

City of Biddeford
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2020
(Due to COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually via ZOOM)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Chair, Councilor John McCurry.

Present: Chair, Council President, John McCurry; Mayor Alan Casavant; Councilor Stephen St. Cyr; Councilor Mike Ready; City Manager, James Bennett; City Clerk, Carmen Morris; and Finance Director, Alison Garrison.

Adjustment to the Agenda

No adjustments to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of August 18, 2020

Motion by Councilor Ready to approve the minutes as printed, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Discussion: Councilor St. Cyr noted on page 2 the Mayor's comment on the 2nd bond referendum did not seem right.

Mayor Casavant agreed noting it was an historical reference.

(The minutes were corrected.)

Councilor McCurry noted for the Ice Arena, where it says they bought the team for \$5,000.00 and then had 5 years of ice credits. He wants the dollar amount put in which he thought was \$12,000.00 (it is \$11,000.00).

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carries 4-0.

Expenditure Warrants: August 20, 2020; August 25, 2020; August 28, 2020; September 9, 2020

The warrants were emailed to the Finance Committee members for their review.

Motion by Councilor Ready to approve all the expenditure warrants, seconded by Mayor Casavant.

Vote: unanimous

Motion carries 4-0.

Discussion/Approval

Recommendation/Construction of Lean-To on Salt Shed at Dept. of Public Works/Park Lane Construction

Motion by Councilor Ready to recommend the expenditure of \$65,000.00 for the construction of a lean-to on the salt shed at DPW, with the project being awarded to Park Lane Construction for \$46,000.00; and the remainder of \$19,000.00 to be used by DPW to complete the project, seconded by Councilor St. Cyr.

Discussion: Assistant Public Works Director, Carl Marcotte, presented the item.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carries 4-0.

Other Business

Councilor St. Cyr noted they did receive the comparison with our peer groups and asked Jim to give his thoughts.

The City Manager gave an overview. He explained the one that has the local value, Council has the fluctuations based on whether or not they are at 100% value or if they did revals. He gave a few examples of other towns. The numbers say where we are against what everyone else is doing; we have dropped down from about a 65% of the range, going from lowest to highest, down to about 60 or so. Some communities have not passed a budget yet this year. The way Council has done over the past 5 years, you're still funding things and have maintained a reasonable budget and mil rate. He noted some communities haven't passed a budget this year.

Councilor Ready is interested in what makes a service center community.

Jim explained the studies have indicated service center communities will have about a 35% higher tax rate than a non-service center community. He will provide the information in writing to the Finance Committee.

Councilor McCurry asked about the bonding capacity information that was provided to the Committee.

Jim explained he took what we have now and added up all the forms of debt, including lease purchases and the interest payments. He did take off the Ice Arena because we get paid for that. He explained the reduced payments based on current borrowing debt that we have.

Jim will have an explanation for the Committee before the Council meeting.

Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Ready, seconded by Mayor Casavant.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carries 4-0.

Adjourned at 5:21 p.m.