

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

OCTOBER 16, 2019

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

Mayor Jim Donchess, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present: Alderman Michael B. O'Brien, Vice Chair  
Alderman-at-Large Brandon Michael Laws  
Aldерwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly  
Alderman June M. Caron

Members not in Attendance: Alderman Patricia Klee  
Alderman Linda Harriott-Gathright

Also in Attendance: John Griffin, CFO/Comptroller

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PUBLIC COMMENT - None

COMMUNICATIONS

From: Camille Pattison, Transportation Manager  
Re: Change Order for 1 Gillig CNG Buses – Revised Cost \$523,155

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AUTHORIZE THE CHANGE ORDER FOR 1 GILLIG CNG BUSES. THE ORIGINAL COST WAS \$523,542 AND CHANGED TO \$523,155, A CREDIT OF \$387**

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

I actually don't think this needs to come to Finance since it is a reduction not an addition; but in any event, discussion?

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Dan Kookan, Purchasing Manager  
Re: Purchase of Fire Alarm Bucket Truck (Value \$133,564) Department: 152 Fire Rescue; Fund: CERF

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE PURCHASE CONTRACT TO CUSTOM TRUCK ONE SOURCE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$133,564 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FIRE ALARM BUCKET TRUCK. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 152 FIRE RESCUE; FUND: CERF**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman O'Brien

Yes thank you Mr. Mayor. First I would like to say, I believe in repurposing some of the vehicles if they can be used by another department. I extremely apologize to come up with this idea at this 11<sup>th</sup> hour. But in looking at that I see that we are going to get the trade-in value of \$13,000.00 for that vehicle.

Since we have the Director of Park Rec here, if he wants to come forward and see if he can, through the invitation of the Mayor and the Chair, if he could repurpose this vehicle and has a need within the Park Rec type of Department. If he does, and I would like to amend this to include \$13,000.00 that would be the price that we would get in the trade-in value and amend it to \$146,564.00.

Nicholas Caggiano, Superintendent of Parks & Recreation

Nick Caggiano, Park & Rec Superintendent. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> hour for me too because we weren't planning on this but it actually is a good idea. Currently we have one bucket truck and it is a large vehicle. The use of having a smaller unit that doesn't go up as high would be very valuable; especially on Main Street. We do a lot of banners and put up decorations and a smaller unit is going to be much safer to use especially during the day when we are out there. If the funding is in there and we can try...

Mayor Donchess

Do you want to take a look at it?

Mr. Caggiano

Sure I don't know anything about it, I just found out about it. But it would be a good asset to keep if it is road-worthy. Does it say what year it is?

Alderman Caron

2003.

Mr. Caggiano

That's not that bad.

Mayor Donchess

So would the maker amend the motion to suggest that we increase the purchase amount by \$13,000.00, save the truck for Park Rec as long it passes Park Rec's inspection and meets their satisfaction once they get a chance to see it?

Alderman O'Brien

I would like to make the motion to amend.

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN THAT ACCORDING TO THE APPROVAL OF THE PARK RECREATION DEPARTMENT IN ACCEPTING THE VEHICLE THAT WE AMEND THE PURCHASE ORDER TO \$146,564.00 FROM DEPARTMENT 152, FIRE RESCUE FUND CERF.**

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

Ok discussion?

Alderwoman Caron

Thankyou I have several and not that I don't think this is a good idea but I think there are several issues. It really needs to be looked at by Park Rec and get some ideas of how many hours are on there. Also, that's going to deplete their CERF account by \$13,000.00, that leaves them at about \$13,000.00 left in their account for the Fire Department. My question to you Mayor would be, would it behoove us to table this until we have some answers as to whether this truck is suit able for Park Rec and get some information from the Fire Department.

Mayor Donchess

Well of course they've got no one from the Fire Department here. We want to make sure the deal goes through. So what if we leave it, I mean I think we should keep the truck if it is of use to Park Rec, I mean it's \$13,000.00; probably new the vehicle costs I don't know \$150,000.00.

Mr. Caggiano

Yeah I think this one is \$133,000.00.

Mayor Donchess

So we are getting it at 10%. And if it is not okay, Nick will check it out tomorrow and if it is not okay, we will get together with the Fire Department, and maybe with your authorization, right now if it is not okay with Parks we will trade it in, how's that?

Alderman O'Brien

It is good and then Mr. Mayor, if I may, did I quote, I added the \$13,000.00 to the \$133,000.00 should I have done that on the purchase of it?

Mayor Donchess

I think you should yeah. So Nick will check it out, if it checks out, which it probably will, we will go forward as proposed. If it for some reason does not check out, we will trade it in and tell you next time, how's that?

Alderman O'Brien

I am good with that. Would you like the motion if upon denial of Park Rec contingency.

Mr. Caggiano

I don't want to delay Fire at all.

Mayor Donchess

I think we can deal with the \$13,000.00 less in CERF, I mean this is, you know; and if the thing is no good we will just trade it in. But probably Nick is going to want it and that's it. Alright.

Alderman O'Brien

I'm good.

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Dan Kooken, Purchasing Manager  
Re: Contract for Professional Engineering Services for Transit Center Rehab (Value \$125,135)  
Department: 186 Transportation; Fund: FTA Grant

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO GREENMAN-PEDERSEN, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$125,135 FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR TRANSIT CENTER REHAB. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 186 TRANSPORTATION; FUND: FTA GRANT**

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

I believe Ms. Marchant is here on this one.

Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director

Good evening, Sarah Marchant here to talk about this grant. It was originally a \$1.3 million grant the City received which was to purchase the one final CNG bus which has been done. The rest of the money was to go to the Transit Center Rehab. We have numerous safety and infrastructure issues there that we are trying to correct with this funding. So before you is the grant to move forward with the Transit Center Retrofit Project. It is a little bit complicated in that this is an architectural project as in rehabbing the actual building and it is also an engineering infrastructure project in the road base.

I'm sure you've seen the pavement and also ADA compliance, there are pedestrians, bicycles, buses and cars that we are trying to accommodate in this one area. So we have transportation engineers and architects and so there's a lot of little things that need to get done which means projects tend to be expensive. So we broke down Phase I first to really kind of drill down and make sure we could stay closer to budget. We applied for this grant in 2017, construction costs have risen almost 30% we've seen since then so we do believe this is going to be tight.

We did a small Phase I to really drill down on costs, so we are coming forward now with Phase II. We think we have a better idea of those costs and what we can do here with this project. So we are looking forward to moving this. So this would be preliminary engineering, final engineering and to get ready for contract bid documents. So there will be a public process with this as well.

Alderwoman Kelly

So you said we got this grant in 2017, is there a certain time that we have to disburse it by, I know you mentioned a couple phases.

Ms. Marchant

So we did purchase the bus already and part of it was the lag time with some of these federal funds and actually getting the dollars into the City Coiffers. So we did start the process as soon as we kind of got the money; we got the bus purchased and we've moved on to this. But the process is lengthy and so we put the RFP out I think in February.

**MOTION CARRIED**

From: Dan Kooken, Purchasing Manager  
Re: Snow Plowing Contract – City Parking Lots (Value: Not to Exceed \$26,000) Department: 166 Parking Operations; Fund: General

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO ACCURATE DIMENSIONS, LLC. AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$26,000 FOR PLOWING CITY PARKING LOTS. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 166 PARKING OPERATIONS; FUND: GENERAL MOTION CARRIED**

From: Dan Kooken, Purchasing Manager  
Re: Contract for Purchase of Playground Surfacing for the Jeff Morin Fields at Roby Park Playground (Value: \$109,790) Department: 177 Parks & Recreation; Fund: Grant

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE AND AWARD THE CONTRACT TO GREEN INK LLC DBA INTELLITURF NEW ENGLAND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$109,790 FOR PLAYGROUND SURFACING FOR THE JEFF MORIN FIELDS AT ROBY PARK PLAYGROUND. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT 177 PARKS & RECREATION; FUND: GRANT**

ON THE QUESTION

Mayor Donchess

And I think this is why Mr. Caggiano is here.

Mr. Caggiano

Nick Caggiano Park & Rec Superintendent; as you know the Morin has been very generous to the City for many, many years. When they lost their son they put a scholarship program in place and they included Park & Rec and it has done quite well and they are quite generous. What this is going to do is remove the wood carpet that is underneath the playground which was the first ADA playground in the State. We are going to have an artificial turf under the playground with a pad. It is going to be easier for the children to roll around in if they need it. It will be a long-term surface; we don't have to replace the wood chips and it is just going to make the park that much better.

Alderwoman Kelly

Thank you. So this is my daughter's favorite park in the City and it is often very wet, so I'm wondering if this will help with that, like a lot of times after the rain we can't go there because there's so much water.

Mr. Caggiano

Yes it will help. We did take care of the wet problem last year, we put in drainage and we replaced the wood chips. We are going to repurpose those chips when they pull them out, bring them to another park that needs some work. But it is going to help with that as well because there won't be the material to absorb water. It is going to just drain.

Alderwoman Kelly

Excellent, thank you.

Alderman O'Brien

Just a comment with my grandson, the fact that you fixed the wet park much to his dismay, he totally all boy enjoyed that, you know, much to the dismay of Grandma, but Nana understood. But it was a lot of fun, he did have a lot of fun even at the wet part.

**MOTION CARRIED**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS - None

RECORD OF EXPENDITURES

**MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS COMPLIED WITH THE CITY CHARTER AND ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE RECORD OF EXPENDITURES FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 27, 2019 TO OCTOBER 10, 2019**

**MOTION CARRIED**

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Alderman O'Brien

I would just like to say that, Mr. Mayor if you remember, we went a couple weeks ago down to BAE Systems and Ms. Marchant was here discussing the rehab of the Transit Center. The City has purchased two beautiful new hybrid type of buses that run on diesel but yet it generated electrical power. It is quite unique and I was very impressed with the handicap access, the security system for somebody that is in a wheelchair that they can easily get into and off the bus. It is something that I look forward to, I hope it goes into service soon. I think the ridership, the citizens that do use it, will be equally impressed as I am. So with this work going on, I am happy to see that we are investing into our transit system. Thank you.

PUBLIC COMMENT - None

REMARKS BY THE ALDERMEN - None

NON-PUBLIC SESSION - None

ADJOURNMENT

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

**MOTION CARRIED**

The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

Aldерwoman Shoshanna Kelly  
Committee Clerk