

Budget & Finance Standing Committee
Thursday, January 21, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
REMOTE MEETING
-Minutes-

Present: Chair, Councilor Melissa Cox; Vice Chair, Scott Memhard; Councilor John McCarthy;

Also Present: Councilor James O’Hara; CAO Nicole Kieser; Asst. CAO Vanessa Krawczyk; City Clerk, Joanne M. Senos; Auditor Kenny Costa; CFO John Dunn; Police Chief Ed Conley; Grant Coordinator Jennifer Donnelly

Absent: None

This meeting was conducted remotely through ZOOM. All votes were by ROLL CALL.

Meeting called to order at 5:33 p.m.

Chairperson Cox announced, “This meeting is recorded by video and audio in accordance with state open meeting law. Consistent with the Governor’s orders, suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law and banning gatherings of more than 10 people, this meeting will be conducted by remote participation. The public may not physically attend this meeting, but every effort will be made to allow the public to view and listen to the meeting in real time. Persons who wish to do so are invited to view the meeting and you have the information that was on the posting. If you are calling in on a phone, you can press *9 to request to speak. If you are watching on a computer or a device, there is a raised hand button that you can tap or press to request to speak. Please use either these options to be recognized to speak.”

1. Memorandum from the Cape Ann Veterans Services Director requesting the acceptance of donations totaling \$5,598

Asst. CAO Vanessa Krawczyk, on behalf of Veteran’s Services Director Adam Curcuru, conveyed to the Committee that they have seen a lot of these donations come through in the past three/four months. It is a true testament to the work that Mr. Curcuru and the city is doing for Cape Ann Veterans Services. She is requesting the acceptance of the 10 business and individual donations totaling \$5,598 to support the continued efforts for the veterans and active military families. It is a good way to kick off 2021, and she is sure they will be here again in the near future for some additional ones.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept various cash donations under MGL c. 44, §53A, to support Cape Ann Veterans Services in the amount of \$5,958 from the following members and business partners within our community:

Shaws	\$ 18.00
Angelo & Elizebeth Biondo	20.00
Jo Ann Sanfilippo	20.00
Linda Comeau	100.00
Virginia Markell	100.00
Linda O’Neil	100.00
Daughters of American Revolution	600.00
The Vet Event	2,000.00

Richard Bettencourt	<u>3,000.00</u>
Total	\$5,958.00

2. Memorandum from the Archives Committee requesting the acceptance of a donation in the amount of \$500

City Clerk Joanne Senos, on behalf of the Archives Committee, requested the acceptance of this donation from the Daughters of the American Revolution to support the Archives. She noted that this is an annual donation from this organization.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a donation from the Cape Ann Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution in the amount of \$500.00 for the Archives Department for the purpose of funding the Archives Committee Donation Fund in Fund 3305.

3. Memorandum grant application and checklist from the Public Health Director requesting the acceptance of a BI Lahey Health Grant in the amount of \$20,000

Grants Coordinator Jennifer Donnelly, on behalf of the Public Health Director, requested the acceptance of this grant for the Cape Ann Seniors on the GO initiative. This grant was awarded to them by the Beth Israel Health System to support the ongoing work they are doing with that program during the pandemic, and will allow to expand their service to all Gloucester residents 65 years and older. They will now be able to take part in scheduled trips, will be able to branch beyond their folks in public housing. This is a great opportunity for the program.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a private grant from the Beth Israel-Lahey Health Beverly & Addison Gilbert Hospital in the amount of \$20,000 to support the additional transportation needs during the COVID-19 pandemic for the City's ongoing Cape Ann Seniors on the GO Program in conjunction with Cape Ann Transportation Authority (CATA). The grant program will provides safe transportation for the senior population during these trying times to access physical activity. The grant period through September 30, 2021 and there's no local match for this grant.

4. Memorandum, grant application and checklist from Public Health Director requesting the acceptance of a BI Lahey FY21 Community Collaborative Grant in the amount of \$24,800

Grants Coordinator Jennifer Donnelly, on behalf of the Public Health Director, conveyed to the Committee that this grant is again from the Beth Israel-Lahey Health System. It is part of the Beverly Hospital and Addison Gilbert Hospital's Annual Community Collaborative Grant. The \$24,800 was a collaborative between Cape Ann Mass in Motion and their public health nurse, Kelly Hyland. The hospital was looking to specifically address the digital divide. They are using the funding to address this issue for older low-income older adults here on Cape Ann, and also for those that are in their nursing homes and long term care facilities. They will be creating essentially a lending library of devices so residents can use that to order groceries online, keeping them out of the grocery stores, being able to connect with family and friends, and also to take part in virtual fitness classes. As the pandemic is stretching on, they are really trying to find ways that they can keep people safe, but also still healthy.

Councilor Cox asked Ms. Donnelly whether they were looking for donations of up to date usable iPads or other similar devices like that. **Ms. Donnelly** replied that she didn't know and that they may possibly be able to take some donations. **Councilor Memhard** asked Ms. Donnelly about any training or orientation they would offer. **Ms. Donnelly** replied that is still in the works as they just found out about this award. They will be providing the devices to the Gloucester Housing Authority, the Rose Baker Senior Center and then the long term care facilities as well. They are hoping that some of their other partners that they work with within Cape Ann Mass in Motion, that they can tap into some people that might be able to offer some basic training that they could then possibly stream onto 1623 studios for television purposes. Just a quick basic how you get on Zoom or how do you grocery shop online, things that many of us just take for granted that we know how to do. She knows for the older adults that live in housing in particular, Dave Holden has said that over 50 percent of them have no technology access. Those are people that are not able to take advantage of grocery shopping and having it delivered so they can stay home and stay safe. They will be looking to have some kind of instruction available. But again, during this pandemic and Covid safe kind of stuff, there probably won't be any in-person training. Councilor Cox commented that one of the things about the vaccine is that you literally have to make an appointment through the website and upload your insurance information. She asked if there is a though to maybe using these devices for the time being to assist with making the vaccine appointments in those situations. Ms. Donnelly replied that definitely is another use. They kind of devised this as a real lending library. So just like you go to the library and take a book out and go home and read it, you would take a device out. Her grant purpose is always focused on nutrition and physical activity. So that's why her focus is on grocery shopping or doing a virtual farmer's market. People most definitely could schedule their vaccine appointments online when they get to that point, but she knows that's another big hurdle for people. **Councilor Cox** commented that one of the things that she would like to see, especially since she knows they are getting inundated with volunteer requests and they are supposed to be going through the MRC, but nonmedical volunteers using equipment, personal in such like this, to go to the housing centers and help people sign up. She thought it would be a phenomenal use of time, volunteer and equipment, and she would like to help with that. Ms. Donnelly said she would share that with the Public Health Director to see if when they get to that point what they may be doing for that. **Councilor McCarthy** told Ms. Donnelly that he read the whole program and saw "device" a million times. He asked whether they were laptops or tablets. **Ms. Donnelly** replied they will be working to see what might be the best option. The feedback from older adults that she has gotten is that they prefer a tablet type device which might be easier. Feedback might help steer them about the devices but price and what they can get and how hard it's going to be, she didn't know about the devices right now. **Councilor McCarthy** commented also keep in mind that they always had a hard time getting the

seniors sign up for the enhanced 911 and those type of things. Ms. Donnelly replied there are lots of resources and things that they can start pushing and getting people on to different things like that.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION: On motion by Councilor Cox , seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a private grant for \$24,800 for FY21 Beth Israel-Lahey Health Beverly & Addison Gilbert FY21 Community Collaborative Grant Regional Senior for the purpose of enhancing the City's Seniors on the GO program and provide access to and literacy in using technology to help the target population of low-income older adults manage their health and reduce their social isolation. The grant period is from January 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 and there's no local match for this grant.

5. Memorandum, grant application and checklist from the Police Chief requesting the acceptance of the FY2021 State 911 Department Training Grant in the amount of \$73,912.44

Chief Conley conveyed to the Committee that this is a training grant from the State 911. These funds are used to pay his officers over time. In most circumstances, maintain their emergency medical dispatch certification, which that training is getting ready to kick off in the next week or so. The annual grant they received and like other grants from State 911 based on population formula.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget & Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to recommend that the City Council accept under MGL c. 44, §53A, a state grant from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, a FY2021 State 911 Department Training Grant Program for \$73,912.44. The grant period is from December 15, 2020 through June 30, 2021 and there's no local match for this grant.

Councilor Cox welcomed CAO Nicole Kieser to her first Budget & Finance meeting.

6. Memorandum from City Auditor regarding accounts having expenditures which exceed their authorization & Auditor's Report and other related business

Mr. Dunn reviewed this report with the Committee due to Mr. Costa having technical difficulties.

MOTION: On a motion by Councilor Cox, seconded by Councilor Memhard, the Budget and Finance Committee voted by ROLL CALL 3 in favor, 0 opposed, to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne M. Senos
City Clerk