

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

NOVEMBER 1, 1993

The Committee on Finance meets this day at 5:00 o'clock P.M., in Committee Room "A", City Clerk's Department, City Hall.

PRESENT: Chairman Dillon, Councilwoman Fargnoli and Councilman Igliazzi.

ABSENT: Councilman Glavin and Councilman Fenton.

(Subsequently, Councilman Glavin and Councilman Fenton join the Committee).

Also present are Stephen Woerner, City Internal Auditor, Patricia McLaughlin, Deputy City Solicitor, Boyce Spinelli, Finance Director, Alex Prignano, Budget Officer, Michael R. Clement, City Clerk and Claire E. Brooke-Stewart, Assistant Clerk.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AUTHORITY TO USE UNSPENT PROCEEDS OF THE VEAZIE STREET SCHOOL PROJECT TO DEVELOP SCHOOL ADDITIONS.

AN ORDINANCE IN AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 1993-34, AS APPROVED OCTOBER 21, 1993, ENTITLED: "AN ORDINANCE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 21, SECTION 19 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PROVIDENCE ENTITLED: "CAPITAL EQUIPMENT BUDGET," AS AMENDED.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Item number 1 and number 4 are actually interrelated. After discussion last week, we left it that we would amend the Capital Improvement Master Lease Ordinance.

MR. PRIGNANO: It is no longer called the Master Lease. It is just the Capital Equipment lease.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Alright, Capital Equipment Lease.

MR. PRIGNANO: Because we are not going to do it for any time period just this one. We are not doing it for a blanket like 2 years because we are going to bid it every time. In the past we would just do it, we would bid a Master Lease Program and do all our leasing under that approval per year period or two year period we will just come in for this one lease.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: What is the length of it going to be? Have you already closed on the one that we approved a couple of weeks ago?

MR. PRIGNANO: No.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Wouldn't it make more sense just to amend that?

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MR. PRIGNANO: Yes, we are. I am just saying, we are not calling it a Master Lease any more. Master leased referred that all your leasing would be done under this blanket and Master Lease approval. We are just doing this one Capital Equipment Lease. We are no longer calling it a Master Lease. Every time we go out for any leasing we will come before you, we will go out and get bids.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: But we in the venacular have called the Master Lease, the stuff that we are going to purchase this year and pay back over a five year period.

MR. PRIGNANO: That's right.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: We are amending that Ordinance and changing the name to call it Capital Equipment.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: Did the School Department have an explanation for their reason for using up that money.

MR. PRIGNANO: To be honest, I didn't even pursue with them. I just thought it was the wish of this Committee to just add it in and not even have the School Department come in so I didn't even pursue it with them.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to say that on Friday I did some checking, I know you called me and asked me whether I wanted to request the School Department here and I said, they haven't even returned my calls since the problem arose so I have no need for them. If the Council can act without them, I would just assume act without them, I think was Claire that called me, the reason why they are not here is because you left it in my court. I never got a return call from 2 weeks or a week and a half from when this became an issue. I just want the record to reflect, the only call I ever got was from Charles Mansolillo who had gotten a return call from Mr. DeRobbio and Charles Mansolillo put me on a conference call with Mr. DeRobbio and I told Mr. DeRobbio what I planned on doing and he, during that conversation said, you should make sure that there is enough money in there for whatever furniture is going to go into the additions to Laurel Hill School and I said, I thought that was in the \$165,000.00 and he said, I don't think that is the case so on Friday morning I checked into it and Alan Sepe assured me that this furniture was purchased in anticipation of Laurel Hill School too, this includes

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Laurel Hill School. That number did not have to be increased. They don't even know what numbers they are talking about. In other words, the \$165,000.00 worth of furniture, included not only the 3 other schools but included the furniture for Laurel Hill School so it included furniture for us and that is the right number that has to be transferred. Mr. DeRobbio didn't even know what that number was. I know more about how that number was created than he does so I don't know what explanation he would service here. I can't contain my hostility because it just seems to me for a lousy \$165,000.00, they would go through this trouble to enrun this Committee the way they did when we made such a heated debate about this issue in April of 1993.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: As long as we are accomplishing what satisfies the Laurel Hill Avenue School.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: I appreciate it. If we transfer the \$165,000.00 and reimburse the PBA \$165,000.00, PBA will then have the \$165,000.00 plus the balance of \$100,000.00, which they already had, and Alan Sepe had a balance of \$100,000.00 in the Education Fund, that is \$365,000.00. Laurel Hill, three classrooms get built and in this number, this \$165,000.00, includes furniture for Laurel Hill which is what the original intention was and I don't know why they didn't do this originally.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: But that was supposed to come out of the School Department.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: This is going to be.

MR. WOERNER: This will still come out.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: As long as it comes from the School Department.

MR. WOERNER: It will.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: And then we get reimbursed.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: And then you get reimbursed on that because that would be the only proper way to do it.

MR. WOERNER: And Alan has already gone out to bid on Laurel Hill and he said that the bids are coming in.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Is the form okay on item number 1?

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

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CHAIRMAN DILLON: Law Department says yes. What is the difference on the one that passed before? How do you get around that? You just added Laurel Hill?

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: No.

MR. WOERNER: It is all in there.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: All you need is to amend the Capital Equipment Budget.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: That is the whole issue, Mr. Chairman. Number 1, I had this presented to show the Committee. Number 1, we had Laurel Hill in there.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Why don't we just move to Item 4 and make a motion on it.

COUNCILMAN IGLIOZZI: I would move passage based upon the reasons that I stated today and last Thursday.

On motion of Councilman Igliazzi, seconded by Councilwoman Fargnoli, it is voted to approve the foregoing Ordinance.

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE NOMINATION OF KEVEN A. MCKENNA TO THE PROVIDENCE REVIEW COMMISSION.

On motion of Councilwoman Fargnoli, seconded by Councilman Glavin, it is voted to Postpone Indefinitely the foregoing Resolution.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING LONG TERM FINANCING OF TWELVE MILLION DOLLARS (\$12,000,000.00) CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR THE PROVIDENCE WATER SUPPLY BOARD/PROVIDENCE PUBLIC BUILDINGS AUTHORITY.

On motion of Councilwoman Fargnoli, seconded by Councilman Glavin, it is voted to approve the foregoing Resolution.

PENDING MATTERS.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: We had the legislative. We need to get a list because this has always been a lengthy process and it always bogs down so we need as a Council or as a Committee, however the Council feels is appropriate, but we need to get a list of the initiatives that we want to put in front of the legislature.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: The other thing is, like the last two years, all of your proposals have been done, been submitted, and then they died so you need someone to do your follow-up and get your stuff in there.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: That is true.

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MS. MCLAUGHLIN: That is what happened last year. They were all in there just nobody followed up on it.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: How do we want to handle this?

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: That is the important part that you get somebody to follow-up.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: It is somewhat of an informal process. I would think that we should at least, at first, be working from just a list of ideas, really, not necessarily all the acts. We kind of get ---- in our own reiterate because what we do is we say, there is three lists. There is the Mayor's list of things that he wants to do, then there is our list and there is somewhat overlapping between and then there is a third list of a whole bunch of other legislation that is up there that we want to endorse and not endorse as we see fit.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: That is a whole separate issue.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Right and every time we get these things in this Committee, then somebody says, well how can we vote on it if we don't see the legislation.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: You should start the process early though.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: That is part of what we get tied up in and at the end of the thing a lot of the stuff is already killed and we say, well we didn't really act.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: I think we spend our time, we get this list of endorsements of like 100 bills and it is impossible for us to go through 100 bills. I think what we discussed at that meeting was, we should concentrate on maybe 4, 5 or 6 major items that we think are really important, not that we wouldn't have a continued interest in other issue as well but I think it is if we are looking to see some particular and specific accomplishment then we should just sort of key on a few particular issues. The water rate is one of them that has been a pet peeve of mine and quite a few Council people, Evelyn and other people and I think it would be good to dig up the old list, let's review it.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: I will dig up the old package from last year.

MR. WOERNER: Or two years ago.

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COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: And in the meantime, I was going to ask Jimmy to see if he wanted me to send a letter out to the Council people asking them to submit.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: That is my question. Do you want to do that in this Committee?

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Either way. I don't really care. I just think if we are going to do it, we should do it quickly. We are going to have another meeting in a couple of weeks.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: You know, last year, we got weigh laid because we wanted the corporation of the Administration because we felt that he had a relationship there that might have moved things along but evidently it wasn't there so that if we have to do something, we have to do it on our own.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: The other point, quite simply is come March and April, everyone is going to be involved in their own personal campaign activity. Things are going to be muddy as it is. We should get some stuff on there, key in, let know what we are interested in and see if they can get together as a group and get behind a couple of 2 or 3 major pieces that we think are important to us.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: You are going to --- Council a list and say here is a list of what we were talking about before.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: I will bring you your old packages.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: I can send the letter out because Jimmy wasn't at the meeting. If the letter should come from Jimmy, that is fine with me, I don't care but I think something should get out to the Council with a copy of what was kicked around last year and have people get back to us with their concerns or pieces of legislation they feel very strongly about. It is not an easy thing. It sounds real easy.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I know it is a lot of work. That is why I want to try to get it done now.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: You know what will be one of the biggest concerns and that is Narragansett Bay Commission merger with Providence Water Supply Board. Believe me, that needs to be discussed thoroughly. It needs to be researched thoroughly and I think that is going to be part of the legislative package that we

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have to really consider thoroughly.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: We have a commitment. It has been a long standing practice that they won't act on any legislation or the Council Resolution of approval of support so I am sure that particular proposals will generate a substantial amount of debate on the City Council. I would think that is all the piece legislation that we would look to actively get behind.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: I would like to study it.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Absolutely. That is not going to be forthcoming from the Council and that is not forthcoming from the Administration so we will be reacting on it pretty much from either approving or disapproving but I think some of the stuff the Council was interested in, you know, get into some contractual stuff, arbitration. I don't know how far we are going to go with stuff like that, to be honest with you.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: Okay the only thing I want to leave with is an understanding of who is sending the letter.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: David, you tell me. I don't care.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: Run it by Jimmy and if Jimmy does not want to do it, do it by me.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: The only reason I said not is because Jimmy wasn't at the meeting. If you want it to emanate from the Finance Committee, that is fine.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: There is no pride of authorship. I just want to make sure that it happens, that's all.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: You will send it over to her and Claire you will run it by Jimmy or do you want to talk with Jimmy?

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: I will talk to Jimmy.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: The leadership of the Finance Committee, either one.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Yes, as long as it gets in the works, get's in the mix. That is the bottom line.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: And we won't wait like we did last year. Although, we weren't that bad last year. We did want to meet with them.

At this time Councilman Fenton is excused.

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CHAIRMAN DILLON: It takes a month to get a meeting here in the legislative sessions.

COUNCILMAN GLAVIN: Yes.

COUNCILWOMAN FARGNOLI: Don't forget, it is budget time, too. When we start on budgets we have four or five meetings a week so we spare ourselves to the tip.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Mr. Chairman, today, Board of Contract passed the EMS Billing, contract for billing on EMS Services and both Councilman Glavin and Steve thought it would be a good idea if the people came just before the Finance Committee to give a presentation as to what it is going to include, LightHouse Management. Steve Tortolani at Lighthouse Management Services and we don't need a vote but it would be nice if they did a --- so they can explain.

MR. WOERNER: There has to be an authority to bill. Wouldn't they have to set a rate?

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: No, it is set by the government because you see, we are going to be covering mostly the medicare and medicaid so the Federal government sets the rate schedule.

MR. WOERNER: Could you also bill privately insurance?

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes.

MR. WOERNER: I know Blue Cross is fighting it.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Yes, Blue Cross is trying to fight it but hopefully the pressure...

MR. WOERNER: I am just saying as a policy thing it would be nice.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: But it is possible revenue source. It is quite a substantial revenue source so I would suggest you do it as quickly as possible so that we can get the contract going and start doing it.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: They can come next week. Do you need an Ordinance?

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: I don't think you really need anything unless you do a Resolution just saying, I mean, it is an awarded contract.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: What is the authority? You are going to send me a bill now for something that I didn't get a bill for



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before.

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: The city went out with a request of proposals for a contract for someone to bill on their behalf. They are billing on behalf of the city.

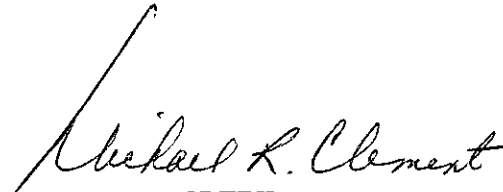
CHAIRMAN DILLON: Yes but don't you need some kind of authority to say which.....

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: Resolution saying that whereas, the city feels as though, you know, and give the basis for it.

CHAIRMAN DILLON: I really think you need an Ordinance because they are not going to start writing, Blue Cross and any of those places are not going to start writing --- unless you follow the letters. Next week or should we give you some time to do research?

MS. MCLAUGHLIN: No, next week is fine. And also Boyce will need to be here.

ADJOURNMENT: On motion of Councilman Igliozzi, seconded by Councilwoman Fagnoli, it is voted to adjourn the meeting at 5:40 o'clock P.M.

  
CLERK

  
Assistant Clerk