

# Budget and Finance Committee

**2/2/23 6:00 PM**

**Meeting Post:** <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/budget-finance/events/325691>

## **Roll:**

**B/F:** Zeid, Wright

**Other Members:** Vogel, Shand, McCauley, Wallace, Lane (Remote), Donahue (Remote), Cameron (Remote)

**Staff:** Levine, Egmont

**Agenda:** (green = coming out of cmte, pink = coming out of cmte amended, yellow = staying in cmte)

## **Priority 1 Business (plan to discuss)**

### **• TRAN00148\_01\_30\_3023 Mayor: RRFA Sale of Municipal Buildings \$200,000 NYS Center Design Services \$200,000 (with EGA Architects Proposal) (COTW)**

- Kim Turner did a presentation (see meeting post)
- Quin Morrissey 22 Milk St. – NYS Youth Council
- Ryan Feener, 6 Monroe St. – NYS Youth Council
- Georgie Macmillan – (address on recording) – NYS Youth Council
- Renee Ames – 17 Forrester St – Parent/Teacher – NYS
- CW - Design services, civil and traffic not included – why?
- CW- can you understand the grading, etc
- KT – gathering quotes, hoping to do most of the civil in-house
- HS – how far does \$200k get you
- KT – Design through development
- SZ – I thought 10% for design
- Scott Hall – large part of it is that it is a big gym
- JD – Very much in support of the ask for the \$200k
- JD – Longer we wait, the cost go up. When are we going to get the bond
- HS – How long does it take to get through the \$200k
- Scott Hall – Couple of months, maybe longer
- HS – go out to bid then we find out what it really costs, been surprised
- Scott Hall – We built in a cost escalation
- Scott Hall – we think we want to start this summer
- JM – We should temper that, bidding process, filing with conversation.
- JM – architect could change, more like 6 months
- JM – we are going to talk about their operations, current and future
- BV – Frustrating, get it done. How long do we talk about this?
- BV – put Parks at the DPS building
- BV – want this to get out of Committee
- JM – heard everyone, we could reactivate their temporary home in 30-45 days
- JM – We can have temporary space
- BV – Don't know how many times we've walked through the building, it's a wreck. It leaks, no bathrooms
- BV – If there is an opportunity to reactivate the gym that would like to see that plan
- BV – Stalling, taking input. Off-base.

- JD – Strongly do disagree Chair, disagree with Ward 5 sentiments. Give your home. Give up on the Brown School
- BL – I don't much to add to this conversation. Don't appreciate finger pointing. It doesn't feel good that signaling that this is a delay. How many projects have gone on and this has gone
- EC – Focus on 59 Low St. We think it is viable
- SZ – what about exclusions
- Scott Hall – Zoning/Traffic not needed. Civil/Geotech.
- Jon-Eric – LSP maybe? Maybe structural?
- Jon-Eric – Footprint was the same size
- Jon-Eric – we can control with flow to make up for asphalt and for new building
- Jon-Eric – similar to single family home in terms of size
- Jon-Eric – we don't do detention ponds for single family homes
- Jon-Eric – runoff is small and we'll control it
- Tom Hughes – Current site has no stormwater controls, there's ruts, etc. Water is not managed at all. Hope we can improve things actually
- Jon-Eric – deep hole
- Jon-Eric – have to wait while it's cold, maybe in the next 2 months. Can proceed without deep hole
- CW – risk of water and risk of contamination and having the right amount of parking
- CW – going to ask some questions
- CW – last thing we want to do is fine contaminated soil
- CW – was insurance claim in 2014
- Jon-Eric – recall something about the roof, structural roof issue?
- *We will ask Ethan*
- CW – Buffer to wetlands
- CW – test pits were done but not planning expansion
- CW – Records on dumping, etc.
- Hughes – With regard to history, paperwork was file with DEP
- Hughes – clean up, brought to background levels
- AP – Yes, we don't have to do more testing unless something else happens
- CW – Worried about spots that we don't know
- JM – Add to risk profile. We've looked at the outside building but should have some comfort there. We also looked inside the building. We talked about tearing down the building. We will have to do some remediation. Roof has some issues on it. We have some asbestos, etc.
- BV – We should spend what we can on this. It's tied to so many things
- JM – Need for community space. Stand alone but can be discussed as Brown
- JD – After listening very closely, think I'm just keep it short and sweet. Have a hard time putting a monetary value on the future of our youth. Don't have a challenge for \$10m
- MW – Community has always supported youth. We support them. We built new elementary. Investing.
- MW – Those projects were done by debt exclusion. We support our youth.
- MW – The fire station really impacted this. Everyone is saying that we can afford this. I'm not sure that we can.
- HS – I think that's a reasonable amount to continue and do your due diligence. Think you can show the delta.
- BV – We need to do this for social
- **Amendment:** *Add the following condition: the design shall assume a total budget of \$2,000,000. A complete project shall constitute a property that can be accessed safely by users and includes safe crossing across Low St. The Council shall receive a copy of the plans and updated cost estimate as available but no less than at 50% and 75% design.*
- **Motion to amend as per language above by SZ/MW – 2-0 (1 absent)**
- **Motion to recommend approval as amended SZ/MW – 2-0 (1 absent)**
- BV – Excusing but not out of disgust, asked for record to reflect

- **ORDR00388\_11\_01\_2022 NYS Facility Bond Order (COTW)**

- **COMM00443\_11\_01\_2022 59 Low St. FAQs (COTW)**

- **TRAN00147\_01\_30\_2023 Fire Dept.: General Fund-Free Cash \$164,891 to Salary Fire Chief \$80,845, Firefighter Overtime \$75,000, and Emergency Mgt. Dir. \$9,046**

- In a position from previous years
- Fire Chief on leave
- 111f is the state law
- State law – firefighter injured on duty, pay is to continue
- Acting chief so needing to pay for both
- This is not too different from past years
- Dispatch FF has gone to on-call
- Injured on duty does this cover? Ethan will answer.
- We would need to have another transfer
- CW – does this funding come from state
- SZ – no
- MW – want to know about insurance
- Cascade problem – everyone moves up
- **Motion to recommend approval - MW/SZ – 2-0**

- **ORDR00401\_12\_12\_2022 Karen Jones Cashman Multi-Sport Court Gift Acceptance**

- This is a 15k
- Part of a larger project
- Resurface and relining
- Hang windscreens on the fences
- Went through Parks Commission
- **Motion to recommend approval - MW/SZ – 2-0**

**Priority 2 Business (may get to based on timing)**

- **ORDR00414\_01\_30\_2023 Rotary Club Gift Acceptance**

- We know the story of this one
- We revived the grant \$300k
- CPC - \$100k match
- Bartlett, \$6182
- From Parks Commission minutes 12/15/22 - Bartlett Mall inclusive playground donation acceptance—Rotary Club (Kim Turner) Kim Turner presented the agenda item. The Rotary Club, as part of its 100-year anniversary, reached out to the City to donate a piece of inclusive playground equipment. MSP Turner worked with the Rotary Club to identify an appropriate location, and the Club decided upon the Bartlett Mall, because of the larger inclusive playground project that is slated to begin construction there in 2023, and also because the matching grant funding from the State meant the Rotary Club's donation would be stretched further. The Rotary Club is proposing a donation of \$6,182 to pay for the ReviWheel Spinner, which is an element of the Commission-approved playground plan. The Rotary is asking for a memorialization of the gift, and Turner stated that the Rotary emblem can be DigiFused directly onto the playground equipment as an alternative to a bench or plaque. Once the donation is accepted by the Parks Commission, it will also require acceptance by the City Council. Parks Manager

Hennessey asked if the donation would also cover the cost to install the equipment. Answer: no, but the budget for the full project includes all installation. Motion by Commissioner Griffin to approve with gratitude the donation of \$6,182 for the installation of the ReviWheel Spinner at the inclusive playground at the Bartlet Mall as presented, seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. So voted on a unanimous voice vote.

[https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif7106/f/minutes/parks\\_commission\\_meeting\\_minutes\\_12-15-22\\_0.pdf](https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/sites/g/files/vyhlif7106/f/minutes/parks_commission_meeting_minutes_12-15-22_0.pdf)

- **Motion to recommend approval - MW/SZ – 2-0**

**Priority 3 Business (unlikely to get to but may discuss if time allows)**

- **ORDR00336\_03\_28\_2022 ARPA Amesbury 250K (COTW)**
- **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**
- **COMM00458\_01\_30\_2023 FY2023 Mid-Year Budget Report (B&F)**
- **APPT00372\_01\_30\_2023 Ethan Manning 31 Howard St. Dir. of Fin./City Auditor 2/1/2026**

**Public Comment:**

See above within each matter.

**Motion to adjourn:**

**MW/SZ, 2-0 (1 absent), 8:05 PM**

**Recording:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/DroufUvBqMwDmdksqDMp7uH1HYIiwNRjw6WplnJicwqS9yYMEBVojz266sE\\_8Lzt.22YUhdZ8R76INnTH](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/DroufUvBqMwDmdksqDMp7uH1HYIiwNRjw6WplnJicwqS9yYMEBVojz266sE_8Lzt.22YUhdZ8R76INnTH)

Passcode: 91=tPWVh

**Public comment received by email and asked for inclusion in minutes  
by Ward 5 Councillor:**

Hey, Jim.

I know the B&F Committee is meeting tonight to consider bonding related to 59 Low St. I hope that the Council considers the burden on taxpayers from the recent residential property tax increase, which the Council chose not to mitigate with a split tax rate. In addition, the 50% increase in cost & related bonding of the west end fire station will further impact taxpayers. I believe that the NYS project is in the want-to-have vs. need-to-have category. Therefore, I am hoping that the desired \$5.7M facility bond order is not approved.

I know you're not a member of the Committee, but I wanted to just share my thoughts. I have contacted my ward Councilor (Christine), as well as two at-large members.

Thanks,  
Mike Leonard