Joint City Council / School Board Committee Meeting  
October 16, 2009

Committee members present: Chris Casko, Chair, Eric Williams, Jack Dunn

City Council and City Employees Present: Tom Aspell, Ed Roberge, Mayor Jim Bouley, Fred Keach, Allen Bennett, Jim Howard

Administration: Chris Rath, Matt Cashman, Michele Croteau

- **Proposed Article 28-1 – Lawsuit against the State of NH**  
  Currently it is estimated that 83% of cities, 50% of counties and 30% of school districts are participating in the lawsuit. The City presented this issue to its Fiscal Policy Monitoring Committee 2 years ago. They have contributed $11,000 to the lawsuit.

- **Status of Safety Bump-outs at Warren St. and Westbourne Ave. as a result of Bow Brook Construction**  
  Ed Roberge indicated he has discussed the issues and proposals with the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee. He noted that current funding limits the project scope to the culvert replacement only. Mr. Roberge reviewed the proposed changes to the bus entry at the High School, the entry area west of the bus entry, and changes to the crosswalks to include removal of one of the three existing crosswalks, relocation of crosswalks and increase of the crosswalk width to 16’. There was discussion regarding the proposed bump-outs. The City will continue to work on design changes over the winter and see where this project falls in the 10-year City plan. Chris Rath indicated that the School was looking into reassigning a Crossing Guard to assist with foot traffic in this area.

- **Status of School Capital funding plans**  
  Matt Walsh and Doug Woodward have been involved in the School’s Elementary Project as City representatives. The Steering Committee will review site plans on Monday night (Oct. 19). The total project is currently estimated to cost in the vicinity of $60 million. Michele Croteau stated that the District continues to work with Cinder McInerney at First Southwest to evaluate various financing options. It is still anticipated that this first phase of planning (schematic design) will be complete sometime in December. The goal is to have gathered enough information from this phase so that the Board can then determine whether to renovate or build new, and whether to phase in the construction or tackle all projects concurrently. A financing plan will be developed in conjunction with and in support of the Board’s decisions at that time.

- **Tax Rate Setting Schedule**  
  There was a short discussion regarding the timeline established for the tax rate setting. The City expects to have the assessed valuation numbers available by Friday, October
23. Based on that date, the School Board has set its final review of the 2009–2010 budget for November 2 with a Finance Committee Meeting, Budget Hearing, and School Board meeting to be held that evening. The City has scheduled a meeting with DRA for the following Friday, November 6, to set the tax rate.

- **11/2008 letter from DRA requesting City provide data on School trust funds and their direction to take over these trust funds**

  Jim Howard referred to a letter the City had received in November, 2008 from Tami Wickens, Statistician II with the Department of Revenue, addressed to the Trustees of Trust Funds for Concord inquiring about the status of the School District’s reserve accounts. The Trustees of Trust Fund is comprised of three members of the community, appointed to manage the City’s reserve accounts. These individuals are appointed by the Town Manager and have business / banking background. The Trustees manage the City’s $12M in assets comprised of expendable and non-expendable trust funds and capital reserve accounts. They utilize an investment advisor and determine the best investment strategy balancing capital appreciation and liquidity based on the fund’s purpose and anticipated use of the funds. Thereafter, the City Council makes the decision regarding withdrawal of funds from these accounts.

  Michele Croteau indicated that the proper treatment of the School’s funds held in reserve is unclear given the language in RSA 198:20-c and the School District’s Charter. This question has been referred to the District’s legal counsel for direction.

It was noted that there has been a change in the structure of the Joint City Council / School Board Committee meetings, in that this group will meet every other month and that the administrators of the School District and City will meet on the alternate months.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Casko, Chair
Michele Croteau, Recorder