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Dear Malden City Council,

The Finance Committee takes up orders #393-26 and #394-26 on Tuesday, September 29 to repurpose and/or transfer \$2,230,219.50. The record leaves a number of important questions open:

1. Can any of the \$2,230,219.50 be used to complete Roosevelt Park or to restore elements cut from the original plan, such as the educational garden? This is Councillor Colón Hayes's September 24 question, and the correspondence we have does not answer it.
2. What is the current cost estimate and funding source for finishing the remediation and restoration, and what happens if soil-disposal costs rise?
3. Which parts of this money does the Treasurer's arbitrage concern cover? Order #393-26 draws on free cash, not borrowing. The Committee should ask for the Treasurer's analysis in writing.
4. Which legal mechanism and vote threshold apply to each order? Order #394-26 cites G.L. c. 44, § 20, and order #393-26 cites no statute. The city's 2024 chart said the borrowed funds could be reallocated to a 'similar or like project.' Does the Solicitor consider a boat house and salt shed at River Works to be one?
5. What accounts for the \$28,490.48 difference between the \$966,664.98 the city listed as remaining in October 2024 and the \$938,174.50 in order #394-26?
6. What came of the update requested in Paper 412-24 in November 2024 - That the Finance Committee invite staff from the Office of Strategic Planning and Community Development to appear in committee to present an update on the status of all funding sources regarding the remediation of soil at Roosevelt Park - and where is the record of it?
7. How large is the River Works funding gap these orders are meant to close, and what is the project's current full budget? What is the history of adopted and revised budgets during the life of the River Works project
8. What is the complete summary and status of money obtained for and distributed from the Roosevelt Park Improvement project? (See the city's 2024 chart, including the \$1,450,000 Community Preservation-backed borrowing which reallocated \$1 million of that to Malden River Works and \$450,000 of that to Devir Park)

9. What is the status of the \$1,198,387.77 HUD Section 108 loan (shown on the city's 2024 chart), and what funds are being put towards the restoration and revival of the Roosevelt Park Outdoor Classroom?

We ask that you clarify and document answers to these questions as you deliberate on these important financial matters.

Thank you.

Respectfully,
Brian DeLacey and Bill Muise
for Malden News Network