

City of Biddeford
Finance Committee Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2022

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by Councilor Belanger.

Present: Mayor Alan Casavant; Councilor Norman Belanger; Councilor William Emhiser; Councilor Marc Lessard; City Manager, Jim Bennett; City Clerk, Carmen Morris; and Finance Director, Nichole Wood.

Adjustment to the Agenda
No adjustment to the agenda.

Approval of Minutes of January 4, 2022

Motion by Councilor Emhiser to accept the minutes as printed, seconded by Mayor Casavant.

Vote: unanimous.
Motion carries.

Expenditure Warrants:

The Warrants were available for the Committee members to review and sign.

Discussion/Approval

Approval/Purchase of Survey Grade GNSS (GPS) Receiver - Carlson Brx7/Spiller's of Lewiston, Maine

Motion by Councilor Emhiser to approve the purchase of the Carlson Brx7 Survey Grade GNSS (GPS) Receiver from Spiller's of Lewiston, Maine, seconded by Mayor Casavant .

Discussion: GIS Coordinator Greg Copeland presented this item. They received four bids and the lowest bid is being recommended, along with a software update for an additional \$2,450.00. The total expenditure with the equipment and software upgrade comes to \$16,847.15.

Vote: unanimous.
Motion carries.

Recommendation: Use of ARP Funds for Lost Revenue

City Manager, Jim Bennett, presented this item. The City received \$9,759,098.00 from the America Rescue Plan Act stimulus package. There are four categories in which that money can be used:

1. Response to public health or its negative economic consequences.
2. Provision of premium pay to eligible workers.
3. Revenue replacement.
4. Investments in water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

To date, part of those funds was used to reduce how much the City will borrow for CSO work by

\$5,000,000.00; and an estimate of \$363,642.00 will be used for premium pay for workers. That leaves a balance of \$4,395,455.75 of unallocated funds.

The recommendation for this item is that \$3,650,862.00 is a real loss in revenue that would have been received by the City had there not been a pandemic. It was noted that a significant amount that was lost occurred within the Wastewater Treatment Plant enterprise account.

Mayor Casavant talked about using these funds to assist the small businesses in our community who have experienced losses due to the pandemic.

Motion by Councilor Lessard to recommend the transfer of funds to the City Council, seconded by Councilor Emhiser.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carries.

Recommendation/Use of ARP Funds for Lost Revenue and to Eliminate the Wastewater Treatment Plant Interfund Loan

Motion by Councilor Emhiser to recommend the use of ARP Funds for the loss of revenue; specifically, to pay off the Wastewater Treatment Plant interfund loan in the amount of approximately \$1,694,572.00, seconded by Councilor Belanger.

City Manager, Jim Bennett, presented the item.

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carries.

Other Business

No other business.

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

Vote: unanimous.

Motion carries.

Adjourned at 5:37 p.m.