

AD HOC JOINT COMMITTEE ON CAPITAL EXPENDITURES AND DEBT SERVICE PLANNING
April 2, 2026

A meeting of the Ad Hoc Joint Committee on Capital Expenditures and Debt Service Planning was held Thursday, April 2, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the aldermanic chamber, and duly noticed in two places, including the City's website, in accordance with the requirements of RSA 91-A:2 II.

Let's start the meeting by taking a roll call attendance. If you are participating via Zoom, please state your presence, reason for not attending the meeting in person, and whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-To-Know Law.

The roll call was taken with 8 members of the Ad Hoc Joint Committee present:

Mayor James Donchess, Chairman, presided.

Members of the Committee present:	Alderman-at-Large Lori Wilshire
	Alderman-at-Large Ben Clemons
	Alderman-at-Large Shoshanna Kelly
	Alderman Patricia Klee
	Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director
	Matt Sullivan, Community Development Director
	Lisa Fauteux, Public Works Director
	Mayor Jim Donchess

Members of the Committee absent:

Also in Attendance:	Alderman Paula Johnson
	Alderman John Sullivan
	Alderman Richard A. Dowd
	Alderman Derek Thibeault
	Dawn Enwright, CFO

ROLL CALL

DISCUSSION

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO MOVE FORWARD AND SCHEDULE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT THREE OR FOUR WEEKS, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Klee, Director Fauteux, Director Sullivan, Director Cummings, Mayor Donchess	6
Nay:	Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly	2

MOTION CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY ALDERMAN WILSHIRE TO ADJOURN, BY ROLL CALL

A viva voce roll call was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	Alderman Wilshire, Alderman Clemons, Alderwoman Kelly, Alderman Klee, Director Fauteux, Director Sullivan, Director Cummings, Mayor Donchess	8
Nay:		0

MOTION CARRIED

The meeting was declared adjourned a 7:58 p.m.

Tim Cummings, Administrative Services Director
Committee Clerk

***Ad Hoc Joint Mayoral & Board of Aldermen
Capital Expenditures and Debt Service
Planning
04.02.2026***

TIM CUMMINGS
ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

DAWN ENWRIGHT
CFO

GENERAL OPENING COMMENTS

DISCUSSION TONIGHT



The Purpose of our discussion is to provide a high level overview on the Capital Project Planning through the Lens of the Ad Hoc Joint Mayoral - Board of Aldermen Committee on Capital Expenditures & Debt Service Plan(s)

MEETING OBJECTIVES

PROVIDE A LITTLE BACKGROUND ON BONDING & OUR CAPITAL PROJECT PLANNING

ACQUAINT FOLKS WITH THE WORK WE DID PREVIOUSLY

PROPOSE THE IDEA THAT WE REVIEW THE FY27 CIP & TO BE ABLE TO UPDATE OUR DEBT SERVICE PLAN

**FIRST LETS MAKE SURE WE'RE JUMPING OFF FROM
THE SAME SPOT**

DOES EVERYONE KNOW WHAT BONDING IS?

**DIFFERENCE AUTHORIZING CAP SPENDING AND
SELLING DEBT?**

**DO YOU KNOW WHAT A CIP IS?
(WHY WE HAVE A CIC COMMITTEE?)**

Why is This Important



- We as a community have over **\$700 mil +** in capital requests over the next 6 years
- We have a debt service budget of **\$23.7M** currently
- We have to balance our capital needs with operational demands
- We want to maintain a stable property tax rate increase Year over Year

WHAT STEPS DID WE TAKE

- Recognizing the need to organize the various requests
- The Mayor & President formed an Ad Hoc Committee to study the issue
- A group of Aldermen and Member of the Administration Studied the Issue over a few months to help develop an advisory plan
- Recognizing we want to maintain a stable property tax rate increase Year Over year



MAJOR TAKEAWAYS

THROUGH THE AD HOC PROCESS GENERALLY AGREED TO KEEP NEW DEBT SALES AROUND \$25M PER YEAR OVER A 5 YR. PERIOD

BASED ON THE WORK WE DID WE PASSED R-24-077

THESE PLANS NEED TO BE VIEWED NOT AS STATIC BUT LIVING DOCUMENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND AS GUIDANCE TO HELP US NAVIGATE THE FISCAL CHALLENGES

IT WAS EXPRESSED THAT USING CASH MORE SO THAN BORROWING PARTICULARLY FOR SMALLER CAPITAL PROJECTS WOULD BE PREFERRED

BONDING OF PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Projects Ready For Bonding - Identified during Ad Hoc Process

DPW: Garage & Fleet Maintenance Facility (Under Design - Moving toward Construction)

Citywide Infra: Holman Stadium (Repair/Renovation)

Citywide Infrastructure: Mohawk Tannery - Pedestrian Bridge (Contractual Obligation)

Citywide Infrastructure: Hydro Improvements (Under Design)

Citywide Infrastructure: Elm & High Street Parking Garage (Under Construction)

Citywide Infrastructure: Signal Implementation (Has Not Begun)

Police: 9 Riverside Police Training Facility (Used Cash - Nearly Completed)

Police: Headquarters Roof Repair (Under Construction)

Schools: Birch Hill / Main Dunstable (Completed)

Schools: Middle School Contingency (Completed)

Citywide Infrastructure: Paving Program (Continue Paving Program \$8.0M = \$2.0M a yr.)

CERF (Vehicles / Equipment Replacement Program \$3.5M)

BUT OUR WORK CONTINUES....

Projects Ready For Bonding - Identified during Ad Hoc Process
"Next up and in the plan..."

Fire: Deferred Capital Maintenance Program (HVAC Repairs \$6.0M = \$1.5M a yr.)

Schools: Deferred Capital Maintenance Program (Misc. projects \$6.0M = \$2.0M a yr.)

Library: Library Renovation Project

Fire: Pine Hill Station #5 Rebuild

DPW Garage Moving To Construction

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Projects Needing Additional Policy Guidance / Community Engagement - Further Study is Necessary Identified During Ad Hoc Process - Previously Identified

**Mt. Pleasant Elementary School Renovation
Keefe Auditorium Project
Court Street Theater Project
Riverside Athletic Fields
New (Additional) Fire Station (Station #7)
Low Barrier Shelter / Resource Center
Railroad Project (Passenger Rail)
Pool Rehab (2x)
Annual Sidewalk Repair Plan
Truck Wash (Could be incorporated into DPW Garage project)**

**City Hall Renovation
ERP System Upgrade
Police Cell Booking Area
Eco Dev Placemaking / Branding / Wayfinding
NHDOT Transportation Projects
Main Street Reconfiguration
Police Parking Lot
Fire training Facility / Yard Relocation
HVAC Library Controls (Depends on project)**

***These projects have not started design - some have begun a feasibility study to prepare for a future project**

***We need guidance on where these projects should go..**

PROCESS AS WE MOVE FORWARD

- **Seek to File Bond Authorizations to run concurrently or after adoption of the budget**
- **Follow previous guidance (seeking to discuss and confirm?)**
 - **Capital Improvement Spending Through Operating Budget \$1.4M (looking to increase as appropriate – using cash**
 - **Limit new debt sale to approximately \$25M per year (using a \$25M average over 5 yr. period + Inflation) is this still appropriate ?**
 - **Evaluate the need to exempt the debt from the cap to implement the debt service plan as a matter of policy ?**
 - **Is there an appetite to authorize additional spending during the fall using surplus for Capital ?**

THANK YOU