



City of Concord

Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, August 16, 2021

4:30 PM

City Hall
41 Green Street, 2nd Floor Conference
Room

1. Call to Order

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

2. Roll Call

Present:

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

City Staff - Thomas Aspell, Jr., City Manager; Brian LeBrun, Deputy City Manager - Finance; Carlos Baia, Deputy City Manager - Development; Marco Philippon, Water Treatment Plant Superintendent; Bob McManus, Director of OMB; Rebekah Dougherty, Budget Analyst; Crayton Brubaker, Local Government Management Fellow; and Sue Stevens, Executive Assistant.

3. Approval of the Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Councilor Bouchard, seconded by Councilor Champlin, to approve the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

4. Quarterly EMS Billing Report

Deputy Manager LeBrun shared a copy of the FY 2021 4th Quarter EMS Billing Report, indicating that it is in line with what was expected.

Mayor Bouley brought up a concern he received from a constituent who utilized our ambulance services, only to learn that the City doesn't have an agreement with his insurance company, Anthem. The constituent didn't realize this until he received a bill from our collection agency and was quite unhappy, as he would've paid the bill (and has since paid the bill) had he known. There was discussion among the group about why the City doesn't have an agreement with Anthem, which is one of the biggest insurance providers in the State. There was discussion

about the fees the City pays to the collection agency, and whether it would be more cost effective to negotiate an agreement with Anthem that may not be exactly what we'd like, as opposed to paying a collection agency. Deputy Manager LeBrun indicated that very little money is collected through the collection agency, noting that the amount in the fourth quarter of FY 2021 was only \$6,893.

Deputy Manager LeBrun will work with administrative staff at the Fire Department and be prepared to provide a complete update on this issue at the next meeting. In the meantime, Mayor Bouley will share the contact information of the constituent with Deputy Manager LeBrun so that he can follow up with the constituent.

Councilor Champlin asked about the amount written off for the homeless and asked if the amount was typical. Deputy Manager LeBrun noted that it ebbs and flows, and that he will look into it and get back to the committee with the amounts written off in previous quarters.

A motion was made by Councilor Bouchard, seconded by Councilor Grady Sexton, to accept the report. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

5. Water Line Extension

Chairman Nyhan noted that, in April 2020, the Regional Utility Commission met and a topic of discussion was the viability of extending the City's water to the Bow Junction. The matter was referred to the Fiscal Policy Advisory Committee to look at the financial implications of this.

Councilor Keach noted that this issue has come up before and wondered if there would be a financial benefit to doing this. He noted that we already provide sewer to the Bow Junction.

Councilor Champlin indicated that he has concerns with the water supply, and suggested that it may be a topic of discussion for the regional water compact to have.

Mayor Bouley indicated that the NH Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) is being inundated with federal funds for water and sewer projects, and suggested City staff connect with NHDES to learn about the potential funding possibilities, especially considering the City is planning to build a new water treatment plant in 2035. He noted that it's not too early to start discussions, and perhaps these funds could be utilized to cover the cost of extending the water line to other communities. Agreements with other towns could be an economical

advantage for the City of Concord and this could be a golden opportunity for regionalization.

Mayor Bouley suggested inviting DES staff who are knowledgeable about the various funding opportunities to the next FPAC meeting. Water Treatment Plant Superintendent Marco Philippon will begin to research the matter as well.

6. Other

There was a brief discussion about a concern that was shared with some of the City Councilors by a constituent who is trying to become a foster parent, and was told by a case worker at the State that communities shouldn't be charging prospective foster parents for the required safety inspections that must be conducted at their homes. Concord charges \$70 for a fire inspection. Manager Aspell noted that he looked into it and the first community he looked at, the City of Nashua, also charges prospective foster parents for these inspections.

Councilor Keach asked if the Downtown Solid Waste District and the shared charge for the communal dumpsters is fair to all businesses. He noted that some businesses don't use the dumpsters, and wondered why they should pay if they don't use them. He also expressed concern with the collection schedule, indicating that the dumpster behind his business is emptied every day when it really doesn't need to be. Chairman Nyhan, who is a member of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC), indicated that he would ask the SWAC to look into it.

7. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Councilor Champlin, seconded by Councilor Matson. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote and the meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.