

Copyright 1991  
Union Leader Corp.  
The Union Leader (Manchester, NH)

 **The Union Leader**

August 27, 1991 Tuesday ALL EDITIONS

SECTION: Pg. 6

LENGTH: 1149 words

HEADLINE: Council Is Expected to Approve \$ 2.8M PDA Operating Budget. Council To Vote on Match Money. Seek Council OK's

BYLINE: DONN TIBBETTS State House Bureau Chief

BODY:

CONCORD - The Executive Council is expected to give final approval tomorrow to a \$ 2.8 million operating budget for the Pease Development Authority, previously approved by the Legislature's Fiscal Committee.

The green light is also expected for \$ 74,000 in Governor's Drug Free Schools Program grants and for \$ 89,000 in Governor's Recycling Program awards to local communities.

Gov. Judd Gregg and the Council will get the 146th annual report of the bank commissioner for the calendar year ending December 31, 1990. It will show "to some degree the magnitude of the regional economic downturn and its effect on New Hampshire's banking institutions," reported Commissioner Roland Roberge.

"During 1990 most banking institutions encountered substantial deterioration in asset quality, capital erosion, negative earnings and substantial shifts in liquidity planning," said Roberge.

And correctly forecasting what was ahead, he said, "As 1990 drew to a close, it became evident that 1991 would require a substantial degree of bank restructure, new capital infusion and a trend toward reversal in the general economy."

The state's Industrial Development Authority wants approval of a \$ 35,000 sole-source contract with **Mt. Auburn Associates Inc.** of Somerville, Mass., to assist it in developing additional financing programs to meet the increasng needs of businesses in the state. Federal tax code revisions have restricted the authority's tax-exempt financing capabilities.

IDA Executive Director Clarke Chandler said that **Mt. Auburn** was "identified as the firm with the most extensive background in financial analysis and development of financing alternatives for local and state governments."

The 1991 Legislature created a study committee to review the IDA and Chandler expects it to be the vehicle for legislation in 1992 that will introduce new financing methods for businesses which previously have not qualified for IDA funding.

At its Aug. 7 meeting, the council tabled a proposed \$ 120,000 sole-source contract with Law Warehouse in Nashua to store federal surplus foods. It also tabled a proposed vending contract with C.C. Vending of Laconia over concern that it was the only bidder.

Consumer Advocate Michael Holmes at the Public Utilities Commission wants to hire the Tellus Institute Inc. of Boston for \$ 12,836 to help represent consumers in the current rate case hike sought by Energy North Inc., a natural gas company.

Holmes said the consultant contract has not been bid "because of severe time constraints."

Attorney General John Arnold wants to give \$ 4,543 salary boosts to Assistant AG's Mark Hodgdon and Mark Howard raising their \$ 40,145 salaries to \$ 44,688 effective Sept. 1.

On August 8, Councilors Peter Spaulding and Earl Rinker objected to similar double-step increases but they were approved in a 3-2 vote. The councilors contend double-step pay raises aren't proper given the tight economy, but Arnold has said they are justified to retain assistant attorneys general with "experience and expertise."

A \$ 2,271 boost is proposed for Assistant Attorney General Julie Howard, from minimum \$ 37,874 to \$ 40,145. Arnold wants Ann Larney appointed assistant attorney general at 60 percent of the minimum step, or \$ 22,724.

Meanwhile, the council is expected to give final approval to an \$ 82,000 salary - \$ 10,000 above law - for the new director of the state's Public Health Services, Dr. Patrick Meehan, who was recruited for the post.

The Department of Employment Security wants to accept an additional \$ 780,000 in federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Program money to bring to \$ 1.2 million such aid this year. The funds will be used for training, job search and relocation assistance for persons whose jobs were in industries adversely affected by foreign trade.

Targeted are a potential 100 workers from Sprague Electric, 40 from Encore Shoe in Rochester, 80 from Encore Shoe in Newport and 20 from Pandora Industries. Another 120 workers from Henschel Shoe are potentially eligible.

Adjutant General Lloyd Price wants to accept \$ 73,450 from the federal government to cover payment of holiday pay and related benefits for state firefighters and security officers at Pease Air National Guard Base for fiscal year 1992.

There are 46 federally funded firefighters who assumed the flightline, crash-fire-rescue functions at the base when the U.S. Air Force phased out operations. There are also 12 security officers.

The state's Land Conservation Investment Program wants to protect 515 acres of land in Plainfield at a cost of \$ 65,000 in state funds, 123 acres of land in Webster at a cost of \$ 177,500 and 392.5 acres of land in Hudson at a cost of \$ 275,000.

It seeks to protect 318 acres of land in Epsom at a cost of \$ 140,000 and to protect 181.4 acres of land in Hinsdale at a cost of \$ 125,000.

The state's Labor Department wants to accept a best-bid \$ 482,256 contract with IBM for a new computer, including software and installation.

There's a \$ 501,420 contract to replace a snowmaking pipe at the Cannon Mountain state-operated ski area.

E.D. Swett of Concord is proposed to get a \$ 4.3 million low bid pact for safety improvements and reconstruction and widening of Route 101 westbound at Interstate 293, Exit 3 and the F.E. Everett Turnpike in Bedford. The project, which came in \$ 890,220 below estimate, is due to be completed by June 1993.

Council To Vote on Match Money.

LOAD-DATE: July 23, 1996