A meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Chairman DiNatale on Tuesday, June 25, 2019 at 6:05 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.
Committee Members absent: None

The chairman read an announcement regarding the recording of public meetings, noting that FATV was recording and broadcasting the meeting. No other person stated that they were recording the meeting.

The chairman opened the meeting for public comment. No one spoke.

182-19  ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of SIXTEEN THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($16,000.00) same to be transferred from CEMETERY, PERSONAL SERVICES, LABOR and credited to CEMETERY, PERSONAL SERVICES, OVERTIME.

183-19  ORDER: that there be and hereby is transferred from within the sum of THREE THOUSAND AND 00/100 DOLLARS ($3,000.00) same to be transferred from HEALTH, SANITARY LANDFILL EXPENSES and credited to HEALTH, EXPENSES.

Discussion: The chairman read the letter from DPW Business Manager Courtney Lamoureux dated June 10, 2019 regarding Order #182-19. Councilors indicated they wanted to take up Order #183-19 as well.
Director of Public Health Steve Curry explained that the Health Department transfer was for increased costs in mileage and training due to contract changes.
Action: Motion to approve both #182-19 and #183-19 made by Councilor Zarrella, second by Councilor Kushmerek. Approved 5-0.

184-19 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, Retail Standards Grant Program grant in the approximate amount of $1,500.00 (ONE THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to continue to provide funding for staff to attend FDA trainings, workshops, and seminars to maintain food inspection standards.
Discussion: Mr. Curry explained that this grant is from the FDA for training to keep the department up to date with current standards.
Action: Motion to approve by Councilor Beauchemin, second by Councilor Kushmerek. Approved 5-0.

188-19 ORDER: that the City of Fitchburg hereby approves the expenditure of funds from the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, Aeronautics Division grant in the approximate amount of $768,450.00 (SEVEN HUNDRED SIXTY-EIGHT THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY AND 00/100 DOLLARS) for the purpose of said grant, which is to pay for the construction phase of the airport runway reconstruction project.

189-19 ORDER: that $15,369,000.00 be appropriated to pay the costs of the runway at the Fitchburg Municipal Airport as outlined in the enclosed loan order.
Discussion: The chairman announced that he would take up both #188-19 and #189-19 together. He then read a letter from Airport Manager Scott Ellis dated June 11, 2019.
Councilors asked who was the local sponsor. Mr. Ellis replied that the city is. Councilors asked if the airport is going to pay back the city for this loan order. Mr. Ellis replied that the purpose of the loan order was to do just that. With this final project, the airport should be in a position to pay back the loan over twenty years. To date, the city has committed about one million dollars to various airport projects.
Councilors asked what FAA and State money had been invested in the Fitchburg Airport and were told by Mr. Ellis that the total is about $26 million. The airport is on the hook for payback of local costs when the projects are done. The recent $100,000 appropriations to the airport have been to cover operating deficits which have been caused by the need for the capital projects. Councilors will have a problem if the airport can not pay back the loans.
Councilors noted that about 90% of the airplanes at the airport are owned by out of town residents. Mr. Ellis pointed out that the planes are kept at the airport in various hangers that are privately owned and on which the city assesses property taxes. Councilors also noted that an improved airport would likely bring in additional planes.
Councilors confirmed that while the loan order is for the full project amount, the city will only be borrowing its 5% share of costs.
Councilors noted that voting on airport improvements began years ago and it would be foolish to stop now. The most responsible use of public dollars is to finish the project.
Action: Motion to approve both #188-19 and #189-19 by Councilor Kushmerek, second by Councilor Walsh. Approved 4-1 (Councilor Beauchemin in opposition.)

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Kushmerek, second by Councilor Zarrella. Approved 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:26 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Calvin D. Brooks, Clerk
I respectfully request that transfers be made within the Cemetery budget – without the need for an appropriation from available funds – to cover overtime for the remainder of the fiscal year.

- Increase budget of account # 014911-511104 Cemetery – Personal Services – Overtime by $16,000 to cover overtime costs within the department.

- Decrease budget of account # 014911-511115 Cemetery – Personal Services – Labor by $16,000. We have a surplus due to a staff vacancy that has not yet been filled.

Copies:
C. Brooks
L. Laakso
J. Poirier
TO: Stephen L DiNatale, Mayor
City of Fitchburg

FROM: Scott A Ellis, Manager
Fitchburg Airport

CC: Calvin Brooks, City Auditor

DATE: June 11th 2019

RE: Grant acceptance

Mayor DiNatale on June 7th the FAA and Mass DOT-A has offered a grant to the Fitchburg Municipal Airport in the amount of $13,832,100 FAA and $768,450 State, to pay for 95% of the Airports runway reconstruction project. The remaining 5% (approx., $768,450) to be paid by the local sponsor.
This offer expires July 18th 2019. I ask that this grant offer be placed on the Agenda for the June 18th City Council meeting for their consideration.

On behalf of the Commission, I thank you and the City Council for your continued support.

Best regards,
Scott A Ellis
Manager
Fitchburg Municipal Airport