



City of Fitchburg Massachusetts 01420

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Ward 4 – Andrew J. Van Hazinga
Ward 5 – Marisa R. Fleming
Ward 6 – Derrick J. Cruz**

Finance Committee

A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Councilor Zarrella on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 5:23 PM in the Legislative Building, 700 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA.

Committee Members present: Councilors Anthony Zarrella, Paul Beauchemin, Derrick Cruz, and Elizabeth Walsh.

Committee Members absent: Councilor Marcus DiNatale

Others Present: John Deline, Deputy Commissioner of Water.

160-24 LOAN ORDER: that \$12,700,000 aggregate amount is appropriated for the following projects, including all costs incidental and related thereto, which amount may be apportioned to such projects as needed to accomplish the projects: (i) rehabilitation and/or upgrade of the Meetinghouse Gatehouse and Mare Meadow Pump Station, at an estimated cost of \$4,400,000; (ii) Main Street water main replacement project, at an estimated cost of \$6,000,000, which amount is expected to be used in addition to certain American Rescue Plan Act funds available for the project; and (iii) Regional Water Treatment Plant roof replacement and weatherproofing project, at an estimated cost of \$2,300,000; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Mayor is authorized to borrow \$12,700,000 under G.L. c.44, §8 or any other enabling authority; that the Mayor is authorized to contract for and expend any federal or state aid available for the projects; that the Mayor is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out the projects; and that the Treasurer is authorized to file an application with the Municipal Finance Oversight Board to qualify under Chapter 44A of the General Laws any or all of the bonds authorized by this order and to provide such information and execute such documents as the Municipal Finance Oversight Board may require for these purposes.

Discussion: Deputy Commissioner Deline gave a summary of the four projects.

The Main Street water main replacement project is also funded through ARPA funds. It will replace two cast iron mains originally installed from about 1880 to 1890, extending from the Upper Common to Lunenburg and Summer streets and will replace all lines to the buildings, ensuring adequate fire protection. This project is ahead of a sewer separation project coming up.

The Meetinghouse Gatehouse is the city's most important gatehouse, originally constructed 120-130 years ago and located just before the Westminster Regional Plant. The building, walls, and traveling screens need a complete rehab, and a cofferdam and bypass pump will be necessary during reconstruction to keep water flowing to the City. DEP requires that this work be done by the end of next year.

The Mare Meadow Pump Station is a very inefficient 50's era structure. The building and electrical panels need to be completely redone. It pumps into the Meetinghouse Reservoir then flows down to the Regional Plant for treatment. Meetinghouse is the city's largest and most important reservoir because of its water quality and recharge rate.

The Regional Water Treatment Plant is approaching 25+ years and has undergone periodic repairs over the years. A roof assessment also revealed that water getting into the building has caused damage through a concrete block wall that needs to be replaced. The roof deterioration and need for replacement is also on a list for DEP compliance.

Mr. Deline further stated that bids have come in favorably for these projects. Therefore, barring any unforeseen circumstances, borrowing the full sum may not be necessary. These capital project costs were included in the recent rate study and the associated debt service will be wholly funded by the Water Enterprise Fund, not the General Fund.

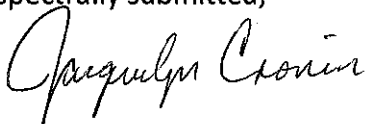
In response to Councilors' questions, Mr. Deline confirmed that the water mains will be sufficient to support future development, property owners have been contacted specifically regarding the potential need for fire protection. The prep work will begin this fall replacing valves and piping on Main Street and the side streets, to ensure temporary water supply is available during construction.

The Main Street project will begin this year with side streets and piping along Main, and be completed by the end of 2025, or spring of 2026. Final repaving will be done after the upcoming sewer separation project. The Meetinghouse Gatehouse will be complete next spring, Mare Meadow will be complete by the end of next summer/fall, and the treatment plant roof will be complete before this winter.

Action: (4-0) Be Adopted

The meeting adjourned at 5:47 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Jacquelyn Cronin, Clerk