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1 CITY OF FLINT

2 RECEIVERSHIP TRANSITION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

3 WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2015

4 2:00 P.M.

5

6 Meeting before the RTAB Board at

7 1101 S. Saginaw, 3rd Floor, Council Chambers,

8 Flint, Michigan, on Wednesday, August 12, 2015.

9

10 BOARD MEMBERS:

11 Frederick Headen, Chairperson
Robert McMahan, Member (via video conference)
12 Brian Larkin, Member
David McGhee, Member
13 Beverly Walker-Griffea, Member

14 ALSO PRESENT:

15 R. Eric Cline (Department of Treasury)
Natasha Henderson (City Administrator)
16 Jody Lundquist (Director of Finance)
Mayor Dayne Walling (City of Flint)
17 Joshua Freeman (Council President)

18 MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ADDRESSING THE BOARD:

19 Eric Mays
Chris Del Morone
20

REPORTED BY:

21

Quentina R. Snowden, (CSR-5519)
22 Certified Shorthand Reporter,
Notary Public
23

24

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1 Wednesday, August 12, 2015
2 Flint, Michigan
3 2:01 p.m.
4 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: This RTAB meeting
5 will be in order, please. Item 1A, roll call. Let
6 the record reflect that all five members of the RTAB
7 Board are present, as in person or remotely.
8 Item B, approval of the agenda. I
9 believe Members have been informed of an addition of
10 Resolution 785, adopted by the Council at their
11 meeting last night. Are there other additions to
12 the agenda?
13 MEMBER LARKIN: Was this simply sent
14 electronically from the August 10th meeting as well,
15 I believe we have to do an action on the Sorensen
16 Gross --
17 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: The corrections
18 of the resolution from the 22nd?
19 MEMBER LARKIN: Yes, or was that
20 already taken care of?
21 MR. CLINE: Well, the resolution from
22 August 10th was intended to replace a resolution
23 from the July meeting, because of a typo and the
24 Council felt it important to readopt that, because
25 of the grant project that they needed to move

1 forward with or risk losing the grant fund.
2 So, they indicated just send us that
3 information and simply just replace that, because
4 the intent or the dollar amounts in the resolution,
5 as I understand, were not changed, it was just
6 correcting a couple of typographical errors.
7 MEMBER LARKIN: So, when we --
8 MR. CLINE: Right. And that's the
9 only item from that meeting that we're addressing
10 and I just wanted to have a clean copy for all of
11 you to follow, so --
12 MEMBER LARKIN: All right.
13 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Other additions
14 to the agenda? Any? If not, I'll consider the
15 agenda to be approved with the addition.
16 Item C, approval of the minutes of
17 July 15th RTAB meeting. Members had a chance to
18 review those? Are there any corrections or
19 additions?
20 MEMBER McGHEE: No.
21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there a motion
22 that the minutes of July 15th be approved?
23 MEMBER McGHEE: So move.
24 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?
25 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Second.

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Those in favor please, say "Aye."

(All ayes.)

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed? Motion is adopted.

Item 2, old business, there is none.

Item 3, new business. Beginning with this particular meeting, we are adding to our agenda an item to allow both the Mayor and City Council president or someone designated by Council president, an opportunity at each meeting to address the RTAB about any issue that happens to be on our agenda so that you don't have to wait to do so during public comment. We had a brief informal discussion about this after the last meeting, and we hope that, Mayor, by allowing you, your counterpart in the legislative branch be able to address us about any issue on the agenda, routinely, will help facilitate the transition process as we go along. I think all of us, although, I'll speak only for myself, hope as each meeting goes along at the RTAB, you become less and less relevant, because you and City Council and the City Administrator basically run the City in a way that meets everyone's satisfaction. We hope to be able to, in some

1 instances perhaps, facilitate breaking the tie with
2 differences of opinion, but we don't want ourselves
3 to be viewed as a supra City Council, or be looking
4 over your shoulders on a regular basis. And so
5 I'll -- if other members have thoughts along those
6 lines, please feel free to express that. But we
7 felt like this step with regards to the agenda,
8 would be an initial step on our part.
9 So with that, Mayor, if you would. We
10 won't hold you to a clock.
11 MAYOR WALLING: I'll be brief. And
12 certainly if there are questions or concerns, either
13 at the microphone this afternoon or at any other
14 time, please feel free to get a hold of me. I think
15 we've worked very hard in the last few months to
16 have open communication and extensive discussion
17 with City Council members for their committee
18 structure and formal meetings, even at a special
19 Council meeting last night, and we'll continue to do
20 that.
21 I think you're aware we're working on
22 lots of fronts all the time with the City of Flint,
23 but we do still have a great number of significant
24 challenges. But in each of those areas, we have
25 strong department heads, incredibly hardworking

1 employees and we've worked diligently to build
2 community partnerships so that we're really
3 leveraging all of our resources.
4 And I think you've seen what's
5 occupied us intently over the last two weeks, and
6 that has been a spike in homicides. Unfortunately,
7 since July 31st, we've had 10 incidents of deadly
8 gun shootings, and we've had 11 lives lost in those
9 10 incidents. We did an update yesterday with the
10 Michigan State Police. We have a joint Major Crimes
11 Investigative Detective Bureau staffed by both Flint
12 Police Department as well as Michigan State Police
13 detectives. We had Lieutenant Young from the State
14 Police and Captain Birnie and Lieutenant Bernritter
15 together yesterday to update the media and the
16 public on those cases. Without the details of
17 course in each one, we're very pleased that, in five
18 of those instances, we have individuals who are
19 arrested and in custody. We have suspects
20 identified in four more of those cases, and it only
21 leaves the one incident a couple nights ago on West
22 Home where we're still searching for leads and
23 information from the community. We tragically lost
24 a grandmother figure for the community, and a
25 one-year-old toddler who was in the home. There

1 were -- thankfully, if you can say that in events
2 like that, there were eight children who were also
3 in the home who were unaffected by physical
4 violence; of course will be affected for many years
5 by what took place. But it's a joint effort, and
6 it's making some significant progress. I'll just
7 say, because you were willing to add this to your
8 agenda, very last notice, City Administrator and I
9 went to Council on Monday night during their
10 regularly scheduled meeting under a special order to
11 start the discussion about whether the City of Flint
12 could do anything more within its existing resources
13 to add police protection to the community. And the
14 Council was very receptive to that discussion. We
15 knew that there were unfilled positions in the Fire
16 Department that we have been managing without for
17 more than six months. And when you look at the data
18 of what's taken place this year, we have made
19 significant progress in reducing the number of
20 structure fires and the number of arsons, and very
21 much so the number of occupied building fires.
22 Whereas the police, despite the efforts to bring
23 down crime generally in the last year-and-a-half to
24 two years, there's a sense from the Flint Police
25 Department and Michigan State Police that we were at

1 a point where that progress was being threatened by
2 the recent events.
3 So, we went to the next night -- just
4 last night, we were in this same room with City
5 Council and they called a special meeting and we had
6 a resolution available to them for consideration.
7 We didn't know, going into that meeting, if they'd
8 be prepared to act on that, if they would want to
9 have further discussion, but we were able to answer
10 the questions from Captain Birnie from the Flint
11 Police Department, Chief Cox was here, Chief
12 Financial Officer, City Administrator, myself of
13 course. And we received strong support from City
14 Council to shift seven firefighter positions that
15 have been unfilled, to the equivalent cost of five
16 Flint police officers so we could add police
17 protection. And that was not something we came to
18 lightly. It's a very difficult proposition to put
19 forward, to reduce the budgeted staffing of one
20 department, even though there wouldn't be any actual
21 reduction in firefighters who are working for the
22 City of Flint, because those were open positions,
23 and then, you know, to add that to the Police
24 Department.
25 But we believed it was necessary at

1 this time to take that step, and we certainly would
2 look for you to also consider that today in
3 answering any questions that you may have about why
4 we feel that's necessary. The number five is
5 important, because that's what allows us to add one
6 additional police officer in every shift, 24 hours a
7 day, seven days a week. So that -- that gives the
8 police chief and his leadership staff the ability to
9 add one additional police officer, whether that's
10 general patrol or directed patrol or another special
11 assignment. That allows us to have that coverage
12 throughout the week, throughout the day, and have
13 that capacity in place.
14 So with that, let me just end on one
15 more positive note for our community, and that is
16 we're kicking off this afternoon with the cruise,
17 the Back to the Bricks. So, we're going to have an
18 extraordinary spotlight on our community. Our men
19 and women in uniform will also be working very hard
20 on that event. Special events pay for services now
21 from the City of Flint, so those are on overtime
22 hours. The Back to the Bricks Committee is paying
23 for the police services and traffic engineering
24 that's necessary for that event, so it doesn't
25 conflict with the officers we need to have on patrol

1 and doing the detective work. But we hope to have a
2 wonderful, peaceful, fun next couple of days here in
3 the City of Flint, as we continue to work hard on
4 the ongoing issues that we manage every day.
5 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.
6 MAYOR WALLING: All right. Thank you.
7 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Council President
8 Freeman.
9 MR. FREEMAN: I'm going to be brief.
10 I appreciate the changes you guys made in the agenda
11 as we move forward. And the only time you're going
12 to see me up here is if we got a difference of
13 opinion with myself or the administration or Ms.
14 Henderson; and working on just the little things
15 that the City Council passes might be easier for all
16 of us. But you know, other than that, you're not
17 going to see me, and I hope -- I mean, I would just
18 be prolonging the meeting and make it longer than it
19 needs to be. So, thanks for this change. I've got
20 nothing for you today. You guys can get home.
21 Thanks.
22 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.
23 Hopefully it goes without saying, Ms. Henderson, I
24 just wanted to point out that the addition of the
25 Mayor and Council President to the agenda in no way

1 diminishes your central role as City Administrator.
2 We have not amended the last EM order and under that
3 order you remain primary point of contact with the
4 RTAB. Just simply wanted to include those two
5 officials, again, as part of the transition.
6 MS. HENDERSON: Okay.
7 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Next item, B,
8 approval of resolutions and ordinances. We'll begin
9 with those from the July 13th Council meeting. You
10 also have, I believe in your packet, a memorandum
11 from Mr. Cline. There are approximately nine
12 resolutions. 13, I think Mr. Cline pointed out the
13 majority of those concern rather routine purposes in
14 the Water Department with regards to water, sewer,
15 wastewater and so forth. They are Resolutions 490,
16 491.1, 492, 493, 494, 495.1, 496, 497 and 519.
17 Are there any questions concerning
18 either Mr. Cline's memorandum or any questions about
19 those particular resolutions?
20 MEMBER McMAHAN: No.
21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: And did you have
22 any comments to make regarding any of those?
23 MR. CLINE: No, nothing to add beyond
24 what I've already put down there that these are
25 annual purchases that the City makes for both

1 purchases. Everything has been budgeted for and all
2 of the proper vending and approvals have been
3 acquired on this.
4 So, I think for the majority of these,
5 we have already covered that. And we also covered
6 in our last meeting, we put forward resolution, I
7 believe, it's 518, which dealt with the ballot
8 language for the Transportation Authority millage.
9 So that's already been addressed.
10 So I don't have anything further to
11 add if there are no questions.
12 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Are there, with
13 respect to these items, because they total roughly
14 about $1.6 million, any cash flow or receivables
15 issues with regards to the water, sewer, non-payment
16 of bills, anything like that, that would --
17 MR. CLINE: None that I'm aware of at
18 this point. I know that the City is looking closely
19 at their water budget windows. As it stands now, it
20 has been budgeted and probably the City will be
21 acquiring those resources, sort of as they need
22 them, on an ongoing basis. So, they won't be going
23 out and making any new purchases of say $100,000 at
24 one time, it would be in increments throughout the
25 fiscal year.

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: But nothing of which you're aware --

MR. CLINE: No, not at this time.

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: -- that would adversely impact --

MR. CLINE: I don't know if the City has anything to add to that, but I'm not aware of any immediate problem.

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Ms. Henderson?

MS. HENDERSON: Just as Mr. Cline said, these are purchase orders so that we can purchase those things as we go throughout the year, so that we're not coming back each time we need to purchase, say, you know, the chemicals for the plant. Those are things that we do throughout the year, and this is the beginning of this fiscal year, and we're only in the second month of the fiscal year which began July the 1st.

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: If there are no questions, is there a motion then that the aforementioned nine resolutions from City Council meeting July 13th be approved?

MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: So moved.

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Support?

MEMBER LARKIN: Support.

1 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Those in favor
2 please say "Aye."
3 (All ayes.)
4 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed? Motion
5 is adopted.
6 Next item of business, Resolutions
7 from City Council meeting of July 27th. There are
8 approximately 21 resolutions from that meeting. Mr.
9 Cline's memorandum made note of approximately 9,
10 some of which indicate that further information is
11 being sought and will hopefully be available as of
12 this RTAB meeting.
13 Mr. Cline, do you want to go through
14 the various ones you identified in your memorandum?
15 MR. CLINE: Yes, just very briefly. I
16 had asked for the City to be ready to clarify a few
17 things in the event that you had questions. Most of
18 the issues, I think, were fairly straightforward.
19 Again, there was some bulk purchases, there were
20 some change orders to some contracts that I just
21 wanted to make sure that if we needed to clarify.
22 They dealt with, say, major streets versus the water
23 system and all, that we had all of that information
24 ready to address. There was nothing in particular
25 that many of these items that I had any special

1 concerns about. I did want to mention, again,
2 Resolution 560, which deals with the Riverbank Park
3 improvements. We had to exchange that ordinance
4 from the one from the August 10th meeting just
5 simply to clarify a typographical error in the
6 resolution. The entire scope of the project has not
7 been altered. I do understand, from the City, that
8 they are under somewhat of a time constraint to move
9 forward with this, because it is grant funding and
10 they do not want to lose that grant funding, so they
11 need to execute this project. They have been trying
12 to get some, I guess what I would describe as
13 competitive bids in for the project, and have gotten
14 what they feel is the best bid, and then have gotten
15 some additional funding for -- to take care of some
16 of the differences. And then we also have, within
17 this meeting, the City Council readopted the
18 year-end budget amendments which we discussed at the
19 last meeting, and those were approved as they were
20 presented. And that is Resolution 559. So that is
21 there before you.
22 And I think I will just pause on any
23 additional comments, unless there's any specific
24 questions, but I think that there are -- it's fairly
25 straightforward as to what the City is doing at this

1 meeting.

2 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: And you had

3 raised in your memorandum a question with respect to

4 Resolutions 527 and 547, both of which, it appeared,

5 dealt with the same issue. One of which was to, to

6 use the colloquial, "Drop the issue", the other one

7 was to approve it. Is that -- was there an

8 explanation as to what happened with respect to

9 those?

10 MR. CLINE: I think that has more to

11 do with an internal process within the City in the

12 way that they actually record their motions. And I

13 know the City Administrator and City Clerk I believe

14 are discussing that. So, I think it's more -- it's

15 not really a process that causes any problems with

16 RTAB and the voting, it's more of internal procedure

17 process that just need to get clarified within the

18 City.

19 So, I don't have any particular

20 concerns about what they're attempting to do or

21 anything like that. It's just more of identifying

22 how the City goes about keeping their own internal

23 records and the minutes and everything. And what I

24 try and do with the memo that I provided to you, is

25 just point out areas where I'm trying to look

through your eyes where you may have some confusion or some questions, or as I see it, maybe I need to point out any particular facet of something that may be worth noting to you. So I just wanted to draw your attention to that. But I don't have any real concern about the ultimate result of it. So, I think it's more of just an internal process and I've spoken with the City Administrator and they're working on kind of getting a little more consistency in that area, make it a little -- make it a little less confusing for us in our day, that when we read these minutes we understand what we're looking at here, so --

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: So are both Resolutions 527 and 547 before us, or only 547?

MR. CLINE: I think it would only be 547.

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Questions for Mr. Cline at this point? So let's first take up resolutions mentioned in Mr. Cline's memorandum. 526.1 and 546, 547, 553, 558, 559, 560, which we understand basically incorporates Resolution 783 from August 10th. And then Resolutions 562 and 563.

Is there a motion that those resolutions from July 27th be approved?

1 MEMBER LARKIN: I have a question
2 before the motion. I guess I'd like to amend it, do
3 we have to take 559 out and do it separately as a
4 recommendation to State Treasury?
5 MR. CLINE: The reason -- yes. You
6 don't have to.
7 MEMBER LARKIN: So, we can do it
8 together?
9 MR. CLINE: You can do it together as
10 long as you -- in other RTABs, they signify whether
11 they make a recommendation to State Treasury. They
12 usually separate it as a separate motion just so it
13 doesn't get confusing. You don't have to do it that
14 way. You can just approve, for example, all of the
15 resolutions including 559, which is a recommendation
16 to State Treasurer for the budget amendments. Or
17 you could separate it out as a separate motion.
18 It's sort of your preference. We just wanted to
19 identify it separately on anticipation that you
20 would want to make a separate motion for that.
21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is it your
22 preference to separate it out?
23 MEMBER LARKIN: Not really. So, I
24 make a motion that we adopt all of the resolutions
25 as previously presented.

1 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?
2 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Support.
3 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Any discussion?
4 If not, those in favor of the motion would you
5 please say "Aye."
6 MEMBER McGHEE: I'm sorry. Should we
7 do roll call --
8 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: If we were
9 adopting the resolution of the RTAB, roll call would
10 be required. We're simply adopting a motion to
11 approve resolutions adopted by City Council.
12 MEMBER McGHEE: My apologies.
13 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Quite all right.
14 Those in favor, please say "Aye."
15 (All ayes.)
16 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed? Motion
17 is adopted. I got to get adjusted to that delay.
18 MEMBER McMAHAN: I'll try and
19 anticipate.
20 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: The remaining
21 resolutions from the 27th meeting are 391, 548, 549,
22 550, 551, 552, 554, 555, 556, 557 and 561. I take
23 it, Mr. Cline, you have no comments or observations
24 regarding those?
25 MR. CLINE: No. Nothing of

1 significance, no.
2 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there a motion
3 that those resolutions from July 27th also be
4 approved?
5 MEMBER McGHEE: So moved.
6 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?
7 MEMBER McMAHAN: Support.
8 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Motion has been
9 made and seconded. Any discussion? If not, those
10 in favor please say "Aye."
11 (All ayes.)
12 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed? Motion
13 is adopted.
14 Item C, City Administrator items. Ms.
15 Henderson, we have two items here, Budget to Actual
16 and the Strategic Plan. Ms. Lundquist.
17 MS. LUNDQUIST: Good afternoon. In
18 this case, no news is good news. I just wanted to
19 state that the report that you have before you, the
20 Budget to Actual, is through June 30, 2015, however,
21 those are unaudited numbers. And due to the time
22 period within which the City has to prepare these
23 reports, those numbers are subject to change as
24 things continue to -- for instance, the invoices
25 continue to be received by the City for the prior

1 fiscal year, those are posted through a June 30
2 date. So, for instance, it may be understated to
3 what has actually been in the audit, posting journal
4 entries and do payroll approvals, all sorts of
5 accounting jargon, but we are on target. And thank
6 you very much for adopting the budget amendments so
7 that those numbers also can be reflected in our
8 audit.
9 The numbers for the budget reflected
10 in your report do not take into consideration those
11 amended resolutions that were approved today. And I
12 have nothing further.
13 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: I did have one
14 question. The general fund, budget to actual,
15 general government, as I look at 2014, and then the
16 year-to-date balance in the 2015, for general
17 government the numbers went from $8.6 million to
18 roughly $7.8 million. And then a large jump to $20
19 million on the expenditure side. $20.7 million. So
20 there was a significant jump.
21 With respect to police, things went in
22 the opposite direction, $22 million budget of '14.
23 $21 million would be the balance June 30th of '14,
24 down to roughly $13 million by '15. Similar
25 phenomenon with regards to Fire.

1 Was there just a movement of money, it
2 looks like within the expenditures? Because the
3 overall expenditures weren't really that different.
4 $49 million in '15; $50 million in '14. I was just
5 curious as to what happened there.
6 MS. LUNDQUIST: I believe that that's
7 just general accounting where we had perhaps, this
8 is my suspicion, I can confirm and provide that to
9 the City Administrator to distribute to the RTAB,
10 but my suspicion would be that those were be
11 indirect cost allocations.
12 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you.
13 MS. LUNDQUIST: Any further questions?
14 MEMBER McGHEE: Not from me.
15 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Item 2, the
16 Strategic Plan is an information item only.
17 MS. HENDERSON: Just wanted to share
18 with you all the strategic plan ending the fiscal
19 year '015. And this is a summary and it -- if you
20 had time to look at it, look through it, it tells
21 you where we are in different areas. There are
22 tasks that are associated with those that I actually
23 worked with the department heads on to ensure that
24 we are in compliance with the strategic plan, and
25 that we do meet different goals that are within this

1 plan. And this is where we were at the end of -- of
2 this year -- I mean, of the last fiscal year. And
3 we have a set of strategic objectives for this next
4 year. And these things are available online,
5 however, I thought it would be good for you all to
6 at least -- we do each quarter -- give a report as
7 to where we are with the strategic plan and give an
8 update. And we actually publicize that on the
9 website. So I thought it would be good for you all
10 to see where we were ending June 30th.
11 It lists our challenges, the community
12 and economic development, where we are with that,
13 just things that stand out; how are we improving the
14 infrastructure and the challenges that we have
15 moving forward and how we are addressing those. And
16 all of these strategic objectives, they do tie into
17 -- if you'll notice, they tie into the Council
18 priorities that are set at the beginning -- well,
19 before the beginning of each fiscal year. So, we
20 try to ensure that our strategic objectives match
21 those priorities that are set by the Council.
22 So, I will be coming to you all each
23 quarter to give you an update as to where we are
24 with the strategic objectives so that you can see
25 how we're actually doing things as an organization,

1 and what we are actually trying to accomplish and
2 where we are with those.
3 So, I just wanted you all to
4 understand that the objectives are tied to the
5 different tasks that myself and the various
6 departments who work on that, and try to include
7 different tasks to ensure that the Mayor and Council
8 priorities are addressed, and so that they can have
9 a document that they can refer to and say "Okay,
10 where were we on this and this is -- you know, this
11 is a way that you all said that you would actually
12 look at our priorities." This is your strategic
13 objectives; what are we doing. And we actually meet
14 every month we have a Finance Administration
15 Committee meeting, we have a Public Works Committee
16 meeting and we have a Community and Planning -- a
17 Planning and Community Development Committee
18 meeting. We have those meetings every month and we
19 actually talk about the things that we're doing to
20 try and address the priorities of the Mayor and
21 Council.
22 And if you have any questions at this
23 time or if you all have any questions later, but
24 these -- this information is online and I would
25 encourage you all to use that as a resource to see

1 what's going on in the City. We do have our
2 different press releases there. Just the different
3 things that are going on with the City. We are
4 definitely moving forward. There are a lot of
5 things that great -- that are great, going on in the
6 City. So, you can utilize that as a resource if you
7 want to know where we are with our objectives and
8 what we're accomplishing and the priorities that the
9 Mayor and Council have set. You can see those there
10 and how we are attacking those things.
11 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: I have a
12 question.
13 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Yes.
14 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Thank you for
15 this. I thought it was very convenient in finding
16 out what we're doing and how we're getting there. I
17 did, though, as I was reading it, have a concern on
18 the challenges going forward. I know that the
19 document is flexible. Since it's a strategic plan,
20 will you be updating it and will the information
21 from the latest water suit that was just done on
22 last week, I believe, are there any thoughts about
23 moving forward with that kind of strategic plan?
24 MS. HENDERSON: I would -- at the end
25 of this quarter, that probably -- we hope that that

1 won't be a challenge. However, we are cognizant of
2 that, and we are talking about that, and the
3 possible impact of that. So, that definitely does
4 impact where we would go moving forward.
5 But just so that you understand, like
6 as far as from our perspective, that is not --
7 that's something that it could -- we don't know how
8 that's going to happen. However, we are planning in
9 the event that it does happen.
10 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: And it will be
11 reflected here as challenges? I'm saying that,
12 because your first one is the possible outcome --
13 MS. HENDERSON: The retirement
14 lawsuit.
15 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Right. So
16 that's a possible outcome as well.
17 MS. HENDERSON: Yes, unfortunately
18 that is.
19 MEMBER LARKIN: To that question, and
20 I don't know if this is an appropriate time, but
21 could you just speak really broadly as to what the
22 potential impact -- do we have numbers and sense
23 around what the potential impact would be to the
24 operation of the City as we are looking at upcoming
25 months.

1 MS. HENDERSON: This is something that
2 it's -- it will of course have a very detrimental
3 impact. However, at this point, like me talking to
4 you all about that in this forum, that's -- we don't
5 have attorney/client privilege, so I can't really
6 say much about it at this point, so I apologize for
7 that, but --
8 MEMBER LARKIN: No problem.
9 MS. HENDERSON: -- those are concerns,
10 but I can't speak to all of you about it in this
11 forum.
12 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: I think the
13 important thing is that you are planning and
14 thinking about possibilities.
15 MS. HENDERSON: Any more questions
16 about --
17 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Any other
18 questions? Thank you. If there's no objection,
19 we'll consider the City Administrator items 1 and 2
20 to be received. The additional items, new business,
21 resolution, I believe 785 from the City Council
22 special meeting of last night, to transfer
23 approximately $323,000 from the Fire Department to
24 the Police Department. The Mayor spoke to that
25 issue briefly earlier. This is an opportunity for

1 Board Members, if they have questions, to pose those
2 to the City officials.
3 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: May I?
4 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Yes, please.
5 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: I have a
6 question. I actually have two questions. The first
7 one, looks at -- the Mayor has said that the funding
8 has been there for about six months, which is why
9 you all looked at that to move forward. How long
10 had it been previous within the six months in that
11 account?
12 MS. HENDERSON: It -- budgeted for, it
13 was -- it was budgeted for -- it would have been
14 budgeted in the last fiscal year.
15 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Okay.
16 MS. HENDERSON: So -- and with the
17 Fire Department, at some point you have retirements,
18 but that's been a static level that's been budgeted.
19 So, I'll say at least eight months. So it pre-dated
20 me even coming to the City, that some of these
21 positions were open, just not filled.
22 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Okay. When I
23 was watching the news, and saw what happened during
24 the special meeting, the Fire Chief talked about he
25 was willing for that money to be moved. But he was

1 wanting it back at some point so that they could
2 fill the positions they needed filled. Is there a
3 plan or a thought to, I guess, make the Fire
4 Department whole if you did this?
5 MS. HENDERSON: From a budgeting
6 perspective, I can't look at it as though I'm making
7 them whole. I can only look at it from an
8 operational standpoint, in the sense that they are
9 operating with the current staff that they have and
10 I think they're doing a great job. That's not to
11 say that moving forward at some point we would not
12 look at, you know, trying to allocate -- reallocate
13 money to the -- the Fire Department. However, I
14 believe that they're doing a great job with the
15 staffing level that they have now. And as a City
16 Administrator, I have to look at what is going on
17 here, what is going here, and look at the different
18 statistics in both areas. So, of course the Fire
19 Chief and I are going to look at those things
20 totally different, because by way of the position of
21 being the City Administrator, and looking at all of
22 the operations and what you need here, and those
23 tough decisions have to be made. So I can't say
24 that even if we -- if we say -- have $300,000
25 available, that it would not go into the Police

1 Department. So, I have to make those decisions and
2 make those recommendations just as the Mayor had to
3 make that decision that, okay, this is where we get
4 the money from, because that's something that we had
5 already discussed, and say, okay, how do we get more
6 police officers? So, those are just decisions that
7 will be made.
8 So, the short answer to your question
9 is, that I can't say that the Fire Department has to
10 have seven more staff to operate. But what I can
11 say is, right now, in this moment, and even months
12 before this, we do need the money in the Police
13 Department, because the crime stats reflect that.
14 And it's not to say that we don't need more firemen,
15 but what I do know is we need more police at this
16 time. And it's just a decision that the -- I'm glad
17 that the Council did support it and that you all
18 supported that as well.
19 So that was not my thought process
20 when making that decision to move forward.
21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Other questions?
22 MEMBER LARKIN: I have a question. Is
23 the -- well, you might not be able to answer right
24 now. But looking at kind of the -- the
25 circumstances that were going on were directly

1 responding to the environment, there has been a
2 spike in crime, looking to address it. Is this
3 shift or this movement like this level that we have
4 of police staffing, is it the desire moving forward
5 as we look at future fiscal years to maintain this
6 level; or is this kind of a support to get crime to
7 a certain level and then this money becomes flexible
8 again to move; what's the desire of the
9 administration?
10 MS. HENDERSON: The desire is to
11 increase it even -- even more, because I'll be
12 honest, this is not enough. We need it to increase
13 more. And that's not to say that it doesn't need to
14 increase in fire. But we -- we need -- I can say we
15 need more police and more fire. So, what -- the
16 steps that we have to take to address that, those
17 are the things that we're doing. This is -- this is
18 just something that we could do now. However, I
19 have been charged with we need more. The Mayor says
20 we need more. The Council says we need more. So,
21 we will continue to work to address that.
22 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: And I do have
23 one other question. I know that when I first got
24 here there was a report done, I believe, that shared
25 how understaffed the Police Department was or is; do

1 we know those numbers?
2 MS. HENDERSON: Yes. It really should
3 be triple the size.
4 MS. HENDERSON: Do you know that?
5 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: So about
6 triple. Any more questions?
7 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Yes. Do I
8 understand correctly that this dollar amount
9 reflects budgeted, but unfilled positions in the
10 Fire Department?
11 MS. HENDERSON: Yes, sir.
12 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: So, were we to
13 look at the budget without this item having come up,
14 would we find other amounts, either in the Fire
15 Department or in other departmental budgets, where
16 there would be -- I can't really describe it as a
17 surplus, but where there would be amounts that could
18 be identified to be used for other purposes, because
19 they're attached to positions that haven't been
20 filled?
21 MS. HENDERSON: Actually, we -- we
22 actually looked at other departments before we
23 actually looked at the Fire Department, because we
24 know public safety, that is high and top priority to
25 the Council. So, we looked to see if we had any

1 more positions that were -- and I just want to be
2 clear that they had to be general fund positions.
3 If they were water and sewer, it didn't -- you can't
4 pay for police with water and sewer. Specific
5 grants, you can't pay for police officers or fire.
6 So, given that scenario, we really are
7 very lean in the sense that we have two positions
8 that could be of impact. Meaning, that we could
9 actually draw the funding from. However, at this
10 time, they are critical positions, and we didn't
11 believe that it was the time to say, okay, we're not
12 going to have a treasurer. Okay, we're not going to
13 have an HR director.
14 So, at this time, I cannot bring that
15 forward and feel good about it and feel that the
16 City was in a position to be sustainable with
17 cutting those positions. A treasurer position is
18 very important. And that's not to say other
19 positions are not, but we have someone contracted
20 out, like, part-time to do that, and that is a need.
21 We need to get that filled.
22 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: So, other than
23 these positions in the Fire Department which were
24 budgeted but not filled, there are only several
25 others --

1 MS. HENDERSON: Those are the several.
2 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: -- budgeted --
3 MS. HENDERSON: Yes, sir. Those are
4 the two that we have that are not filled at this
5 time. Anything else, we -- it is filled. And
6 that's just where we are. We are very lean at this
7 point.
8 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: I posed the
9 question partly because last month, as you recall,
10 we had the conversation about fund balance, in terms
11 of what the levels should be, where it happened to
12 be within the context of transferring some portion
13 of that for, I believe, cutting the grass. And so I
14 was trying to get an overall handle on, sort of
15 amounts like this that might possibly be scattered
16 elsewhere throughout the budget. You're indicating
17 that there are no others.
18 MS. HENDERSON: We have -- if I may?
19 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Yes.
20 MS. HENDERSON: We have -- for the
21 grass cutting, we did go into the Assessment
22 Department to find that, to fund that. It was a
23 very minimal level, however, we did go into the --
24 we found that possibly -- that we would come out a
25 little lower in that area, so we did take it from

1 there. And we do account for every single dime,
2 because we know that there's always a threat of
3 property tax going down, those different things.
4 And we know that we have a minimal fund balance,
5 because right now we have -- we have to budget for
6 $1 million -- $1 million that goes into the fund
7 balance automatically. And then we have the
8 $500,000. So we truly have the $1.5 million going
9 into this year as of the second month into this
10 fiscal year.
11 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: And then a final
12 question on this point, if this is approved today,
13 how long would you anticipate it take to have the
14 five additional police officer positions filled?
15 MS. HENDERSON: I know that we're in
16 the process of hiring right now. I would have to
17 talk to the Police Chief and HR Director to see how
18 fast they could get five more, five additional
19 police officers through.
20 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Other questions?
21 If not, is there a motion that City Council
22 Resolution 785 from last night's special meeting
23 previously described, that resolution be approved?
24 MEMBER LARKIN: So moved.
25 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there support?

1 MEMBER WALKER-GRIFFEA: Support.
2 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Is there further
3 discussion? Hearing none, those in favor of the
4 motion please say "Aye."
5 (All ayes.)
6 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Opposed? Motion
7 is adopted. I believe that concludes our new
8 business.
9 Next item, item 4, public comment.
10 Mr. Cline, do you have anybody sign in to --
11 MR. CLINE: We have one name signed
12 up, that would be Eric Mays.
13 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Council.
14 MR. MAYS: Yeah, good afternoon.
15 MR. LARKIN: Good afternoon.
16 MR. MAYS: I sat and listened to each
17 of the RTABs, and I've watched this process, and you
18 know, the RTAB did make a big fuss about the surplus
19 and money being spent. I called that special
20 meeting, and I wanted to hear what you heard. I
21 didn't hear about the other areas. I called it to
22 peruse the budget and look for money. And so you
23 getting information that we ain't getting -- and
24 then to me, this RTAB is letting me down, because
25 you're falling for it. When I say "You're falling

1 for it", you didn't ask the question, Mr. President,
2 we got State Police coming in, additional police. I
3 don't think it was -- that it had to be moved on
4 this hastily. I was the descending vote. I stood
5 before you and said, "I wish you could hear from
6 Council and/or the Council President", and
7 everybody's view ain't the same. And my honest
8 opinion, some of the decisions that's been made
9 financially, that you're approving, is made by some
10 of the same people who didn't handle it last time.
11 And you're now buying into it, moving too fast
12 without the right -- in other words, I might have
13 held off on them five officers, because they're
14 patrol. And I know, in my opinion, the best way to
15 abate some of the killings, is to deal with the
16 10,000 plants laying in the Detective Bureau, this
17 community doesn't talk about the undercover
18 officers. You got State Police coming in. This, to
19 me, was a political move to react to something that
20 happened already. I'm very sensitive about the
21 killings in my community. And it happened in my
22 ward. I know about Baltimore, they have been coming
23 there for years before we even reported that.
24 So, people get excited and
25 reactionary, and even you make moves, but the right

1 question was, how can you do a State policy that
2 lets State Police change their policy and take
3 calls? They said they here for just traffic,
4 traffic stops. They pulling people over walking on
5 by, but they won't answer a 911 call.
6 See, I try to change and make a
7 positive effect. And so I'm really disappointed in
8 the RTAB not asking the right questions, not hearing
9 the right things talked about that you can ask about
10 from certain people who know the details, and then
11 we make a decision. It is some validity in that
12 lawsuit. Judge Hayman ruled, refunds, shut-off
13 notices. That can be talked about, it's no client
14 privilege or attorney/client privilege, it's common
15 knowledge. How much detail are you all going to do,
16 or is you all going to let us sit back and slip into
17 financial ruin, because certain people want to stand
18 and talk polite? I'm glad that you all put that on
19 the agenda. But I told you there's always two sides
20 to a story. The Mayor, the Council President, he
21 said he won't even be here. I'll be here. And
22 you're welcome to try and communicate, but this is a
23 serious business to me. It's financial, it's open,
24 it's honest and you have to spend the time. All you
25 all got other things to do, but my responsibility is

first with this City of Flint, and I'm very disappointed with the inquiry, with the information. And I broke your two-minute rule, and I apologize, because if I don't, this is going to be another mess. People need to be open, honest, transparent, and we need to hear what we need to hear when I called the special meeting before I can hear it here. That was good questions about where in the budget. Remember Ambrose made the budget when he left. I appreciate you amending your rules, but if you going to really do this job and peruse some of these financial dealings, believe me, I won't break your rules too many times, but you need to reach out more and become more knowledgeable, because we can save money and still get the same thing done. This one had to do with employing the State Police and it's a Patrol Bureau, a Detective Bureau and undercover. I'm trying to be proactive rather than reactive. And now we're dealing with murders, and you involved in it as well. So, let's save some people's lives and quit politicking and just -- for the money. Just a little after the fact. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you, Council.

1 MEMBER LARKIN: May I speak?
2 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Certainly.
3 MEMBER LARKIN: Council, may I speak
4 to your remarks? Don't leave. I do want to -- I
5 think there was a statement that was made earlier by
6 the Chairperson of this Board that the Receivership
7 Transition Advisory Board is not in place to be a
8 supra council.
9 And so in places where we see clear
10 agreement between the Council and the City
11 Administrator, we're only giving it -- you've
12 attended most of our meetings, we're only given the
13 opportunity to say "Yes" or "No."
14 And so, when serious dialogue needs to
15 be had and engagements we have, needs to be among
16 the residents of Flint that have elected and the
17 people who have been duly appointed based on their
18 professional critique. We're here as a kind of
19 "Yes" or "No."
20 So, sometimes -- I think I feel a lot
21 of what you're discussing is the inter-workings of
22 how the legislative and elective and management body
23 are going to operate together. When it gets to this
24 point, it's kind of "Yes" or "No."
25 So, while I'll definitely be open for

1 any continued dialogue, because there is a lot of
2 inside input that all of the Council people have,
3 the Mayor and his Administrator, Finance Director,
4 our goal is to -- one is always be open for
5 continued dialogue. Keep in mind that when it makes
6 it to the RTAB, we're at a "Yes" or "No", up or
7 down, based on you guys doing that point -- doing
8 the work that is of the Council and --
9 MR. MAYS: Question, if I may. When
10 it comes to $300,000 in transfers, do you have a
11 third option to postpone and inquire? In my book,
12 you don't just have "Yes" or "No", you have the
13 option --
14 MEMBER LARKIN: Yes --
15 MR. MAYS: -- to postpone and inquire
16 before you make major financial decisions. So
17 believe me, I hear you, I appreciate you addressing
18 me, but those are the options I've looked at, just
19 like last month when you did the tax abatement. You
20 postponed, you got input from both sides and then
21 you made a decision. No different here. $300,000
22 transfer, I know how everything -- so that's what I
23 want to emphasize, it's not just up or down, you
24 have a third option to postpone and --
25 MEMBER LARKIN: That's fair, that's

1 fair.

2 MR. MAYS: -- inquire. That's what

3 I'm referring to in this instance, because you

4 didn't have the whole story.

5 MEMBER LARKIN: Thank you.

6 MR. MAYS: Thank you.

7 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Did anyone else

8 sign in for public comment?

9 MR. CLINE: No, sir.

10 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: We do have a

11 gentleman.

12 MR. CLINE: I wasn't aware of that.

13 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: You have two

14 minutes, please.

15 MR. DEL MORONE: Thank you. I didn't

16 see any forms back there. I was late. But my name

17 is Chris Del Morone. I live in Flint, Michigan.

18 I have a couple of questions. I

19 notice, like, on your new business number 1 and

20 number 2, those are things that happened back in

21 July. And my question is, can the City, the

22 administration take action on something prior to

23 your approval?

24 And, you know -- the other thing is, I

25 guess, Mr. Mays was just talking about it, and it

1 was one of my questions before he came up here was,
2 does the RTAB have the ability to amend or deny with
3 recommendations?
4 So, let's say on this $300,000 for
5 police, could you put a stipulation on something
6 that says, "Yes, go ahead and you can hire the
7 police, but they need to be used in this manner"?
8 In the sense of, well, we don't need any more police
9 officers at a City Council meeting, we don't need
10 police officers here, and you can use them as long
11 as you're out patrolling. I don't know if you have
12 that power or if you can simply turn something down,
13 give a recommendation and then have it come back to
14 you.
15 The other thing is, there is a good
16 question in there by the Chairperson as to when will
17 the police officers come on or how long will it
18 take.
19 Now, my thinking is the longer it
20 takes to put the police officers on, the less money
21 they will need. So, if the officers are going to be
22 here for 11 months versus 6, it would seem like they
23 would need less than the $300,000. So, I would hope
24 you would consider those three things when they
25 combine the actual cost, approval first and can

1 things be amended or denied with recommendations?
2 Thank you.
3 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: The answer to the
4 first question is, typically -- I believe the
5 Council meets twice a month. Typically whenever the
6 RTAB meets, we would concern ourselves with matters
7 that would have been taken by City Council prior to
8 the meetings, today would be an example. So the
9 Council is free to act.
10 With regards to resolutions as an
11 example, those resolutions wouldn't take effect
12 until they've been approved by the RTAB. We try to
13 meet monthly so that we go no longer than two
14 Council meetings each time.
15 With regards to your second question,
16 I suspect we would have the authority to do what you
17 suggest, but again, I think that to exercise that
18 authority would set us up as a supra City Council.
19 If we have a situation like this, as Mr. Larkin
20 referred to a moment ago, when there seems to be
21 consensus from the Mayor, at least the majority of
22 the Council, and the City Administrator with regards
23 to this transfer and questions that we have with
24 regards to either the impact upon the Fire
25 Department or the money being transferred from, or

1 other questions are answered to our satisfaction,
2 then we're inclined to say "Yes" or "No" with
3 regards to the proposal. I personally would not be
4 inclined to say, rather than using money to hire
5 officers, use them to hire detectives, because that
6 seems to me to be sort of an observational decision,
7 that while I might have the authority as an RTAB
8 member to inquire about or to suggest, isn't really
9 my role. I don't see my role as to getting into the
10 minutia of the operations of the City on a
11 day-to-day basis, if the principal parties are in
12 agreement as to how to go forward.
13 Other members may have different
14 perspectives on that, but that would be my
15 perspective on the issue.
16 MR. DEL MORONE: And the amount of
17 money, if it's needed for the police, would it be --
18 could it be less than the $300,000 the later the
19 police officers are hired? So if they're hired
20 today, that, you know, they'll have to start being
21 paid. If they're hired three months from now, there
22 won't be any payment then, and for that fiscal year
23 it would seem like it would be less money that would
24 be needed to operate that.
25 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: That's certainly

1 a possibility in terms of the dollar amount to some
2 extent to be a reflection of when the positions are
3 filled. Again I do know the sort of operational
4 questions are handled by the Administrator, City
5 Administrator or others. Our response is that from
6 a large standpoint, the policy questions of what or
7 not to do and that we're going to be -- at least I'm
8 going to be influenced, to some extent, by, again,
9 the principal parties coming to us. If there's
10 disagreement, if you had a situation where the Mayor
11 was, you know, sort of at one end of the spectrum on
12 this issue, and the City Council was at the other,
13 and the City Administrator was -- you know, occupied
14 a third position, I think you would have found much
15 more questioning and debate from us. And perhaps in
16 a situation like that, we might very well have
17 tabled the issue and send it back to the principal
18 parties and they have to try to reach a consensus.
19 Where all three come to us -- and again, the Council
20 vote was not unanimous, I believe it was 8 to 1,
21 where there's near unanimity from the Council, as
22 well as it has the support of the Mayor, and it has
23 the support of the City Administrator, I'm not going
24 to look at political consideration or otherwise.
25 They're not within my purview. It's their

1 responsibility to do what they think is best for the
2 City.
3 And I would have liked to have had
4 this issue a little bit sooner so that the RTAB
5 would have had more opportunity to view the issue,
6 but I understand the circumstances as well as to how
7 it -- as to how it got to us.
8 MR. DEL MORONE: Well, I thank you for
9 your answers. And I agree with and understand what
10 you're saying.
11 The other thing I would point out is,
12 part of our problem here in the City, in the past,
13 has been that both Council and Mayor would agree on
14 something, and be -- let's say, the wrong thing that
15 they're agreeing on, they're mistaken even though
16 you have maybe an 9-0 unanimous vote, and the
17 Mayor's -- and I'm not referring to our current
18 Mayor here necessarily, but sometimes everyone can
19 be wrong, and with your eyes, you sent us in the
20 right direction. Thank you.
21 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Thank you. That
22 concludes public comment. Is there any further
23 business before the RTAB?
24 If not, is there a motion that we
25 adjourn?

1 MEMBER McGHEE: So moved.
2 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Support?
3 MEMBER LARKIN: Support.
4 CHAIRPERSON HEADEN: Without
5 objection, we're adjourned.
6 (Meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.)
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1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2

3 I, Quentina Rochelle Snowden, do

4 hereby certify that I have recorded stenographically

5 the proceedings had and public comment taken in the

6 meeting, at the time and place hereinbefore set

7 forth, and I do further certify that the foregoing

8 transcript, consisting of (50) pages, is a true and

9 correct transcript of my said stenographic notes.

10

11 Dated: August 19, 2015

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15 _____

16 Quentina R. Snowden, CSR-5519

17 Notary Public, Genesee County, Michigan

18 My commission expires: 1/4/2018

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