

**CITY OF WOBURN
CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
As a Committee of the Whole
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE ROOM
WOBURN CITY HALL**

Voting Members present: Chair Charles Viola, President Jeffrey Dillon, Councilor Robert Toro, Councilor William Pappalardo, Councilor Joseph Demers, Councilor Lou DiMambro.
Absent: Councilor Robert Ferullo, Councilor Joanne Campbell and Councilor Darlene Mercer-Bruen

Also present: Mayor Michael Concannon and City Auditor Charles Doherty

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MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to dispense with the reading of and approve the minutes of the meeting of May 28, 2024; all in favor, 6-0.

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Order that the sum of \$750,000 be transferred from Overlay Reserve Acct# 01-322000 to OPEB Trust Fund Acct# 7500048-483011: Mayor Concannon said this is the annual transfer to the OPEB account that has been made for the past several years to pay down the commitment. Auditor Doherty said the city has consistently contributed \$750,000 to this account. He said the Assessors Dept. signed off on the transfer. He said the \$750,000 is available from the overlay account. Councilor Pappalardo asked for an explanation of the OPEB account. Auditor Doherty said the city picks up the costs of some post-employment benefits. He said the liability is over \$230 million. Mayor Concannon said the city's efforts to fund the OPEB liability are looked at favorably. Auditor Doherty said the goal is to contribute \$750,000 every year. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor DiMambro that the order "ought to pass;" approved, 6-0.

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Capital Budget FY 2025 – Order that the sum of \$4,530,020.85 be transferred from Unreserved Fund Balance Acct# 01-356000 to Various Capital Projects: Mayor Concannon said a list of capital budget items has been compiled and distributed to members of the council. He said he met with department heads. He said the city typically works on a 5-year plan for capital items. He said the city cannot fund every single request. He said they have to prioritize. Councilor Demers referenced a \$10,000 line item for new chairs in the City Council Chamber. He said even though that is a small amount he does not feel that is the right thing to do with the increase in this year's budget. He said the chairs are a novelty item. Councilor Pappalardo said the chair he sits in is fine. Mayor Concannon said the request for new chairs has been lingering. Councilor Demers asked if there is another item for \$10,000 that could be funded. Mayor Concannon said the library is requesting computers for staff and patrons. He said that might be a

good use. Councilor Demers said that will be a much better benefit for the taxpayers. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Pappalardo to amend the list of capital items to remove the \$10,000 expenditure for new chairs for the City Council Chamber; approved, 6-0. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Pappalardo that the order as amended “ought to pass;” approved, 6-0. Mayor Concannon said the School Dept. has also submitted a list of capital budget items on Friday. He said his office is still reviewing the list and there is some paring to do. He said it is an open secret that the city has had discussion about the Martini Insurance building next door to City Hall. He said all of that is contingent on what the City Council wants to do. He said if that happens, it would be a capital expense.

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Order that the sum of \$10,000 be transferred from the Mayor’s Salary Adj Acct#0112151-511-019 to Library Salary Acct#0161051-5111000: Auditor Doherty said this order will cover salaries for substitute library employees who worked while other employees were out. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor DiMambro that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 6-0.

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Order that the sum of \$12,000 be transferred from Workers Compensation Acct# 0198051-517100 to Census Postage Acct# 0116254-534402: Auditor Doherty said this transfer reflects the cost of changes in postage fees that have put the City Clerk’s office beyond its budget for its postage line item. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor DiMambro that the order “ought to pass;” approved, 6-0.

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Order to revoke Opioid Settlement Stabilization Fund and place in a special Revenue Fund: Auditor Doherty said last year the state wanted the funds from an opioid settlement to go into a stabilization account., but Gov. Healey then gave communities flexibility to spend on demand. He said the Substance Misuse Coordinator’s position was filled with money from the opioid settlement. He said the city needs to create a special fund so there is no confusion. Councilor Demers asked if there are any way funds in this account could be spent elsewhere. Auditor Doherty said there are guidelines. President Dillon said it is important for the public to know that. He said hopefully there will be more money coming from the settlement. Auditor Doherty said there are several areas that may yield more money. He said the city can fund that position and department. President Dillon asked if it is a 7-year project. Auditor Doherty answered affirmatively. President Dillon asked if Auditor Doherty has any idea how much money will be coming. Auditor Doherty said the amount is not set yet. Councilor Pappalardo asked how much money is being moved. Auditor Doherty said the amount that is being moved is around \$300,000. Councilor DiMambro asked how much the city receives from Sanctuary Medicinals. Auditor Doherty said the revenue from Sanctuary Medicinals goes to direct receipts, for which the city gets quarterly reports from the state. Councilor DiMambro asked if there is a separate account for drug awareness. Auditor Doherty said the money goes to the general fund. He said that could change with a vote of the City Council. Councilor Demers said there were

community agreements that the SJC deemed null and void because they were considered egregious mitigation. Mayor Concannon said the city has a Substance Misuse Coordinator. Her said she has hit the ground running. He said there was an event at the Showcase Cinemas last night, a showing of the film Methadone Mile that played to a full house. He said it was a great first public step. He said they are raising awareness. Councilor DiMambro asked if Substance Misuse Coordinator Mackenzie Dezieck led that charge. President Concannon answered affirmatively. He said Samanta Stone, Assistant to the Mayor for Community Outreach and Communications, also helped. Councilor Demers said he hopes Ms. Dezieck can attend an upcoming meeting of the council's Liaison Committee. President Concannon said he would be happy to have Ms. Dezieck provide an update to the committee when it is appropriate, as she is expecting a child. Motion made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor DiMambro that the order "ought to pass;" approved, 6-0.

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MOTION made by Councilor Demers and seconded by Councilor Ferullo to adjourn; all in favor, 5-0. Chair Viola adjourned the meeting at 6:20 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD ATTEST

Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees