



# City of Concord

## Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee

### Meeting Minutes - Draft

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Monday, October 17, 2022

4:30 PM

City Hall  
41 Green Street, 2nd Floor Conference  
Room

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#### 1. Call to Order / Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

##### **Present:**

City Councilors - Keith Nyhan (Chairman), Byron Champlin, Candace White Bouchard, Fred Keach, Gail Matson and Mayor Jim Bouley.

City Staff - Thomas Aspell, Jr., City Manager; Brian LeBrun, Deputy City Manager - Finance; Matt Walsh, Interim Deputy City Manager - Development; Bob McManus, Director of OMB; Rebekah Dougherty, Budget Analyst; John Chisholm, Interim Fire Chief; Jonathan Rice, Director of Real Estate Assessment; Chip Chesley, General Services Director; and Crayton Brubaker, Community Development Specialist.

Excused: City Councilor Amanda Grady Sexton.

#### 3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilor Champlin to approve the draft minutes from the April 18, 2022 meeting. Councilor Bouchard seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

#### 4. Referral from Solid Waste Advisory Committee

General Services Director Chip Chesley informed the committee of the new solid waste Request for Proposals (RFP) that the City is putting out. He noted that there will be potential new ways of assessing the Downtown Solid Waste District. Chairman Nyhan expressed that some businesses generate less waste than places like restaurants, and that those non-restaurant businesses may have a higher value. He suggested that the coefficient in the formula may need to be altered. Director Chesley noted that once the City receives bids, staff will evaluate internally, meet with the Solid Waste Advisory Committee, and then return to this committee with

an update.

Mayor Bouley asked if there would be options for composting in the future. Director Chesley stated that the State of New Hampshire has been slow to develop a market for composting, but that staff will look into potential options for the future.

#### **5. June 30, 2022 Fiscal Year End Ambulance Billing Report**

Interim Fire Chief John Chisholm presented a report on the 2022 fiscal year end ambulance billing report. He noted that \$337,000 was sent to collections in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year due to several months of backlog being caught up. He also noted that no claims were removed from the Collections Department and that claims normally take about a year before they are sent to collections. Councilor Nyhan asked if there was any pattern or trend for bills not being paid and Interim Chief Chisholm noted that there was none.

Deputy City Manager - Finance Brian LeBrun asked what the Medicare reimbursement rates will be as of January 1, 2023. Interim Chief Chisholm noted that there will be an increase of roughly 7% in amounts received from those reimbursements and noted that about 25% of total revenue will be affected by this increase. It was noted that the difference between list price and Medicare price is approximately \$1,000, which accounts for a difference of about 1/4. He also noted that the Fire Department cannot balance bill the portion not paid by Medicare; that they can only collect co-insurance, deductibles, and co-pays.

Councilor Bouchard made a motion to accept the report. Councilor Matson seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

#### **6. September 30, 2022 Quarterly Financial Statements**

Deputy City Manager LeBrun gave an overview of the first quarterly statement for FY 2023. He stated that all financials are generally on track. The City has received additional Highway Block Grant revenue, which has been transferred to the Neighborhood Street Paving Program. City Manager Tom Aspell noted that the \$741,000 approved at the prior week's City Council meeting is already being used to pave roads. Deputy City Manager LeBrun noted that investment income is up \$138,000 and that amount is expected to increase due to interest rate hikes. At this time last year, the City had earned \$9,000 in investment income. He also noted that the insurance premium holiday from Primex brought \$88,000 in new revenue. Building Permit revenue is a bit ahead of budget. On the expense side, he noted that wage and benefit expenses in Fire and Police are trending slightly ahead of

budget. He also noted that the Inspection Fund is now reported in the General Fund.

## 7. Old Business

### **Joint Powers Agreement**

Councilor Champlin made a motion to remove the Joint Powers Agreement from Old Business and discuss. Councilor Bouchard seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Deputy City Manager LeBrun briefly explained the history of the Joint Powers Agreement and the report from the Energy and Environment Committee. Mr. Clif Below, Director of the Community Power Coalition (CPC), shared the history of his organization and his background. He noted that the CPC takes a portfolio management approach to power supply. If Concord were to join, there would be no financial commitment and a representative from Concord would join the CPC Board. Currently, 35 communities are interested in joining the CPC.

Councilor Nyhan asked how the program would be delivered to residents, if the program comes together. Mr. Below said that the CPC would become a resident's default electric company, if the City were to join on an opt-out basis, and that all electricity users would be sent a letter.

Mayor Bouley asked what authority ratepayers have to choose to join the CPC. Mr. Below stated that if the community chooses the opt-out basis as the default, it would be easy for customers to opt-out and they would not be charged anything to go back to their original utility company.

City Manager Aspell asked why an opt-in model wouldn't be the way to go. Mr. Below stated that there may only be a 5% opt-in rate.

Councilor Bouchard asked what Concord's weight of representation would be on the CPC Board. Mr. Below stated that each community gets one representative, but noted that members representing more than 50% of the population of the coalition can veto various items.

Councilor Nyhan asked what advantage Concord would have by joining today versus next year. Mr. Below responded that Concord would be involved in initial communication and engagement, as well as helping to develop the electric aggregation plan with the Public Utilities Commission. He also noted that the same help will be available if Concord joined in the future, but there may be an advantage

of moving sooner to be ready to launch with an ideal rate.

Two members of the public noted their support for joining the CPC.

Councilor Nyhan asked what the financial impact would be to the City. Deputy City Manager LeBrun indicated that management would likely spend the most time on this, therefore, probably not much additional staff time would need to be spent on this on an ongoing basis. City Manager Aspell noted, however, that there would likely be a lot of questions initially, which would take staff time to address. Manager Aspell also noted that representatives on the CPC Board are usually volunteers and that if Concord were to join, there may need to be a staff person responsible for that. Councilor Nyhan noted that, currently, 100% of the City's purchased electricity is renewable and that there may or may not be a cost savings for residents, but that there won't be for the City, as it already buys renewable energy.

Mayor Bouley made a motion to recommend moving forward with a legal review of documents before the recommendation goes before the City Council for a public hearing. Councilor Bouchard seconded the motion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

## **8. Adjournment**

Councilor Champlin made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Councilor Matson. The motion was approved with a unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 6:00 PM.