

CITY COUNCIL STANDING COMMITTEE
Budget & Finance Committee
Thursday, March 17, 2011 – 6:00 p.m.
1st Fl. Council Conference Rm. – City Hall

-MINUTES-

Present: Chair, Councilor Steven Curcuru; Councilor Jacqueline Hardy; Councilor Joseph Ciolino (Alternate)

Absent: Councilor McGeary

Also Present: Councilor Verga; Kenny Costa; Police Chief Michael Lane; Jack Vondras; Joan Whitney

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. Items were taken out of order.

1. Continued Business

A) CC2010-081 (Verga) Request to purchase Speed Study Equipment (Cont'd from 12/02/10)

This matter is continued to April 7, 2011.

B) Grant Application & Check List from Comm. Dev. Dept. re: \$85,000 grant from Mass Clean Energy Center (Cont'd from 01/20/11)

Jim Duggan, CAO explained to the Committee that following a further review of the process surrounding the wind turbine study grant, he expressed that the Administration had faltered. They would like to withdraw the grant acceptance request due to many questions that need answers; and to explore whether the grant can be postponed to a near future date to enable them to do a better job with involvement of the neighborhood; understanding all the issues involved and then move forward. They will revisit it in the future.

Councilor Curcuru stated he believed the Administration would be revisiting the Magnolia Woods site which **Mr. Duggan** confirmed they would.

Councilor Verga stated he met with Sarah Garcia (Community Development Director) about the transferability of the location (for the wind turbine). **Mr. Duggan** felt they should look at all opportunities applicable to the grant, including a different location. They're not "pigeonholed" to one location. Further, the neighborhood needs a better level of involvement.

Councilor Vega noted the upcoming March 31st Bond Hill meeting which was mentioned as one of three possible locations in the pilot program. **Councilor Ciolino** thanked the Administration for their willingness to take the matter into reconsideration. On inquiry from **Councilor Curcuru**, **Mr. Duggan** stated the City is actively looking at wind turbines as an alternative energy resource.

Councilor Ciolino stated since they have Varian Associates in the City, an industry leader, perhaps there could be a partnership for installing an array of cells vs. wind turbines which may not be as negative an impact with wind turbines. **Councilor Verga** thought it could be done in conjunction with wind turbines.

Councilor Hardy put on the record for a recommendation to send Councilor Ciolino's suggestion to P&D to examine and discuss it. As it could be a zoning issue and do a review of Sections 5.22 and 5.23 and organize a site visit to large turbines installations currently in operation. She stated that B&F is not taking this matter up at the suggestion of the Administration and no action was taken on this matter because it is withdrawn. It is no longer in front of them and will go back to the Council with no recommendation.

C) Appropriation request to fund first year of Police Contract and additional appropriation requests From free cash (Cont'd from 3/1/11)

1) Discussion related to \$25,923.00 from free cash to be recommended for a purpose by the

Gloucester City Council

Councilor Hardy had hoped to have information regarding the Master Plan for the Fort she and the Mayor were working on. They're waiting for information from the State. It doesn't preclude the Council's wishes to spend this 'free cash' in an alternative way suggesting input from the Council could be helpful. **Mr. Costa** added them the money needs to be expended by June 30, 2011. The Councilors discussed the possibility of finding a new dais for Kyrouz Auditorium that would be portable and share the expense perhaps with other Boards, Committees and Commissions. They also touched upon the condition of the office furniture in the City Clerk's office much of which was in very poor condition also.

This matter was continued to April 7, 2011.

2. *Grant Application, Checklist and memorandum from Health Director re: amendment to the award Of the City's Opiate Overdose Prevention Grant*

Jack Vondras, Health Department Director explained the Health Department has for the current grant year receives \$120,000 for the Opiate Overdose Prevention Services Grant from the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services from the MA Dept. of Public Health. It is a four year grant. The City has been awarded an additional \$83,504 to amend the grant total award to \$203,504 for this year. The amendment also renews this contract in the amount of \$30,000 for fiscal year 2012 and 2013. One part is on the drug prescription program and peer driven intervention.

Joan Whitney Director of Substance Abuse stated this funding will support sustaining and improvement of the program with more opportunities for education and outreach; as well as the disposal unit at the police station, giving them the opportunity to get a more secure unit. She explained the police dispose of the drugs which are deposited into the unit at an incinerator. This is regarded as an actual program. The City was ahead of the curve and is being recognized statewide with folks coming from all over to replicate this program. Law enforcement oversight is required which is why the unit is at the station. The police budget is not impacted when they take the disposal unit to the incinerator.

Councilor Hardy discussed with **Mr. Vondras** and **Ms. Whitney** the security surrounding the disposal unit. The screening brief intervention and referral program is a new protocol and because of their coalition through the Department of Public Health, this is screening and brief intervention for drug and alcohol users for seeking emergency services. Much will have to do with Emergency Department at AGH. They'll have a health promotion advocate who will deal with particular issues of substance abuse patients as they come into the Emergency Department. She noted several hospitals that now have this program in the State. They will be able to customize this to AGH's Emergency Department. Their key stakeholders are the first responders and Health & Education Services at the hospital. This is for the AGH specific to Gloucester. Another initiative is getting peer driven intervention for getting information out on overdoses and how to deal with it. Overdoses are happening at younger ages than has happened historically. They will do focus groups with young people to understand the challenges as ages of overdoses are trending down to late 20's and early 30's. **Mr. Vondras** added they're seeing smaller numbers in high school. They noted this crosses all socio-economic levels. On inquiry by **Councilor Ciolino**, **Ms. Whitney** stated they have a place for disposal of needles in the foyer of the back entrance of the hospital. They have the largest drop off rate in the State. It could be for diabetics, not just illicit drug users. The State pays for that entire disposal program. Gloucester is also a pilot site for nasal Narcan and working on getting this into the police cars (a brief training is required). **Mr. Vondras** stated they are seeing a drop in the death rate from overdoses across the State. There are only two communities that have this nasal Narcan pilot program to get all first responders trained on it and made available to them.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council that under M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A to accept a grant amendment of \$83,504.00 from the MA Department of

Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services which renews contract #INTF2354MM3900913012, renewing the contract in place for an amount of \$30,000 for FY12 and FY13.

Mr. Vondras thanked the Council for there support during his tenure as Director of the Health Department. Councilor Hardy thanked him for his service on behalf of the entire City Council.

3. Memorandum from Police Chief requesting acceptance of a grant in the amount of \$22,362.20 For purchase of an automated license plate reader

Lt. Joseph Aiello informed the Committee the Police Department is in receipt of a grant award of \$22,362.20 from the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security for the purchase of an Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR). The purchase of this technology will allow for greater enforcement of motor vehicles violations related to registration and insurance status, "tow and holds", and other functions that can be programmed into the system. There is a 20% in-kind or soft match of the total project cost of \$5,590.55. They are going to pick up the signed contract tomorrow. Without this technology previously, the only way they would find these uninsured cars or registration violations would be when vehicles were involved in an accident. The equipment will be installed in the 'center' cruiser. On inquiry from Councilor Verga, Lt. Aiello stated they have to report back statistics to the State so that they will have that available and be able to track it on a monthly basis. He also confirmed the signed contract will be in the City Auditor's hands at the first of the week. Lt. Aiello also confirmed the 20% match breakdown for the Committee.

MOTION: On motion by Councilor Hardy, seconded by Councilor Ciolino, the Budget & Finance Committee voted 3 in favor, 0 opposed to recommend to the full City Council that under M.G.L. Chapter 44 Sec. 53A to accept a grant of \$22,362.20 from the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security for funds to be used towards the purchase of an Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR).

4. Memo from City Auditor regarding accounts having expenditures which exceed their authorization and Auditor's Report

Mr. Costa reviewed his documentation (on file) with the Committee. Of note was the unemployment insurance which is awaiting a credit and is a timing issue. They also touched upon the Veteran's Department due to an underfunding issue and larger enrollment this year. There was a decrease of a donation amount which affected funding as well. Mr. Duggan also joined the discussion on projected deficits with the Committee. Mr. Costa also reviewed for the Committee a document of Management's discussion and Analysis and the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This was related to auditing issues which was involved in a seminar he recently attended.

Councilor Mulcahey entered the meeting at 6:48 p.m. There was now a quorum of the City Council.

Councilor Curcuru discussed getting an addendum to the City Council agenda for the purpose of Sullivan and Rogers report being referred to the Budget & Finance Committee.

A motion was made, seconded and voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana C. Jorgensson
Clerk of Committees

DOCUMENTS/ITEMS SUBMITTED AT MEETING:

- Management's discussion and Analysis and the comprehensive annual Financial Report (CAFR) and list of communities who have CAFR, a certificate of Achievement, GASB Statement #54 and Beyond and Regionalization – A Guide to a More Efficient Government from Kenny Costa.