

DEPARTMENT OF CITY CLERK

CITY HALL

MARCH 18, 1974

The Committee on Finance meets this day in the Conference Room, City Hall, at 4:00 o'clock P.M

Present: Chairman Lynch and Councilmen Beatini, Darrigan, McKiernan and Bradshaw.

Also present by invitation are City Treasurer Izzo and Charles R. Wood, Business and Operations Manager of the School Department. Rose M. Mendonca, Assistant Clerk.

RELATIVE TO RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY SOLICITOR TO APPEAR BEFORE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND URGE PASSAGE OF AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AND CONSTRUCTING, EQUIPPING, AND FURNISHING NEW SCHOOLS AND ADDITIONS TO EXISTING SCHOOLS AND FOR ACQUIRING LAND AND BUILDINGS TO BE USED FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.

Chairman Lynch informs Mr. Wood, he has been invited before this Committee to explain what the Bond Issue for \$5,000,000.00 will be used for.

MR. WOOD: Since the 1972 bond authority, three issues were requested, two-Three Million Bond Issues and one-One and One-Half Million, making a total of Seven and One Half Million Dollars.

This was used for improvements to buildings of the size and nature not normally financed through our operating budget. It would be used for lighting, sanitary facilities, major structural repairs, etc. During that period, we did Hope High which was a little short of One Million Dollars; Mount Pleasant High, which was One Hundred Fifty-Seven Thousand Dollars; which work consisted of morelike general overhaul in both schools and work done on seven middle schools. The No. 1 priority is to correct fire safety violations.

The last two - Three Million Dollar issues wereprojected to include interest charges, architectural fees, plus work involved to approximate zero balance. This includes the seven middle schools. The other sums have been fed in lesser projects, there is a record available.

Having projected those two issues, looking at the new bond issue of \$5,000,000.00, which could be three schools, would be two schools.

With forty-seven buildings and 3,800,000 square feet floor space, there are things to be done. When we are talking about boilers, right there that is \$35,000 to \$40,000.

We did a survey of the heating system due to the energy crisis, our maintenance department has come up with \$1,172,000 to put the system wide heating plant in good shape, to deliver heat evenly and use it economically.

I had discussed with the Chairman of the School Committee the bond issue, and I recommended originally a Three Million Dollar Bond Issue additional to protect us for three to five years. The Chairman suggested I contact the Mayor and I did write the Mayor and he added on his own recommendation of

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Two Million Dollar additional, he did not explain the purpose, but I think he is looking at what the Seven Million Dollars will be in new construction.

That gentlemen, is a sort of general background.

Councilman Darrigan questions Mr. Wood as to his estimation being that the Three Million Dollars would take them three to five years away.

Mr. Wood states, yes, but with optimism of what will happen to the system, they could have to replace boilers or have many major repairs for the schools that are very old.

Councilman^{McKiernan} suggests instead of the bond issue, to increase the operating budget for approximately \$700,000.00 each year. Mr. Izzo states there is a drawback on that, if the money is not used, it goes into surplus and they do not get it back. Money from the bond issue is not idle, it is receiving interest. It is better to borrow on a long term as if it is not used, it is right there.

Mr. McKiernan questions as to whether or not there is a priority rating on this, a program?

Mr. Wood informs there is not a priority program. There are work orders coming in around three hundred to four hundred a month. There is a backlog of one hundred to two hundred each month. The backlog is growing, but during the summer months when schools are closed and no orders are submitted, they can be caught up.

Mr. Darrigan questions as to whether or not Mr. Izzo knows what the Two Million Dollars is for, and he states he is of the opinion it is for new construction.

Discussion ensues as to the City's surplus at the end of each fiscal year. Mr. Izzo states the City cannot run on a shoestring, there has to be a surplus as no one can say for definite, how much is needed; a \$750,000 surplus, which would be for this year, is not a lot of money in his opinion.

It is brought out there are plans for three new schools, Mount Pleasant, West Broadway and a new Bridgham Middle School.

Councilman Bradshaw questions as to who sets up the priorities as to how the money will be spent.

Mr. Wood states the initiation of these priorities stem from the School Department in terms of educational needs; the School Committee, by Resolution, makes a request, which is acted upon by the Mayor and the City Council.

Mr. Wood Is excused at this time.

On motion of Councilman Beatini, seconded by Councilman Darrigan, it is voted to recommend the Resolution to the City Council for Passage.

Councilman McKiernan states he goes along with the Three Million Dollars Bond Issue, but not the other Two Million. The School Committee has not decided what they want to do with it yet.

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He states there are no specifications or estimates on how the Two Million Dollars is going to be used. He is of the opinion that before it goes to the people, this should be known. Councilman McKiernan goes on giving his opinion.

The Clerk is directed to poll the Committee who vote accordingly: Ayes; Chairman Lynch and Councilmen Beatini, Darrigan and Bradshaw.

Councilman McKiernan desires to be recorded as "Not Voting".

Accordingly, the Resolution is thereupon transmitted to the City Council with recommendation the same be adopted:

Rose M. Mendonca

Assistant Clerk