

## Budget and Finance Committee

**11/9/23 6:00 PM**

**Meeting Post:** <https://www.cityofnewburyport.com/budget-finance/events/339426>

### Roll:

**B/F:** Wright, Zeid, Khan

**Other Members:** Preston, Lane

**Staff:** Manning, Levine, Amarals

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

### **Likely to discuss:**

- **ORDR00472 06 26 2023 Streets Sidewalks Loan Order \$6,000,000 (COTW)**
  - Chair provided summary
  - Wayne Amaral spoke on behalf on DPS
  - New plan is based on up to date costing based on MassDOT
  - Sidewalk was a focus of new plan, sidewalks can be very expensive
  - SZ – ask based on old questions
  - Amaral – Yes, the contractor can handle what we can do
  - Amaral – But we need to give them notice
  - Amaral – In the process of hiring engineers, need this to be successful. Have been lacking oversight
  - Amaral – Can no longer can rely on non-professional oversight
  - Amaral – major challenges with salaries. Try again
  - AK – Like where this is going. This is the recommended amount
  - AK – How do we draw upon this? Do you use these numbers
  - EM – The way it will work for this, we go out to borrow in the spring
  - EM – If doing short term, we will use short term instruments
  - EM – By the spring, we know what we need to cover
  - SZ – any outstanding bills for previous funds
  - EM – no, ARPA
  - Amaral – we didn't spend Ch90, we are carrying it to next year
  - MW – Will the other committee take up the plans
  - SZ – was hoping to keep this moving since session is ending
  - AK – Don't want to hold it
  - SZ – Agree
  - AK – Does this include raised crosswalks
  - Levine – we want to know we have the funding but we will fine tune
  - McCauley – PWS meeting on 14<sup>th</sup>. 2 meetings
  - McCauley – Consistent to control of the funding, \$6m is really \$1.2 per year and extended so we can make it last. Then with other sources we get to \$2m

- McCauley – don't see any language that does that. Where is our checks and balances on that. Bond \$1.8m. Bond \$2m, we don't have any oversight to that.
- McCauley – We've made the case we want to spend \$2m. Asking Sponsor or Admin
- McCauley – We want the money to last and we want it to be spent
- McCauley – add some language, consistent with Mayor's plan
- Levine – refer back to the memo?
- AK – Agree with referring to plan, must be understood work in progress
- Amaral – If I could spend it all, I would as much as fast as I can. We don't have the bandwidth. Best value is to do it soon. Need some flexibility
- McCauley – Agree want we want to get to but we're not there yet
- McCauley – "Consistent with the approved streets and sidewalks plan as submitted annually by the Mayor"
- AK – I know we passed this in 2019 political policy. Amaral, this is not the way to do it. That's what made me thought it.
- Amaral – We have a history of not communicating well
- Amaral – We can do better
- AK – we can keep it with that conversation
- AK – transparency missing
- AK – don't understand bogging it down
- **Amendment SZ/MW – 2-1 (AK)**
- SZ – Debt service on the 1.8, EM - about \$180k
- EM – We do have a lot of things out of there.
- EM – Hoping to have the appropriation held out after 5 years
- EM – More substantive update with joint meeting
- EM – Whittier is a challenge, borrowing projections seem unlikely to be possible in any model as far as op budgeting
- EM – Trying 2.5% target towards debt. The \$180k for next year will get us close to that. Should align close to that. Projects currently in CIP
- MW – Some debt rolling off in the next year
- EM – 2025 debt rolling off – fire trucks, high school fully paid off as well. Annual high school is \$442k, Fire trucks are \$109k.
- **Motion to send out as amended MW/AK, 3-0**

- **COMM00514\_10\_30\_2023 Retirement Board Expense Budget C/Y 2024 (B&F)**

- Typically is a receive/file but got referred
- **Motion to receive and file, AK/MW, 3-0**

- **TRAN00171\_10\_30\_2023 DPS: Water Retained Earnings \$130,000 to Water 1-Ton Dump truck Purchase \$130,000 (B&F)**

- EM - Buy the truck, not a lease to own or anything
- EM - During last year CIP, we did fund any equipment
- EM - Wanted time for leadership
- EM - Retained earnings were certified at \$130k
- EM - Replacement vehicle

- EM - W/S Commission talk about this
- Amaral – Wouldn't bring a vehicle without a capital plan but it died
- Amaral – cannot drive and cannot be fixed. Come embarrassed, cap plan for equipment
- Amaral – 8+ months out
- **Motion to approve AK/MW (3-0)**

- **TRAN00172\_10\_30\_2023 Mayor: General Fund Free Cash \$128,485.01 to Opioid Stabilization Fund \$128,485.01 (B&F)**

- Free cash has certified
- We set this fund up in the spring but new stabilization fund don't take effect until the next fiscal year
- Taken in receipts in FY24 so they closed to free cash
- This is a clean up.
- This trues it up.
- Future spending will need approval, 6 in and 8 out
- **Motion to approve, AK/MW, 3-0**

- **TRAN00173\_10\_30\_2023 Mayor: General Fund Free Cash \$21,395.19, Water Retained Earnings \$19,242.17, Sewer Retained Earnings \$54,588.08, and Harbormaster Retained Earnings \$1,042.90 to Multiple Accounts (see attached) \$96,268.34 (B&F)**

- EM – previously approved 483 and 500
- EM – These are fixing the short fall
- **Motion to approve AK/MW, 3-0**

- **TRAN00174\_10\_30\_2023 Mayor: Police Accreditation Allowance \$102,599, Budget Contingency \$75,103, and Police Technology Stipend \$24,500 to Police Officer Salaries \$177,906, Police Officer Overtime \$19,203, and Police officer Night Differential \$5,093 (B&F)**

- We approved a contingency
- Of the 105 contingency this is using 75 or so
- Superior offices may use the balance
- Lateral transfer people coming from another town. They get credit for that service relative to their vaca time
- Police are compensated 1:1
- Previous dispatch had to be filled by officer, City had to hire overtime during June, July, and August. We redefine to be mem day to labor day. We're only required to hire overtime on weekends instead of all week
- SRO gets annual 2500 stipend
- Rolling stipends into base salary – has impact on pensions, etc
- 2/1.5/1.5
- SZ – did you calculate the issue of changing to base
- EM – overtime is easy to figure out. Pension/liability. There will be impact
- EM – didn't run the numbers.
- SZ – will contingency will cover Superior

- EM – we hope so and think so
- **Motion to approve transfer AK/MW, 3-0**
- **ORDR00504\_10\_30\_2023 Local Acceptance of Community Impact Fee on Short Term Rental (orientation)**
  - Oriented
  - Finance Director to work with sponsor

**Unlikely to discuss:**

- **ORDR00336\_03\_28\_2022 ARPA Amesbury 250K (COTW)**
  - Not discussed
- **TRAN00153\_05\_08\_2023 Mayor: Multiple \$3,483,773 to Multiple \$3,483,773 revised 6/15/2023 (Atkinson Common Request only all other matters adjudicated)**
  - Not discussed
- **TRAN00170\_10\_16\_2023 Mayor's Office: Paid Parking Fund \$12,5000 to HWY Portable Restrooms \$12,500**
  - Prior in supplemental
  - This is for the weekend cleaning
  - SZ – why aren't bathrooms opening
  - Amaral – I think a lot of it is about heat
  - Amaral – Cashman park is open, Plum Island until guards open
  - **Motion to approve MW/AK, 3-0**
  - MW – Thank to admin for changing funding source

**Public Comment:**

None

**Adjourn:**

Motion to adjourn, AK/MW, 7:39pm

**Recording:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/giof-UTR7PM8ct7egJ38GBJEEIWAKbktpaSygQJB9fcm9Xrh4EWsiugf6v4pLadf.Oi2YmnLBqljuq\\_Zf](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/giof-UTR7PM8ct7egJ38GBJEEIWAKbktpaSygQJB9fcm9Xrh4EWsiugf6v4pLadf.Oi2YmnLBqljuq_Zf)

• ORDR00472\_06\_26\_2023 Streets Sidewalks Loan Order \$6,000,000 (COTW)

June 26, 2023

That, \$6,000,000 is appropriated to pay costs of improving, maintaining and/or repairing public streets, ways, walkways, and sidewalks under the jurisdiction of the city consistent with the approved roadway and sidewalk plan submitted annually by the Mayor, including, without limitation, to pave, set curbs, stripe, re-grade, and/or install drainage infrastructure within the public way, and including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §7(1), or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor; and that the Mayor and the Treasurer are authorized to take any other action necessary or convenient to carry out this vote.

Further Ordered: That Order 119\_06\_10\_19 of the City Council amended on October 28, 2019 appropriating \$6,000,000 to maintain and/or repair public streets, ways, walkways, and sidewalks under the jurisdiction of the city is hereby rescinded.

---

Councillor Sharif I. Zeid