

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 7, 2014

The meeting was called to order by His Honor, Mayor Hilliard, and upon roll call, the following members were found present: Soldati, Hebert, McCallion, Messier, Tapscott, Witham, Collins and Sprague. Absent: Pepin

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- A. Minutes of City Council Workshop Held on 3/03/14 – What it would Mean to become an Eco-Municipality. Motion by Councilor Tapscott, seconded by Councilor Hebert, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried 8-0.
- B. Minutes of City Council Workshop Held on 3/17/14 – Presentation by AG Architects – Improvements to the Former Hilltop School/Building. Motion by Councilor Tapscott, seconded by Councilor Hebert, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by a vote of 7 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor McCallion abstaining.
- C. Minutes of Public Hearing held on 3/17/14 – Ordinance No. 12-14 Amending Chapter 13, Police Offenses, Section 3.4.B, Speeds. Motion by Councilor Tapscott, seconded by Councilor Hebert, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by a vote of 7 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor McCallion abstaining.
- D. Minutes of Public Hearing held on 3/17/14 – Ordinance No. 13-14 Amending Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Tables 4.A.3.9, 4.A.3.10 and 4.A.3 to Permit Chickens in All Residential Districts Provided that Certain Criteria have been Met. Motion by Councilor Tapscott, seconded by Councilor Hebert, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by a vote of 7 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor McCallion abstaining.
- E. Minutes of City Council Meeting held on 3/17/14. Motion by Councilor Witham, seconded by Councilor Hebert, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried by a vote of 7 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor McCallion abstaining.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Katie Bouchard, 69 Bartlett Ave., noted that the week of April 6th through April 12th is the Week of the Young Child. Young children are the future of our communities and there are many ways that Somersworth can come together for children. We can take some time to support early literacy, thank teachers who work with our children, and work towards public policies that benefit all young children. Topper Tots Child Development Center will be celebrating young children in our community through a variety of activities. Today a group walked to the Pines Playground. Parents of the program will join the children tomorrow for waffles prepared by the Culinary Arts Program. The week will end with bouncy houses and a celebration with the students. They would like to remind both members of the City Council and the School Board

about the Art Show this Thursday night, April 10th. They can come and enjoy the artwork done by the children and bid on silent auction items.

Bill Griffith, 52 Grove Street, said he is here to speak about chickens. He is neither for or against it. He understands some people want to be in control of their own food chain. We should be thoughtful about how we do this. If you have a dog, you need a license. If you replace your windows, you need a permit. He is hoping they will monitor or enforce this. He understands it is a long process to have that happen. If one has a dog, they have to have a health permit, so why not with these animals? Also, we need to know which kinds of chickens are OK and which are not. He is not asking the City to monitor this, but there should be some specs laid out. He wants it to be a thoughtful process and would not mind being involved with it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY COUNCILORS.

Councilor Soldati shared a health statistic, that 1.2M cases of salmonella occur in this country every year. That is not coming from backyard chickens, but from commercially grown chickens that are forced to live in crowded conditions. These cases of salmonella are the reason there is a national movement for people to have control over what they are consuming.

COMMUNICATIONS.

EMAIL OF CITY ATTORNEY OPINION REGARDING ELECTION OF CANDIDATE TO FILL A COUNCILOR VACANCY.

Councilor Witham moved to suspend the rules in order to allow the City Clerk to read the opinion from our City Attorney. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed unanimously.

From: Jae Whitelaw, Mitchell Municipal Group
Sent: March 20, 2014
To: Bob Belmore, City Manager
Subject: Charter Question – Election of Candidate to Fill a Councilor Vacancy

Hi Bob,

I am writing to follow up our telephone conversation regarding your charter question on the election of a candidate to fill a Councilor vacancy. I do not believe that the primary held in September constitutes an “election” for purposes of Section 3.2(A) of the Charter. Therefore, Sean Collins, the individual appointed to fill the Council vacancy until the next election, serves until the term of the individual elected at the November election begins in January per Section 3.1(C).

Please do not hesitate to contact me with further questions. Thanks.

Jae Whitelaw
Mitchell Municipal Group, P.A.
25 Beacon Street East
Laconia, NH 03246
603-524-3885
jae@mitchellmunigroup.com

Councilor Witham moved to enter the City Attorney opinion into the record. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

LETTER FROM PAULINE LABONTE.

March 21, 2014

Diane DuBois, City Clerk

Dear Diane,

Please accept my resignation as a Selectman in Ward 4. I have moved and now reside in Ward 2.

Pauline LaBonte

Motion by Councilor Witham that we accept this resignation with regret. She has served the City very well. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION BY CITY AUDITORS VACHON, CLUKAY & COMPANY PC FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING 6/30/13.

Robert Vachon introduced himself as the Principal of Vachon, Clukay & Company. He introduced Tammy Webb, Director of Audit Services. Ms. Webb reported that as one should expect, the City received an Unmodified Opinion on its financial statements as of and for the year ended June 30, 2013. The City also received an Unmodified Opinion on its Federal Compliance Audit.

Financial Highlights

- Total assets and deferred outflows of resources of the City amount to \$82.7M. The majority consists of capital assets of \$59.1M and another \$15.7M in cash and investments.
- Total Liabilities and deferred inflows of resources of the City amount to \$57.6M. The majority pertains to outstanding bond obligations of \$34.7M and unearned property tax revenue of \$9.2M.

- Net position at June 30, 2013 for the City totaled \$25.1M as follows: net investment in capital assets of \$26.1M; restricted net position of \$274 thousand; the balance of (\$1.2M) represents a deficit as the compensated absences and OPEB are unfunded liabilities.

Ms. Webb stated the total revenues and other financing sources exceeded budgeted estimates by \$21,000. That is a great job estimating the fiscal year revenue. Total expenditures and other financing uses of \$38.8M were \$438,000 less than final budgeted amounts. Again, very good job in managing the City's finances within the approved budget.

Ms. Webb indicated there was a decrease in the budgetary fund balance over last year which was anticipated since \$350,000 of the City's fund balance from June 30, 2012 was used to reduce the tax rate. The City's fund balance policy is to strive to maintain an unassigned fund balance equal to 5-17% of the total appropriations of the community. The City's actual percentage is 9.61%.

Enterprise Funds

Ms. Webb stated the City of Somersworth has two significant enterprise funds – the Water Fund and the Sewer Fund. Several resolutions were previously passed authorizing the increase in user fees for both water and sewer users. These increased user fees have had a positive impact on each fund. The last rate increase was effective July 1, 2011. The rate increases and the change to monthly billings has effectively achieved the following:

- Advances from the General Fund have been repaid.
- Cash and equivalents are now positive figures.
- Cash flows have improved due to monthly billings.
- The unrestricted net position has increased.
- The water fund and sewer fund have achieved the status of “self-supporting” enterprise funds.

Ms. Webb reported the City expended approximately \$1.8M in federal awards, and a federal compliance audit was also performed. Of the federal awards, \$1.59M (or 89.3%) pertains to the school department. As part of the federal compliance audit, they tested the City's internal control over both financial reporting and on compliance with the federal awards. She is pleased to report there were no deficiencies or weaknesses identified and no findings or questioned costs to report.

Ms. Webb congratulated the City on their outstanding efforts. On behalf of herself and the members of their firm, she thanked the City for allowing them to serve as their independent auditors. She also expressed appreciation to the management team, especially the finance office within the City and the school department, for their assistance during the audit.

Councilor McCallion asked what the difference is between “unmodified opinion” and “modified opinion.”

Ms. Webb replied that in some communities they audit they have to issue “modified opinions” mainly because they have not adopted GASB45, which is having an actuarial study done to estimate your OPEB (Other Post Employment Benefits) liability. We would have to modify the opinion for that.

MAYOR’S REPORT.

Mayor Hilliard presented Amy Michaels with a Proclamation relative to the week of 4/7/14 through 4/11/14 being the Week of the Young Child in Somersworth, NH.

Mayor Hilliard reported the following activities:

- On Friday, 3/21/14, I along with City Manager Belmore, Emmett Soldati from the Friends of Somersworth, Christien Dubois and William Travascio from my office met with Scott Merrick from US Senator Jeanne Shaheen’s office. The purpose of the meeting was to engage our second NH US Senator in the Hilltop renovation project. The meeting was successful, with a commitment from Sen. Shaheen for guidance and support, of how we can peruse and possibly secure federal grants in the re-use project. Thanks to the guidance of Sen. Shaheen’s office a third meeting was scheduled on the Hilltop project on Friday 4/04/14 with Alan Brigham for the Federal Economic Development Administration.
- The prospects of securing federal funds for the re-use of Hilltop project continues to look promising. I was encouraged of the future of the project by those in attendance during the 4/04/14 meeting. In addition to the City Manager, Emmett Soldati and I, three members of our NH Congressional delegation were at the table in a sign of their commitment to the project. Bud Fitch, State Director from Sen Ayotte’s Office was present, along with Scott Merrick, Assistant State Director from Sen. Shaheen’s Office. First Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter was also represented by Josh Denton, Outreach Coordinator. The purpose of the meeting was to seek guidance from Alan Brigham, Economic Development Representative from the Federal office of the Economic Development Administration. Mr. Brigham was able to give us useful guidance on seeking grant approval and outlined the competitive process. We will be meeting with representatives from the US Department of Agriculture on 4/16/14 to seek guidance on grant possibilities from the USDA. I will keep you posted.
- On Saturday 5/10/14 I will hold the first community forum with Mayor, City Councilors and School Board members. This is an opportunity for the public to come share coffee and pastries with the Mayor and members of the City Council and School Board in a non-formal setting. Its purpose is to continue to create dialogue, exchange ideas, voice concerns and continue to keep our community moving forward. To meet the guidelines of Stare RSA I will only be hosting the Councilors and School Board member from Ward 1. Each month I will host a different Ward or At Large member until all members have

been invited. The time for the event will be from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. in Council Chambers.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES.

Councilor Witham reported the Finance Committee will be meeting tomorrow, 4/08/14, at 9:00 a.m.

Councilor Sprague reported the Public Works & Environment Committee will be meeting tomorrow, 4/08/14, at 8:00 a.m.

REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES.

Councilor Witham reported the Vision 2020 Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, 4/09/14, at 4:00 p.m.

STRAFFORD REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION (SRPC.)

Councilor Tapscott reported he attended the third quarter Commissioner's meeting on 3/27/14. They had a presentation by Kyle Barker of Barker Architects and Ashlee Iber, Executive Director of the Work Force Housing Coalition for the Greater Seacoast. Both focused on housing. Mr. Barker's presentation looked on the benefits of denser, smaller scale development using a case study from Concord, NH. Ms. Iber presented an introduction to the Work Force Housing Coalition. To end the meeting, Liz Durfee, a recent hire, presented three options for vision statements for the climate change appendix.

Councilor Soldati reported the Sustainability Committee will be meeting on 4/17/14 at 6:00 p.m. They will be showing a documentary called Transition 2.0. This will be free to the public. She encouraged people to attend.

PLANNING BOARD.

Councilor Witham reported on Planning Board activity as follows:

- The redevelopment of the Star Lumber property was approved. That project is already underway.
- Approved a modest addition to Tri-City Subaru on Route 108. They will be expanding their service bays.
- They continue to work on the other very large project of 177 homes proposed for the Sunningdale parcel.

Councilor Sprague reported the Rail Service Advisory Committee will be meeting on 4/15/14 at 4:30 p.m. for an organizational meeting.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT.



CITY OF SOMERSWORTH

Office of the City Manager

TO: Mayor Dana Hilliard and City Council Members

FROM: Robert M. Belmore, City Manager

DATE: Friday, April 4, 2014

SUBJECT: City Manager's Report for Monday, April 7, 2014
City Council Agenda

5:30 p.m. - City Council Workshop

*Re: Presentation by Ian Penn, Sr. Analyst – SKEO Solutions of Virginia on
Landfill Solar Energy Feasibility Study (Renewable Energy Reuse Assessment)*

6:45 p.m. – Public Hearing

*Re: Resolution No. 38 -14 To Amend Resolution No. 8-13 To Increase the Number of
HVAC Units that can be Replaced in Somersworth Schools .*

Unfinished Business (under Section 13 of Agenda)

Ordinances:

- A. Ordinance No. 13-14 Amending Chapter 19, Zoning Ordinance, Tables 4.A.3.9, 4.A.3.10 and 4.A.3 to Permit Chickens in All Residential Districts Provided that Certain Minimum Criteria have been Met. (In Committee).**

Resolutions:

- A. Resolution No. 29-14 To Demolish the Former Police Station and Establish a City Park. (Referred to Committee).**

- B. Resolution No. 36-14 Authorizing the City Manager to Sell City Tax Deeded Property at 116-118 Green Street.**

- C. Resolution No. 38-14 To Amend Resolution No. 8-13 To Increase the Number of HVAC Units that can be Replaced in Somersworth Schools.** This action item will require a two thirds vote by City Council.

New Business (under Section 14 of Agenda)

- A. Resolution No. 39-14 Vote to Authorize a Comprehensive Study to Examine the Need for the Construction of a New Fire Station.** This action item emanates from the Council's annual Goal Session.

City Manager's Items (under section 10 of Agenda)

A. Information Items:

- 1. TE Grant Update.** Attached is a memorandum updating the Grant's projected schedule. With a little luck, we hope to complete the Transportation Enhancement Grant Project work concurrently with the Downtown Infrastructure Project.
- 2. New Hampshire's Emergency Notification System (NH-ENS).** Attached is a memorandum from Fire Chief Hoyle providing details of our decision to utilize the State of New Hampshire's Emergency Notification System (NH-ENS). Currently Somersworth uses Nixel, Channel 22, the City website and City Manager's e-Blast. This state system is another avenue for the City to get out Emergency messages to citizens at no cost to the City.
- 3. New Online Library Catalog and Library Cards.** Attached is a memorandum from Library Director Debora Longo describing the implementation of the new on-line Library Catalog and Library Cards. This new "nhailLOCAL" online catalog together with the new "Koha" borrowing system offer residents access to their Library account 24/7 through the internet. This is the culmination of a year's efforts to launch this program. Congratulations to Debora and her staff.
- 4. Police Department Intern.** I am pleased to inform you that we have another college intern, Lauren Baylor from Great Bay Community College. Lauren will be working on the PD website updating their content as well as researching the benefits for the department's possible use of social media.
- 5. Serve with Liberty.** Attached is a memorandum that provides details on the Serve with Liberty Program. Again, this year the City in partnership with Liberty Mutual will have the use of 50 volunteers to work on several City Projects:
 - Mast Point Dam
 - Noble Pines Ball Park
 - Willand Pond Trail.

B. Attachments:

1. City Attorney Certificates (2).

2. City Manager letter dated April 2nd to General Electric regarding GE's share for Somersworth's Superfund Site record of decision associated costs.
3. City Newsletters: City e-Newsletter; Somersworth Advantage-Business e-Newsletter; Recreation Department e-Newsletter; Employee Newsletter.
4. Vachon Clukay CPA Financial Statements FY Ending June 30, 2013.

NOMINATIONS, APPOINTMENTS AND ELECTIONS.

A. Appointments to Sustainability Committee

- Ross Forester, Community Member At Large, Term to Expire 04/2016.
- Liz Wilson, Reappointment as Chair, Term to Expire 04/2016.

B. Nomination to Board of Assessors

- James Cowan, Reappointment, Term to Expire 04/2017.

C. Nomination to Trustee of Trust Funds

- John Jackman, Reappointment, Term to Expire 04/2017.

D. Nomination to Planning Board

- Don Berrios, Alternate Member, Term to Expire 04/2017.

E. Nomination to Library Board of Trustees

- Nancie Cameron, Term to Expire 04/2017.

Mayor Hilliard said the nominations will remain open until the April 21st City Council Meeting.

LAY ON TABLE.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

Nominations, Appointments and Elections:

A. Nomination to Library Board of Trustees:

- Pius Murray, Term to Expire 04/2017.

Councilor McCallion moved to approve this nomination. The motion was seconded by Councilor Witham and passed unanimously.

B. Nominations to Planning Board:

- Reappointment of Ronald LeHoullier as a Regular Member, Term to Expire 04/2017.

Councilor Soldati moved to accept this nomination. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed unanimously.

- Thomas McCallion, Alternate, Term to Expire 04/2017.

Councilor Tapscott moved to accept this nomination. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hebert and passed by a vote of 7 yeas, 1 abstention, Councilor McCallion abstaining.

Ordinances:

ORDINANCE NO. 14-14 FY 2014-2015 BUDGET.

Councilor Witham moved to amend Elected Leadership, Community Support, line 5480, Aids Response, by removing \$500, leaving 0 dollars. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion, and passed by roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays.

Councilor Witham moved to amend Elected Leadership, Community Support, line 5488, Somersworth Youth Connection, by adding \$500, bringing the total to \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott and passed unanimously.

Councilor Witham moved to amend Elected Leadership, Community Support, line 5477, Youth Safe Haven, by removing \$1,000 in funding, bringing the amount to \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott. Councilor Witham feels this group does a lot of good work, but is very focused

Councilor Soldati said she is opposed to this amendment because this program targets the children who are most in need. She feels this is a wonderful anchor and she sees no reason to reduce their funding.

Councilor Sprague said he is also against this. This program only serves 40 children but it is probably the ones that need it the most. Families also get a lot of education from the programs.

Councilor McCallion said he does not think we need to take money away. They do a lot of projects with the kids, including community gardens.

Councilor Collins said he is opposed as well. He knows people who have benefited from this program.

Councilor Messier said he cannot support this either for a lot the reasons that have already been stated.

The motion to reduce funding to Youth Safe Haven by \$1,000 failed by roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays.

Councilor Witham moved to amend Development Services, Recreation, line 0241 Recreation Supervisor by adding \$10,000 – bringing that line to \$44,179. The motion was seconded by Councilor Soldati.

Councilor Witham said this salary looked very meager to him in terms of attracting and retaining quality people. We have an excellent individual right now, and he would like him to stick around. We have to do what we can, within reason, to retain quality people.

Councilor Soldati said she wholly supports this. We are very lucky to have a young director who has turned the department around and that we can be very proud of.

Councilor McCallion said it is tough to add any money to a budget but he would be in favor of this. He would like to see some consolidation with the school's recreation department.

Councilor Collins said that as a father of 5 children, and having been a resident for almost 20 years, he has a very strong valuation of the Recreation Department. As a City we've encountered some hardship with the turnover in that Department. The current resource is doing the best he can, and this increase is reasonable.

The motion to amend line 0241 Recreation Supervisor by adding \$10,000 passed by roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nays.

Councilor Witham moved to amend Public Works & Utilities, Street Maintenance, Line 4177 Paint for Roads, by adding \$11,000 in funding, bringing that line to \$15,250. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Councilor Witham assured the public he is not overspending the tax cap. The proposed budget by the City Manager was \$75,000 below the tax cap, and there were some things he thought we would benefit from, this being one of them. This would provide funding so that items that require hand painting (crosswalks, etc.) would be contracted out and would get done fairly quickly. This would benefit public safety and also would free up our limited Public Works crew to do other important work throughout the City.

The motion to amend line 4177 Paint for Roads by adding \$11,000 passed unanimously.

Motion by Councilor Witham to amend School Department, School Expenses, line 2000 Education Expenses, by adding \$15,000 to that line. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Councilor Witham said there are three positions the School Department currently is not funding that would be important for us to weave into the budget over the next several years. This \$15,000 represents a part time position. Councilor Witham moved to suspend the rules in order to allow the School Superintendent or the School Board Chair to speak to this. The motion carried unanimously.

Superintendent Mosca indicated this is a high school position, one block, and is a broadcasting position. The City and School Department have been working very closely so that eventually within the very near future you will have an Educational Channel in addition to City Channel 22. This position will help us to create a pathway for high school students who may be interested in broadcasting as a future. This would be a very valuable position.

Superintendent Mosca added that as we move forward one of the pieces is that every five years we have to submit to the State of New Hampshire our school approval status. The building administrators need to take a look at all of the personnel and all of the programs currently offered based on the minimum standards that the State puts out and how we are meeting those standards. She stated they are a little short in some areas. They have a need for a part time media specialist at one of the elementary schools.

Councilor Collins said he understands the limited finances we have to work with under the tax cap. He understands this money could be used for roads and other infrastructure items that are direly needed. He is very proud of the School Board and what they have done with their budget and he thinks using this money for the School Department is appropriate and would be well spent.

Councilor Sprague said he is fully against this unless Councilor Witham can find someplace else in the budget to take out \$15,000. If you look at our Road Resurfacing Program, we only have \$150,000 in this year's budget. It was \$200,000 last year. That budget item needs to be up around \$600,000. If his calculations are correct, we will have \$54,000 remaining in unallocated funds and he would like to see that amount put into the resurfacing budget. That still would be only a small amount of what we need.

Councilor Sprague said all we ever hear is everybody complaining about the roads. If we do not start taking care of our infrastructure no one is going to do it for us.

Councilor Messier said he supports the motion to put \$15,000 into the school budget. It is a position we will eventually have to fund. We added \$10,000 to a position in our budget. He would support the remaining balance going into road resurfacing.

Councilor Soldati supports Councilor Sprague's position on this issue.

Councilor Collins said these positions are valid because we do have a lot of people complaining about our roads, but as a City we also get criticized very heavily for our school system.

Councilor Witham said all the points are valid, it just articulates the long list of needs we have in our community. He would support the remaining money going towards roads, but he feels the School Department should have this \$15,000 for this position.

The motion to amend line 2000 of the School Department budget by adding \$15,000 ended in a tie vote (roll call) of 4 yeas, 4 nays, Councilors Soldati, McCallion, Tapscott and Sprague voting in the negative. Mayor Hilliard broke the tie by voting in the negative, whereupon the motion failed.

Councilor Sprague moved to amend Public Works and Utilities, Street Maintenance, line 9104 Road Resurfacing by increasing it to \$600,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins.

Councilor Sprague pointed out that this is where we need the money. The roads will not take care of themselves. What you do not do today will compound in road reconstruction costs. These issues do not go away. If it means overriding the tax cap he would be in favor of doing that.

Councilor Collins feels Councilor Sprague makes a very important point. If we continue to push off road resurfacing, it will only increase costs in the future.

Councilor Witham applauded Councilor Sprague for championing our infrastructure. He cannot argue with his points. We have bonds coming to maturity in the near future. Hopefully we will be able to address some of these roads by replacing one bond with another.

Councilor Witham said when he ran for his seat he had said he would only override the tax cap for two reasons, one being public safety, and the other education. He cannot vote for this increase.

Councilor Messier said he would not vote in favor of this either.

The motion to increase line 9104 Road Resurfacing by \$450,000 failed by a vote of 1 yea, 7 nays, Councilor Sprague voting in favor.

Councilor Sprague moved to amend line 9104 Road Resurfacing by adding \$54,000 which would bring it up to \$204,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hebert.

Councilor Witham moved to amend the motion to line 9104 Road Resurfacing by changing \$54,000 to \$39,000 which would bring the total to \$189,000. Motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Councilor Witham indicated this would balance the needs of the schools and the roads.

Councilor Collins said he agrees with this. This is a good balance.

The motion to increase line 9104 Road Resurfacing by \$39,000 passed by roll call vote of 6 yeas, 2 nays, Councilors McCallion and Sprague voting in the negative.

Councilor Witham moved to amend School Department line 2000 Educational Expenses by adding \$15,000. Motion was seconded by Councilor Hebert.

Councilor Witham said he reintroduced this amendment because it seems to be the spirit and intent of the Council, with the prior motion, to strike a balance between roads and the School Department.

Councilor Collins said he agrees with Councilor Witham. This strikes a balance, and this is an important consideration.

The motion to amend School Department line 2000 Educational Expenses by adding \$15,000 passed by roll call vote of 5 yeas, 3 nays, Councilors Soldati, McCallion and Sprague voting in the negative.

Finance Director Smith gave an update as follows:

- Total budget - \$44,732,184
- Tax rate – estimated \$31.19
- Increase - \$00.72 over last year

Councilor Sprague moved to table Ordinance No. 14-14. The motion was seconded by Councilor Collins and passed by roll call vote of 5 yeas, 3 nays, Councilors Hebert, Messier and Witham voting in the negative.

Councilor Soldati left at this time.

Resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 36-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO SELL CITY TAX DEEDED PROPERTY AT 116-118 GREEN STREET.

Councilor Witham moved to adopt this Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilor Tapscott.

The City Manager indicated we will be going out for an RFP for a realtor to market all the properties the Council has authorized to sell and get them back on the tax rolls.

Councilor Messier indicated that if this property and Chabot's Dairy are not sold by September he will be sponsoring a resolution to tear them down. We have enough blight in the City.

Councilor Witham said it is his understanding the building is uninhabitable.

Resolution No. 36-14 failed by roll call vote of 1 yeas, 5 nays, and 1 abstention, Councilor McCallion voting in the affirmative, Councilor Sprague abstaining.

RESOLUTION NO. 38-14 TO AMEND RESOLUTION 8-13 TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF HVAC UNITS THAT CAN BE REPLACED IN SOMERSWORTH SCHOOLS.

Councilor Witham moved to adopt Resolution No. 38-14. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Councilor Witham indicated the Finance Committee supported this Resolution. This is money that was left from the original bond amount for the same type of work.

Resolution No. 38-14 passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

NEW BUSINESS.

RESOLUTION NO. 39-14 VOTE TO AUTHORIZE A COMPREHENSIVE STUDY TO EXAMINE THE NEED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW FIRE STATION.

Somersworth, NH

April 7, 2014

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth's current fire station was constructed in 1977 on Maple Street through a supervised High School project; and

WHEREAS, the City of Somersworth Capital Improvement Program for FY2015-2020 calls for the construction of a new fire station;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City will conduct a comprehensive study to examine the need for the construction of a new fire station. Such a study may include an assessment of the existing fire station; current and future space needs of the Fire Department; and suitable locations for a fire station.

Introduced by Mayor

Dana S. Hilliard

Approved:

City Attorney

Following the first reading of Resolution No. 39-14, it was referred to the next meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 42-14 SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE SENATE BILL 366 BY THE NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Somersworth, NH

April 7, 2014

WHEREAS, revenue sharing with New Hampshire cities and towns pursuant to New Hampshire Revised Statutes Annotated 31-A has been suspended since 2010; and

WHEREAS, prior to the suspension of revenue sharing in 2010, the City of Somersworth was receiving approximately \$390,000 in additional state funding on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire Senate Bill 366, as amended, provides for the authorization of casino gaming in New Hampshire and was approved by the New Hampshire Senate on March 27, 2014, by a 15-9 vote; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire Senate Bill 366 will also fully restore revenue sharing with New Hampshire cities and towns so that the City of Somersworth could again expect to receive additional state funding of approximately \$390,000 on an annual basis; and

WHEREAS, New Hampshire Senate Bill 366, as amended, will now be considered by the New Hampshire House of Representatives,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SOMERSWORTH THAT the City Council, finding that it would materially benefit the City of Somersworth, urges the New Hampshire House of Representatives to vote in favor of passage of New Hampshire Senate Bill 366, as amended.

Introduced by Mayor
Dana S. Hilliard
Councilor Marcel Hebert
Councilor Jonathan McCallion
Councilor Denis Messier
Councilor Brian Tapscott
Councilor David Witham
Councilor Sean Collins
Councilor Dale Sprague

Approved:

City Attorney

Councilor Tapscott moved to suspend the rules in order to have a second reading of Resolution No. 42-14 by title only. Motion was seconded by Councilor Messier and passed unanimously.

Following the second reading of Resolution No. 42-14 by title, Councilor Witham moved to adopt the Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilor Messier.

Councilor Witham stated the debate over gambling in New Hampshire has been lengthy and controversial. He finds himself teetering on the fence regarding this matter. In cases like this you have to balance the pros and cons. While he feels there are a lot of societal ills that come along with gambling, he does think that some of the benefits, in terms of some increased revenue sharing to our local level, far outweigh the drawbacks. He will support this Resolution.

Councilor McCallion said people are going to gamble wherever the gambling is. He would rather we control it and benefit from it.

Resolution No. 42-14 passed by roll call vote of 7 yeas, 0 nays.

Councilor Sprague asked to have his name added to Resolution No. 42-14. Mayor Hilliard stated that without objection, the names of all Councilors who are present would be added to the Resolution.

COMMENTS BY VISITORS.

Pius Murray, 231 High Street, Ward 3, thanked Mayor Hilliard for nominating him to serve on the Library Board of Trustees and to all the Councilors for confirming his nomination. He pledges to work with all of our stakeholders to ensure that the Somersworth Public Library remains one of our best educational, cultural and recreational institutions serving all of our citizens.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY COUNCIL MEMBERS.

Councilor McCallion said he thought we had a chance of passing the budget tonight. He feels the Council and School Board are on the same page and he thinks that through communication and education we have been back and forth, but he thought it could have passed tonight. We heard about the idea of a solar farm tonight, and that could be a good opportunity for us. There are a lot of good things coming.

Councilor Messier thanked all the people that were involved with the audit, both on the school side and the city side. To have no findings is exceptional.

Councilor Witham said that he too thought we had a chance at passing the budget tonight. He wasn't going to pass it until we hit the tax cap number because we have so many pressing needs. He wished to applaud staff for the good work on our financials. The audit report gets better every year. The residents should be very pleased that our financial business is very much in order. That is due to the hard work of a lot of dedicated staff.

Councilor Witham said that over the weekend he saw the public service announcement on Channel 22 being done by Economic Development Manager Christine Soutter about our downtown project. She talked about traffic interruption, the bridge closure, etc. It was a very positive piece about some important information. This is another way we are using our technology. She did a great job and he thanked her for that.

Councilor Collins rearticulated the fact that as a new member of the Council he is extremely honored and proud of our community. The school system, the City Manager, the City Council are functional. There is a broad spectrum of perceptions and views, and he feels we have a very

functional city government. Everyone at home should see this and understand that this is a great thing. He is leaving this meeting with a great feeling . We didn't pass the budget tonight, but he feels the actions they took were right, and the people at home should understand that every person invested in this process is in it to win it. He is proud to be part of the City Council.

Councilor Sprague said he does not think there is a rush to pass the budget. He would like to look at it a bit further and see if there is some money for roads.

Mayor Hilliard applauded all Councilors this evening. A lot of work got done in a very short time frame. The budget debates were all enlightening and well thought out in regards to amendments, and all was done with an air of statesmanship. He is honored to be a part of this and honored to be your Mayor at this time.

ADJOURNMENT.

Councilor Witham moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor McCallion and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. DuBois, City Clerk