

A regular meeting of the Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber, and duly noticed in two places, including the City's website, in accordance with the requirements of RSA 91-A:2 II.

President Lori Wilshire presided; City Clerk Dan Healey recorded.

Prayer was offered by City Clerk Dan Healey; Alderman Tim Sennott led in the Pledge to the Flag.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. If you are participating via Zoom, please state your presence, reason for not attending the meeting in person, and whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

The roll call was taken with 13 members of the Board of Aldermen present: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee (via Zoom), Alderwoman Smith (arrived at 7:34), Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly (via Zoom), Alderman Morgan (via Zoom), Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire.

Alderman Chess and Alderman Gregg were recorded absent.

Mayor James W. Donchess and Corporation Counsel Steve Bolton were also in attendance.

REMARKS BY THE MAYOR

President Wilshire

Mayor did you wish to address the Board this evening?

Mayor Donchess

Yes, thanks Madam President. First, I wanted to extend congratulations to Director Bobbie Bagley who was recognized as Citizen of the Year by the New Hampshire Social Workers Association as a result of all of her tireless work and dedication to serving the homeless population here in Nashua and for her other work around the State. She was nominated by Melbourne Moran former Alderman and certainly the honor is well deserved. I wanted to extend the City's congratulations to her.

Also congratulations to Megan Caron and Doria Brown. Megan Caron, Chief of Staff, Doria Brown, Energy Manager, for being recognized as part of the 40 under 40 by the New Hampshire Union Leader. Again, these women serve the City very well and have been recognized statewide for their dedication and their abilities so congratulations to them also.

I wanted to mention tonight Madam President, R-26-007. There's an amendment on your desk to reduce the figure for the design of the Public Works garage from \$5.5 million to \$3 million which should cover it. Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services, is on for any really detailed questions. But one thing I did want to address is that there is a reason that we're not asking for the entire project now - the authorization for the cost of the entire project. The reason is that we have found that it results in greater precision and efficiency, I think, if we do the design first, get an actual cost, and then bond for that amount, and we have arrived at that approach in part as a result of comments from various members of the Board of Aldermen.

The problem with putting out a full cost number before the design is arrived at is that it tends to be an estimate - a guess, which can be off high or low. Then if we've authorized not enough, we have to come back with try to get further authorization or if we've shot too high, then the idea is well, you should have been lower. So, again, basically as a result of comments from various Aldermen, we have adopted this, I think, more sensible approach of arriving at an actual cost, an actual design, and then come back to you with a real figure.

Finally Madam President, I wanted to mention the two resolutions regarding – and, again, back to the garage. This should not be acted on tonight other than the amendment because we haven't held a public hearing on that yet. So if you would amend it, I think the President is prepared or you Madam President are prepared to set up public hearing and the public hearing would be on the lower \$3 million figure.

We also have the resolutions regarding the additional money for snow plowing. As you know, this has been a tough winter. Director Fauteux told me today 23 different snow incidents to which Public Works has responded. They had planned at a maximum to spend about a million and a half this year but they've already spent \$1,800,000 making sure that the streets and sidewalks are clear. So this would appropriate an additional \$500,000 into the trust fund of which

\$300,000 would be immediately needed. Any money that is not used would be carried forward in the trust fund for future years like this one but hopefully in the winters to come, we won't need to spend quite as much as we are this winter.

Finally Madam President, the resolution regarding the hydroelectric dam. That money is needed to make sure that we can license the Mine Falls dam which when it's fully operational can result in over a million dollars of revenue every year, and I think Director Sullivan is here to answer any questions on that if you have them, and that is all I have Madam President.

RESPONSE TO REMARKS OF THE MAYOR

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you very much. Mr. Mayor I appreciate the comments about the not asking for the entire amount and I can certainly understand that. I've expressed to Director Cummings my concern and my question as to why we don't simply ask for the full amount and my concern is this – is that if you were to say - you were to ask for the amount for the design - and let's call it \$3 million because that's what we're going to revise it down to - and for some reason, whatever reason, the total project cost when it comes to us for a bond does not get approved, my concern is then we're out the \$3 million that we bonded in addition to the other 2 that we've already spent getting to that \$55 million. So my question is couldn't we simply ask for the full amount - maybe take a conservative guess or a conservative estimate because we have had the number of \$55 million and then if we don't need that much, then we don't sell those bonds.

Mayor Donchess

I mean that is an approach that certainly we've taken in the past. So yes, it could be done that way. I mean either way, you result in one problem or another. You've identified certainly something that could happen. I would only say that the design would always be there and, you know, it wouldn't wear out. So if the Board decided that they didn't think it was worth replacing the Public Works garage now, maybe in five years the Board would say yes and the design would still be good.

I mean having visited the Public Works garage, you know, on a number of occasions, I would recommend that people on the Board if you're thinking about this project or questioning it, visit there as well. I mean this building was built in the late 70s, not the greatest construction. Well it was paid for by federal grant and, you know, it is just seen its time. I mean it's got mold. It's no ventilation. It doesn't hold nearly enough equipment. We're leaving hundreds of pieces of equipment outdoors. The break room is minuscule given the size of the workforce. I think one of our Aldermen is even helping to replace some of the chairs over there because they're in such bad shape.

So overall, the building is just - the pits where the mechanics used to fix the underside of vehicles such as trucks do not comply with OSHA. They're grandfathered but they're still not a model of safety. So I think the project is one that is necessary if we really want Public Works to function effectively and efficiently but certainly people could disagree. So yes what you've identified is the problem with the approach that we're seeking right now but on the other hand, we have been criticized in the past for not having an actual number and coming up with an estimate that it's not good. The project actually cost more, or less, or so in this case, we responded to those comments and did it this way.

Alderman Sullivan

Alright, I appreciate it. Thank you.

Alderman Dowd

Yes my take on this is that in the past, we haven't come up with a good number. We came up with an estimate for building, especially in schools. But if you do a design, now you'll have a reasonable thing to come up with a construction number on because the design will give you something you can give to a contractor and come up with an exact price. So I think it's a much more prudent way to do the design up front. I think we sort of looked at this in all of our projects and perhaps even any downstream school projects to do the design first so that we can get a really good estimate of what it's going to take.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. I will agree with you Mayor that I think that we should get the actual cost and the design first before we go out for bonding because I'd like to know what that project is going to cost before I would give my stamp of approval on anything.

Yes and I did bring over some chairs and I was in the breakroom last Tuesday night during the storm. I feel terrible for our workers and the condition but I'm not sold on the building 100% because I think there's a lot of obstacles out there yet. We have behind the building the PFAS that we have to do the testing of the soil. But I understand and I've looked over the information that was given to us. I think that building was neglected a lot. I think my concern is that we're going to build a whole new building and we're not going to maintain it. I'm not going to be here in 30 - 40 years and I'll be elsewhere most likely but I don't want to leave it to my kids and the rest of the citizens of the city that says okay, we built this gorgeous building and we didn't maintain it again like all the buildings that we have in Nashua.

We built schools because we didn't take care of the buildings. The School District has \$13 million of deferred maintenance. So you don't take care of what you have and then we have to build more. So that's what my biggest concern is but I do agree with you that we should get the actual cost, and the design, and that's the way you can make a good decision which you would do if you were building your house. You wouldn't just say give me an estimate and then as you're going through construction you say; well gee I don't have the money to finish the project. You can't ask taxpayers for that when you're building your own. So thank you for bringing that to our attention Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

And thank you for the chairs so.

Alderman Johnson

Oh, anytime.

RECOGNITION PERIOD – Susan Mead – retirement from Greater Nashua Mental Health Center – 40 years

Mayor Donchess

Sue Mead is here, I believe, in the back.

President Wilshire

She is.

Mayor Donchess

Come on up please. Well we are honoring Sue Mead for many years of dedicated service to the City of Nashua. So we have a formal recognition which we wanted to present to Ms. Mead and it reads:

“Sue Mead has served with remarkable dedication as Director of Outreach for Greater Nashua Mental Health serving the organization with vision, integrity, and unwavering compassion.

Throughout her distinguished tenure, Sue has championed access to high quality, comprehensive mental health services for individuals and families in our community ensuring that care is delivered with dignity, respect, and hope.

And whereas under her leadership, Greater Nashua Mental Health has expanded critical programs, strengthened community partnerships, and advanced innovative approaches to behavioral health positively impacting countless lives across Nashua and the surrounding region.

Sue's commitment to collaboration has fostered strong relationships among healthcare providers, schools, public safety officials, and community organizations reinforcing a shared mission to support the wellbeing of all residents.

And whereas her tireless advocacy has helped produce stigma surrounding mental health, elevate awareness, and inspire a culture of empathy and understanding within the City of Nashua.

And whereas Sue's legacy of service, professionalism, and heartfelt leadership will endure in the strengthened systems of care and in the gratitude of the many individuals and families whose lives have been improved throughout her work.

And now therefore I Jim Donchess, Mayor of the City of Nashua, and the Board of Aldermen on behalf of the people of Nashua, extend our deepest gratitude and warmest congratulations to Sue Mead for her extraordinary service and commitment to our community and we extend heartfelt best wishes upon the occasion of her retirement.”

Sue Mead, Director of Outreach, Greater Nashua Mental Health

Thank you, what an honor. Thank you Mayor Donchess, President Wilshire, Aldermen. You all worked tirelessly to make this a better City. Thank you.

I've had the great opportunity to work here 40 years with the mental health center and Dr. Cynthia Whitaker is back there with my Supervisor. As of today, it's no longer - Scott Wellman. I've just - I've met so many passionate souls that in the Continuum of Care that really do try to make an impact. I've learned something new every day. I'd be remiss not to put a plug in for those who come April 15th won't have a place to stay. The overflow shelter - the shelters have 20 people. I was at the encampment meeting today with Fire Chief and other city workers here and 40 people at the Elm Street have nowhere to go. So I ask you to keep them in mind and help this Ward come up with some innovative solutions to help a short term situation for shelter needs. So that would be my request. But thank you, it's been an honor, and privilege, and this is really touching. Thank you, Mayor.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you very much.

READING MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the minutes of the special and regular Board of Aldermen meetings of January 13, 2026, February 12, 2026, and February 24, 2026 be accepted, placed on file, and the readings suspended.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING ONLY PROCEDURAL ACTIONS AND WRITTEN REPORTS FROM LIAISONS

From: Lisa Fauteux, Director of Public Works
Re: Referral from Board of Aldermen - R-26-007

From: Tim Cummings, Director of Administrative Services
Re: Communication Seeking an Amendment to R-26-007 and an Explanation of Cost

From: Lori Wilshire, President, Board of Aldermen
Re: Calling a Special Board of Aldermen meeting on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, relative to a feasibility update on fire station #5 - Pine Hill

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communications and placed them on file.

From: Linda Laflamme, Chairman, Board of Library Trustees
Re: Request for Joint Convention - Kristin Kane nomination

From: Linda Laflamme, Chairman, Board of Library Trustees
Re: Request for Joint Convention - Ernest Jette Nomination

There being no objection, President Wilshire accepted the communications, and placed them on file, and scheduled a Joint Convention with the Board of Library Trustees for Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in the Aldermanic Chamber.

PERIOD FOR PUBLIC COMMENT RELATIVE TO ITEMS EXPECTED TO BE ACTED UPON THIS EVENINGPresident Wilshire

I have 3 people signed up. Stephen Scaer. I'm not sure what you signed up for?

Stephen Scaer

Steven Scaer, 111 East Hobart Street. Speaking on supporting the Town of Merrimack in its opposition to the ICE Detention Center...

President Wilshire

We're not taking that up this evening.

Stephen Scaer

...which is on Unfinished Business.

President Wilshire

We're not taking that up this evening, Mr. Scaer.

Stephen Scaer

Okay.

President Wilshire

Sorry.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Good evening, Madam President, Mr. Mayor, members of the Board. Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director. Here on behalf of the communication requiring final approval relative to the Nashua Transit System fares. We presented this proposal to the Infrastructure Committee and held a public hearing just about two weeks ago, had some great discussion with the Committee members, and have done substantial public outreach in the interest of trying to move forward with the proposal for fare increases that is both nominal but also critical for the Nashua Transit System in its attempt to stabilize transportation funding within the City of Nashua.

I won't review the detail of the proposal within my comments right now but I'm happy to answer any questions when that piece of communication comes up and I thank you for all your support for Nashua Transit System and for the fare increase that's proposed. Thank you so much.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Fred Teeboom

Okay. My name is Fred Teeboom. I reside at 24 Cheyenne Drive in Nashua, New Hampshire. First of all, I want to mention two Resolutions on the agenda - R-26-010 and R-26-012. Both of these are supplemental appropriations. Supplemental appropriations require a definition of how much is under the spending cap, or it's over, how much money is over the spending cap. That's supposed to be part of the resolutions. None of it is stated. I pointed this out during the Budget Committee meeting some time ago - weeks ago.

The ordinances are valid. The ordinances define what is supposed to be in a calculation. I know that the Mayor has many times said the ordinances are not valid but he's never backed us up with any legal position. So if you think Mayor our ordinances on the spending cap are not valid, I'd expect to see the attorney to come to legal memorandum which he has never done. If he did, he could correct me.

Now I also wish to talk about R-26-012 which deals with the 1 megawatt and 3 megawatt power plants. The Mine Falls power plant by the way is eroding the Nashua River right behind my property and other properties surrounding me and it won't be long before one the sheds will fall into the water and I'll be able to sue the City or the State at that point.

Now in the memo written on February 19th to the Board of Aldermen, it is mentioned the \$6.5 million repair cost for Jackson Falls back in 2019. The Resolution now requires an additional \$600,000 repair cost for a turbine blade - not the turbine, not the generators just with turbine blade in Mine Falls. It mentions the need to build fish passage designs to allow fish to go upstream and spawn. It's a requirement by the State and I think it's a federal requirement. Don't know. All these are costs. Why is there no special revenue funds for any revenues derived from these generators? There isn't.

Donna Graham, Legislative Affairs Manager

30 seconds.

Fred Teeboom

The memorandum I mentioned earlier mentions \$1.5 million going directly to the general fund where it disappears into no where's land but now you need \$600,000 more to repair something. I have no idea what the \$6.5 million came from. What you need to as a Board is a 5 year or 10 year cost analysis that shows how the \$1.5 million revenue between both dams...

Donna Graham, Legislative Manager

Your time is up, Mr. Teeboom.

Fred Teeboom

How that is correlated against maintenance costs, operating costs, and acquisition cost. If that calculation...

President Wilshire

Mr. Teeboom, your time is up.

Fred Teeboom

...does not show cost and benefit...

President Wilshire

Please wrap it up.

Fred Teeboom

...then dump this Resolution. But right now, table it until you get that kind of analysis. Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS REQUIRING FINAL APPROVAL

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Million Dollar Contract Award - 2026 Paving Program Contract 2

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND AWARD A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR THE 2026 PAVING PROGRAM – CONTRACT 2 - TO SUNSHINE PAVING CORPORATION IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$4,972,326.50. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH DEPARTMENT: 160 ADMIN/ENGINEERING; FUND: BOND/54-PROPERTY SERVICES, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

13

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Mayor Jim Donchess
Re: Million Dollar Contract Award - Class A Biosolids Upgrade Final Design

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS TO ACCEPT, PLACE ON FILE, AND APPROVE A CONTRACT WITH WRIGHT PIERCE FOR THE CLASS A BIOSOLIDS UPGRADE FINAL DESIGN PHASE FOR PLANS AND SPECIFICATION SUBMITTALS UP TO 60% DESIGN IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,061,779. FUNDING WILL BE THROUGH

DEPARTMENT: 169 WASTEWATER; FUND: SRF LOAN/53-PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL SERVICES, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 13

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

From: Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director
Camille Correa, Transit Administrator
Re: Proposed Fare Increases - Effective April 6, 2026

MOTION BY ALDERMAN O'BRIEN TO APPROVE THE 2026 PROPOSED NASHUA TRANSIT SYSTEM FARE INCREASE FOR THE CITYBUS, ADA PARATRANSIT, AND SENIOR DEMAND RESPONSE SERVICE, BY ROLL CALLON THE QUESTIONAlderman O'Brien

Yes as what Community Director Sullivan said, it was heard at the Infrastructure. One of my concerns was, you know, there's a group amongst us that do find fare increase could potentially limit them but there are community organizations that are out there that do supply passes for those that do have a need and all they'll need to do is just to seek the resource. But let's look what's happening in the world. I don't want to get political here over a bus transit thing but we have an incursion that's going on somewhere where oil, and everything, so diesel prices really are going up. So we need to help fund this service. It is a great convenience to our citizens and we need to fund it appropriately so I support this and I hope you do too. Thank you.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you. I had concerns in the Committee meeting. It wasn't so much about the 25 cents, 50 cents, you know, 75. It was that \$10 on the book because you were going from \$20/8 rides to \$30/10 rides. You're getting 2 more rides out of it but it is more money and some people in the community don't have it.

I also mentioned where it's Mass Transit, you never catch up with Mass Transit. You're always behind a Mass Transit. If you look at the MBTA, they can never - they're always in the red. They're never in the black because you can't keep up with it. I've had a hard time going back and forth on this and I know that I should do is because we got to keep the Mass Transit going for people who have to have it. I just hope that it does not affect many in the community. That it's going to hurt them because \$10 is a lot in this day and age, you know. Social Security doesn't go up with the rate of inflation unfortunately and pensions don't do it either. A lot of our seniors and people with a disability sometimes are behind the 8 ball. So I will support this but I'm hesitating.

Alderman Klee

Thank you very much. I'm going to support this, and I was there also during the conversation, and it has been an extraordinarily number of years. I don't have my notes with me at the moment but I want to say that it was like 12, or 13 years, or even longer than that since the prices have gone up. In truth if I remember correctly, it wasn't that long ago that they had to come in to request more funding because of salaries and etc.

While I do agree that this is going to affect the public and probably the more vulnerable of the public, there are organizations as was pointed out by the Alderman-at-Large that will help and assist but we do need to continue at least looking at being fair and reasonable. Compared to other communities, I believe this does, in fact, fit in. So I will be supporting this.

Alderman Lopez

Yeah, I will be reluctantly supporting this but the observation has been made multiple times that there are agencies that will help people with bus passes. I would point out unless we're going to be giving them a specific discount which we could consider doing, they have a finite budget. So if we raise the fare, that means they have less bus passes available and we're all pretty enthusiastically sending more people over to them. There's a point where as a City, we need to balance our books and I understand that 100%. I know we've gone, you know, we've seen the danger I guess or relying on federal funding in some areas. Particularly the transit system is one where we rely heavily on it and we've had to increase our support for it locally in order just to keep it running. So I will 100% support this but I do caution my fellow Board members. We can't always rely on nonprofits and charities to help people who are in need because they also are struggling under the same economies that we are.

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien,
Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 13

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PETITIONS - None

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS - None

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Budget Review Committee 02/12/2026

There being no objection, President Wilshire declared the report of the October 27, 2025 Budget Review Committee be accepted and placed on file.

There being no objection, President Wilshire suspended the rules to allow for the oral report of the Budget Review Committee meeting held Monday, March 9, 2026, regarding proposed Resolutions R-26-010 and R-26-012.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, last night we had a public hearing and a Budget Review on both of these Resolutions. There was actually no public comment and both of these Resolutions passed unanimously. So I would suggest that we pass them here.

CONFIRMATION OF MAYOR'S APPOINTMENTS

- Clarification of Nadra Bell's appointment to Pennichuck Corporation Board of Directors

MOTION BY ALDERMAN KLEE TO AMEND NADRA BELL'S APPOINTMENT BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF FEBRUARY 10, 2026 TO REPLACE ALL REFERENCES IN SUCH FEBRUARY 10, 2026 APPOINTMENT OF "PENNICHUCK WATER" WITH "PENNICHUCK CORPORATION" TO CONFIRM AND RATIFY NADRA BELL'S APPOINTMENT AS OF FEBRUARY 10, 2026 TO THE PENNICHUCK CORPORATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS, AND TO AMEND THE EXPIRATION OF SUCH APPOINTED TERM FROM "THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING IN 2028" TO "THE DATE OF THE ANNUAL SHAREHOLDERS MEETING OF PENNICHUCK CORPORATION IN 2029", BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien,
Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 13

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Board of Public Works Retirement System Trustees

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the re-appointment of David Fredette, 4 Henry David Drive, #408, Nashua, with a term to expire February 10, 2028 to the Board of Public Works Retirement System Trustees.

Oath of Office administered at a later date.

Cultural Connections Committee

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the re-appointment of Donna Marceau, 37 Pinewood Road, Hudson, with a term to expire February 28, 2029 to the Cultural Connections Committee.

Oath of Office administered at a later date.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you. I'm going to kind of object to this a little bit only because I had asked for the reappointments to come in so where I didn't know them to interview them. I don't think this was fair to a new member of the Committee. So I kind of object to all these reappointments. I just want it on the record.

President Wilshire

Okay.

Alderman Johnson

Because they did not come in and no one had chance to interview them. Thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Ethics Review Committee

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the re-appointment of Roger Wiseman, 88 Peele Road, Nashua, with a term to expire March 16, 2029 to the Ethics Review Committee.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the re-appointment of Steven Kenney, 9 Sagamore Road, Nashua, with a term to expire February 10, 2029 to the Mine Falls Park Advisory Committee.

Oath of Office administered by Corporation Counsel.

Nashua Center for the Arts Board of Trustees

There being no objection, President Wilshire confirmed the re-appointments of Judith Carlson, 15 Manchester Street, Nashua, with a term to expire March 10, 2029, and Philip Scotsas, 14 Ashland Street, Nashua, with a term to expire February 13, 2029 to the Nashua Center for the Arts Board of Trustees.

Oaths of Office administered at a later date.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS**R-26-010**

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.

Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

**INCREASING THE MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE AMOUNT IN THE SNOW REMOVAL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND
AND MAKING A SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 OF ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE INTO THE
SNOW REMOVAL EXPENDABLE TRUST FUND**

Given its second reading;

**MOTION BY ALDERMAN THIBEAULT FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-010, BY ROLL CALL PURSUANT TO
CHARTER SECTION 49**

ON THE QUESTION

Alderman Thibeault

Snow. That's all I gotta say. A lot of snow.

Alderman Johnson

I understand what Mr. Teeboom is talking about with the supplemental appropriations. I feel that these should only be in cases of emergencies not in cases that you want to spend in other areas. I understand what he's asking for and I hope that we can accommodate him and give him the information that he requests. I'm going to support this because of this winter. It was so bad and if we have another storm, I'm afraid that they're just not going to have enough money to take care of the streets the way we need it at this point in time. If I knew we were in April or May and we were past it, I probably would vote no on this but because we've had such a harsh winter, I mean it's nice that we're starting to see the green/brown grass on the highways now that it's melting but I don't think we're out of a storm center at this point in time. So I'm going to support this, this time. Thank you.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah, just in one other thing to keep in mind about this too was that it was originally before us back in February and had to be canceled because of the snow. So we had to move it forward. So it's not like this - it isn't even like this. It's just coming to us now. This was planned well ahead of time, and the money's been spent, and we need to reimburse ourselves.

Alderman Lopez

I just want to observe. I think I'm speaking the obvious for everybody that Department of Public Works has done a really, really, really good job with what they had dealing with massive snow storms. I have definitely heard from a lot of constituents about areas where there could be improvement. A lot of them are not Department of Public Works. They're private snow relocation/removal companies that may be blocking areas or sidewalks. Whenever I have asked Director Fauteux and said, hey there's an area that looks like it needs some help. They have done it in a reasonable time frame. Reasonable meaning a day or two not like let's wake up the crews who just slept after their 72 hours of, you know, work. So I just want to give them credit for their work and making sure that all of this got removed.

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault,
Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott,
Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez,
Alderman Wilshire

13

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-010 is declared duly adopted.

R-26-012

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

RELATIVE TO THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION OF \$600,000 OF ASSIGNED FUND BALANCE INTO FUND #7064 "HYDROPOWER RESERVE FUND"

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERWOMAN KELLY FOR FINAL PASSAGE OF R-26-012, BY ROLL CALL PURSUANT TO CHARTER SECTION 49ON THE QUESTIONAlderman Kelly

Thank you. This was brought before the Budget Committee last night. We have a turbine that is down and that is poor timing given that we are seeing such beautiful snow melt right now. So this will allow them to get it back on as quickly as possible and continue to get the money from the turbine. So I will be supporting this and I hope everyone else will too.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I, too, will be supporting this. When Director Sullivan came forward, he spoke about the revenue generated could be from this turbine. Without it, we could lose half of the normally generated revenue which could be up to \$1.9 million. I think he said \$700,000 to \$1.9 million thinking that we could even lose at the lower end of it \$350,000. Within two years, this kind of pays for itself. So I will be supporting this.

He also said that if we were going to be replacing this within one year or sooner obviously, he would not have brought this forward but he said it will be at least two or more years before we do replace these turbines. This \$600,000 will also allow them to have the potentially additional funds for any kind of necessary fix for the other turbine and I believe if I'm not mistaken before this money goes in, we're down to like about \$1 million in that fund. So I hope others will support this.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. I got a couple questions for Director Sullivan through you to him if possible if he'd like to come up please. So my first question is if we only gave you \$500,000 could you replace the blade on the turbine and what would that do if that's what we wanted to give you?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Sure. Madam President if I could address that? As I represented last night, we believe on its face that the cost of repair for the turbine is under \$500,000 based on the estimate that we have. What we don't know is some of the, I guess, details of roof removal once we get into the actual turbine what those costs might look like. And to be clear, the cost estimate that we have does not contemplate that.

I also anticipate that once we actually get into the turbine and start working on it, there are going to be other costs and other things that are recommended to us to be replaced. So my concern with \$500,000 is that's close to what we know the hard costs to be and the labor and so there's very little space that we have then to work with. The logic here had been that with a \$600,000 allocation that it would give us plenty of space and to any funding we didn't use would directly lapse right back into the reserve fund allowing us to do other either improvements that are necessary or as we discussed last night, purchase backup parts or do any other tweaking to the other turbine that's there. So, you know, I was honest last night with the Committee and its conversation. We could probably make this work with \$500,000. My concern is that if we can't that we're going to be back requesting more funding sooner rather than later. So I think our attempt was to be transparent about that space that we had in the funding up front instead.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up? So what you're saying is we don't have any specifics on how we're going to spend the money. We just know we're going to buy a blade but any money that's left over and other repairs, we don't have specific repairs at this time but we want to give you the money just in case we find extra repairs. Is that what we're saying?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

I would say it may be a little bit differently and you may find that I'm saying the same thing with different words. But we - there are costs within that \$600,000 that we know. We understand with the turbine - that what the blade fabrication is going to cost. We understand generally what this task should cost if it's fairly standard. What we don't have in there is really a general broad contingency in the event that we find something unexpected when we're doing the replacement. So that's the item that I'm really building into the \$600,000 Alderman Thibeault. The fact that when we get into this aging facility, we simply don't know what we're going to find. So I may have said what you said a little bit differently and I apologize for that but I don't want to say that we don't understand what the \$600,000 is. We understand a huge piece of it. We don't know what we may find though in the end.

Alderman Thibeault

Follow up? So I think one thing we have to start looking at is when we're paying for things, we're just giving money to departments and not have any specifics like it's not like we have something in here that says blade will be about \$525,000 and then we want to do this. It's just generally \$600,000 to fix this but we don't really have specifics on it. So I think when department's start asking for money, we have to be more specific with how we're going to actually spend it and if we have estimates that we see those estimates and that's just my opinion.

My last question is in the Public Comment, there was lots of questions, and theories, and stuff thrown out there. I would like you to see if you could address some of them, including the one where the part of the building is going to fall into the river. Can you talk to some of the stuff that was talked about?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

I will do my best and I do have Deb Chisholm here as well. I hate to, you know, belay it over to her for those questions but I think, you know, she has extensive floodplain experience. She has experience with the area that Mr. Teeboom is talking about.

First, I would say that there's no clear nexus or relationship between any bank erosion and this facility that I'm aware of and I'll allow Ms. Chisholm to clarify and confirm that because she knows that better than I, but I'm not aware of any direct relationship between the turbine and any erosion that we're seeing. No question we have erosion. No question there are hydro facilities in the river but we do extensive study to try to understand that exact thing and I'm not aware of any direct relationship.

That said, you know, I think I've said this in the past. Certainly Mr. Chisholm has as well. We recognize that there's a case to be made for the hydro facilities operating as an enterprise fund. We've talked about that being a possibility in the past. I don't think we reject that idea. What we haven't done is a deep dive to determine the viability of that moving forward. What I have always said though is that the reason doing this as an enterprise fund or special revenue fund is challenging is that the revenues are incredibly volatile. It's not like parking, it's not like the landfill. The revenues are seasonal. We have huge spikes and we have valleys. So it makes it very challenging to develop a bulletproof proof strategy when it comes to long term debt service payment and other obligations that you have to keep up with. So I don't disagree with the member of the public that an enterprise fund is something that should be looked at but there are real issues with moving that direction.

I believe the other comments were more general about understanding the business model of the facilities. I don't disagree with that. You know, I think we expect particularly when we come forward with the bond authorization request to talk about the fish passage, which we know is going to be a big number, we expect there will be questions about what the business case looks like for the turbine.

What I'll just say is the idea that - I don't want to turn this into a huge discussion - but the idea that the turbine is either a money maker or it's not and that means we should get rid of it or keep it, I'm not sure it's that simple. Money making is part of the value but the other value is the fact that when the facilities were purchased, the idea was there was a value to having green or clean produced power for the City of Nashua. How we monetize that, I think, is different for every person around this horseshoe but the reality is that it's not just the revenue that we collect, it's actually the idea that we are operating this clean energy producing facility. So I don't know, again, how we put a number on that but when we come in to talk about the bond, we're going to talk about the business case and I think it's up to all of you to decide at

that point in time as we're asking for a large appropriation whether or not the business case is made and we expect to have to answer those questions.

Alderman Thibeault

Sorry, one last follow up. Thank you. He mentioned the \$6.5 million. Can you speak to that?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Let me ask Ms. Chisholm to address.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

I just don't know that number off the top of my head.

Alderman Thibeault

Okay.

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

I just - that one doesn't stick out.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you.

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Department Manager

Good evening, Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Department Manager. The \$6.5 million is the amount that - approximately the amount, that was spent on upgrading the Jackson Mills turbine. All of the turbine, the generator, all of the controls, the powerhouse itself were all replaced and the year 2019 is when we started that and we are just barely completing it now in the end of 2025. So it took us a good six years to get that thing from start to finish.

Alderman Thibeault

Great, thank you.

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Department Manager

You're welcome.

Alderman Clemons

Thank you, Madam President. Yeah, just a couple of things. One is that I think it's clear - at least it's clear to me anyway, that we are going to spend \$600,000 in the next five years on that dam if not more. So to appropriate the money now, I don't think is an issue because it's going to get spent one way or the other.

The other thing is, you know, as far as contracts and things like that, all of those come before the Finance Committee if they're over \$25,000. So anything that if we approve this tonight, anything that comes from it will eventually be in front of this Board again for approval via the Finance Committee.

And the last thing is I agree with part of what Director Sullivan said in that having the dams in an enterprise fund is probably not a good idea because the bonds that we have specifically for them, we would have to make sure that the enterprise covered the bonds. In this case if we take a bond out now for the dam, we can apply the revenue that we get towards that bond and we can account for that but we don't have to officially do it. It just comes into the revenue stream of the City. I think that the way we're doing it now is actually better.

President Wilshire

Ms. Chisholm did you want to add something to what Alderman Clemons is?

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Department Manager

I did. I just wanted to clarify that the \$600,000 if you will, you will not see that at the Finance Committee because those funds will be paid to our existing contractor and they have subcontractors that will be performing the work. So that money isn't necessarily coming back to Finance for approval.

Alderman Clemons

That wouldn't come in a change order?

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Department Manager

No. I mean I'm happy to come to Finance to have that discussion.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah, I'd just be interested to know how that wouldn't come back if - unless we've already contracted the work.

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Department Manager

We have contracted the work with Essex Hydro. They're the company that does the all the operation and maintenance of both of the facilities and they are the ones that are spearheading all of the changes for both of the facilities. So the \$600,000 would basically would be paid through them to their subcontractors.

Alderman Clemons

Yeah, again, I'd like an explanation as to why it wouldn't - a written explanation as to why it wouldn't come before Finance.

Deb Chisholm, Sustainability Department Manager

We have a multi-year contract with Essex Hydro that does not have a financial number on it necessarily as far as how much we pay them.

Alderman Clemons

Okay.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to add if I'm not mistaken and Director Sullivan can correct me if I'm wrong on it, and I don't think I heard it mentioned here, but I do remember in the conversation we also spoke about in order to be able to fix this turbine, they would have to raise the roof. I think Alderman Dowd's favorite expression, "unknown, unknown" was used during that meeting. So, again, I think the \$600,000 also will probably include the cost of that.

If I may continue, Madam President?

President Wilshire

Yes.

Alderman Klee

I'd also like to say that I, too, would not be in favor of an enterprise fund. As was pointed out, the revenues are volatile and so on and because we don't always know what's going to be happening. I also believe that there's always potential from Concord or DES to come in and put different things upon us and we may not have those funds to take care of it. I would always hope that we are always in the black when it comes to this but there's no guarantee because the volatility.

And there was one more thing and suddenly it has left my mind and I apologize for that. Let me just look here on my notes. For some reason, I'm having a visual problem with my eyes as well. I think that's probably it at the moment. Thank you very much.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

Alderwoman Kelly

Hi, sorry. I muted myself instead of unmuted myself. I just wanted to address the amount. It was talked about in depth last night. I specifically asked if they started with, you know, a question about that particular blade and how much it would take to replace it. That was answered.

And then the other thing that I thought was very admirable and smart knowing what's going on with these turbines is that there's a little bit of wiggle like we have in anything to be able to potentially get some replacement parts to have on hand so that it's not a very long amount of time that these turbines are offline. We know that we've had a whole system offline for a number of months and that was a was a big issue. So there was a lot of forethought that went into the amount that they were requesting and, you know, a little bit of contingency around that idea of once we lift the roof, there might be other things that are not up to par so we need to try to make it a working turbine. So I thought that they did an excellent job of explaining exactly how they were going to use the money and why they were asking for a little bit of contingency.

Alderman Dowd

Yes, that unknown-unknowns is something that hit all the time. I've got extensive experience both in school projects and in military equipment. When you start opening up a piece of equipment that's this old, they've got to go in and replace the turbine blade. They may find another part that they say hey, if we don't repair this, it's not going to last or we can't do the repair without doing that part. It would take them maybe six weeks to get back here to get more money and we're going to lose a whole bunch of revenue. Tens of thousands, maybe \$100,000 in revenue because we didn't get it fixed in time.

I think this almost acts like an insurance policy that we can't afford to not do because it will cost us more in the end. I think the \$600,000 is reasonable and the money they don't spend would go back into the fund to for other repairs and maybe other parts. But I can tell you, I've run into this a number of times. The most recent was the elevator at Main Dunstable School. Anyone on the Joint Special will know about that. We started replacing an elevator and found oh we got to replace the cab because of this and, you know. You run into things that aren't aware of so it's critically important that they have the money to be able to fix this turbine quickly otherwise we're losing money and that doesn't make sense to me.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you. I will support this tonight but I do want to say that when I see round numbers like this - 600,000/500,000 - I get a little leery about what does that quote actually look like because to my colleagues point, I mean sometimes you have labor hours and if it goes over that labor hour, then you're paying double time, and things can escalate quickly. So that's a concern.

As far as the enterprise fund goes and I'm sure my colleagues or anybody in the listening audience will fact check me on this, we do have the landfill which is technically an enterprise fund that the general fund subsidizes. I don't know what the percentage is but it's a good amount and it is subject to Department of Environmental Services. I think we're just dealing with the situation last night about some fee that's placed on by the State. So that's very variable and that revenue certainly is - while the fees can sometimes remain somewhat static, recyclables and whatnot can vary. So there's a lot of concerns around the enterprise fund that I would be very cautious about putting that label on it, especially if around that.

And then finally to my colleague at-Large's point about Finance, did I hear this correctly that when we contract that work we are not going to approve that contract through Finance?

Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director

Deb and I were chatting about Alderman Clemons's question. First of all, I want to say we think it's a good question and I think we need to get back to this group about that. There is precedent for one off work that Essex has done to do

immediate repairs in the past that has not been strictly contemplated in their scope of services but it's been a customary repair and we have not gone to Finance for some of those things.

I do think that there's - again we were just chatting - this is a bit different I would say. I don't want to commit that it's certainly a change order but this is a fairly large ticket item. So what I'm happy to do with this group is I can send a follow up communication back to the Board relative to what we said tonight after we investigate it a little further. Again, there is precedent for not going to Finance for some of the smaller ticket items that Essex has repaired at these facilities because that is within their scope but I think there's a question of if it's something larger does it not require a change order? So we need to talk about that on our end to make sure that we're in good stead and I can get a communication back to this group.

Alderman Sullivan

Thank you.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. So I mean we did talk about it in length last night but obviously, Mr. Teeboom wasn't here to ask those questions and I think - so I thought it was good for Director Sullivan to go through that a little bit.

Also, I think we have to have start having more discussions. I know we do the work in committee but this budget is going to be tight. We saw with the school budgets already pushing 6%. That's a huge number and so when we start looking at numbers to Alderman Sullivan's point, we just get a round number slapped up there and we just do it. Let's go with that. No specifics. No, you know, we were very specific on a \$55,000 bill last night. So I want to make sure going forward that we are looking at every single dollar because the budget season is going to be tough.

So I will support this because I know it generates revenue but I don't really want to. I feel like I have to because we have to get this this in because we're already past the prime season of melting snow most likely. We're not going to get it in in time to get the revenue we really want from it. So we got to get it in. If we delay it any longer, it's going to be even worse. So I'm going to support it but I don't want to because I don't think, again, I think we're getting a little loose with the money. When I say loose, I don't mean we're spending a ton even though we probably are. I mean we got to start getting specifics, we got to start getting memos in front of us. We just got to be tighter with this stuff and we're getting ready for budget and I want to make sure we're on it because if we have to recover from 6% from education, we're not going to be able to cut other budgets down to 1% to cover the 6% for education - we're not. So we're going to have to find money somewhere if we want to pass anything close to that 6%. Thanks.

Alderman Klee

Thank you, Madam President. I did remember what I wanted to say and Alderman Sullivan and Alderman Clemons had both touched on it. As Vice-Chair of Finance, I really would like to see the reasons why these things aren't being brought in front of Finance and to what Director Sullivan had said about some things precedence and some things not coming forward. Unless it's below \$25,000, I would like to also hear as to why they didn't have to come through Finance. I don't want to question anybody's authority but Finance is there. It's a Charter Committee and it's always been that things come through there.

Sadly, people want to refer to us as a rubber stamp Committee which we are not. We take that job very seriously and we ask those questions. We've asked them about when it comes to purchasing vehicles and so on. So I really would like to get a memo. I know Director Sullivan's already said he would do it so I do appreciate and I appreciate the conversation. Thank you.

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien,
Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire

13

Nay:

0

MOTION CARRIED

Resolution R-26-012 is declared duly adopted.

R-26-007

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND CITY TREASURER TO ISSUE BONDS NOT TO EXCEED FIVE MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$5,500,000) FOR THE PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION GARAGE DESIGN

Given its second reading;

MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO AMEND R-26-007 BY REPLACING IT WITH THE GOLDEN ROD COPY OF RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS, BY ROLL CALLAlderman Dowd

Just to reiterate what was brought in before. If we pass this Resolution to amend, it's going to go back for a public hearing, and back to Budget, and then come back again to the Board of Aldermen. So I would recommend that we're going from \$5.5 million to \$3 million because there are items that are not going to be done but we can discuss that in full when this comes back before public hearing, and the Budget Committee, and the Board of Aldermen again.

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien,
Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly,
Alderman Morgan, Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 13

Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED**MOTION BY ALDERMAN DOWD TO SCHEDULE A SPECIAL BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARING ON RESOLUTION R-26-007 AS AMENDED FOLLOWED BY A BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2026 STARTING AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE ALDERMANIC CHAMBER, BY ROLL CALL**ON THE QUESTIONPresident Wilshire

So we don't need to approve the amendments again. We just did that.

Alderman Dowd

Okay. I'm just reading the script.

President Wilshire

Okay. All right.

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien,
Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderman Morgan,
Alderman Lopez, Alderman Wilshire 12

Nay: 0

Abstained: Alderwoman Kelly 1

MOTION CARRIED

UNFINISHED BUSINESS – ORDINANCES - None

BUSINESS UNFINISHED AT PREVIOUS MEETING

R-26-015

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire

SUPPORTING THE TOWN OF MERRIMACK IN ITS OPPOSITION TO AN ICE DETENTION CENTER

NEW BUSINESS – RESOLUTIONS

R-26-016

Endorsers: Alderwoman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
Alderman-at-Large Alicia Gregg
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman Thomas Lopez
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith

REGARDING FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY AND COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Given its first reading; Assigned to the PERSONNEL/ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

R-26-017

Endorsers: Mayor Jim Donchess
Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
Alderman Richard A. Dowd
Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
Alderwoman Vengerflutta Smith
Alderman Derek Thibeault
Alderman-at-Large Michael B. O'Brien, Sr.
Alderman-at-Large Amber Morgan
Alderman Patricia Klee
Alderman John Sullivan
Alderman Tim Sennott
Alderman Thomas Lopez

APPROVING THE COST ITEMS OF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE NASHUA BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS AND THE NASHUA POLICE PATROLMAN'S ASSOCIATION FROM JULY 1, 2026 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2030

Given its first reading, assigned to the BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE, by President Wilshire

NEW BUSINESS – ORDINANCES – None

PERIOD FOR GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT

Stephen Scaer

Good evening, Madam President. My concern is homelessness as this summer approaches and with that addiction that's touched a lot of our families. Last summer, the cove was packed with people. Many of them in blue matching tents that I assume someone must have donated but also people with trailers. One trailer had a deck and a gas grill. And last fall, emphatically people said the city can't move people because they don't have any place else to go. Well that isn't true. I visited the cove in January. It was empty. There wasn't a single homeless person there. No one was camping and I'm very glad that people found safe, warm, places to live but we need to acknowledge that they have safe, warm places to live.

In order to solve the homeless problem, we need to find out - and maybe you already know - the people that pack in the cove in Mine Falls where do they go in the winter? Where are they now and why do they prefer camping out at Mine Falls as opposed to staying wherever they are now? My biggest concern about this is a lot of the people there, people have different stories, different reasons that they're there. A lot of them clearly have addiction problems. Are some of them coming out to escape the restrictions of wherever they're staying and are we enabling, and even encouraging, incentivizing people to pursue their addictions?

So again, I'd love to hear someone to follow up where are the homeless people now who are going to be packed in there in May and June? Thank you.

Bob Keating

Good evening. Thank you, Madam President. My name is Bob Keating, 5 Coburn Woods Drive and speaking as a member of Granite State Organizing Project and the Social Justice Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Church.

I'm speaking about the warming center on Elm Street and specifically about it closing on April 15, 2026 as planned. As it is a very important resource for the homeless in our community and many people have spoken about this on multiple occasions about it, and including our previous speaker and our honoree tonight, Sue Mead, who I appreciate so much for her efforts over 40 years now.

Since our last aldermanic meeting, there have been significant developments related to our warming station and also the ordinance that was passed banning camping. Last week, the House of Representatives passed HB1091. The Bill would require town and cities to provide an option for non-monetary penalty in lieu of a cash financial penalty for any ordinance or bylaws prohibiting sleeping or camping outdoors. It passed unanimously, unanimously in the House. It's headed toward the Senate. The date has not been set for its hearing for that. If it passes, it means our city's ordinance would have to be modified to create a non-monetary option. If 1091 gets passed and becomes a law, it adds one more strong reason for the importance of keeping our Elm Street warming center station open beyond April 15th.

There is a current piece of legislation being worked on in this chamber to do exactly that - to keep our own warming station open. I hope each and every one of you when you get a chance to review that will become a co-signer of that and that it will pass unanimous.

Finally in terms of Mr. Scaer where are the people that Sue Mead spoke about that about 40 to 50 people are at our warming station on a given night and upwards of 20 people are the overflow space at the Soup Kitchen. So that's where they are at this point in time. So just wanted to update people where things are and since it will be coming forward so thank you.

President Wilshire

Thank you.

REMARKS BY THE MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

Alderman Lopez

What a segway. All right. So to some of the comments that were made in Public Comment. I was taken aback because literally earlier in this meeting it was commented that 40 to 50 people were at the warming station and that there was the emergency overflow. But it occurred to me that some people may actually hear that information and not understand what it means. I know all of us in the chamber have been exposed to this information over and over again and people who are passionate about the issue are educated in these areas, but the warming station is an awake emergency warming station because of severe cold weather. So when you have 40 or 50 people in a large room together that have to stay awake, it's because they don't have anywhere to go. It's not a hobby location. There's no activities, or arts, and crafts. It's

literally a certain emergency survival tool and it closes in April. So when we say where have they all gone, I mean a good chunk of them are over there.

When we talk about emergency cold weather emergency overflow, that means the Fire Marshal has temporarily approved the emergency shelters in the city, which are generally at capacity throughout the year to add more cots and more spaces beyond the level that they would consider ordinarily a good idea, but recognizing that cold weather emergencies we've had people, you know, freeze due to exposure. So that's a whole program and a whole endeavor. I would encourage members of the public to look into. Nobody even mentioned the Soup Kitchen's warming station which is also operating. No I would disagree personally with my knowledge of the people that are there. They don't have anywhere to go. Many of them didn't really go anywhere. We've been working to try to place them, and engage them, and connect them with services but then more people usually get displaced and also need those services too. So there are a lot of organizations in the city that are very engaged in this issue and there's a lot of people who are probably more familiar, more educated on the issue that I think it would be a good idea for us as Aldermen to look at as resources.

Sadly, tonight we're going to be losing Sue Mead in that particular role. Having worked with her for all of my career, which is a little over 20, and knowing she did it for 40, I don't think she's going to be idle for long. I know she wants to be but she cares genuinely about the people that are there. They're not just a number of people that set up tents that look identical and inconvenience people who are out on their walks. These are people whose stories she's followed for years, who have triumphed, and achieved things, and then also had setbacks, or, you know, in every other order. So there are people like Sue. I would extend that same definition to Mr. Keating who spoke earlier tonight. There are a lot of people who are really trying to make a difference in these people's lives and I think we do need to start moving on figuring out what we're going to do for a resource center because there needs to be a better city representation in addressing this issue rather than only when you know crises are starting to impact members of public who are not necessarily as familiar with these nuances. So I just wanted to comment on that and I also wanted to commend all the organizations that are doing so much of that important work.

Earlier, I spoke tongue and cheek during the roll call and I think I let my intrusive thought win because I thought I was being funny but I thought about it. About a minute afterwards, I was like that was probably insensitive. So I just want to apologize to my fellow Aldermen who are home providing child care because it's not like you get a break from being an Alderman. You made a point to be here, and be attentive, and engaged, and I was just focusing more on the fact that I was different from the last two people because I don't have children but I do want to make sure that it's clear that I respect the many roles that other people on the Board do fill.

And then finally, St Patrick's Day is coming up next week. I don't want to steal any other Alderman's thunder but I did want to direct people who might be interested to Joanne's Kitchen. They are running a program in partnership with Nashua Veterans Promise where you can buy a St Patrick's Day dinner for a veteran and then Joanne's will provide a hard, I guess, a boiled dinner to veterans that are staying at Dalianis House.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you. I remember when the Dalianis House was being built back when. Old timer here.

First of all, I just, I would like to say that I've been some of my constituents have reached out to me to find out what's going to happen after April 15th with the warming station. So I'm glad we started having a conversation about this this evening because, you know, it's a horrible thing when you see people homeless, especially when they have drug addiction. That's the hardest thing with the mental illness.

With that said, I know we'll probably all work on this together because we need to make sure people are safe. I want to let my colleagues know on the Board. I know on March 19th we have a meeting at seven o'clock but I want to reach out to the Aldermen-at-Large, especially. At six o'clock, we're having the West Hollis Street corridor meeting at 848 West Hollis Street at the administration building. I think it's important for the Aldermen-at-Large, which I've always said, you need to hear what's going on on West Hollis Street. This, I think, will be the third meeting that we've had. We need to find out what's going to happen with West Hollis Street. There's been several designs and it's a good time to interact with the people in the Ward. I've been sending out notices. I'm hoping that we'll have a good crowd. I know that, again, we have a meeting at seven o'clock and I plan to be at the meeting. Probably will be late but this is something that we need to discuss because West Hollis Street is a main thoroughfare. If you want to talk about main thoroughfares as I look at it because to get into Hollis, to get into Pepperell, you have to go through Nashua and West Hollis Street and that road is torn apart. When they we opened up the Charter School, which is right school, we didn't plan very well - the Planning Board - because now - and I was always the one who said you should put up some type of lights because now they've opened up another building this year, and the parents line up, and when there's no breakdown lane to drop the children off, and pick them up. In the morning and in the evening, you cannot exit the property and I'm afraid there's

going to be a bad accident there. So I am encouraging the Aldermen-at-Large to please come. Even if it's just for a half hour to hear what's being proposed, hear what my constituents say, and then we can all gather here at seven o'clock for this meeting. Thank you very much.

Alderwoman Kelly

Sorry, the color of my hand kind of just like blends to the wall. So I apologize.

Thank you. I just wanted to address a couple of things. When we were talking about approaching the builds and really just appropriating for the design first, I think that that makes sense. What I wanted to say about that is those still have shelf lives. So we're gonna do this design and we can't just put it on the shelf for five years after that. So we are still entering into the idea that we are going to do this project. So my comment on was just that. So I think that, you know, the garage needs to be built and I know it's a good support so looking forward to that coming through.

The other thing I wanted to address was the Personnel Committee. We have talked about this multiple times in Committee that the way that we interview everyone is new people come through that are appointed. Re-appointments are generally not re-interviewed unless requested and a blanket request to bring everybody who's spending a lot of their time volunteering for the city to come in it's just not something that we've done. We are assuming that the committees are talking to the Mayor, making sure that it's still a good fit before it comes to us for reappointments. But always are open to you know this specific thing happened, or you would really this one hasn't - this person hasn't been in for 10 years, would love to talk to them quickly about what the work they are doing there. So just wanted to address that that has been talked about in the Committee and as Aldermen we are also free to reach out and ask questions to people if we don't know them.

Alderman Johnson

Can I respond to that please?

President Wilshire

Okay.

Alderman Johnson

Thank you very much. I did ask the first meeting in February. I did ask the Alderwoman to please because I'm new, don't know a lot of people. I know people by faces, maybe by name. I haven't spoken to them and I think it would be very good for the new people to be able to interact with members that are being reappointed. Just ask them what do you like about the committee? What have you felt that you have done with this committee? Just a couple of quick questions and there's no reason why you can't do that on a reappointment. You do it on a new appointment. Why can't you bring somebody in on a re-appointment? So I just had to respond to that because I did ask for that and when I came into the Personnel/Administrative Committee, there was nobody. So I'm just giving my view, again. Thank you very much.

President Wilshire

You're welcome.

Alderman Sullivan

Yes, just waiting for a rebuttal.

Yes, a couple of things. First, the budget. I've been watching the separate departments. I know we've alluded to it a couple of times tonight. I've watched the DPW. They came in at, I think, a seven. I think the schools came in at six. I'm eagerly awaiting Police and Fire as those are the four big pillars that build our budget. I'm aware of the Mayor putting the 3% edict out there and the only thing I could think of is aw o. So I'll be interested to see how the cake is baked when it comes. I'm not on the Budget Committee this term but I will be eagerly watching. I think back to conversations that I have with Mrs. Sullivan at home about where does all our money go? Well we know now it goes to college tuition but, you know, you always think month to month where your inflows and outflows don't quite match up and hard choices need to be made. So eagerly awaiting the discussions and what budgets look like.

More on a note on global issues, I guess. My thoughts are with - I had the opportunity this past week to talk with a couple of families. They have deployed sons and daughters in the Air Force and in the Navy. Specifically, these are

Nashua families and I just want them to know that my thoughts are with them. If you're not familiar, both of them are deployed and they are completely off the grid. You don't hear from them. You have no idea where they are and my thoughts go out to those parents that are on pins and needles. I'm familiar with it. I will be more familiar with it come the summer but I just wanted to say that my thoughts are with you, and Godspeed, and I hope they get home safe. Thanks.

Alderman Dowd

Yeah, just a couple things. I had an opportunity to go home last night and watch the Board of Ed budget meeting and quite interesting. They had an executive overview. When I was talking to the Superintendent today, I asked him if he would send us a copy of their executive overview and he told me he will send all the budget presentations they gave to the Budget Committee of the Board of Education to all the Aldermen, probably. I told him through Donna. So we'll have all of that information.

Also, I just want to mention one thing. As I said, I have a lot of experience in repairs of equipment and these turbines are over 20 years old. I don't know exactly how long but I know they're at least 20 years old. When you open up an old piece of equipment and you're going to replace Part A, you look at it, oh, you know, hey, this other part has failed and we don't have any idea. Nobody has any idea how much that part cost. So if they can't fix that and the whole thing can't be fixed, like I said, it's going to take six weeks for them to come back and get any additional money. It made a hell of a lot of sense to give them the monies that they can be sure they can get these things done because, again, we may have missed the major melting going on but that water hasn't all gone through the dam yet. It's finding its way to the ponds. So I would hate to lose the revenue that we get from that.

The other thing is we talk about the sand, salt, and everything else. This winter has done another thing to the city - potholes. Even on Tinker Road that was just repaved like two years ago, there are a couple of spots that are really bad. I can imagine the rest of the city; the plows have torn up a lot of potholes so we can expect that cost coming up.

This probably should have waited until committee assignments. I want to say that Donna has put out a tentative list of requests for the departments to pick the dates for them to come in. I would also like the Aldermen on the Budget Committee to watch for those dates and make sure that they don't have an issue either. So everybody has an opportunity to go through each and every one of the departments. So all right.

Alderman Thibeault

Thank you, Madam President. Now I'm thinking we should have given more money to the turbines because I don't know what we're going to find in there.

First off, I just want to echo Alderman Johnson's comments. I think we do occasionally need to bring some people back. I mean David Fredette - we all know David Fredette. We don't have to bring David Fredette back. We've known him for a long time. Most people have but maybe the new people don't. I don't know and so I get it. Would I bring everybody back? No, not necessarily but I think it is good to - and I think myself and Alderman Johnson should be ready to look at people that we see on the agenda and ask for them to come back in. I have no problem with that. I think it's worth having conversations with people that are doing work for us in the city, I think.

The other thing I have is so I think to some of the comments that were made in Public Comment about the homeless. I think honestly outside of the ones that stayed in Nashua that were Nashua, I think if people came here from other places and they found out they couldn't camp here anymore, they might have went back to where they were doing it originally. And I'm not saying that solves any problem, because it presents a problem somewhere else, but to everybody else's point, they did. They went to the warming stations. They went to the shelters.

Manchester closed their shelter last month - their warming station I should say not their shelter. So I'm not really for moving this further into the spring. I could probably go with, you know, the end of April maybe but I don't want to do more supplemental appropriations to push this out as it gets warmer. I wish we would have had a resource center by now. I know there's been some issues with getting that going.

I went to the encampment work group today that LaTonya Muccioli was running and she went over the same stuff that the Mayor had mentioned earlier in some of the comments. There's 40 people staying at the warming station most nights on average. She was the one that told me that Manchester had closed last month. Sergeant Caron was there. He spoke to the - so another place they've gone, they've gone deeper into the woods some of them, right? So it's not technically an encampment, right? Two people deep into the woods. Three people over there. Celina Ave. from what they were saying on the call was still an issue. So Sergeant Caron just mentioned that there really hasn't been obviously, any encampments in the winter for people to arrest. He just explained how he would enforce the

ordinance. I don't I mean, obviously, I don't think anyone's gonna be able to pay the money. I don't think the money's the issue. I'm okay with going to no money penalty but we got to enforce that ordinance. We also got to find a way to help the people that are homeless, and we got to find a way to help - and LaTonya did say that the 40 people that were coming in on average every night, they were working with and trying to find places for them. The big problem is IDs. Having them get an ID is not always easy when they've had other problems in the past and trying to get landlords to take them in. So it's definitely been difficult. We got to get that resource center going and, you know, I'm willing to look for other ways to help them but we really have to get them places to stay permanently and not just, you know, temporary places. So thank you.

Alderwoman Smith

Well first, I'll start in addressing what my colleague, Alderman Thibeault, just said. Regarding the warming stations and I'm sitting over here just wrote a little note and thinking about the ordinance is that I think we need to think about these individuals as our community members. You know, these are although not directly related to anyone right now that's in one of the warming centers, you know, thank goodness but this is our community. These are our people and so we need to think about how can we take care of them. There's just no way I would have any one of my family out on the streets after April 15th. So we need to look at that deadline as something as challenging as it is. We know it's a complex issue and not everyone is wanting us to house them but we do need to figure out something that we can do for the individuals that are in the warming stations whether it's a resource center or whatever. I think we have to start going beyond the conversation. As a new member of this wonderful horseshoe, I'm getting lots of phone calls, and emails, and it's all about the warming station, and how we are managing the homeless. And for me, I think when you say the word "homeless", it's almost like you're trying to push away and make a distance but these are our community members. People don't travel to come here to be homeless for the most part. These are individuals who due to some unfortunate circumstances find themselves in a place that they don't want to be. So I hope we can start to think about how we can make some decisions or use our budgets in a way that will help them. When I think about the ordinance I put down I have a little note over here on my paper, ordinance equals poor people tax. I would hate to think that we who don't do taxes here in New Hampshire would come up with something that would seem like it's some sort of poor people's penalty or penalty for someone who can't afford housing. So I just want to challenge us to think about how we deal with the issue of homelessness in Nashua because that's not who we are.

And the other thing on another note across the horseshoe to my wonderful colleague, Alderman Johnson. Thank you for joining me after I did my first tour as a new person with the Department of Works - DPW. I, you know, you check out everything. You meet some wonderful people. They do great work for us and when they took me to their break room, I almost broke down and cried. I think I saw a chair that I put out five years ago in the break room that someone was utilizing. I was like this cannot happen. So I really appreciate Director Fauteux and what she's doing, and the individuals there, and I told them I said, as I stand before you, you will have some new seating. So Ward 6 is going to be following up and I thank you. I reached out to you and you, Alderman Johnson, to step right up and beat me over there with your chairs. I've got four chairs in my car and because we're Ward 6, I'm committing to 6. So if any of you want some more information about that, it's just a little thing we're doing that means a lot. When I'm in my home and I hear the snow plows going by, I think about these gentlemen and the fact they're out there just like all night practically or early in the morning and that when they want to take a break, that it would be great for them. Yes, there's a break table there, there's a break chair but for them to be able to sit back in a zero gravity chair for 15 minutes is a wonderful thing after being out there for probably double and triple shifts. So if you want more information, talk to us about it.

The other thing, I am loving the conversation around turbines and I really appreciate Matt Sullivan and all the work that he has done in trying to provide us information. I think one of the things I want us to think about is something that was mentioned the other night when he talked about that. Although they're asking for this money and yes, we've got to start thinking about when you remove something, you're gonna find all kinds of issues and problems when you start taking those things apart. I think the more that we can be prepared with backup parts, it makes the most sense.

But the other thing, I really appreciated was hearing that based on the revenue that we get when the turbines are working that the repairs that we're going to do, they're going to pay for themselves in the next three to five years. So I want us to keep that in mind as we move forward with these things. So those are my comments.

Alderman Klee

Thank you Madam President. I know it's hard to see us up there. One of the bad things about being one of the last people is that as people are talking, I have time to think and write things down. But lucky for you, I seem to be having a little bit of double vision so I may not be able to read all of my notes.

I do want to make comment about where do people go? We know that they didn't suddenly find a place to live. The fact that we've got the number of people in the warming station and so on and while there may not be encampments that our police are finding or that people are turning in, I do believe we still have people that are living out on the street and that don't have a place to go. The truth is homeless doesn't necessarily mean unhoused. We have people who are couch surfing and so on. We also want to remember that homeless does not mean drug user either. There are a lot of people and families that don't have homes because of a catastrophic issue that had happened. I know I've shared the story before when I lived in Ogden, Utah, and I came home for Christmas. Christmas Eve I got that phone call that my apartment burnt down and I lost everything except for my car. I came home to only my car and if it weren't for the graciousness of so many kind people that I worked with and so on that helped me find a place to live, Red Cross coming to my aid, and family members being able to be there, I was to have that that fail safe and I'm always grateful for it but I also believe that so many people are one paycheck or one catastrophic issue to happen.

So I know we need to work harder on our homelessness issue and I do believe that the resource center, at least a temporary resource center, is either up or coming up and using the trailers from the Elm Street and bringing them to Mulberry Street and so on. So I do believe we have at least some form of a resource center that's going to be happening.

I want to thank Sue Mead for all of the incredible work that she has done.

I also want to make comment to the West Hollis Street meeting. I have gone to those in the past. I'm hoping to attend part of it. I have a Planning Board meeting also that night that I have to run back to so and it's an important one that I can't miss. So I will be going to the beginning of it at least and so on.

I want to thank Alderman Lopez for all the work that he does with the Dalianis House and the Veterans there. I know Alderman Morgan has also been so, you know, strong in her commitment to the Dalianis House as well. All those listening and my constituents are going to get another email about Joanne's Kitchen, please. It doesn't cost a lot but it means a lot to the veterans there. Joanne's Kitchen has always stepped up and really helped to make a special meal for different holidays whether it be Veterans Day, St Patrick's Day, Fourth of July, New Year's Eve, Christmas. We have a lot of different places that do that but they seem to be the number one that steps up. So not only do I suggest that you make a donation to help with this but stop by Joanne's Kitchen. They make a great breakfast. I've been very, very happy to have one. I just had breakfast there with Alderman Morgan not that long ago.

But I also want to make some comments about the Personnel Committee reappointments. A year or so ago, I had suggested that they come forward. In truth after speaking to a number of people, and re-appointments, and so on while I don't think it's a bad idea, I don't necessarily think that we should. There are people that are on committees that I've never met either. I've taken the time to either contact them or contact the Chair and ask the Chair. Are they engaged? Do they come to meetings and so on? I want to trust the Chair and the Mayor as having done the necessary work and I'll do a little extra work if I have to. I am not on the Personnel Committee but I still believe in stepping up and doing that as well.

I also want to – let me make sure I have this correct here. Yeah, two more things if that's okay. For those departments who send information to the different committees because they're going in front of that committee - and maybe I stand alone on this request - but I would like request that that information go to the entire Board of Aldermen because I know recently when I went to a committee meeting, it was referenced to a memo that had gone out to, I believe, it was the Budget Committee. I'm there trying to also participate - not that I can vote, but participate - and I didn't have that memo. So I would have appreciated having had that and so on. So I'm asking departments that when you send something to a committee that instead of just sending it to the committee, please send it to the Board of Aldermen. You can address it to the committee but make sure we all get that.

I want to end with a positive note and a thank you to the United Way who had asked for volunteers for what they called "the reading program". I had the privilege of speaking to first graders and to kindergarten students and read them a book called "Gizmo Pasta, The Guide to Mental Health". Gizmo is a small dog from Connecticut who is the - he's a spokesperson. This little, tiny dog that's about the size of our hand that spoke to him and it was wonderful to speak to these young minds, and to talk to them about their sadness, and their anger, and they're being worried, and to speak to them that their mental health is as important as their physical health. Some of them were more interested in the dog than the book but there was one little person who kind of broke down during that. I didn't ask the question why. The teacher came over, kind of took that person that little one, that little kiddo away to speak with them.

There were people that spoke to me about loss of family members, loss of pets. We had this conversation which was so amazing and we don't think of first graders or kindergartens to be able to process all this but they process this in a way that adults can't understand. So to teach them to trust people, trust themselves. One little girl told me that she misses

her dad so much she talks to her pillow. I was holding emotions back but it was just an amazing thing to be able to talk to these children. I really want to thank the United Way for doing this program and all of the great work that they do and I will end with that. Thank you.

President Wilshire

I just wanted to commend the Nashua Police Department on their accreditation once again. They've been accredited for, I don't know, 20 years maybe. Quite a while but it doesn't get old. I mean they still have to meet all the standards that accreditation lays out for them. They always pass with flying colors and I just want to commend them for, once again, being a nationally accredited agency. That's all I have.

Committee announcements:

Alderman Lopez

March 16 Human Affairs is meeting.

Alderman Thibeault

St. Patrick's Day, March 17th, we have a public hearing followed by PEDC.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN CLEMONS THAT THE MARCH 10, 2026 MEETING OF THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN BE ADJOURNED, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Alderman Clemons, Alderman Klee, Alderwoman Smith, Alderman Thibeault, Alderman O'Brien, Alderman Dowd, Alderman Sullivan, Alderman Sennott, Alderman Johnson, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Morgan, Alderman Wilshire	12
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Nay:	Alderman Lopez	1
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MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

Attest: Dan Healey, City Clerk