

**City of Portland, Maine
Finance Committee Meeting
Thursday, July 25th, 2019
5:30 p.m., Room 209**

MINUTES

**Finance Committee MEMBERS PRESENT:
Chair Mavodones, Committee Members Costa & Strimling**

Members of City Council (Duson, Ali, Ray, Thibodeau), City Staff, and Public

5:35 PM - Meeting Called to Order/Introductions

5:37 PM - Fire Department Apparatus Discussion Ladder Apparatus

The Committee heard from Fire Chief Keith Gautreau on a recently downed piece of apparatus, Ladder 6. The City had six ladder trucks in the FY20 fleet (five including a backup) but one ladder truck was already being refurbished. Ladder 6 going down leaves the City with no backup ladder. Ladder 6 was scheduled to be a Fire Department CIP request in 2020 but replacement needs to be discussed prior to the upcoming CIP. The Finance Director reviewed potential financing options for a replacement apparatus with the Committee. This item is scheduled for discussion only. No vote was taken.

5:55 PM - Appropriation of Donations to Support Asylum Seekers – Public Hearing and Vote

The City of Portland has been collecting donations since June 2019 to support asylum seekers with the stated intent: “The City will use any monetary donations received to provide shelter/housing assistance and basic human necessities.” Before the donations can be used, they must be appropriated by City Council so the City Manager can operationalize the funds. City staff provided an update for Committee on how the funds will be used to meet the promise to donors of providing shelter/housing assistance and basic human necessities. See attached memo from the Finance Director for more details.

Motion by Strimling to appropriate \$870,000 into Social Services budget, Seconded by Costa, Passes 3-0, Vote Time: 7:31 PM

7:32 PM - PSTEP

Program Update – Communication Item

The City of Portland opened the PSTEP (Portland Senior Tax Equity Program) to applications from residents on March 15th 2019 and kept the application period extended through June 30th, 2019 due to the volume of requests. On July 1st, 2019 funding for the program became available. The City is still awaiting confirmation from the State of Maine in regards to any credits applicants have been granted on tax returns. Once that information is received we will fully process applications. We anticipate this information will be received during the third quarter of 2019 and will be mailing refund checks at this time. Staff will provide an additional update on the program in August 2019.

7:35 PM - Future Meeting Dates & Potential Topics

- a. PSTEP Updates (July & August 2019*)
- b. Fire Ladder Update (August 2019)
- c. Sewer / Stormwater Projects Update & Future Rate Impacts (August 2019*)

- d. Debt Management Policy (August 2019*)
 - e. Councilor Cook's PSTEP Program Revisions (September or later)
 - f. FY21 CIP Schedule & 2 Year Cycle Discussion (September / October)
 - g. Procurement Policy Changes (September / October)
 - h. 0 Hancock Street Sale Proceeds TBD – Can be added to any other agenda
- *Note: In 2018 the Committee did not meet in August due to vacation schedules. It has yet to be determined whether there will be an August 2019 meeting.

7:46 PM – Adjournment

Motion by Costa, seconded by Strimling, Passes 3-0