

Budget and Finance Committee

1/12/23 6:00 PM

Meeting Post: <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/budget-finance/events/326131>

Roll:

B/F: Zeid, Khan, Wright

Other Members: Cameron, Vogel, Preston, Donahue, McCauley, Shand, Wallace, Lane

Staff: Andrew Levine, Ethan Manning, Geordie Vining, Andrew Port, Andi Egmont, Mayor Reardon

Agenda:

Planning to discuss:

Priority 1 Business (intend to discuss):

- ORDR00388_11_01_2022 NYS Facility Bond Order (COTW)

- Andi Egmont presented (slides on meet post)
- Grown into 3 divisions – Rec/Youth Center/Youth Development
- See presentation for more
- Cllr. Khan – Why can't NYS use the Nock
- Egmont – Schools are busier than you think. We do work with them
- Egmont – Lots of things happening that can't happen in the school, safety issue
- Egmont – Last part of is philosophical, want to have separate space for this purpose
- Cllr Vogel – Brown School/Low St got commingled. Do you have the faith that you can pull off what you want in the space
- Egmont – Yes overall think this will work. Flexible spaces
- Councillor Lane – Fundraising. \$1m. How much external fundraising has been considered. Has hiring a fundraiser been considering?
- Turner – Did not take into consideration external funding. Value engineering did cut out some furnishings. Number was the barebones to bring kids into the space
- Lane – Why? What about the building? Salisbury – Boys/Girls Club
- Egmont – Friends of are meeting next week and are looking to any other funding. Most grant funders don't want to pay for the building. Need design to fund raise.
- Cllr. Cameron – Follow up on this comment. Worth looking at Salisbury. Looking back at NBPT schools project. Senior Center. Question: where are we with cost. \$5.7m
- Cllr. Cameron – Construction, cost-estimates – what do you think. Like Fire Station
- Turner – Still chasing option B. Want to get to more design to harden number
- Manning – Debt model. Discussed that, showed more projects
- Manning – Higher cost on the fire station is definitely a concern and that is a concern
- Zeid – Divide by division, and why are schools busy
- Egmont – High School sports, we brought in Y to provide aftercare

- Mayor – high school get priority. Other teams are fighting for space
- Cllr. Vogel – Doesn't like timeline
- Mayor Reardon – Like the process, need to get 8 votes, will be looking for more design

Public Comment:

- Renee Ames – 17 Forrester St. – Parent of 2 kids. Encourage support
- Jack Ames – “, Youth Council. Great care and fun from NYS. Support it.
- Ryan Feener – 6 Dove St – Moved here in the past year. Support NYS
- John Zinc – Newburyport Youth Services, 6 years ago NYS. Support NYS

- COMM00443_11_01_2022 59 Low St. FAQs (COTW)

- See above

- ORDR00409_01_09_2023 Cutter West End Fire Station Loan Order (COTW)

- Mayor Reardon – Big ask, important project. Based on old numbers. Inflation. Cost will be important. This project is crucial. Hope to have and earn your support
- Reardon – Looking for this to come out at next Council meeting. It is a request on part here
- Vining – Brian is the OPM from CBRE
- Came on project last fall
- Presentation provided, see meeting post
- Cllr. Khan – Green community and grants
- Molly – Yes, I am on all the calls
- Cllr. Khan – was the sidewalk not considered
- Vining – Yes, it was but we didn't know the final design
- Cllr. Khan – Where is the cost change the highest
- Team – yes, it's the
- McCauley – Have we bonded
- Manning – Yes, we bonded 4.2. What rate will we get on the remaining 5.
- Manning – prevailing rate is 3.5%
- Zeid – What is confidence
- CBRE – The estimate is generous but not overly. Trying to be responsible
- Vining – 4.5% escalation between estimate in November and when we anticipate this going out in November
- Vining – Contingency is basic, 5%
- Zeid – contingency, contingency
- Zeid – what did get cut out
- Acting Chief – This station will be the size of it will work
- Zeid – reduction of sq footage
- Vining – 200
- Zeid – permitting
- Vining – Highway access permit, site plan review

- Zeid – do they own price risk after bid is completed
- Vining - Yes
- Zeid – can we get all materials
- Zeid – why didn't cost double
- CBRE – overhead stayed stable
- CBRE – Everything is scrutinized
- Zeid – Can we meet standard from Greenleaf
- Chief – yes, everything will work and apparatus can live at Greenleaf
- Manning – Debt service 5.93 - \$430k per year
- Manning – Additional 3.26m will add \$188k per year
- Manning – There was slack \$50k to \$100k, so you will utilize all of it. Should be use it
- McCauley – team has done what they can. It was 11-0. Not happy with delay
- Khan – Looking back and something we've been committed on
- Khan – unfortunate to see the increases
- Khan – we want to work on coming priorities and then making it go
- Wright – Don't have anything specific to see on this specific project
- Wright- Does seem to be a priority
- Wright – Will support this expenditure, we have a number of projects in the hopper that will all be subject to the same inflationary pressures
- Wright – Can't do everything on the list
- Wright – Very concerned

Public Comment

Joe Spaulding – Ward 5 – Worked out of Fire Station for 15 years

Motion waive 7J and recommend approval, AK/MW – 3-0

- TRAN00146_01_09_2023 DPS: Receipts Reserved for Appr. Fuel \$125,000 to DPS Highway Fuel & Oil \$125,000

- Standard transfer for departments to “pay” DPS for fuel
- Motion to approve, MW/AK – 3-0

- TRAN00145_01_09_2023 Finance: General Fund-Free Cash \$10,741 to Essex North Shore Tech School \$10,741

- Budgeted for 5 students
- In the end there were 6 students
- End of October

Motion to recommend approval MW/AK, 3-0

- ORDR00404_01_09_2023 Pay Prior Year Bills

- DPS expenses

- Held up
- Hits of current year budget

Motion to recommend approval AK/MW, 3-0

- ORDR00401_12_12_2022 Karen Jones Cashman Multi-Sport Court Gift Acceptance

- Was reviewed by Parks Commission
- Using this as leverage for CPC

- ORDR00402_12_12_2022 Belleville Improvement Society Gift Acceptance

- Loam at Atkinson
- Received and spent

Motion to recommend approval MW/AK, 3-0

- ORDR00403_12_12_2022 Central Congregational Church Gift Acceptance

- Received and spent, this will go into COA gift account
- Khan – how do they spend it
- Manning – it's at the COA director

Motion to recommend approval MW/AK, 3-0

- ORDR00400_12_12_2022 Morrill Foundation Gift Acceptance

- Turner - Prior year projects stalled out
- Turner – September had us look through those
- Turner – They asked for a reallocation
- Turner – They want to put all prior funds to the Mal
- Turner – All of those and prior = \$179k for the Mal
- Turner – Multi use court @ Atkinson
- Turner – there is \$10k for Shed Door
- Turner – They need to reallocate
- Wright – Thank you to the Morrills
- Wright – Concerned about rising prices, still working on Mal project number
- Turner – they did discuss

Motion to recommend approval AK/MW, 3-0

- ORDR00405_01_09_2023 FoNT Gift Acceptance

- Specific trees are planned for the spring
- 12 trees
- Locations TBD, planting in spring
- Includes 2 years of watering

Motion to recommend approval AK/MW, 3-0

- ORDR00406_01_09_2023 SAGA Gift Acceptance

- Account is sub account of NYS gifts and donations
- Intent of these funds offset of running some programming
- SAGA – operating in partnership with DEI
- Events through the year, bring a thriving pride month
- Partnership with DEI Alliance, following their lead

Motion to recommend approval AK/MW, 3-0

- ORDR00407_01_09_2023 Goldy Sculpture Gift Acceptance

- See below, handled with 408

- ORDR00408_01_09_2023 3 Cardinals in a Tree Sculpture Gift Acceptance

- Motion to approve collectively 407/408
- They are installed
- Parks Installed them

Motion to recommend approval collectively 407/408 AK/MW, 3-0

Priority 2 Business (may get to based on time):

- ORDR00411_01_09_2023 FY2023 COLA Increase

- State approved increase for state works and teachers in new budget
- 3% was the increase to 5% increase was the range
- Change allowed it to go up to a max of 5%
- Local boards then adjudicate it as they see fit
- Cllr. Khan this is a new state option
- Manning – Yes
- Khan – how many communities have done this
- Manning – not sure yet
- Khan – Trying to increase the COLA
- Joe Spaulding – no guarantee that gets 5%, board votes
- Spaulding – It's not vacation money
- Wright – how does this look from a high actuarial level
- Manning – Funding schedule goes to 2034, this change will change it to 2036. State will allow you to go 2038
- Manning - 38.3M to 40.4M. 1 year at 5% 40.4 to 41.2 million
- Manning – they are key for our inputs
- Manning – Budget will not change. Increase the amount in the budget 5%

- Manning – Cost will show at end of funding schedule

- ORDR00412_01_09_2023 COLA Base Increase

- Want to increase 12k to 15k
- Max allowable 18k under state law

Motion to recommend approval 411 and 412 collectively, AK/MW – 3-0

Priority 3 Business (unlikely to get to but reserve the option to discuss):

- ODNC00129_11_01_2022 Defining Conflict Rule for Dept. Heads (COTW)

- ODNC00130_11_01_2022 Grants, Gifts, and Fees (COTW)

- ODNC00132_11_14_2022 Mandated Reporting

- ORDR00336_03_28_2022 ARPA Amesbury 250K (COTW)

Public Comment:

See above

Motion to adjourn:

Motion to approve 8:05pm, MW/AK, 3-0

Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mACAv6FB7dQPTqZk372FLz3WEZvEOLM6XoG3w6XBOLmggSIUxDcImG7x1hjFPCE_gxXyPjWqSaXSZgsu

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