

MINUTES

City of Concord Finance Committee Meeting
June 2, 2022 @ 5:30 PM
City Council Chambers

Present: Mayor James Bouley, City Councilors Brent Todd, Jennifer Kretovic, Erle Pierce, Stacey Brown, Karen McNamara, Byron Champlin, Fred Keach, Nathan Fennessy, Gail Matson, Amanda Grady Sexton, Keith Nyhan, Paula McLaughlin, Candace White Bouchard, and Zandra Rice Hawkins.

The Mayor opened the meeting at 5:32 PM and noted that tonight's FY 2023 proposed budget review would cover the Community Development, Library, Parks & Recreation, Human Services, and CIP/TIF budgets. The Mayor also explained how the evening's public hearing process would occur.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes from the May 23, 2022 and May 26, 2022 Finance Committee meetings. The minutes were approved unanimously with a voice vote.

With no other business to take care of, Manager Aspell began his review of the budget.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: Revenues, budget to budget, are up \$273,000 or 21.4%. Construction permits are up \$42,000; other permits are up \$122,000; licenses are down \$12,000; review fees are up \$30,000; inspection fees are up \$109,000; timber sales are up \$13,000; and transfer in from trust is down \$33,000.

Manager Aspell reminded committee members that, in April, the City Council changed the inspection fees to a permit structure, as part of eliminating the Inspection Fund and merging the revenue and expenses into the General Fund. As a result of this change, this budget reflects an increase of \$111,000 in permits for general infrastructure, sewer, utility connections, and water permits; as well as driveway and excavation permits; and an increase of \$118,000 for private inspection fees.

Expenses, budget to budget, are up \$629,000 or 18.2%. This increase is due, in part, to increased wages and benefits, the consolidation of the Inspection Fund, and moving wages and benefits from Capital projects. Of this increase, \$313,000 is attributable to moving the Inspection Fund operations to the General Fund, and \$174,000 is attributable to budgeting Capital wage and benefit costs in the General Fund. When these two account changes are factored in, expenses are up by \$143,000 or 4.1%.

Also included in the Community Development budget are:

- \$5,300 to restore professional development and conference funding;
- \$22,000 to fund a Trail Ranger position in the General Fund;
- \$950 for additional water quality monitoring dues; and
- \$300 to purchase KN95 masks for our health officers.

The Mayor opened up a public hearing for the Community Development Department budget. As there was no public testimony, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

LIBRARY: Revenues, budget to budget, are up \$6,000 or 2.6%, due to increased overdue book fines, non-resident library fees, and other revenues that are down.

Expenses, budget to budget, are up \$112,000 or 5.9%, mainly due to increases in wages and benefits and for programming supplies.

PARKS & RECREATION: Budget to budget, revenues overall are down \$189,000 or 14.6%. This is mainly due to a reduction of \$200,000 from transfer-in that was used to offset expenses associated with the new community center. There are revenue increases of \$5,000 for Aquatics, and \$16,000 in program fees.

Expenses, budget to budget, are up \$266,000 or 8.1%. This is due to fully funding staffing to open all pools; position upgrades; seasonal temp wage increases; overtime for seasonal staff; and supplies for programs.

Councilor Champlin commented that many municipalities are not opening their pools due to staffing shortages and asked if Concord is expecting to have this problem. Parks & Recreation Director David Gill responded that we seem to currently have the numbers; however, that could change, as there's training and certifications that need to be acquired. Mr. Gill also noted that it has been more difficult to find employees that can commit to the full eight weeks, need certain days off, or don't want to work every weekend. Thus, the Department is having to be more flexible.

Councilor Brown asked when the pools are scheduled to open and close for the season. Mr. Gill indicated they will open on June 19th, and are scheduled to close on August 13th. As a follow-up, Councilor Brown asked what it would cost to keep the pools open until the end of the summer. Mr. Gill indicated that it isn't a cost issue, that the funding is available to keep them open longer, but that it is a staffing issue, as many employees return to college or high school sports are starting. Councilor Brown asked why we don't hire people other than college and high school students. Mr. Gill responded that there is no age restriction for who we hire for these positions. Councilor Brown then asked how much we pay our lifeguards, to which Mr. Gill responded \$12 to \$16 per hour, depending on experience. Councilor Brown asked if we would pay more to keep the pools open longer. Mr. Gill reiterated that the problem is not pay, that we are very competitive with other municipalities, but that it is a staffing issue.

Councilor Kretovic commented that the City of Concord does not discriminate on age – that anyone of any age may apply and will be considered for our positions.

Councilor Fennessy asked if all the costs for the pools are included in the Parks & Recreation budget. Mr. Gill responded that maintenance costs for the pools are included in the General Services Department budget.

Mayor Bouley commented that we have kept some pools – the most popular pools – open longer, when we have the staffing. Mr. Gill concurred.

Mayor Bouley commented that flexibility in work schedule seems to be important to applicants of these positions and asked Mr. Gill if we are doing this. Mr. Gill responded that we do the best we can to be as flexible as possible, but we have to hire more people in order to do this. Councilor Fennessy urged Mr. Gill to be as flexible as he can.

Councilor Kretovic commented that this budget includes an increase in pay for our seasonal employees. Mr. Gill confirmed this to be the case.

Councilor Champlin asked if the City is facing challenges filling other seasonal positions, to which Mr. Gill responded yes.

Councilor Rice Hawkins asked if, when we advertise for Lifeguards, we are advertising with a season ending date of August 13th. Mr. Gill responded that the position is advertised with no ending date included.

Mayor Bouley noted that, historically, the Concord Housing Authority has provided funding to the City to provide swimming lessons to Concord/Penacook children free of charge. He asked Mr. Gill if that was the case this year, to which Mr. Gill indicated it was not.

At 5:55 PM, the Mayor opened up a public hearing on the Leisure Services' budgets.

Concord resident Roy Schweiker commented that the Children's Room at the Concord Public Library is very "spiffy". He expressed dissatisfaction that there is no wifi available outside of the Library. He feels it would've been good to have during the pandemic, and that many people would benefit from it going forward. Mr. Schweiker also noted that he would like to see the Library removed from the out years of the CIP, as he feels we don't need a new Library. Mr. Schweiker also expressed dissatisfaction that the Library is not open on Sundays and that there are too many part-time employees at the Library. Councilor Rice Hawkins thanked Mr. Schweiker for his testimony and commented that she would like to see the Library Director give the Council an update on the wifi situation at a later date.

Penacook resident Wendy Follansbee thanked the Finance Committee for its plan to put an ambulance back at Manor Station. She expressed dissatisfaction that the Penacook Library is only open five hours per week. She also commented that the Penacook Library is in an historic building and that it needs many repairs. She said if the City isn't going to renovate the current building, she'd like to see a new Library built in Penacook. She indicated she was aware that the City was going to temporarily move the Penacook Library to the new Boys and Girls Club being built in Penacook. Mayor Bouley noted that, at this time, it hasn't been determined if putting the Penacook Library at the Boys and Girls Club is temporary. Mayor Bouley asked Ms. Follansbee if she thought the Boys and Girls Club could provide the Library services on a long-term basis, to which Ms. Follansbee responded no.

City Manager Aspell announced that he had just been notified by the Chair of the Concord Housing Authority (CHA), who was in attendance at the meeting, that the CHA will be donating \$7,500 for swim lessons for Concord/Penacook children again this year.

As there was no further testimony, at 6:11 PM, the Mayor closed the public hearing on the Leisure Services' budgets.

HUMAN SERVICES: Revenues, budget to budget, are flat.

Expenses, budget to budget, are up \$8,000 due to wage and benefit increases.

Manager Aspell noted that the projected expenses for the Miscellaneous line is only \$75,000 out of a \$229,000 budget. He explained that, while the demand is still there, a significant amount of funds have been made available to the City's vulnerable population from the federal government's Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which is distributed by the Community Action Program (CAP) here in Concord. The Department is in close contact with CAP on a daily basis to monitor this program and to assure them that we are there to continue to help those in need. We do not expect this to last forever. However, we will accept the reprieve while it lasts. Moving forward, we fully expect these expenses to increase.

Councilor Fennessy expressed concern that we may not have budgeted enough money for the tough economic times that may lie ahead. City Manager Aspell indicated that most of the City funding is for rental assistance. He also noted that City Council carries contingency funds for potential shortages like this, and that the City has never not been able to help people that need aid.

Councilor Champlin asked if the Department is seeing a number of people being displaced from their apartments because of new ownership or renovations. Human Services Director Karen Emis Williams indicated that we are seeing this. In follow-up, Councilor Champlin asked what the City is doing about this problem. Ms. Williams responded that the problem is not a case of funding, that it is in finding housing. She indicated that currently there is a 1% vacancy rate for housing. Councilor Keach asked how we can fix this problem. Ms. Williams responded that we need more housing, that it's a national problem, and rents are very high. Manager Aspell commented that we will probably be facing this challenge for quite some time.

Mayor Bouley commended Ms. Williams for her good work and her coordination with other social service organizations within the community. Ms. Williams thanked the Mayor and said it couldn't be done without her staff.

The Mayor opened up a public hearing on the Human Services budget. As there was no public testimony, the Mayor closed the public hearing.

TAX INCREMENT FINANCE (TIF) DISTRICTS:

Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects, provided an overview of the Tax Increment Finance Districts.

Councilor Fennessy noted that the SBTIF had net losses in FY 2022 and FY 2023, and asked if we should be concerned about FY 2024. Mr. Walsh responded that we expect the NH Employment Security property project to bring in \$9-\$10 million to the SBTIF. If this does not occur, we will need to make some adjustments.

Councilor Champlin asked if the Storrs Street Parking Garage has an impact on the SBTIF. Mr. Walsh indicated that the SBTIF transfers funds to the Parking Fund to pay for the debt service on the parking garage.

Councilor Pierce asked if the PVTIF is performing as well as expected. Mr. Walsh indicated that it is doing better than anticipated.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN:

Matt Walsh, Director of Redevelopment, Downtown Services, and Special Projects, provided an overview of the projects in the Capital Improvement Program. Projects that spurred discussion are as follows:

- **Loudon Road Bridge (CIP # 588):** Mayor Bouley noted that the State Legislature has approved funding in the amount of \$14 million to assist with this project. Councilor Keach asked if this project is contingent on those State funds, to which Mr. Walsh indicated it is.

Councilor Nyhan took this time to mention his and his constituents' concerns with the Iron Works Bridge, which is in the out years, and is in need of attention.

- **Hoit/Whitney Road Intersection Improvements (CIP # 30):** Councilor Fennessy asked if the State is contributing to this project. Mr. Walsh indicated that they are not.

Mayor Bouley asked for an update as to when the road would be completed. Deputy City Manager Carlos Baia indicated that the roundabout is expected to be completed the first week of August; however, there will still be some construction occurring in the area. Mr. Baia indicated that Market Basket is expected to open in August.

- **State Street Parking Garage (CIP #432):** Councilor Fennessy asked Mr. Walsh for an explanation about the \$4.34 million budgeted in the project. Mr. Walsh explained that the State Street Parking Garage is in need of major repair or replacement, and that there are three options for doing so. One of the options is to demolish the garage and build a surface lot at the cost of \$4.34 million; the second option is to demolish and replace the garage with 240 spaces at a cost of \$25.4 million; and the third option is to repair and renovate the garage at a cost of \$9.49 million.
- **Keach Park (CIP # 52):** Councilor Champlin asked if the conversion of the tennis courts leaves any opportunity for tennis to be played at Keach Park. Mr. Walsh indicated that it did not, but that Merrill Park, on the same side of town, has tennis courts.
- **Memorial Field (CIP #557):** Councilor Keach suggested that the public encourage the Concord School District to contribute to the track replacement at Memorial Field. Mayor Bouley asked if the Concord School District would have access to funding sources that are not available to the City if the Concord School District owned the field. Mr. Walsh indicated that, if the School District owned the field, they might be able to access State building aide.
- **Fire Department Personnel Protective Equipment (CIP #573):** Councilor Matson asked about the age of the turn-out gear and how often it is replaced. Interim Fire Chief John Chisholm indicated that the lifespan of turn-out gear is 10 years. He noted that each firefighter has two sets and receives a new set every five years. Mayor Bouley asked if this

is adequate, to which Interim Chief Chisholm indicated it is. Councilor Champlin asked if firefighters on different shifts share the same gear. Interim Chief Chisholm responded that they do not. Each firefighter has its own gear, as it must be fitted to each firefighter.

- **Penacook WWTP Improvements (CIP #466):** Councilor Keach asked how the rate for the Town of Boscawen is calculated. Mr. Walsh indicated that there is a formula that is used, but that he didn't have the information readily available. He indicated that he would get this information to the Finance Committee members prior to the adoption of the budget.

At 7:31 PM, Mayor Bouley opened up a public hearing on the Capital Improvement budget.

Chris Mulleavey, resident and member of the Beaver Meadow Golf Course Advisory Committee, spoke in support of funding for a new clubhouse at the golf course. He noted that Beaver Meadow is the oldest municipal golf course in the state and that the City should protect this asset. He also noted that it has become more than just a place to play golf; that it is used year-round by citizens.

Tracy Bricchi, resident of Penacook, indicated that she plays golf, but that she feels the City needs to re-look at its priorities, noting that the City wants to spend \$1 million for the golf course but the Penacook Library is only open five hours per week.

Mark Coen, Concord resident and member of the Conservation Commission and the Beaver Meadow Golf Course Advisory Committee, spoke in support of funding for a new clubhouse at the golf course. He noted that the current clubhouse was designed in 1966-1967, was designed for a different use than is needed now, and is in dire need of repair. He spoke about the expansion of winter operations at the golf course and that not just golfers use the course; that the golf course contributes to the City's General Fund; and that non-profit organizations bring in about \$200,000 per year through the use of the golf course. He also mentioned that the NH Golf Association is considering re-locating its headquarters at BMGC, should a new clubhouse be built; and this will result in guaranteed revenue for the golf course.

Linda Kenison, Concord resident and former City Councilor, spoke in support of funding for a new clubhouse at Beaver Meadow Golf Course. She expressed her opinion that the City needs to protect its assets.

Jared and Jack Bland, father and son residents of Bow, spoke in support of funding for a new clubhouse at Beaver Meadow. Mr. Bland indicated that he has started a youth golf program in Bow, which currently has 36 kids plus a waiting list. He indicated that they looked at many different golf courses in the area for their program and chose Beaver Meadow because it is such a great course; however, the building needs repairs. Councilor Rice Hawkins asked in what manner the kids would use the clubhouse. Mr. Bland responded that the kids enjoy congregating in there after playing golf to order food and beverages. Councilor Rice Hawkins also asked why they chose Beaver Meadow. Mr. Bland responded that there were a number of reasons, such as location and proximity, the condition of the course, and the great reputation our golf pro, Phil Davis, has for teaching the game of golf. Councilor Brown asked Mr. Bland if he would consider paying more to play there in order to support the project. Mr. Bland said he would be willing to pay slightly more.

Sam Evans Brown, former coach of the Concord High School cross-country ski team, spoke in favor of funding for a new clubhouse at BMGC. He stated that BMGC is a valuable resource for the ski program, and that a new clubhouse would benefit the ski team in many ways. He mentioned that, currently, the kids have no place to store their skis during the school days, and that a new clubhouse could offer the potential for that. He also noted that he is the Chair of “Ski the Beav” which raised money for the new trail groomer at the course. He felt it was important to state that BMGC is not just a golf facility. Councilor Kretovic noted that the Ad-Hoc Beaver Meadow Golf Course Clubhouse Committee is recommending the addition of locker rooms if a new clubhouse is built. This could be an option for the kids to store their skis for a small fee. Councilor Champlin asked Mr. Evans Brown if he felt that BMGC is an amenity that makes Concord a more attractive place to live. Mr. Evans Brown said yes, and not just for golf. He suggested that the City Council take a look at Weston Ski Track, a municipal cross-country ski track in Weston, Massachusetts, which generates revenue for the municipality.

Jennifer Wheeler Russell asked if there were any plans to extend the bus route to the new Market Basket to be opened in Penacook, and expressed concern that there is no bus service on weekends. Councilor Todd indicated that Concord Area Transit is working on a new schedule, but that he didn’t believe weekend service would be added.

Chris Harrington of the Concord Skate Park Association spoke in full support of CIP #60. Councilor Nyhan asked how many people generally use the skate park. Mr. Harrington responded that on any given day, 15-30 people, of all ages, use the skate park. He noted that since the Skate Park Association cleaned it up, its being used more than it used to be. He said more children and parents seem to be interested and would like a nice skate park. Councilor Keach asked what improvements are needed. Mr. Harrington said the ramps and the condition of the pavement need attention. He said concrete is preferred and was not used when the current ramps were built. Councilor Bouchard complimented the Skate Park Association on becoming a non-profit organization and on how well organized they are. She said she is really impressed with the education and model suggestions they’ve provided to the Recreation & Parks Advisory Committee. Mayor Bouley suggested that the Skate Park Association be involved when improvement designs are being reviewed.

Bob Whatmough, Concord resident and member of the Beaver Meadow Golf Course Advisory Committee, spoke in support of funding for a new clubhouse at BMGC. He mentioned the good work the course is doing with its new program, A Pathway to Golf at Beaver Meadow, which focuses on introducing the game of golf to youth of diverse backgrounds in the community. Councilor Rice Hawkins asked for more information about the program. Councilor Kretovic responded that it is the first year of a three-year program, using grant funds from the New England Golf Association. The program will provide transportation to the course, lessons, clubs/equipment, and refreshments, for free, to youth of diverse backgrounds who enroll.

Gil Rogers, Beaver Meadow Golf Course member, spoke in support of funding for a new clubhouse at BMGC. He described the course as a “gem”.

Jennifer Fletcher, BMGC member, spoke in support of funding for a new clubhouse at BMGC. She noted that BMGC has become a year-round facility that benefits the whole community.

Ruthann Bradley, Concord resident and member of the BMGC Advisory Committee, spoke in support of funding for a new clubhouse at BMGC.

Connor Baldwin, resident of Penacook, spoke in support of the proposed paving projects to occur in Penacook, which he said are desperately needed. He also spoke in favor of the creation of the Riverfront Park in Penacook.

With no further testimony on the FY 2023 Capital budget, the public hearing continued with testimony about the out years of the Capital budget.

Meredith Cooley, Concord resident, nurse and website designer, spoke in opposition to CIP #40, the Langley Parkway Extension Phase 3 (LP3), and wishes to see it removed from the Capital budget. Ms. Cooley and her family moved to Concord, in part, due to its green space, and she does not want to lose any of it. Ms. Cooley indicated that she launched the Concord Greenspace Coalition in April and developed a website called ConcordGreenspace.com, where citizens can express their views about the impact of LP3. She also conducted a petition and collected 600 signatures from residents opposed to LP3, from every ward in the City. Ms. Cooley shared a sampling of some of the comments made on the petition. Councilor Kretovic asked Ms. Cooley how long it took her to drive to Concord Hospital from Penacook. Ms. Cooley responded that she had driven the route but did not time it. In follow-up, Councilor Kretovic indicated that it took her 90 minutes total to attend a 20-minute appointment at Concord Hospital. Councilor Champlin indicated that he had looked at the ConcordGreenspace.com website and felt that the wording used on the site sounded like boilerplate language. He also feels that Ms. Cooley paraphrased words of the City Manager that the City Manager did not say. Councilor Keach commented that much of the land around the potential LP3 is owned by Concord Hospital and that the City doesn't have complete control over the property.

Chris Mertz, an internist at Concord Hospital, speaking as a concerned resident, gave a slide presentation on the components of pre-hospital times, as well as the driving time/distance from Manor Station to Concord Hospital. In his opinion, response times save lives more so than transport times. Councilor Pierce agreed that response and transport times are important, but noted that ambulances aren't always at the station – that sometimes they are at the hospital. Mr. Mertz responded that funding for Fire Department staff, ambulances and a new Fire station would be more effective and cheaper than LP3. He expressed his opinion that having enough EMT's and ambulances will keep transport times to a minimum. Councilor Keach noted that LP1 was a huge success and that LP3 could be beneficial for reasons other than ambulance transport times.

Andy Jenness, Concord resident and computer engineer for Apple, spoke in opposition to CIP #40, and gave a slide presentation on traffic growth, noting that the study used for LP3 in 2015 was actually done in 2011. He also discussed traffic flow and expressed his opinion that a new road won't solve the traffic congestion in the area leading to Concord Hospital (i.e., Concord High School/State Offices). Councilor Kretovic noted that due to redistricting, her ward, Ward 3, which used to be huge, is now much smaller. However, all of those residents have to travel North State Street to get to Concord Hospital. She noted that the funds in FY 2024 would be used to conduct a new study. Councilor Pierce asked Mr. Jenness if he had taken into account the new middle school that may be built in the area, and asked Mr. Jenness if he agreed that it would be a good idea to look at that. Mr. Jenness agreed. Councilor Fennessy asked if the Liberty Street roundabout was there in 2011, to which Deputy City Manager Baia responded that, yes, it was.

Dr. Oge Young, retired OB/GYN doctor and resident of Rum Hill Road, spoke in opposition to CIP #40. He indicated that he loves the trails and the woods in the area behind his house, and that his children grew up playing in those woods. He does not want to see it destroyed.

Leslie Ludtke, resident of Ridge Road in Concord, spoke in opposition to LP3. She spoke at length about the history of the Northwest Bypass/Langley Parkway project, noting that much has changed over the past 70 years since the inception of the project. She noted that the three reasons identified for building Langley Parkway were relief of traffic congestion in dense residential neighborhoods; better access to major employers in northwest Concord; and improved access for emergency vehicles to Concord Hospital. She expressed her opinion that LP3 would be a limited access road that may not even achieve these purposes, and that, after all these years, these reasons may not even exist anymore. She feels that rather than leaving Langley Parkway as a priority in the out years of the budget, the City should do a new study to determine if building LP3 would be the best way to go. Councilor Champlin asked if Ms. Ludtke felt there was any value of leaving CIP #40 in the budget for a future City Council to contemplate down the road, should things change. Ms. Ludtke responded that she didn't see the value of a limited access road. Councilor Fennessy asked if there was any value to keeping CIP #40 in the out years of the budget so that City Council can review if it needs to be a limited access road. Ms. Ludtke responded that CIP #40 is just a place holder for that – so why keep it in there. Councilor Champlin asked Ms. Ludtke if she felt that by having CIP #40 in the out years, it has kept the area undeveloped. Ms. Ludtke responded that she feels it hasn't been built because it's not that important to Concord Hospital. Councilor Nyhan asked Ms. Ludtke if she would feel differently if it was removed from the CIP and given a new CIP number with a different title. Ms. Ludtke said, yes, she would. Mayor Bouley commented that he appreciated Ms. Ludtke's mention of Lincoln Financial, and the Santander Bank/Irving properties, as being blighted properties that need to be revitalized. He noted that in order to do that, we would need to maximize density and remove the easement for LP3 in that area.

Lydia Irwin, resident of Ward 6, spoke in opposition to LP3, and supports removing CIP #40 from the budget. She supports the creation of a new CIP with a different name.

Frank Betchart, Concord resident, spoke in opposition to LP3. He mentioned that, back in 2013, there was a public hearing regarding LP3, and that the room was filled with people opposed to it. He said the conceptual report that came out of that only said there was "some opposition". He noted that he uses the trails in that area to access Winant Park and does not want to lose that access.

Ann Shear spoke in opposition to LP3 and supports removing CIP #40 from the budget. She would like the City to take a fresh look at the matter.

Jamie Henn, resident of Dwinell Drive, spoke in opposition to LP3 and supports removing CIP #40 from the budget. He said he moved to the area for the trails and open space and feels that as long as it remains in the out years of the budget, it is a threat. Mr. Henn also indicated that it would be nice to know what City Council's intentions are, as it wasn't clear to him. Mayor Bouley responded that he felt the Council had been very clear. Councilor Grady Sexton commented that many of the trails being referred to are on private property. Councilor Champlin said he feels that the City Council needs to take into account all of Concord, and that they need time to listen and review in order to make the best decision for all of Concord.

Cynthia Bell, former Concord Hospital employee, spoke in opposition to LP3. She feels money would be better spent on other needed improvements in the City.

Aaron Fracht-Monroe, of Short Street in Concord, spoke in opposition to LP3, as he feels it will sever the many miles of trails that can be accessed from the east side of Winant Park. He would like CIP #40 removed from the budget.

Martin Piroso, a property owner on Franklin Street, spoke in opposition to LP3, especially the portion that is slated to run through the 10 acre swath of land between his property and Bishop Brady High School.

Erin Parker, resident of Ward 4, spoke in opposition to LP3, and supports removing CIP #40 from the budget. She and her husband use the trails that lead to Winant Park often and she feels that green space in the city should be increased not decreased.

Bob Cotton, Concord School Board Member and Trails Steward on the City of Concord Trails Committee, spoke in opposition to LP3. He noted that more people use those trails to access Winant Field than ever. He agrees that something needs to be done about the lower end of Penacook Street, but he feels Council should remove CIP #40 from the budget and create something new.

Anna Krasinski, resident of Concord and nurse practitioner at Concord Hospital, spoke in opposition to LP3. She and her family utilize the trails frequently. She noted that her family moved to Concord for the accessible green space, good local hiking and walkability. She noted that the vision of Concord's Master Plan includes maintaining and enhancing the City's neighborhoods and preserving access to nature. She feels that CIP #40 is contrary to the Master Plan and that CIP #40 should be removed from the budget.

Allan Herschlag, Concord resident and former City Councilor, spoke in opposition to LP3. He feels LP3 will not accomplish what it was intended for and will bisect open space and trails. He feels that if LP3 isn't going to be built it should be removed from the budget. He compared LP3 to the Main Street Project, which was in the CIP as a supposed placeholder for applying for and receiving a TIGER grant from the NHDOT. Mr. Herschlag said, however, that the grant application for the Main Street project obligated the City to move forward with the project once funded, even after the Mayor and City Council told the public nothing would happen until after the public had a chance to weigh in. He feels that although the City Council is stating that LP3 won't be built, it isn't a guarantee, especially should the City receive a federal grant for the project. He feels if CIP #40 stays in the budget, the road will be constructed as soon as funding is available. Councilor Champlin expressed his opinion that the Main Street Project was very transparent and that it was discussed over and over through many public hearings.

Mark Cheever, new Concord resident, spoke in opposition to LP3. He loves the trails and the green space and does not want to see it destroyed.

As there was no further public testimony, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 10:55 PM.

Mayor Bouley noted that the next Finance Committee would be held on Monday, June 6th, at 5:30 PM, at which time Special Revenue Funds and Enterprise Funds will be discussed, followed by a public hearing.

With no other discussion, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote and the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Stevens, Executive Assistant

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