



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Thomas J. Aspell, Jr., City Manager

DATE: August 24, 2015

SUBJECT: Purchase of Concord Coach

Recommendation

To accept this report, suspend Council rules and vote on the attached resolution.

Background

The Abbot-Downing Company was a prominent local business in the 1900's and built the iconic Concord Coach vehicles for many years. These coaches have become a symbol of pride in this community and one is featured in the City logo.

Discussion

It was recently announced by the Abbot-Downing Historical Society that Sut Marshall, a New Hampshire collector, has seven Concord Coach vehicles for sale for \$175,000. He would like to sell them as a group and keep them in Concord where they were made. However, a carriage museum in the Midwest is very interested in buying the group of vehicles. The Historical Society is working to raise \$200,000 for the purchase and maintenance of these coaches.

The City is very interested in helping to preserve these iconic vehicles and recommends using \$75,000 from the available balance of the City's Economic Development Trust for this purpose. This amount is sufficient to purchase the rarest of the group, the Abbot-Downing Barge 'Shattuck Wagon'. This vehicle would be wholly owned by the City of Concord. The City is also working with the Historical Society on an agreement for the Historical Society to maintain, preserve and display this coach, along with the other six bought at the same time. Participating in the purchase of these Coaches will help to preserve a vital part of the community's history and bring visitors to Concord to see and admire them and support the local economy.