



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

CITY COUNCIL

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Marcus L. DiNatale
Samantha M. Squailia
Anthony M. Zarrella
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Ward 2 – Paul R. Beauchemin
Ward 3 – Joel R. Kaddy
Ward 4 – Michael P. Kushmerek
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Elizabeth R. Walsh**

Finance Committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Chairman DiNatale on Tuesday, June 26, 2018 at 6:00 PM in the Memorial Middle School Library, 615 Rollstone Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Paul Beauchemin, Marcus DiNatale, Michael Kushmerek, Elizabeth Walsh, and Anthony Zarrella.

Other Councilors present: Councilor Samantha Squailia.

Others present: City Auditor Calvin Brooks, Water Deputy Commissioner John Deline, Wastewater Deputy Commissioner Jeffrey Murawski, and Director of Public Health Stephen Curry.

188-18 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, Recycling IQ grant in the approximate amount of \$40,000.00 (FORTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to reduce contamination in the curbside residential recycling stream.

Discussion: The chairman read the June 12, 2018 memorandum from Director of Public Health Stephen Curry requesting the funds.

Action: Be adopted (5-0)

185-18 ORDER: that \$4,500,000 is appropriated to pay costs of replacing water meters, electronic registers, radio/cellular network and data collection system, and other ancillary equipment, and the payment of all other cost incidental and related thereto; that to meet this appropriation, the City Treasurer, with the approval of the Mayor, is authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, §8, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the City therefor. Any

premium received upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount.

Discussion: The chairman read the June 8, 2018 letter from Deputy Commissioner of Water John Deline and Deputy Commissioner of Wastewater Jeffrey Murawski requesting the loan order.

Councilors asked about the debt service. City Auditor Calvin Brooks explained that the project would be overseen by the Water Department and would be budgeted and accounted for in the Water Capital Projects Fund. Debt service would be budgeted in the Water Enterprise Fund, with transfer payments made into that fund from the Wastewater Enterprise Fund to cover its share of the costs. The rate studies used during the recent discussion to set new rates for both water and wastewater did include the costs for new water meters.

Councilors expressed an interest in paying the debt sooner than twenty years. Mr. Deline responded that some other projects will be paid by 2022, at which time funds can be used to pay off this debt quicker or for new capital projects.

Councilors mentioned a pilot program to test new meters. Currently there is a Request for Proposals for new meters. The technology has changed since the pilot program, so there will be an evaluation of each type of meter to determine their long term benefits. The life of a meter is about twenty years. After choosing a supplier for the selected meter, there will be a bid process for installation. Work is expected to begin in September and should take about one year to complete. There will be some payback in costs from better, more accurate water metering.

Councilors asked details about the meters. While the technology of the meter itself is fairly old, the reading or output part is new. A decision will be made concerning radio read versus cellular read. With cellular read there is an added cost of 80 cents per month per meter. The new system will not require someone to drive around and collect the readings. The new system will allow customers to monitor usage themselves and can notify them of possible leaks. It will also advise the possibility of frozen pipes. This access to information may allow for a change in billing from monthly to quarterly.

Councilors asked about customer notification. Mr. Deline stated that notification letters will be sent by neighborhood as the meter installation progresses. Because of more accurate metering, some bills may increase and the Water Department will work with those customers to determine what is happening.

Action: Be adopted (5-0)

189-18 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Federal Forest Legacy Program grant (13-DG-11420004-070) in the approximate amount of \$1,070,000.00 (ONE MILLION, SEVENTY THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is for the costs of purchasing a conservation restriction on a certain parcel of land in Princeton known as the Bomba Property (\$520,000.00), for the costs of purchasing a conservation restriction on a certain parcel of land in Westminster known as the Nakrosis Property (\$300,000.00),

and for the costs of purchasing a certain parcel of land in Westminster known as the Wright Property (\$250,000.00).

190-18 ORDER: authorizing the City of Fitchburg to obtain a conservation restriction on a parcel of land in Princeton known as the Bomba Property as outlined in the enclosed order.

191-18 ORDER: authorizing the City of Fitchburg to obtain a conservation restriction on a parcel of land in Westminster known as the Nakrosis Property as outlined in the enclosed order.

192-18 ORDER: authorizing the City of Fitchburg to purchase a certain parcel of land in Westminster known as the Wright Property as outlined in the enclosed order.

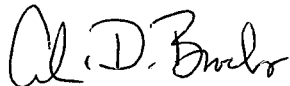
Discussion: The committee next considered items #189-18, #190-18, #191-18, and #192-18. The chairman read a June 8, 2018 letter from Deputy Commissioner of Water John Deline requesting authorization to spend the grant and to acquire the property or conservation restrictions.

In response to a question, councilors were told that the land between the various parcels under consideration are owned by a mixture of private, municipal, and state persons. Much of this property already has conservation restrictions.

Action: Orders #189-18, #190-18, #191-18, and #192-18 be adopted (5-0)

The meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk

Office of the

Board of Health

166 Boulder Drive-Suite 108

Fitchburg, Massachusetts 01420

978-829-1870

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor, Stephen L. DiNatale

From: Stephen D. Curry,
Director of Public Health

cc: City Council,
Calvin Brooks, Auditor
Board of Health

Date: June 12, 2018

Re: Department of Environmental Protection-Recycling IQ grant

Please be advised I am respectfully requesting an order be directed to the City Council to approve the expenditures of the above grant totaling up to \$40,000.

These funds are awarded for the purpose of reducing contamination in the curbside residential recycling stream.

Funding will be used to print and mail outreach materials, advertise and support staffing needs to provide direct feedback and "tag" curbside recycling carts.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if questions arise.

City of
Fitchburg



Department of
Public Works

COMMISSIONER

301 Broad Street
978-829-1910
978-345-9687 FAX

STREETS & PARKS

301 Broad Street
978-829-1900
978-345-9687 FAX

WASTEWATER

166 Boulder Drive, Suite 108
978-345-9622
978-345-9623 FAX

SEWER COLLECTION

301 Broad Street
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WATER

1200 Rindge Road
978-345-9616
978-345-9555 FAX

**ENGINEERING
PLANNING**

301 Broad Street
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978-345-9687 FAX

CEMETERIES

115 Mount Elam Road
978-345-9578
978-345-9686 FAX

June 8, 2018

Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale
City of Fitchburg
166 Boulder Drive, Suite 108
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Subject: 2018 Water Meter Upgrade Project

Mayor,

I am writing to request authorization to borrow up to \$4,500,000.00 (four million five hundred thousand dollars) for the purpose of funding the project to replace and upgrade the City's water meters, electronic registers, radio/cellular network data collection system, and other ancillary equipment.

This project is necessary due to the age of the existing meters and metering system, which have begun to experience high rates of failure as well as suspected under-registration due to worn metering equipment. The new system will ensure that water usage is metered and billed correctly and will provide additional tools for customers to monitor their water usage. Since sewer is billed as 100% of metered water usage (with the exception of irrigation meters, of course), the new meters/system will also benefit the Wastewater Division and, accordingly, Wastewater will be sharing in the cost of this project.

I am requesting that the appropriation be in the form of a twenty year loan to be apportioned to the Water and Wastewater Enterprise Funds. The debt service generated by this proposed loan will be covered by the increases in water and sewer rates that have been instituted recently which costs were taken into consideration during the respective rate studies completed by each division.

Your assistance in this important matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

John M. Deline, Jr.
Deputy Comm. of Water Supply

Jeffrey A. Murawski, P.E.
Deputy Comm. of Wastewater

cc: Calvin Brooks, City Auditor
Lenny Laakso, Commissioner of Public Works

City of
Fitchburg



Department of
Public Works

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June 8, 2018

Mayor Stephen L. DiNatale, City of Fitchburg
166 Boulder Drive, Suite 108
Fitchburg, MA 01420

Subject: Grants for Protection of Land in the Watersheds to the City's Water Supply Reservoirs through Conservation Restrictions on the Bomba and Lane Properties and Purchase of the Wright Property

Mayor,

I respectfully request that the City of Fitchburg accept funding from the Federal Forest Legacy Program (Grant #13-DG-11420004-070) for the following amounts and purposes:

- 1) accept grant funds in the amount up to \$520,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a Conservation Restriction on a certain parcel of land on Green Road in Princeton known as the Bomba Property, consisting of +/-40 acres;
- 2) accept grant funds in the amount up to \$300,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a Conservation Restriction on a certain parcel of land on West Princeton Road in Westminster known as the Nakrosis Property, consisting of +/-48 acres;
- 3) accept grant funds in the amount up to \$250,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing a certain parcel of land on South Street in Westminster known as the Wright Property, consisting of +/-13 acres.

The acceptance of said grants may require the expenditure of funds up to the total amount of \$1,070,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund. However, Forest Legacy funding for acquisition of a property, or for acquisition of a conservation restriction on a property, will be deposited to the Water Enterprise Fund prior to the closing of each property. Therefore, the City will be only required to expend approximately \$100,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund, prior to reimbursement by the Forest legacy program. A small portion (less than \$15,000) of the overall costs required for due diligence, etc. associated with said donation are not reimbursable and will be funded through the Water Division's existing budget. The properties on which Conservation Restrictions are to be placed will be monitored by the Fitchburg D.P.W. - Division of Water Supply to ensure that no unauthorized activities occur on said properties. Restricting each of these properties from development will further protect the City of Fitchburg's water supply reservoirs.

Sincerely,

John M. Deline, Jr.
Deputy Commissioner of Water Supply

Cc/ Calvin Brooks, City Auditor
Lenny Laakso, Commissioner of Public Works