

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS
March 26, 2026
MEETING MINUTES

A meeting of the Board of Public Works was held on March 26, 2026, at 4:00 p.m., at the Division of Public Works Administration Building in the Mine Falls Conference Room, 848 West Hollis Street, Nashua, New Hampshire 03062.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor, declared the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and called the roll.

I. ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor
Vice-Chairman Matthew Gregg
Commissioner Paul Shea
Commissioner, June Lemen
Commissioner, Manny Espitia

Members Absent

Director, Lisa Fauteux

Also Present:

Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Aldermanic Liaison
Richard A. Dowd, Board of Aldermen
David Boucher, Superintendent, Wastewater
Bryan Conant, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation
Jeff Lafleur, Superintendent, Solid Waste
Dan Hudson, P.E., City Engineer
Ethan M. Beals, Project Manager, IMEG
Carolyn O'Connor, Finance and Administration Manager
Marina Vaz, City of Nashua Resident
Skylar Wheeler, City of Nashua Resident
Claire Edwards, Executive Assistant, Division of Public Works

II. MOTION: TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

tem 2, the agenda. Commissioner Espitia.

Motion by Commissioner Espitia: To Approve The Agenda As Submitted.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously

III. MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF PUBIC WORKS MEETING OF FEBRUARY 26, 2026.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Next, communication or next is a motion number 3 to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Commissioner Gregg.

Motion by Commissioner Gregg: To Approve The Minutes Of The Board Of Public Works Meeting Of February 26, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Public Comment. Is there any member of the public who would like to address the Board? Apparently not, so we'll go to Wastewater.

V. WASTEWATER DEPARTMENT

A. Motion: To Approve The User Warrants As Presented.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

First, we have Item A, Commissioner Shea.

Motion by Commissioner Shea: To Approve The User Warrants As Presented.

MOTION CARRIED. Unanimously.

B. Motion: To Approve The Contract With Pescinski Painting, LLC Of Tilton, New Hampshire In An Amount Not To Exceed \$100,600.00 For The Loading Dock And Tank Wall Coating Project. Funding Will Be Through: Department: 169 Wastewater; Fund: Wastewater; Account Classification: 81 Capital/Improvements.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Next communication or the next issue, item is Item B. Commissioner Lemen.

Motion by Commissioner Lemen: Motion: To Approve The Contract With Pescinski Painting LLC Of Tilton, New Hampshire, In An Amount Not To Exceed \$100,600.00 For The Loading Dock And Tank Wall Coating Project. Funding Will Be Through: Department: 169 Wastewater; Fund: Wastewater; Account Classification: 81 Capital/Improvements.

David Boucher, Superintendent, Wastewater

Dave Boucher, Wastewater Superintendent. This project involves the coating of steel beam and louvers on our loading dock at the wastewater plant. Also, the sealing of the loading dock floor. Also, resurfacing of the concrete stairs, retaining wall, and some tanks in that area of the

loading dock. This went out to bid. Pescinski was the low bidder, and we checked out their references. They looked good, and we'd like to use them. Be happy to answer any questions.

MOTION CARRIED. Unanimously.

VI. STREETS DEPARTMENT

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Streets Department, we have an informational item, only I believe, which is the 2026 spring cleanup schedule. Any other questions or comments on that? We will go to the Parks Department

VII. PARKS DEPARTMENT

A. **Motion: To Approve The Construction Engineering Services Contract With Wright-Pierce Of Portsmouth, New Hampshire In The Amount Not To Exceed \$177,500.00 For Construction Engineering Services For Renovation And Restoration Repairs To Holman Stadium. Department 177 Parks, Fund: Bond; Activity: Holman Stadium Improvements.**

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Item A, Commissioner Espitia.

Motion by Commissioner Espitia: Motion: To Approve The Construction Engineering Services Contract With Wright-Pierce Of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, In The Amount Not To Exceed \$177,500.00 For Construction Engineering Services For Renovation And Restoration Repairs To Holman Stadium. Department 177 Parks, Fund: Bond; Activity: Holman Stadium Improvements.

Bryan Conant, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation

Good afternoon, Superintendent of the Parks Department, Bryan Conant. As you know, we've received some money to do some improvements over at Holman Stadium. We've recently updated the lights and the fire suppression. This really to continue that work and the process of that. As you can see throughout the proposal, this is really to go after the facility structural systems. The lower seating bowl underneath the actual grandstand, all the steel that supports the grandstand, and this is to help us create bid specs so we can go out and have other outside companies really give us a good cost analysis on what it is going to cost to fix the stadium, and I'd be happy to answer any questions on this if there are any.

Discussion:

Marina Vaz, City of Nashua Resident

Are the mics on? We're having a hard time hearing.

Mr. Conant

Sorry. Is my mic not on?

Mr. Lafleur

The mics are on--

Commissioner, Matthew Gregg

There's no speaker. There's no speakers.

Marina Vaz, City of Nashua Resident

I am Hard of hearing (inaudible) hard time understanding.

Mayor Donchess

Oh, I see. Just try to speak a little louder.

Mr. Conant

I certainly will. I'd be happy to answer any questions on that topic if there are any.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, so Item A, a motion has been made. Any discussion or questions?

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously

B. **Motion: To Approve The Engineering Services Contract With The Turner Group Of Concord, New Hampshire In The Amount Not To Exceed \$85,700.00 For Design Engineering Services Of Rotary Pool. Funding Will Be Through: Departments: 177 Parks And 160 Admin & Engineering. Funds: Trust And General; Account Category: 53 Professional Services.**

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Next, Item B, Commissioner Gregg.

Motion by Commissioner Gregg: To Approve The Engineering Services Contract With The Turner Group Of Concord, New Hampshire In The Amount Not To Exceed \$85,700.00 For Design Engineering Services Of Rotary Pool. Funding Will Be Through: Departments: 177 Parks And 160 Admin & Engineering. Funds: Trust And General; Account Category: 53 Professional Services.

Bryan Conant, Superintendent, Parks and Recreation

Good evening, Superintendent of the Parks Department, Bryan Conant. As you're all well aware, we have three city pools. Just this past summer, we hired the Turner Group to do an assessment on Centennial pool and Rotary pool. Those are the two pools right now that are really in need of some attention. We'd like to hire the Turner Group to come up and to provide us with their engineering services to prepare some construction documents that we could then go out to bid with to update the pool at Rotary pool. I'd be happy to answer any questions on this topic if there are any.

Discussion:

Mayor Donchess

Alderman O'Brien.

Alderman, Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Board of Aldermen

I personally, and I'm sure you do too, Mr. Conant would like to have the pools open.

Mr. Conant

Yes.

Mr. O'Brien

This season. Is that going to happen or are they in such disrepair that they may be late in opening?

Mr. Conant

No, they're not going to be late in opening. They should be on time and opening, and we'll do our best to get through the season. I'm not going to sit here and make any promises on either of those two pools.

Mr. O'Brien

Well, if it fails, I can appreciate that, yeah. So, the intent is this will be in the fall?

Mr. Conant

That would be the intent, either to get this done in the fall or to get it done in the spring prior to the opening of next year, Alderman O'Brien. That would be the intent.

Mr. O'Brien

Very good. Outstanding. Thank you.

Mr. Conant

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, anyone else?

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

Richard A. Dowd, Alderman, Board of Alderman

We're going to be passing the last bid at Stellos –joint specials that last sidewalk.

Mr. Conant

Okay. That would be fantastic. That's great news, thank you.

Commissioner, Paul Shea

How are you doing--

Unidentified Speaker I

(Unintelligible).

Unidentified Speaker II

Yeah. (Unintelligible) definitely talk about it.

Commissioner Shea

Alright, let us know.

VIII. SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

A. Motion: To Approve A Purchase Not To Exceed \$50,000.00 For Water Line And Parts From Core And Main Of Loudon, New Hampshire. Funding Will Be Through Department 168 Solid Waste; Fund: Bond; Activity: Landfill Construction Phase IV.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Alright, we're now at the Solid Waste Department. Item A, Commissioner Shea.

Motion by Commissioner Shea: To Approve A Purchase Not To Exceed \$50,000.00 For Water Line And Parts From Core And Main Of Loudon, New Hampshire. Funding Will Be Through Department 168 Solid Waste; Fund: Bond; Activity: Landfill Construction Phase IV.

Jeff Lafleur, Superintendent, Solid Waste

Jeff Lafleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste. This is to bring in water to the back of the landfill in case of an emergency. We've always thought about doing it, and now is the perfect opportunity to do the work, bring it in. We'll have two hydrants out there. We've never had the opportunity to have water out there. We had a landfill fire probably I want to say 8 or 10 years ago. It was actually out in the soft yard waste area. We had to borrow tankers from other communities. If those tankers weren't available because they were on another firefighting scene, we wouldn't have been able to put the fire out, so this will give us the opportunity to have water there, and the firefighters could actually run lines right to our landfill from where the hydrants will be.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman O'Brien.

Michael O'Brien, Sr., Board of Aldermen

Yeah, thank you. Is this going to coordinate with the moving of the fire department training facility? So, running that line will take care of both needs?

Mr. Lafleur

Yes, sir. It will be dual purpose for that. It'll be for the landfill for our safety on our side, and the fire training grounds can use it for their training.

Richard A. Dowd, Board of Aldermen

Another question. Are they going to have an access in the back of the landfill?

Mr. Lafleur

For driving in?

Mr. Dowd

Yeah.

Mr. Lafleur

No, sir. Just the water line coming through.

Mr. Dowd

If there were a truck there and you had a fire they'd have to go all the way around.

Mr. Lafleur

That's how the landfill is designed. I'm proposing to put in a new access road anyways, which will be able to handle all of that, and it will go right up over the landfill. So we'll have a quicker access to it.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

B. Motion: To Approve An Agreement With Lebanon, New Hampshire With Reciprocity Of Leachate Disposal In The Event Of An Emergency That They Will Take Our Leachate And We Will Take Theirs.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Next, Item B. Commissioner Shea.

Commissioner, June Lemen

He just did--

Mayor Donchess

--oh you did? I thought it was Maddy. Commissioner Lemen.

Motion by Commissioner Lemen: To Approve An Agreement With Lebanon, New Hampshire With Reciprocity Of Leachate Disposal In The Event Of An Emergency That They Will Take Our Leachate And We Will Take Theirs.

Jeff Lafleur, Superintendent, Solid Waste Department

Jeff Lafleur, Superintendent of Solid Waste. New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services have some new rules for our permitting of our landfill, including our Phase IV landfill. They made it—they need us to have a backup plan to ship our leachate somewhere in the event that the wastewater plant goes down. If the wastewater plant goes down we have bigger problems. We reached out to some other wastewater facilities and they wanted over \$60,000.00 a year just to hold airspace inside their wastewater treatment plant to cover our emergency, in case there is an emergency. We got a little creative. We reached out to Lebanon, which is in the same situation that we are. We asked them if we could just do reciprocity at no cost to each other, other than just the trucking in the event there is an emergency. They agreed to it wholeheartedly. We both suffice our permits with DES, and it's a win-win for both cities.

Discussion:

Mayor Donchess

Anybody else? Commissioner Lemen.

Commissioner Lemen

Are we about the same size as Lebanon?

Mr. Lafleur

We're the second largest city in New Hampshire.

Commissioner Lemen

I mean, I didn't know how close Lebanon--

Mr. Lafleur

--they're in the same situation that we are. If they---

Commissioner Lemen

--oh, it's a better deal for us.

Mr. Lafleur

Well, yeah, it's a better deal for us, but we never foresee it happening. I mean the whole wastewater plant would have to go down before we'd have to ship leachate, and that would be a bigger problem for the city, and the same thing for Lebanon. They'd have a bigger issue than we could even imagine.

Commissioner Lemen

Yeah, Okay. I think it's great and very creative solution.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

IX. ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

A. Motion: To Approve The Sewer Service Permits And Fees As Submitted.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Now, we're on to the Engineering Department. Item A, Commissioner Espitia.

Motion by Commissioner Espitia: To Approve The Sewer Service Permits And Fees As Submitted.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

B. Motion: To Approve The Pole License Petitions As Listed In The Staff Report.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Item B, Commissioner Gregg.

Motion by Commissioner Gregg: To Approve The Pole License Petitions As Listed In The Staff Report.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously

C. Motion: To Approve Change Order 2 To The 2025 CIPP Lining Program With National Water Main Cleaning Co. Of Canton, Massachusetts In The Amount Not To Exceed \$3,393,909.00. Funding Will Be Through: Department: 169 Wastewater; Fund: Bond; Activity: Sewer Rehab.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Item C, Commissioner Shea.

Motion by Commissioner Shea: To Approve Change Order 2 To The 2025 CIPP Lining Program With National Water Main Cleaning Co. Of Canton, Massachusetts In The Amount Not To Exceed \$3,393,909.00. Funding Will Be Through: Department: 169 Wastewater; Fund: Bond; Activity: Sewer Rehab.

Dan Hudson, P.E., City Engineer

Good afternoon, Dan Hudson, City Engineer. Last year, we bid out this lining contract, which is to replace lining. National Water Main Cleaning Company was the low bidder. They completed the work last year and are wrapping it up, basically, as we enter into this year. We're seeking to extend the contracts via change order so they can continue to work through this calendar year. They are agreeing to hold their pricing. There were a couple of items that we had to add to the contract just because there's a couple pipe sizes that they didn't have in their original contract, but they provided pricing for those, and they're holding their other pricing. It seems like this is suitable to do and avoid having to go through a re-bidding process for this year's work. I'd be happy to address any questions.

Mayor Donchess

Commissioner Gregg.

Commissioner, Matthew Gregg

Really quickly. In terms of the original coming in as the low bid, I'm assuming that this--it says it's additional work, but I just wanted to make sure that the full scope of what other groups were bidding for didn't include these change orders.

Mr. Hudson

That's correct. This is new work. Last year, we identified a certain footage of pipe we expected to inspect and clean, and then basically how much we would line. This year will have additional footage. The inspection is CCTV work, and then we usually see 30 to 40 percent of the pipes we look in, we actually need to line because we're looking at some of the older pipes in the system. And so, we've projected what will be needed for the lining part of this, but it's based upon a historic record of what we've had in the past. It's the same type of work, I mean, the effort is the same as it was last year, it's just additional pipe.

Commissioner Gregg

Thank you.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

D. Motion: To Approve Amendment #4 To The Engineering Services Agreement For The Walnut Street Oval Intersection Project With Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. Of Manchester, New Hampshire In An Amount Not To Exceed \$256,168.25. Funding Will Be Through: Departments 160 Admin/Eng; Funds: Bond And Grant; Activity: Walnut Street Oval.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Next, Item B, Commissioner Lemen.

Motion by Commissioner Lemen: To Approve Amendment #4 To The Engineering Services Agreement For The Walnut Street Oval Intersection Project With Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, Inc. Of Manchester, New Hampshire In An Amount Not To Exceed \$256,168.25. Funding Will

Be Through: Departments 160 Admin/Eng; Funds: Bond And Grant; Activity: Walnut Street Oval.

Dan Hudson, P.E., City Engineer

Hoyle Tanner and Associates was selected to help us through design of the Walnut Oval Project. It's been going well. We've been through an engineering study phase. We're wrapping up a preliminary engineering phase with submission to the DOT of that phase shortly. We're seeking to amend their contract to extend into the final design, which will get us through plans for bidding and ultimately construction. This is a cost-sharing arrangement with the federal government, with funds passed through DOT, with the State and Federal picking up 80 percent of the cost, and the City picking up 20 percent of the cost. This amendment price you see here is the total cost of the amendment, so 20 percent of that will be borne by the City. Be happy to address any questions.

Discussion:

Mayor Donchess

Thank you. Commissioner Espitia.

Commissioner Manny Espitia

How is it--how was public comment, public hearing on this?

Mr. Hudson

Great question. We did have--we held two public meetings, and frankly, they weren't well attended. We did have some people come out. The first meeting was in the engineering study phase, and basically without any plan information really we were just polling people on what their experience was with the area, what their concerns were, and the primary feedback we received was that it's very difficult as a pedestrian to travel through the area, and then also to travel through the area on a bicycle. The public input aligned with the vision for the project, which was to implement some traffic calming in the area, to reduce from the two lanes to one lane around the oval. To try to re-prioritize, provide additional safety and capacity, and accommodations for bicycles and pedestrians. That was the first meeting, and then we went forward, and we prepared some alternate designs. Ultimately, we had a preferred alternative, which, if anybody is interested, they can go to the City web page, they can go to the Public Works page, on the left, there's a projects link, and on there, there's one for the Walnut Oval Project. If you look through there, you can see what the preferred alternatives for the project are, but it includes a small roundabout as you come in from Central Street, and then the oval features as I generally described. In addition, the project will reverse the traffic flow on West Pearl Street, making it eastbound instead of westbound as it is now, which has been a long-term goal of the City in our traffic circulation pattern goal. That's kind of the project in a nutshell and the feedback received. As we go through the final design, we will reach out individually to each abutter that's impacted by the project. We'll have a direct conversation. They'll be compensated through the requirements in the Uniform Act that federal money requires. They'll be compensated for those easements and impacts and things, and so, I expect we'll have some more direct communication with folks soon.

Commissioner Espitia

Quick follow up?

Mayor Donchess

Yes.

Commissioner Espitia

When do you—do you have a timeline of when?

Mr. Hudson

We're hoping to advertise this project in early next year, January or February timeframe for construction next year. A calendar year from now. Of course, that's all predicated on favorable negotiations with the abutters and obtaining easements and things we need to do. We do already have most of the project permitting we needed. We have our need for approval and we still need alteration training permit approval, but we're progressing through design with the hopes that we'll be out to bid early next year.

Commissioner Espitia

Perfect. Awesome, thank you.

Mr. Hudson

You're welcome.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

E. Motion: To Consider The Hardship Request From IMEG On Behalf Of Silver Lining Development, LLC To Excavate And Install Utilities In Linton Street.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Next, Item E, Commissioner Espitia.

Motion by Commissioner Espitia: To Consider The Hardship Request From IMEG On Behalf Of Silver Lining Development, LLC To Excavate And Install Utilities In Linton Street.

Dan Hudson, P.E., City Engineer

I'll just quickly introduce it, and I'll turn it over to Ethan Beals from IMEG to describe in more detail what the request is, but there is a request to work in Linton Street, which was last paved in May 2022, and per the hardship requirements and the ordinance, they're here seeking the Board's approval.

Ethan M. Beals, Project Manager, IMEG

Good afternoon everyone. Ethan Beals, Project Manager at what was Hayner/Swanson, now IMEG, doing business at 3 Congress Street here in Nashua. I do have plans tonight if anybody doesn't have a copy in their agenda. Here tonight representing Silver Lining Development for a proposed subdivision project. The existing sites located at 16 East Glenwood Street, which is located in the southeast quadrant of the city. Recently, the city Planning Board approved a one into three lot subdivision on that lot, in which the existing dwelling will be renovated, and two new single-family dwellings would be constructed. Additionally, our client owns an adjacent existing buildable lot of record, and also intends to construct a single-family dwelling on that lot.

Two of the proposed dwellings out of the four total will gain access via a shared private driveway that really connects to the dead end of Linton Street. Additionally, water and gas utilities to service those two dwellings are also just in Linton Street. As Dan just mentioned, Linton Street was paved in May 2022, and therefore, we have about one year left before the five-year moratorium expires in May 2027.

We're seeking permission from this Board to be able to cut into Linton Street in order to be able to construct the necessary utility services and also tie in the shared driveway. Accordingly, we're proposing a curb-to-curb street restoration of the impacted portion of Linton Street. I'll also note that, given the portion of Linton Street that we're working in it is a dead end. The impacted portion really only sees traffic from hopefully, our private driveway. The cuts and the street restoration will stop well short of the two existing driveways that are the last two driveways on Linton Street. I'd be happy to answer any questions.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Item F is an--

Richard A. Dowd, Board of Aldermen

--Can you tell me has Tinker Road been paved within the last five years?

Mr. Hudson

I don't know off hand. I'll have to get back to you on that.

Mr. Dowd

Because it's a new development that's going to be cutting into it?

Mr. Hudson

Yeah, the vicinity—I know in that vicinity. The same criteria applies. If it has been paved in the last five years, then it's always a condition of the subdivision approval. They would need to come to this Board to seek that approval to do that work. We can't stop them from going through the Planning Board process, but we always make them aware of those moratorium issues. I don't know off hand without looking at the file that we had on that.

Mr. Dowd

The other question I have is, I thought people would be here today. The Pennichuck light, has that been fixed?

Mr. Hudson

At the Mill School? The traffic light? I don't know if I can fixed, we've been through this recurring pattern of it having some issue, and we go restart it, and then it works for a while, and then the issue recurs. I don't know if this was another one of those cases where it's not being responsive to traffic, stopping when they don't need to be stopped, basically. We're still chasing that issue, we don't really, we really haven't pinpointed what the issue is. We've had the winter season. We've just been rebooting it. Now that spring is here, we can dig a little deeper and try to figure that out.

Mr. Dowd

Yeah, because people have said when school is out at night, there's nobody coming out of the school road, and the light was turning red.

Mr. Hudson

I have theories of what's happening, but we need to get to the bottom of it, and I would just encourage a lot of people have been good about letting us know when it happens. I've been tracking so I can tell how many times it's happened or whatever and try to figure it out, but yeah, if anybody does see that issue, call us up, and we'll go out and reboot it at minimum, and then we are trying to get to the bottom of that.

Mr. Dowd

The next question I have is, when school is not in session, maybe even during the summer, can it be a blinking light?

Mr. Hudson

It could be. That's something that we can investigate and talk more about, but that is a common thing, especially at schools and other things that are seasonal to convert a system to a flash during the summer. That's something we can look at.

Mr. Dowd

Thanks.

Mr. Hudson

You're welcome.

F. Informational: Street Opening Permits Issued For Streets In Moratorium.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Alright, Item F, under Engineering, is an informational item. So, we'll move on to Administration.

IX. ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

A. Informational: 2026 Drop Mobility Encumbrance Permit Request Memorandum.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

A is informational as well. Does anybody have any questions or comments about that?
Commissioner Espitia.

Discussion:

Commissioner Manny Espitia

And, this is going through our community--this is being handled by Community Development?
They're just letting us know?

Mayor Donchess

Pardon.

Commissioner Espitia

This is going through Community Development. It's program with Community Development and Dropbike?

Mayor Donchess

Yeah.

Commissioner Espitia

It's not. I mean. I think it's exciting that we're having—we have these what is it pedal-assisted bikes, almost e-bikes. I think one of the things, and I'll talk about this in Commissioner Comments, I just like making sure our streets are friendly to bike riders. I know that it--especially with--I mean, I don't have to worry about snow at the same time, but it's usually--our streets get narrower and narrower, and so I just worry about bike/pedestrian safety. I'm excited that we're going to have more bike riders. I think this will make drivers more aware, but I also just want to make sure that they're safe on the roads.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, great. Commissioner Shea.

Commissioner, Paul Shea

I have no objection to this. In the past, we've gotten some level of presentation, and I know that encumbrance is an administrative matter, so I'm not--I have no interest in holding this up. It just would have been nice to have some level of overview from the company and an opportunity for the audience and asking questions. Just take that for what it's worth. I would have liked that, and I don't put that on anybody, I just want to say it out loud so it doesn't live inside my body.

Mayor Donchess

We could have Levent come in next time.

Commissioner Shea

That would be nice.

Mayor Donchess

He's the guy that wrote the memo. He the sustainability planner.

Commissioner Shea

Because it was great in the past to be able to ask about equity and rates and have some information on how truly accessible this is to the general public. In the past a lot of the rates for these programs have been prohibitive. So, it might cost \$5.00 to \$10.00 or something like that to rent one of these for the amount of time that it would take and you may as well take a cab when you're comparing dollars to dollars. Being able to have that back and forth would be appreciated.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, so Carolyn is making a note of that and we are going to invite him in for the next meeting.

Carolyn O'Connor, Finance and Administration Manager

I have made a note of that.

Commissioner Shea

Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

And, we are going to invite him in for the next meeting.

Commissioner Shea

Appreciate it.

Commissioner Espitia

Appreciate that.

B. Informational: Director's Report

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Now, we're on to the Director's Report.

Carolyn O'Connor, Finance and Administration Manager

Okay.

Mayor Donchess

And, Director Fauteux is ill today, so Ms. O'Connor is filling in for her. So, go ahead, please.

Ms. O'Connor

Almighty. This is Holman Stadium. The staff installed turf covers to increase soil temps, and promote an earlier green-up. Some more of the work at Holman Stadium. Maintenance building, insulation, fire suppression system work.

Parks Department crew cleaning up tree that fell at the edge of the Main Dunstable soccer field into a neighboring yard.

Recreation. Each year our Biddy Basketball officials select players who exemplify the spirit, lead ship, and sportsmanship of the late David Mansor. Dave is one of our longtime Biddy Basketball refs who passed away from COVID during the pandemic. Congratulations to this year's recipients.

Let everyone know the camp registration opened on Monday, March 2nd. Residents can view our extensive list of summer camp options all dedicated towards having fun and creating unforgettable memories by going to our website at nashua.recdesk.com.

Fleet Department prepared for snow removal operations. The picture left replacing snowplow edges, middle picture is wing plow repair on a wheeled load, and pictured right is repairing the large blowers that clear snow in tight areas of the city.

Street Department crew cleaning trees in preparation for the Robie Park Disk Golf course. The new 18-hole course is approximately 56.8 acres of land.

Wastewater mechanics replacing a valve in the piping at the bottom of the sludge storage tank. The wastewater facility has five of these tanks each capable of holding about 45,000 gallons. The valve are important for isolating the piping for process control and repairs.

Here, wastewater mechanics are working to repair the north trailer bay screw conveyor, which moves dewatering solids to the trailers to be haul off site. The screw has cracked and the mechanics were able to stabilize the equipment and make a repair.

Bulky items and scrap metal pickup requests can be called in starting on Monday, April 13. Curbside collection will start the following Monday, April 20th. Residents are allowed up to five items picked up at no charge for the season. And, soft yard waste collection will begin the week of April 20th. And, finally the first household hazardous waste collection will be held on Saturday, April 18th at 8:00 a.m.

Mayor Donchess

Where is that? Is that in Nashua?

Ms. O'Connor

Yes, Crown Street

Mayor Donchess

Yeah, at Crown Street, oh, okay good. What is that April 20?

Ms. O'Connor

April 18th.

Mayor Donchess

Oh, April 18. Okay. Alright, any questions or comments regarding the Director's Report?

X. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Next item on the agenda is Commissioner's Comments. However, I think our three guests here tonight were intending and hoping to make public comment, which we passed on the agenda because they weren't here, but if there's no objection, we will reopen that public comment if they wish to say anything. So, you're here to speak, right?

Marina Vaz, City of Nashua Resident

Yes.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, so one at a time, go over here to the chair there by the mic. You just need to give your name and address, and please limit your comment to three minutes.

Marina Vaz, Nashua Resident

Okay. I am just pulling up my notes. Okay. Hi, my name is Mania Vaz. I live at 1 Clocktower Place, Apartment 411, so deeply appreciative of the oval renovations that I hear are underway, but that's not what I'm here to talk about today.

I live and work here in Nashua as an environmental justice advocate with the Conservation Law Foundation, and as part of this work, I facilitate a monthly transportation equity meeting where the maintenance and lack of sidewalks quickly rose up as one of our priority advocacy areas. I'm here today to ask you to include dedicated funding for sidewalks in the capital improvement budget. Sidewalks are not a luxury. They are basic infrastructure. Right now, many parts of the city have missing, broken, or disconnected sidewalks. That makes it harder and unsafe for people to get where they need to go. Since I started working in Nashua in late 2023, sidewalks have been mentioned as an issue that affects the quality of life of several vulnerable populations. I've heard from friends who feel their kids cannot walk safely within their neighborhood because there are no sidewalks. I've heard from parents who have resorted to pushing strollers on the side of the road because the sidewalk conditions are unsafe or there isn't a sidewalk there at all. I have heard from parents and educators that worry about young kids who walk to school, especially during the wintertime because the sidewalk conditions are not safe; the kids walk on the street, young kids, and I have also heard from neighbors who have accessibility needs who want to walk outside, stay active in our community. I have a neighbor a couple door down from me. He's super excited about projects like the Riverwalk and enjoying those; he has mobility issues, and so that's his number one thing. He needs the sidewalks to be accessible, and to actually access some of these great projects that we're making for public enjoyment. I have also heard from transit riders and pedestrians who don't have access to a car that poor sidewalk conditions and missing sidewalks make it less safe for them to get to where they need to go. As I mentioned, people are forced to walk on the street. Super unsafe, increasing the risk of accidents, and this also limits the lack of sidewalk infrastructure, limits our access to jobs, schools, transit, and local businesses. And, I just want to emphasize that this is a really worthwhile investment for our community, so that we're communicating to people that we're serving our kids. We're serving our families. We're serving our disability community. I just wanted to note those things, and I do realize that it is expensive, but I think it would be super important to have dedicated funds in the capital improvement budget for sidewalks. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, thank you very much. Just come up to the microphone. Just give your name and address, please.

Skylar Wheeler, Nashua Resident

Hello, my name is Skylar Wheeler. I am a committee member of the Nashua Transportation Equity, and a community member of the Nashua Housing Revolving Fund. I'm here to add my voice to request that you add funding for the capital improvement budget. I would also personally like to request that there is improvement in having more consistency in sidewalk maintenance, and to make sidewalks wider and have more stable leveling. Meaning when sidewalks, some of them are kind of leaning down, so stable, leveled. For wheelchair users, so they don't have to use the road and risk getting hit and run over when traveling. The next request I would like to make is that during the winters, to have much better plowing and maintenance of sidewalks, or this is a thing in other cities, to make the sidewalks heated sidewalks so the snow can melt, so pedestrians and wheelchair users don't have to walk on the roads and risk getting hit and run over. The last request I would like to make is to make the bus stop signs lit up 24/7 so the drivers of said buses can see the bus stops better, and the reason why I ask this, so like I am a pedestrian and I have to use the bus often, and I often try to use the flashlight on my phone to really get their attention, but sometimes when that does work, and I just think even the bus drivers even though they might have the route memorized and such,

they still have a hard time seeing the bus stops themselves. Because even when I try to flag them down with my flashlight, they would stop super last minute, I could tell on their face that they just saw me, and I would really have to lean out far off the sidewalk to get their attention, and that's not safe. I think it would be a really good idea to have those bus stops lit up 24/7, so it's easier for the bus drivers to see that there's a bus stop right there in that spot. And, yeah, that was it. Thank you so much, have a good day.

Mayor Donchess

Thank you.

Commissioner, Paul Shea

Would you like us to bring a mic to you? Would you like to speak?

Mayor Donchess

Alright, well, thank you for your comments. I think that's it for the public in terms of people who wish to address the Board. Commissioner's Comments. Any commissioners have comments? Commissioner Espitia.

Commissioner, Manny Espitia

Thank you, and I appreciate Mr. Chair that you gave our guests an opportunity to speak. I think—yeah, I want to first of all say thank you to our hardworking Public Works employees who have been grinding it out in these snowstorms. It has been a rough winter with back-to-back storms and events, and so I just really appreciate the hard work that the folks that are in the Public Works Department are just doing to make sure that our roads are clear in case emergency vehicles need to go or just people needing to get to work safely or just need to go somewhere that they have a safe road. I want to make sure that we do take care of our sidewalks as well. I am one of the families that has had to take a stroller onto the street, and not just any street West Hollis Street and Kinsley Street, because I live between both of those streets, and taking my 2-year-old in the stroller just never feels good going onto those busy streets. I know there are many families. I've driven by many families or by many families who do have to do that because the snow accumulates so much, and I appreciate all our neighbors who make an effort to clear out the snow in front of their homes. I always make it a priority to do the same thing because I know how important it is folks, especially in my neighborhood, to use our sidewalks. Not everybody can clean out the front of their sidewalks. I just hope in the future that we as a department, as the city really try to prioritize making it easier, making it more safe and accessible for folks to use our sidewalks. For many of them it's their only means of transportation. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Any other comments? Commissioner Lemen.

Commissioner, June Lemen

This is a question as well as a comment. Has the Riverwak been officially opened? Will it be officially opened a little ribbon-cutting? Because I think I'm seeing a lot of comments on social media, and I think people who have walked Riverwalk really like it, and people who have not are

just saying well this is a huge boondoggle. The city has wasted all this money. I was thinking if we could have some sort of an event to open it and to just say this is where you can walk to, this is where you can go, you can take a nice long stroll or you can take a short stroll. I think that would be a real--not only a feel-good event, but it would show that it's actually a real asset to the City of Nashua.

Mayor Donchess

Well, good idea, but we do have that planned. There will be a ribbon-cutting and a bunch of other events during the Memorial Day weekend.

Commissioner Lemen

Okay, good.

Mayor Donchess

Commissioner Shea.

Commissioner Shea

I just want to say I am with you to folks that are here in terms of the need for improvements on sidewalks, and I know that everybody here we've talked about this at some length over the last couple of years. The City of Nashua has undergone extensive efforts to bring the streets up to speed. The roads used to be filled with potholes, and it was quite something, perhaps due to disinvestment over a very long period of time. The Mayor, Board of Aldermen, and the Board of Public Works have been in support of catching us up, and we're almost there. In tandem, I believe Engineer Hudson has been working on grading the quality of sidewalks in the city to get us into a position of preparedness to prioritize and address the various sidewalks that are in a troublesome condition, and so we are absolutely attending to this. Progress is slow. That's the nature of the government and the many priorities that are out there, but I want to hear that it is something we are working on. Just like Commissioner Espitia I've got two young kids they started toddling around in French Hill, and so I know firsthand what it's like to be in the neighborhood and to see kids out on the street when it's time to walk to school, and have worked with the Director on miniscule stuff that we can do in the meantime to ensure that the sidewalks are cleared like coming down to using a more narrow sidewalk snow blower and switching up equipment and where it's used. The Mayor and Aldermen and the State of New Hampshire have all been working on a plan for sidewalk improvements with the Supportive Plan New Hampshire to bring the conditions in French Hill up to speed because that is. In the three streets, you've got the Rail Trail, which is the main conduit; it's really helpful. In French Hill, the sidewalks are 60 or 70 years old, something like that. I stand to be corrected, by I think that's about right. Yes, we hear you, and I think it's been a while since we've had an update on the state of the sidewalk grading and where things are at, so perhaps we could have Engineer Hudson present in the next one or two meetings to give us an update on where we are and with any issue if you see something specific that you feel is a priority to be addressed you can always reach out to the Division. We have the SeeClickFix is still up and running, right?

Ms. O'Connor

Correct.

Commissioner Shea

So we have SeeClickFix. That's a great place if there something more urgent.

Ms. Vaz

(Unintelligible).

Commissioner Shea

Yeah, there's an app tied into the functionality. And so always put that stuff in because that helps. It's another data point to help give us some focus and appreciate you being engaged. It's so important that people get involved and speak on these things because as I was alluding to there are so many complex things to address, and having that of influence if very valuable, so appreciate you coming.

Mr. Wheeler

(Unintelligible) I'm sorry. I do think it would be a great long-term investment if we could somehow add heated sidewalks, and that way maybe you guys could save money in the long run from having to pay people to plow the sidewalks. You know, just a thought.

Commissioner Shea

Appreciate the insight, yeah, thank you. I also want to thank the Board of Aldermen for supporting next steps on the DPW garage facility project because we all know how important that is, and it's good to know that the Board of Aldermen are onboard.

Mayor Donchess

And our two Aldermen here were big supporters of this.

Michael B. O'Brien, Sr., Board of Aldermen

We're here for you.

Commissioner Shea

I think that's all. Thank you. Thank you very much.

Mayor Donchess

Commissioner Gregg.

Commissioner, Matthew Gregg

He had his up first.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman O'Brien.

Mr. O'Brien

It's just this regarding the sidewalks. Can we have a discussion with legal?

Mayor Donchess

Yes.

Mr. O'Brien

From what I understand there's a Supreme Court ruling of the past, and I'm talking ancient maybe turn of the century that did say that we can't make citizens clear their sidewalks.

Mayor Donchess

Shovel their sidewalks.

Mr. O'Brien

Yeah, shovel. Now, I grew up in Boston, and you could get ticketed if you didn't shovel the sidewalks, but I now live in the Live Free or Die with 400 wise men up in Concord, but the thing is, our hands are tied. I would support a City ordinance that would say if you're able bodied to shovel your sidewalk. It's a commonsense thing to do, but why no community had done it is because allegedly of that Supreme Court past ruling. If it exists, we need to find out if it does exist because it is shameful. I've seen kids myself and I've walked them myself and you have to walk out in the street and everything else. But, when I grew up in Boston, it was a good way to make some money shoveling some nice old ladies' driveway and sidewalks. Although I don't think if you hand a shovel to a kid in high school, now I don't know if he'll know how to use it.

[Laughter]

Just look at the legalities of this. There is a question on it.

Mayor Donchess

Commissioner Gregg.

Commissioner Gregg

The sidewalk conversation I would love to have at some point, because I think it's really important, and there's obviously some pieces of the city that do a lot better in terms of things like walk scores, so obviously our downtown is a lot better than other areas, even though the downtown has a lot of room for improvement. Would love to continue that with the Board of Aldermen, and we talked about wanting to do that when we were even running. Just shifting gears just to add on what Commissioner Shea said, thank you to the Board of Aldermen for supporting the Public Works garage. I know a lot of people here inside of this organization have contributed dozens and dozens of hours to that presentation, and they went deep. They went extremely deep. I think it was one of the most thorough presentations I've even been a part of, and I think a lot of thought and effort went into it, so thank you to all of the folks that contributed that because it was a big effort. The one thing I do want to say is that the voting was in fact 11 to 3 to continue the funding for it, and that's wonderful that we did get the majority of the Board

of Aldermen to do it, but I would like some of the other Board of Aldermen who have not visited Streets, who have not come down, and I'm looking at you, but I'm not looking at you because I know that you've gone through this process, but I want them to be a little bit more close to the vest because what we keep hearing are things like it's too much money, it's sticker shock. What I've seen in terms of the thorough look into the budget and what they're planning on doing, and what they're planning on doing, and what they're trying to improve for the City of Nashua probably should have been 20 or 25 years ago, but here we are at this current state with this budget trying to make--this organization does a really good job at looking at the pennies, and really digging into what they can save. So, I ask that the Board of Aldermen who have not actually joined us and looked at the Street Department, dug into the budget, and are kind of just saying you know hey it just looks like a lot of sticker shock I don't think that I can support this, I would really, really appreciate a conversation with them and we can dig in together and look at those different pieces, and if they still don't support it I think that's wonderful, but I think we all need to take a really in-depth look at what we're trying to build here. That's my comment.

Mayor Donchess

Alderman Dowd.

Richard A. Dowd, Board of Aldermen

Yeah, three quick things. One was, one of the people that voted against it wanted us to vote for the bond to do the whole thing now. And, actually, he is one of the people that, as myself that has been asking for that type of presentation on business case analysis to show the cross-benefit analysis of building the garage, and I think he was impressed by that as I was. That was a great presentation. That's what we should do on all our major projects. And, I think he wanted to vote on the whole thing. He's also the one that asked to make sure we have the right price. Well, you complete engineering first.

The other thing is the plowing of the streets and sidewalks. The people that do that sidewalk work are also the same people who plow the streets. They can only work so many hours before, by law, to get off. So, sidewalk trail. Also, unless things have changed, I think we're at least four CDL people short.

Commissioner Espitia

Yeah.

Commissioner Gregg

Yes.

Mr. Dowd

And the only other thing I have is, there are several telephone poles in the city. There's one on Kinsley Street that's been hanging off the replacement pole with some wires on it for years.

Commissioner Lemen

Oh, yeah.

Mr. Dowd

What can we do to get those things done because it's been a long, long time.

Dan Hudson, P.E., City Engineer

Do you want me to address that Mr. Mayor?

Mayor Donchess

Go ahead.

Mr. Hudson

That's a good question. I don't have a handy answer for you. The way it works is if the pole maintainer in the City is Eversource. If Eversource needs to establish a pole, they set the pole, and then we go through a series of line transfers. Obviously, Eversource transfers first. They work their way on down the pole until you get to the bottom. The frustration is that there's so many communication companies. They're just very slow. They just don't ever get to it. I'm sure there are hundreds of poles around the city, just like you say, that are ready to be transferred, but aren't. I know some communities have gone as far as raising the issue all the way up to the PUC, trying to get the PUC to get inspiration to have those companies do that. Threatening to take action and things, and have some success, but basically what we do, we meet with utilities every couple weeks and if there's a certain pole that we feel there's a problem, like there was one at Riverside for a while, and we're like let's get that second pole out of there, there's a lot of pedestrian through there. We'll kind of do a pestering of them until it gets taken care of. I don't have a great answer or solution for addressing them all throughout the City unfortunately.

Mr. Dowd

Is it possible that the Board of Aldermen can file legislation that if they don't replace their lines within six months it's a \$1,000.00 a month?

Mr. Hudson

I think it's a great topic to take up with our legal counsel to see what options there are. I certainly would support something that would result in faster turnaround on some of these things. Thank you.

Mayor Donchess

Any other comments? Ms. O'Connor.

Ms. O'Connor

The director wanted me to let you all know that she did review the budget and made an additional reduction to get us down. We'll be reducing the Fiscal Year 2027 proposed budget by \$100,000.00, taking \$25,000.00 from the striping increase we had requested, \$25,000.00 from snow overtime, and eliminating unfunding. Unfunding one vacant truck driver. So you know where we're at.

Mayor Donchess

Alright, so no other comments, we will go to Personnel.

XI. PERSONNEL

A. Motion: To Approve And Unseal The Non-Public Minutes For Personnel From The Board Of Public Works Meeting Of February 26, 2026.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Item A, Commissioner Gregg.

Motion by Commissioner Gregg: To Approve And Unseal The Non-Public Minutes For Personnel From The Board Of Public Works Meeting Of February 26, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

B. Motion: To Accept The Resignation Of CJ Combs, Streets, Effective March 18, 2026.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Item B, Commissioner Shea.

Motion by Commissioner Shea: To Accept The Resignation Of CJ Combs, Streets, Effective March 18, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

C. Motion: To Accept The Resignation Of Sadie Hudzik, Wastewater, Effective April 1, 2026.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Item C, Commissioner Lemen.

Motion by Commissioner Lemen: To Accept The Resignation Of Sadie Hudzik, Wastewater, Effective April 1, 2026.

MOTION CARRIED: Unanimously.

XII. NON-PUBLIC SESSION

A. Non-Public Session Pursuant To R.S.A. 91-A:3, li (B) The Hiring Of Any Person As A Public Employee.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Now, we have the Non-Public Session. Commissioner Gregg.

Motion By Commissioner Gregg: To Move By Roll Call That The Board Go Into a Non-Public Session Pursuant R.S.A. 91-A:3, II (b), The Hiring of Any Person As A Public Employee.

Viva Voce Roll Call:

5-Yea (Shea, Lemen, Gregg, Espitia, Donchess) – 0 Nay

MOTION CARRIED. Unanimously.

The Board entered into a Non-Public Session at 4:58 p.m. and reconvened at 5:00 p.m.

B. To Move By Roll Call To Seal The Minutes Of Board Of Public Works Personnel Non-Public Meeting Of March 26, 2026, Until Such Time As The Majority Of The Board Votes That The Purpose Of The Confidentiality Would No Longer Be Served.

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

Alright, we're back in public session, Commissioner Gregg.

Motion by Commissioner Gregg: To Move By Roll Call To Seal The Minutes Of Board Of Public Works Personnel Non-Public Meeting Of March 26, 2026, Until Such Time As The Majority Of The Board Votes That The Purpose Of The Confidentiality Would No Longer Be Served.

Viva Voce Roll Call:

5-Yea (Shea, Lemen, Gregg, Espitia, Donchess) – 0 Nay

MOTION CARRIED. Unanimously.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman, James Donchess, Mayor

I think we've concluded our business, Commissioner Shea.

Motion by Commissioner Shea: To Adjourn.

The meeting of the Board of Public Works of March 26, 2026, adjourned at 5:00 p.m.