



City of New Bedford

IN COMMITTEE

July 20, 2017

The Honorable City Council
133 William Street
New Bedford, MA 02740

Dear Honorable Members of the City Council:

The Committee on Finance at a Meeting held on Monday, July 17, 2017, considered a WRITTEN MOTION, Councillor Morad, requesting, that the rental contract currently being negotiated with representatives of the Fort Taber Military Museum Association be presented to the Committee on Finance for review prior to being executed by the Administration; and further, that the Executive Board of the Fort Taber Military Museum Association, along with their legal representative be invited to the Committee on Finance to discuss the terms of the contract and the financial effect said contract will have on the future operation of the Military Museum. (Ref'd 6/8/17)

On motion by Councillor Gomes and seconded by Councillor Lopes, the Committee VOTED: To recommend to the City Council that it send a communication to the Administration's Fee Structure Committee, expressing its strong opposition to any charges and/or fees being levied upon the Military Museum for any reason. This Motion PASSED on a Roll Call Vote of Yeas 10, Nays 0.

IN COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Linda M. Morad a.

Councillor Linda M. Morad, Chairperson

LM/at

Fee Task Force Meeting Minutes
9/6/18 at 4pm
Ashley room

Present: Councilor Jim Oliveira, Councilor Brian Gomes, Celeine Saraiva, Helena Hughes, Elaine Safioleas, Mary Rapoza, Manny Silva, Ken Blanchard, Mark Champagne and Kristine Arsenault

Absent: Ari Sky, excused.

Kristine thanked everyone for participating, reiterated the mission of this group, and suggested we begin with a brief overview of each department's policy.

Dept. of Facilities and Fleet Management

Ken reviewed the issues of deferred maintenance of city. Ken explained the need for lease agreements with tenants in city owned buildings to define responsibilities and expectations. In addition to the physical space non-city entities use, there are ongoing utility costs. A percentage of utility costs is based on square footage. These contributions to the City help to offset a small portion of tax burden placed on the entire citizenry.

Celeine asked about potential waivers. Kristine reviewed that the City does not want to get into granting waivers for some and not others, and that is why this task force was created.

Helena offered her thoughts as the Director of an Organization operating in a city owned building that the contributions for using city space is fair and reasonable.

Councilor Gomes asked about the savings we are receiving from our solar program and LED light implementation. Kristine will ask CFO's office to provide data on estimated costs pre energy programs versus current programs. With regard to the Military Museum specifically, Councilor Oliveira suggests that they be considered a part of the "City", a tourism asset, and therefore not subject to non-city department fees. Councilor Gomes concurred. Helena, Celeine and Elaine all feel the museum should pay a fair percentage of the utility costs.

Department of Public Infrastructure

Manny restated that city property is being used constantly and there are no funds to replace these big ticket items like the bandshell that is now beyond repair. These fees are to help to recover a fraction of the cost of the overtime labor these events cost and depreciation of physical assets. City based non-profit events are only charged 20% of the estimated value of this work.

The entire group is in agreement about non-resident entities paying 100% of associated costs.

Councilor Gomes reiterated that he believes DPI should add a line item to their budget to cover the approximate 100k cost associated with the "in-kind" work we provide and non-profits should not have to pay any percentage.

Councilor Oliveira supported Councilor Gomes idea of creating a new budget line item.

Mary commented that since fees were introduced people are not asking for items and labor that are not really necessary. When people get something for free they often take more than what is needed.

Councilor Gomes also remarked that the City should have a bandshell for City official use. Kristine had provided, by email prior to this meeting, an estimate showing a basic bandshell starts at a cost of \$110k.

Park Department/ Park Board

The Park Dept. wants to encourage groups to use the parks because they can provide events that are free and open to the public. City Non-profits are asked to just pay the costs that cover the custodian and electric for building rentals. The park land fees are discounted and NB non-profits are only charged 20%. Now that the revolving fund has been approved revenues from the fort will be used there directly. Creating an organized system for reserving space, even with a fee attached, has resulted in increased awareness and usage. Non- resident groups can be charged 100%.

Recommendations:

- **DFFM:** Everyone agrees that the lease arrangements are fair and should stay the same.
- **DPI:** Two Councilors and one public member feel that for this year we keep the 80% discount currently implemented and that DPI create a line item in the next Budget to reflect the "in-kind" contributions and not pass on any fees to the non-profits. Two public members and 5 city managers believe that we should keep the current structure.
- **Parks:** Everyone in agreement that the current system is fair and can stay the same.
- **Military Museum:** Two Councilors wish to eliminate all fees. The three public members and the 5 city managers agreed that the museum should pay a percentage of fees.

Wrap Up:

Kristine will send out minutes for approval. When complete, these recommendations will be provided to the entire City Council and Mayor Mitchell.

Adjourned: 5:30pm