOCATE THAT \$100,000.00 TO A NEW LINE FOR THE POLICE EXPENDABLE TRUST TO COVER MAJOR CRIMES

ON THE QUESTION

Chairman Dowd

Is there any discussion on the motion or the amendment to the motion? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, this is kind of exactly the type of thing that I was talking about earlier. Here we have, as far as I know to my knowledge, this request by the Police Department is, at least to me, is being made for the first time here tonight. So here we are, we are looking at how to expend this surplus money and I was told earlier that this list comes from the administration after looking at all the requests from all the Departments and I assume that means the Police Department as well. And this is what they've, you know, these are what they are recommending and that we should trust the administration, not micromanage, and yet here we are making a change without a whole lot of background information or debate. I mean it's pretty, I mean I don't want to diminish the needs of the Police Department and the fund that the Chief is asking be funded.

I understand that; but I am wondering how you know how – you know taking it from CERF and maybe there's a better place, maybe there are other things on this list, if the administration had an opportunity to look at the list maybe there's another place where they would be more comfortable taking the money from. Maybe there are other projects that they would rather not fund in order to come up with this \$100,000.00 if it really is a priority item. So I am inclined to, I'm not sure about the correct procedure but to table this Resolution, allow the administration to look at the various items that are competing for this money, talk to the Chief and maybe come up with a solution or compromise or some way of meeting those needs rather than. I feel unqualified right now to say we ought to take \$100,000.00 from CERF and give it to the Police Department.

I mean I remember when the Police Department was before us and we were talking about their Budget. You know, the administration had made a recommendation to us, we seemed to have no qualms then to reject the administrations' recommendation and alter the Police Department's Budget by you know taking money out of there, the money they had planned on buying new vehicles with and applying it to giving them money to increase salaries for certain individuals in the Department certain groups of people in the Department. So I don't know. Is it appropriate for me to make a motion to table the Resolution? Is that in order now?

Chairman Dowd

I believe you could but I also believe there's a time constraint that we are dealing with and I'll defer to the Mayor or Mr. Griffin that we are dealing with?

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Because it's

Alderman Clemons

If I may, point of order?

Chairman Dowd

Because it's also going to come up at tomorrow's Board of Aldermen Meeting. It's already on the Agenda. Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Yeah just a point of order. No, a motion to table after a long speech is not usually in order because that doesn't afford anybody else the right to speak because that motion is non-debatable.

Chairman Dowd

So protocol-wise it wouldn't be good.

Alderman Jette

I don't want to cut off any debate, so I'll withdraw my motion to table at this time.

Chairman Dowd

The other thing, in fairness to the Police Department, this did come up during the Budget session and they were advocating for it to be funded at that time. So is there anyone else that has a question on the amendment to this?

Mr. Griffin

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

A couple of things, first of all you are absolutely correct, this would significantly enhance our ability to close our books timely. That's why a favorable recommendation tonight, passed by the Full Board tomorrow would be most appreciated. And secondly in response to Alderman Mike O'Brien's question, I did do some research while there was discussion and there is a Fire Emergency Fund that was approved by the Board of Aldermen in 2005. And it has got about \$158,000.00 in it and it can be (audio cuts out) the agency to agent to expend is the Board of Fire Commissioners. So I did want to let the folks know here that there is an emergency fund for Fire Operations.

Chairman Dowd

Thank you, Mr. Griffin. Are there any other questions relative to the motion to amend R-20-069?

Alderman Clemons

Mr. Chairman?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Clemons?

Alderman Clemons

Thank you. I am going to support this motion. I don't know whether or not it was an oversight by the Mayor or if the Mayor decided not to put it on there or maybe the Police didn't get there in time. I don't know what the situation is. But what I do know is having less than \$500.00 in that account is dangerously low when anything could happen. And here's the bottom line, we are going to have to fund this one way or another or we are going to have to have to find the money to give to the Police Department one way or another if a major crime like that was to occur in Nashua. So my suggestion is that we do this now and save ourselves the headaches that we are going to have down the road and just get this done. \$100,000.00 from CERF it's a lot of money, I understand that.

But you know, here's what is going to happen and I can almost – and this has happened in the past. We have decided not to fund an account like this or decided not to do what the Police Department asked us to do and mid-way through the year, we had to take money, well I wasn't – I was now off the Board. But mid-way through the year, I believe it was Alderman Wilshire, they were running a deficit in the Police Department at that time and she had to propose taking money from where else? CERF. To fund the Police Department. I would rather not see us getting to that position and so you know the Police Chief is here tonight, it's an opportunity for us to right a wrong. And, you know, whether that was anybody's fault or not, I don't know. I am not going to do the blame game, but what I am going to say is they are here tonight. This is a need that the City needs to fund and I am going to support the motion to do that. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

So as far as going back to Alderman Jette, this whole process where the Mayor brings this list before us to the Budget Committee is the time to listen to anyone that wants to come in and talk to their budget issues and they want to have something on the list to appear. This Committee makes the decision as we have done several times in the past years, since I've been on the Board, to make changes to the list and then approve it and bring it to the Full Board which will be tomorrow night. I will be giving an oral report of this meeting tomorrow night and it will be on the Agenda. So are there any other questions? Alderman O'Brien or let the Mayor speak first, I guess.

Mayor Donchess

I was thinking that the \$48,000.00 that's going into, that that's what this was for. The \$48,000.00 that's going to the PD. I am talking about Line 23 I think, \$48,000.00 to transfer funds to the Police ETF.

Chairman Dowd

But I guess Mr. Griffin had said that's for a different expense.

Mayor Donchess

He did. But I was thinking this was the overtime, I was thinking this is the ETF, the Expendable Trust Fund we are talking about.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah, I don't think anyone ...

Mayor Donchess

What is that one? Could you clarify again, could you ask Mr. Griffin to clarify that?

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

Mr. Mayor and Mr. Chairman, the Police Department wanted to take the salaries and wages that they didn't expend in Fiscal '20 and move it to Fiscal '21 and Ms. Smith and I discussed maybe instead of just moving it in through the escrow where it's in salaries and wages, to put it in the General Police ETF that can be used for that purpose.

Mayor Donchess

Well how much is in that account?

Mr. Griffin

I'd have to check; I don't think there's much but I will check.

Chairman Dowd

OK and the other reason that I know quite about this account is being the liaison to the Police Commissioners, I have sat in on many of the discussions over the last few meetings all during COVID.

Mr. Griffin

About (inaudible).

Chairman Dowd

About this fact that they need this ETF funded. Are there any other questions relative to the amendment to the motion? Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you. First let me put it out there that I am going to support this, your motion. I also would like to thank Mr. Griffin. I knew that account existed for the Fire Department for emergency needs, but I did not know the amount. I think the amount seems to be adequate at this time and if there was something more major, again, as we talked about in the conversation this evening, we would try to find the money somewhere else. But as long as they have something that is parity in an account, because as we are speaking right now, there is a working fire at 28 Mulberry Street. So I think they are going to (inaudible) to that a working fire. But these things do happen in our City. So I can see where both Departments need this type of a contingency account. So thank you, Mr. Griffin for doing that. I appreciate it.

Chairman Dowd

The other thing I'd like to point out is that if we have a major crime, the Police Department has to start investigating it immediately because as we all know, the longer you wait, the colder it gets. And they need to act immediately. If they had to come back to the Budget Committee and the Board of Aldermen and have to approve funding, it would be very detrimental to the investigation. So having this ETF that they can count on in case there is this kind of emergency is pretty critical. Any other questions relative to the amendment? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Could I just direct a question to the Mayor through you, please?

Chairman Dowd

Sure.

Alderman Jette

So Mr. Mayor, you apparently thought the \$48,000.00 was going to the Police Overtime Account. Now that you know that it isn't and you've heard the Chief talk about how he needs \$100,000.00 and Alderman Dowd is suggesting that we take it from CERF. How do you feel about that, is that ok with you or there is some other items that you would rather reduce to come up with the \$100,000.00?

Mayor Donchess

I thought we were funding \$48,000.00 rather than \$100,000.00. And I thought, well we increased the Police Department Budget by 4% more than any other Department so somehow we could get by with \$48,000.00. It is unclear to me what the \$48,000.00 ... if this isn't for the General ETF what does that go for? Can that go for overtime? I don't know what the \$48,000.00 so it would help me to get an answer to that.

Chairman Dowd

Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

Yeah, I can start if off. Mr. Mayor asked a question, the balance in that General ETF is \$132.00 at this point. But the discussions I had on the \$48,000.00 were this. The Police Department during COVID-19 early stages was concerned that they couldn't send their officers to training. And the three go together, the \$48,000.00 is for the payroll and the items below it are for the cost of the trainings etc. I'm not sure, Chief, if you had that understanding. But it was to position the payroll that you didn't spend this year into '21. But the question that we ask now is can you handle it all without the \$48,000.00?

Mayor Donchess

Can we just get – what is the \$48,000.00 for? Payroll to do what?

Chairman Dowd

Chief?

Chief Carignan

So the \$48 – there are two separate funds. The \$100,000.00 is our Major Investigative Funds, if we have the homicide or something big comes in that we need to be able to – that we can't account for. It's like that snow fund. The other fund, we had money left over from last year. Because of COVID-19 we were not allowed to send any of our officers to mandatory savings. So we had money savings from the cost of sending the officers to those schools, but they are mandatory to maintain certifications in different things such as bomb school, such as SWAT Schools, different types of training like computer forensic stuff, in order to maintain our certifications. Those schools were put on hold. So at the end of last year we had saved a bunch of money for overtime, more than the \$46 an we told you that we wanted to give all of it back except only what we needed which was to cover the cost of those schools, which was the \$46. So we had more money than the \$46 which we gave back but the \$46 we need to be able to cover those costs, because we have to send people to those schools to maintain certifications to do the things that we do.

So that was two separate issues. We had extra money left over, we were going to give everything to the City but that \$46 that we needed. And then we ended up, they ended up taking some of that money in covering the cost of retirement which usually comes out of a different account. So I am not sure what the final result of those funds were, all that money we gave back, we just said we will give it all back but we need \$46 out of it to maintain that training and to keep those certifications. And that's why there are two completely separate funds. Next year, with no COVID you don't have this \$46,000.00.

Mayor Donchess

I guess it's confusing because there's another line for training and certification. So I guess

Chief Carignan

Mayor, \$24,000.00 is for the cost of the actual trainings, the rest is for the backfill overtime to cover those costs to fill the positions while they are at the training.

Mayor Donchess

Well Mr. Chair, I would say, I think there is time sensitivity on this. We really need to get something passed to be able to close the books. And we could scrimp on \$2,000.00 here, \$3,000.00 here or whatever, but probably the easiest thing is as you propose to use the line item, the CERF line item and make that \$1 and three quarters million.

Chairman Dowd

Ok any other questions relative to the amendment to the motion?

Alderman Kelly

I have a question?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly?

Alderman Kelly

Yes. This is to CFO Griffin. Can you talk to the time sensitivity of this if it wouldn't pass tonight what that does to the budget?

Mr. Griffin

Certainly, Mr. Chairman if I may?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, go ahead.

Mr. Griffin

We are in the process; this is kind of the final step to close out Fiscal '20. It generally takes 3 months, July, August, September. We are at the end of September to finalize the information to present to the auditors, the external auditors. So this goes a long way in finalizing the revenues and expenses for Fiscal '20.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah if we don't approve it tonight and get it passed by the Full Board tomorrow it pushes it off a couple of weeks which causes more of a concern. Does that answer your question, Alderman Kelly?

Alderman Kelly

Yeah, I would like to ask a follow-up.

Chairman Dowd

Sure.

Alderman Kelly

So with the audit taking three months, which makes sense, has it been our past, has it been the way that we've done this in the past that it's done the night before the Board of Aldermen Meeting with no time to discuss?

Mr. Griffin

Mr. Chairman, if I may?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Mr. Griffin?

Mr. Griffin

It's generally done in-between the first reading and the second reading but that couldn't happen, that's why the meeting is tonight.

Alderman Kelly

I understand and I know we are all working on tough times.

Mr. Griffin

(inaudible) generally there's like 5 days or a week depending upon where Chairman Dowd calls the meeting. But there's generally a space between a Budget Review Committee Meeting and the Full Board Meeting.

Chairman Dowd

Yeah it was a question of impact by COVID plus a day that we could actually schedule the meeting. We had to fit it in this evening. But have done this procedure every year.

Alderman Kelly

Yes, I understand Alderman Dowd and I get that and I think you know what the Police is asking for is very reasonable and there's a lot of things we are juggling as a City. I have to say that I understand some of the people on this Committee, Alderman Jette in particular, who are feeling like we shouldn't be, we should be able to table something and get the answers that we need and not feel like we have to suspend the rules and push something through in on night. It's happening – I think that my feeling, I come to this feeling because it's not the first time it's happened; it's not the first Committee that it's happened. And I want to make sure that we are doing our due diligence and doing our jobs thoroughly and asking the right questions before we just approve it at the Full Board.

Chairman Dowd

Any other questions. If not, Alderman O'Brien would you call the roll for the amendment that I proposed to R-20-069?

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 the amendment passes now, the amended motion R-20-069 is up for a vote. Is there any other discussion on the amended R-20-069? Seeing none, would you call the roll Alderman O'Brien?

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are voting on R-20-069 as amended.

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 6

Nay: Alderwoman Kelly 1

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

TABLED IN COMMITTEE

Chairman Dowd

We are taking nothing off the table; I had a discussion with Mr. Cummings this afternoon and some of these things will be taken up later.

R-20-016

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderwoman 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

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.
Alderwoman 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-20-028

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.

(re-tabled at 8-12 mtg)

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Chairman Dowd

Anyone that would like to speak on General Discussion?

Alderwoman Kelly

I would.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly.

Alderwoman Kelly

Yeah so to my last point on the escrows, I'd like to just bring up for discussion how we plan for allowing discussion and having time to ask the questions. It feels like things are rushed and I know that there are other people who feel that way.

Chairman Dowd

OK I know under the circumstances this year they were rushed; normally they aren't. I don't know how soon this Resolution went out but people could have looked at it before tonight and had other questions. And we probably should do a better job, especially with newer Aldermen and explaining the process and how it works and the impact. But we definitely need to close the books so that it can go to auditors and we can put 2020 to rest. Alderman Wilshire, did you want to speak?

Alderman Wilshire

Yeah, I just wanted to add you know, the Legal Department has been really busy with the Right to Know requests, I'm not making excuses for anyone. It's just everyone has been doling double duty and this doesn't normally go through this quickly. I am not sure why it didn't get scheduled a week ago but it didn't. Normally we have time in-between to ask the questions before this gets passed.

Alderwoman Kelly

If I could respond Alderman Dowd.

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Alderwoman Kelly.

Alderman Kelly

I appreciate that this year has been a confluence of lots of things coming together and I know everybody has worked really hard. I just want to make sure that if there somebody on the Committee or several people on the Committee who have questions that they feel aren't answered – and while I understand that it may have come out last week, these questions deserve to be answered on the record too so everybody can have part of that conversation. So even though I may have talked to someone I want everyone else to know what that discussion was as well as we go through this process and that's my understanding of the process is that we need to make sure these conversations are had.

Chairman Dowd

Yes. Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

Well that's what tonight's meeting is about. So if you have questions about anything before we pass this, now is the time.

Chairman Dowd

And this will be coming up at the Board of Aldermen meeting tomorrow night and you can ask additional questions, you can do research tomorrow if you like. You can talk to any of the City Administrators if you have questions. But this will be coming up tomorrow night.

Mayor Donchess

Mr. Chair, could I address this timing issue?

Chairman Dowd

Yes, Mayor Donchess.

Mayor Donchess

So this was introduced two weeks ago. Two weeks ago as a first reading. And that is the normal timing, it is introduced, it's pending for two weeks and then it passes or the Board of Aldermen votes. Now in this case I believe, Mr. Chair, we were trying to schedule this meeting last week. Sorry I am not on the camera. We were trying to schedule this meeting last week and then I got COVID. I forget there was some COVID problems. I can't even remember what they were. Had we been able to schedule the Budget Committee last week, then of course it would have been the normal week or so before the vote. But then, I can't remember it might have been that I got COVID and I couldn't do it. I can't even remember what it was, but we had tried to schedule it last week and it wasn't possible and here it is. So yes it is the night before, but in the future I think we will make sure we schedule it in, you know, the week in the middle so that there's a week after it is proposed and a week before we seek a vote.

Alderman Kelly

If I could respond?

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Kelly?

Alderwoman Kelly

And I appreciate that. And I think that's fair timing especially we didn't have public comment tonight, but if there was public comment that was brought forward, we don't have a lot of time to even address that. So thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else, general comment? Alderman Jette?

Alderman Jette

Yes, I agree with Alderwoman Kelly, her comments. Maybe I'm the only one, maybe I'm slower than everybody else but you know to tell me that a Resolution can come before the Budget Review Committee and that during that meeting, you know, the two hour or longer meeting that we have we can ask whatever questions we want and then vote on it and then it goes before the Full Board. You know, I would like you know just for people to think about the possibility that when a Resolution comes to the Committee, you know, there are questions that are asked during the Committee Meeting that aren't answered. I mean there were questions, the Mayor made this proposal and he was struggling with trying to figure out where some of the items were. I think some of us voted in favor of this thing because we are told by the Mayor and Mr. Griffin, "Oh we've got to do this, because it's going before the Full Board tomorrow night, so we have got to make a decision tonight so the Full Board can vote on it so we will have something to present to the auditors". You know, an alternative to that is that the Resolution is introduced you know maybe two meetings ahead of time, maybe a month ahead of time, so that the Committee can review it, ask questions.

If people need time to get the answers, they can do that. If there's a suggestion to move some money around, and the administration might want to come up with a different proposal of taking money from different areas, they would have time to do that, come back to the Committee and let the Committee make a recommendation to the Full Board and then the Full Board can vote on it. The idea that, I mean I know, I understand it's a difficult year and we are meeting tonight and the Full Board is meeting tomorrow night. I understand when you say to me, "Well it couldn't be helped there were reasons for it and this won't happen again". I trust that will happen. But the suggestion, I think, that you would, that the solution would be to have this meeting a week or two before like have it last week instead of tonight, still I don't think gives us enough time, unless the thing sails through, that's different. But if we have questions and we can't get the answers and this proposal about the Police, adding \$100,000.00 to the Expendable Trust Fund sounds like it's necessary, it sounds like it's a good thing, but this is the first I hear of it, you know, that we are going to do this tonight. Well you understand what I am trying to say. I would hope that in the future, next year, that whatever work the Mayor and Mr. Griffin have to do about coming up with proposals for this surplus money, that that could be done sooner than just a couple of weeks before the meeting so we have a chance to fully discuss it and make an intelligent recommendation to the Full Board. Thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Wilshire?

Alderman Wilshire

We will make sure that happens Alderman Jette next year.

Alderman Jette

Thank you.

Alderman Wilshire

You're welcome.

Chairman Dowd

Ok anyone else for General Comments? Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Well we will do our best, but one thing is we need to know how much the unexpended money is before we can even begin to consider it. You know, that's – and that doesn't come immediately. But we will work on trying to improve, I mean my memory is we went over the list as soon as we knew how much money there was. But we will try to improve it. We will try to do it earlier in the future if we can.

Chairman Dowd

Alderman Wilshire, did you have another comment?

Alderman Wilshire

No I did not, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

Anyone else for General Comment? No General Comments?

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN

Alderman O'Brien

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Earlier tonight the Mayor mentioned that barriers are going to be going up on Main Street. Wednesday night is the Infrastructure Meeting, we actually have nothing on the docket, it's a rare occurrence, so therefore I took the opportunity to invite Director Cummings, who is going to give us a presentation on the barriers. So if anybody is interested, we are going to solely designate the meeting, it will be barrier free, everybody is welcome. So you can come and you can get to peruse the new barriers that are proposed. Thank you. And that's 7:00 Wednesday, thank you.

Chairman Dowd

I don't know how many people have subscribed to the Union Leader, I subscribed to the Telegraph – the old Telegraph and the Union Leader. And I noticed in the Union Leader there are a lot of cities and towns in New Hampshire that are going to continue the outside dining after this year, no matter what happens. They've had so much success with it and people liked it so much that they are making it a permanent part of their culture. There's a lot of things I saw in there, I won't get into them now, but that we can probably learn from, you know, changes that we can make. Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Wilshire

Thank you. I think one of the best things we have going for us is the fact that we invest in our downtown With the Riverfront, you know, obvious to everyone now, you drive downtown Nashua or any of the side streets off of Main Street and you go, "Wow there's a river there". It just, it is incredible why we have not capitalized on that asset long ago. I give kudos to the administration and to the Mayor for moving this project forward. You know you see the kayaks lit out there, people getting to really enjoy the river and it's really nice to see, so thank you Mayor.

Chairman Dowd

Ok any other Aldermanic comments? Seeing none, we don't need a non-public. Alderman O'Brien do you have a motion?

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 9:02 p.m.

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