

Budget and Finance Committee

5/2/24 6:30 PM

Meeting Post: <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/budget-finance/events/347706>

Roll:

B/F: Zeid,, Khan

Additional: McCauley, Wright

Staff: Manning

Agenda: Existing Committee, Exiting Committee Amended, Staying in Committee

To be discussed:

- **TRAN00189 Mayor's Office: General Fund Free Cash \$25,852.84 to Fire Injured-on-Duty \$25,852.84 (COTW)**

- EM - Net amount that is paid from IOD insurance
- AK – this goes to end of fiscal year
- EM – yes and then in budget
- **Motion to approve, AK/SZ, 2-0**

- **ORDR00554 Senior Work-Off Program Increase Maximum Assistance Amount to \$2000 (COTW)**

- Sara Landry – allows people to work off their taxes
- Sara Landry – We have about 45 people qualified
- “ – They meet with applicants and qualify them and things that may interest them. Greeters and assistant city hall, some do work at parks dept, new position just became open which is parks ambassador. Meeting and talking about parks sort of like a tour
- “ – Some work on the butterfly garden
- “ – Dept heads may approach with ideas
- AK – Some of them would be automatically updated, some local option
- AK – Is increase a local option
- AK – Super majority
- EM – yes it is and it is a regular majority
- AK – Do you say not to anyone, is there a waiting list
- Sara Landry – Have we had to cap
- Jill Brennan – we haven't had to cap
- Julie Languirand – More of a placement issue split the duties
- AK – Someone could do on behalf
- Julie – Yes it is possible but there are criteria if one is going to work for another
- SZ – Sort of around \$20k is the rough impact
- EM – Would have been \$18,500 would be the change
- SZ – Goes into effect July 1
- Jane Snow – 9 Coffin St. – if someone doesn't qualify can you donate time

- Jill – other person has to meet all the qualifications. Claim the taxes.
- **Motion to approve AK/SZ, 2-0**

• **TRAN00192 Finance Dept.: LT Debt-Principal \$80,000 & LT Debt-Interest \$75,000 to Health Insurance Premiums \$155,000**

- EM – Estimating that we'll have \$318k in debt because we had budgeted for Station 2 debt but due to timing of issuance, it's not happening until later this month.
- EM – So there will be no payment for this year so we have it available.
- EM – Health insurance varies from year to year.
- EM – Used to include a small contingency in this account but have taken it away in time
- EM – It is pretty tight to budget for
- EM – Going to need additional \$155k, will be budgeting for this shortfall
- AK – If not this debt, would have been free cash
- AK – Fire stn and streets/sidewalks and the only 2
- **Motion to approve, AK/SZ, 2-0**

• **TRAN00190 Mayor's Office: Interest on Short-Term Notes \$18,000 to Veterans Benefits \$18,000**

- Kevin Hunt
- Picked up some more beneficiaries in the spring
- Chapter 115 benefits, administered by the city
- 75% is supposed to come back from the state if we can
- If we don't get this money, these folks won't get assist
- AK – Is this an appropriate source
- EM – We budget this in case we need short term notes but we haven't won't
- AK – It has 25k but is in a larger category
- May move and that's a possibility
- This was typically had a transfer many years, first time this is increase
- SZ – Why hard to get the 75%
- KH – Hard to get these funds because of process and paperwork. We are getting some but not 75%.
- KH – Yes, it is challenging with the state. They are very stringent so they reject most things.
- JM – This is the result of 3 new families into the committee.
- KH – That is correct.
- **Motion to approve, AK/SZ, 2-0**

• **TRAN00191 DPS:RRFA-Development Impact Fees \$30,000 to Intersection Improvements Study \$30,000**

- EM – there was \$60k in total
- EM – got this from Colby Farm Lane development fees and will be used to pay for study of the intersection specifically at Colby/low/n Atkinson

- JM – This is to pay for study, get suggestions, and then there is already a public meeting scheduled
- JM – Scope also includes them submitting for safe routes to school. We allocated up to \$50k in the appropriation. If the additional funds are required then will visit that.
- SZ – what is approx. order of magnitude. SRTS projects are usually pretty big
- JM – projects that are SRTS are only <\$1m so they are smaller. Reconstruction of intersection. Don't think this is an expectation, kind of thinking of this \$100k-\$600k from a granting perspective. It's not North Atkinson and to low st, bump outs and curbing and increase visibility. Also don't think there will be a full recommendation that a permit will be required.
- SZ - What are bounds
- JM – Low St. between 50-75' either direction. Colby Farm is done for the most part.
- SZ – hyperfocused on intersection
- JM – yes. N. Atkinson is on roadway plan in 2nd years. Normal ave should be next year
- SZ – are we getting the other \$30k
- EM – It was in agreement with the developer so would think that we're getting it
- EM – Long discussion about these funds and these parks building potential and the agreement was considered.
- SZ – Chair gave history on this. Parks building, dev agreement, then amended with Mayor
- **Motion to approve, AK/SZ, 2-0**

• ORDR00560 Gift Acceptance Hinkel Park Bench \$5000

- EM – came in through new program
- Donated by someone who's spouse passed away
- SZ – 10 years and then the option to continue
- EM – Yes
- SZ – Where
- EM – Either in Atwood waterfront park
- EM – Ultimately Parks Comm will make that decision
- **Motion to approve, AK/SZ, 2-0**

• ORDR00561 Gift Acceptance Pioneer League Batting Cage \$30,076.53

- Kim Turner
- Pioneer league reached out to the north of the park
- There is an existing cage, not very rugged
- It was damaged during a recent storm
- They approached City to put in a sturdier thing in the same location
- Similar in size
- Still take down nets

- AK – Quick question, is this replacing 2 for 1
- KT – Are there already 2 batting cages, there's 1 there. They are proposing two
- KT – Can send picture. They did go to conservation for an RDA
- AK – Yes, would be very helpful to see images
- SZ – the city was applicant and took on the cost of the RDA. This was them saying not to do NOI
- SZ – Why is this not prevailing wage
- EM – This is a very complex section of the law. Some things do not apply. What they define as “public works construction”
- EM – It's the nature of the work
- KT – Business manager did ask the state
- **Motion to approve, AK/SZ, 2-0**

• ORDR00562 Grant Acceptance Form FY23 FY24 Cultural District Grants \$30,000.00

- Andy Port – this is to install a sculpture on the waterfront
- Sasaki indicated that on plans, plaza extension
- Put together a solicitation.
- This is actually 2 years of funds, hope to encumber by June 30 and the funds aren't lost
- Public Art Cmte and Cultural Council has looked at this
- AK – Glad saw the memo, could be a ship, could be creative
- AK – Due May 9th, super soon
- AK – Timing
- Andy Port – timeframe just seeing different pieces coming together
- AP – Need time to execute and encumber funds and so forth
- AP – Need to show state that we have done this
- AK – Public Arts Committee
- AK – Does it have to come to the Council
- KT – It does need to come back to the Council
- AK – That is a good process
- JM – Process, was on both ad hocs – never approved a sculpture. Sasaki suggested nice place to put one. Approval in phase I did not include. Then have question on public process
- JM – Expected one time a year modeled after CPC, cart before horse because we think we have moneies
- AP – There is a continuity of this process and there was a boat shown on the plans that were ultimately approved by the Council. What wasn't approved were later plans. There were no funds for site amenities.
- JM – Would ask for documentation on approval. Don't believe that we did.
- AP – Can forward the Council order that was approved that has a set of plan
- JM – Showing the picture of a boat not the same as approving phase I
- AP – There were slides with the pictures and seating and sculptures

- AK – Wasn't part of the ad hoc, not being part of it. And now we have a PAC. Who identifies the space and then decides the type of art
- AK – Who approved these amenities
- AP – All of that in presentation
- JM – Ad hoc has no authority
- AK – were they discussed in the detail, to some degree
- AP – Funds came in from the banks
- SZ – definitely a bit gray
- AP – more flexibility came up recently
- AP – Parks
- SZ – What is the full financial picture
- AP - \$30k + \$45k , this is supposed to be for purchase and installation
- JM – still looking for answer to second piece. When are they come forward once a year. Is this going to be a once year thing
- JM – Feels like cart before horse and then putting out call for artists and then potentially this.
- JM – Deeper question about process are expecting will come in every year in May
- SZ – is the once a year thing in the ordinance
- JM – Yes, it is supposed to be like CPC
- JM – Feels like City is making recommendation dragging people on
- SZ – who is staff contact
- KT – This was a bit of an anomaly and they formed and wanted to meet and understand what they are doing but do think they can meet the annual cycle. They were more than willing to help with this and review this project.
- JM – Timeline tight now getting this in last meeting in June, typical if we don't approve we'll lose the funds. Culvert, not adequate timeframe and it was either we were going to vote late. If we get a design that is not acceptable then the pressure we're lose the money. Not fair to anyone. Passed PAC in November to try and get this something and ignore input with deadlines
- AK – Appreciate what has been said. PAC. Sometimes we need some flexibility. Elements are lined up. End of the day. Not always business will be done and engage folks and not a bad thing and kick off some of their working together. At least this group was put together.
- SZ – please bring it sooner if you can. Would we spend the \$45k on something.
- SZ – Would like to control our destiny
- SZ – Spend \$45k on benches
- Jane Snow – 9 Coffin St. There was a guy looking for a ship he was making and he was refused and they were not going to have sculptures take up space in the park. He came in NY and spent New York here. He went to CPC and was turned down.
- **Motion to approve AK/SZ, 2-0**

Not planned to be discussed:

- **ORDR00563 NRYS Bond Debt Exclusion (COTW)**

- Not discussed

- **ORDR00555 Consolidation of Functions: School Committee with the City M.G.L. c.71, §37M (COTW)**

- Not discussed

Public Comment:

See above

Motion to adjourn:

AK/SZ – 7:19pm

Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/VU01EYDiWdxUjSyUHpap5DsOGs7fdQHTSrl_2wtZN0xXwBpiSuzH8CxVzIQrBnBB.3qAp_ZlrmrAGVtgF