



Finance Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Wednesday, October 16, 2019

Present: Councilors Lappin (Vice-Chair), Cote, Noel, Grossman, and Rice

Absent: Councilors Norton, Gentile and Ciccone

City staff present: Comptroller Sue Dzikowski, Community Preservation Program Manager Alice Ingerson and Chief Operating Officer Jonathon Yeo

#343-19 Discussion on the new City website

COUNCILORS NORTON, ALBRIGHT, LAREDO, KALIS and MARKIEWICZ requesting a discussion with IT and Executive departments regarding the City's new website now in development.

Action: Finance Held 5-0

Note: Chief Operation Officer Jonathan Yeo was present to discuss the new City website. Mr. Yeo explained that the project is moving along. The Committee also received the attached memo from the Chief Information Officer Joe Mulvey about the project. Committee members discussed holding the item until Mr. Mulvey could be in attendance. Councilor Rice motioned to hold which passed unanimously.

#344-19 Authorization of a revised FY20 budget for Community Preservation

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization of a revised FY2020 budget for the Community preservation Program, increasing the total budget from four million one hundred seven thousand eight hundred and fifty-eight dollars (\$4,107,858) to four million three hundred thirteen thousand and forty-six dollars (\$4,313,046). The Community Preservation Committee approved the revised budget on September 10, 2019 and it must be approved by the City Council before the City's FY2020 tax classification hearing in November. The budget reflects new information that was not available for the CPC's and City Council's Spring 2019 annual operating budget deliberations and votes. The revised budget includes FY2020 CPA surcharge revenue of exactly 1% of the total real estate levy in the FY2020 General Fund budget as well as changes in the 11.5% state matching revenue, as allowed by the State Department of Revenue.

Action: Finance Approved 5-0

Note: Community Preservation Program Manager Alice Ingerson and Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Chair Mark Armstrong were present to request the increase of the FY2020 budget for the Community Preservation Program. Ms. Ingerson explained that there were a couple of items they

did not have for the CPC to vote on the original budget before it was presented to the Mayor. The budget expenditures go into the budget reserves. This includes 10% for housing, 10% for open space and recreation, 10% for historic and then a maximum of 5% for admin. Ms. Ingerson explained that since she is retiring in January they need to be able to budget for half a year of staff benefits that she did not use. The information that she originally received for the budget was the employee contribution, but the budget needs to reflect the CPC's contribution. This increase in the budget for the CPC will correct that. Ms. Ingerson explained that January 24th, 2020 will be her last day but will still be available to help during the transition. Ms. Ingerson explained that this budget can not yet reflect two items that the legislators did, and the Governor signed off on in August. The first is to increase the Registry of Deeds fees which will eventually increase the state's match and the legislator allowed the Governor to put \$20 million from the state's FY19 budget surplus into the state CPA fund. Ms. Ingerson explained that the way the state match works is that the City is now bond by the percentage the Department of Revenue gave them last March/April and the City can not increase this. The Department of Revenue has given themselves until November 15th to tell the City what they will be receiving this year and that will be too late to revise the budget. This difference will go into next years budget for FY21. The budget for this year is 11.5%. Committee members commended Ms. Ingerson for the work she has done for the City. Councilor Rice motion to approve with passed unanimously.

#345-19 Assessment of Curb Betterments

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS requesting approval of the following mentioned sidewalk/driveway apron and/or curb betterments; said betterments to be levied under the provisions of MGL Chapter 83, Sec. 26, authorizing the assessments of betterments for construction:

Name	Address	Book/Page	SBL	Estimate
Michael J. Weaver and Cheri N. Weaver	386 Highland Ave	59094/150	24-23-01	\$2,730.00
Steffen Helmling and Jessica Berns	39 Devon Rd	63452/274	61-03-10	\$5,740.00
Laurie Giandomenico, Trustee of THE LAURIE GIANDOMENICO 2017 REVOCABLE TRUST	48 North St	69025/349	64-02-22	\$2,120.00
Mary Ellen Clark	53 Waban Ave	87809/578	55-11-13	\$2,197.50
Jen Hsian Huang Suong Xuan Nguyen	21 Hammond St Needs CHHDC Approval	24743/336	61-09-03	\$2,896.00

Bryan F. Albano and Sara K. Albano	18 Ionia St	70565/459	44-29-03	\$2,087.50
Michael Gleason and Michele Ciarcia	40 Wykeham Rd	59504/511	32-31-10	\$3,720.00
Debra T. Cohen and Arthur Cohen, Trustees of the DEBRA T. COHEN REVOCABLE TRUST	79 Warren St	68616/73	65-02-06	\$2,320.00
Rebecca M. Cohan, Trustee of the Rebecca M. Cohan 2007 Family Trust	1370 Beacon St	50543/124	53-16-23	\$3,568.00
Joan M. Boecke	36 Rowena Rd	53724/264	62-20-13	\$2,000.00
Brent Markus and Emily Jessica Derr	121 Park Ave	69798/101	73-23-06	\$4,368.00

Action: **Finance Approved 5-0; Councilor Grossman recused on 121 Park Ave**

Note: Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo was present to request approval for curb betterments. Mr. Yeo read from the attached memo written by the Commissioner of Public Works. A committee member asked if this would be done in Calendar year 19 and Mr. Yeo stated that he believes that is correct. Councilor Grossman explained that she would need to recuse herself on 121 Park Ave. A committee member asked how long the list of curb betterments are for the City. Mr. Yeo explained that the City fixes 2 to 3 miles of sidewalk each year and these are just the curb betterments that need to be done. A committee member stated that that the curbs that the City uses can damage tires. The edges of the curb are sharp and can easily puncture a tire. Additionally, the committee member questioned why the City is not using a rounded curb. Mr. Yeo explained that he will get the answer for that question. Councilor Rice motioned to approve which passed with a vote of 5-0 with Councilor Grossman recusing herself on 121 Park Ave.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Lappin, Vice-Chair

From: [Joseph Mulvey](#)
To: [David A. Olson](#); [Cassidy Flynn](#)
Cc: [Gregory Ansaldo](#); [Rufen Liao](#); [Jonathan Yeo](#)
Subject: Website update status
Date: Friday, October 11, 2019 5:05:40 PM

To All members of the Finance Committee,
With apologies, I am unable to attend the October 16 Finance Committee to discuss the status of the City website update.

We are about three months into this project. Our anticipated live date is the summer of 2020.

Currently we are finalizing the wireframe for the homepage, determining primary and secondary colors. These decisions have been reached through a core group of select participants who have a great history of supporting the existing site. They are enthusiastic and most support a large quantity of pages. Wonderful insight and input from Linda Plazonja in the Mayor's office has enabled the color selection to progress well.

We have created site map spreadsheets and distributed to every department the pages they are responsible for maintaining. This review will take several weeks. This is the time for things like renaming the department home folder such as changing BOA to City Council.

As we approach our next milestones I will keep the City Council apprised of our accomplishments.

Respectfully,
Joe

Joseph P. Mulvey
Chief Information Officer
City of Newton Information Technology Dept.
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton Centre, MA 02459
617-796-1188



OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

September 23, 2019

To: Mayor Ruthanne Fuller
Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer

From: James McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works

Subject: Request for Docket Item
Assessment of Curb Betterments, Calendar Year 2019

The Department of Public Works (DPW) respectfully request the Honorable Mayor docket for consideration the assessment of curb betterments on the properties listed on the attached table. These curb betterments will be completed by DPW in calendar year 2019, using both in-house crews and construction contractors, and will be inspected by the Engineering Division who will confirm the work is complete. The formal request is as follows:

The Commissioner of Public Works is requesting approval of the assessment of the following mentioned curb betterments; said curb betterments to be graded and constructed, and assessments to be levied under the provisions of MGL Chapter 83, Sec. 26, and city ordinance Section 26-73 (c) authorizing the assessment of betterments for curb construction.

Thank you

Attachment: 1 doc.

cc: Shawna Sullivan, DPW Chief of Staff
Susan Dzikowski, Comptroller
David Olsen, City Clerk
Jack Cowell, DPW Budget and Finance
Louis M. Taverna, P.E., City Engineer

Section 26-73. New curbing installation.

(a) Whenever the city undertakes reconstruction of a public way such project shall include the installation of curbing at those locations that the commissioner of public works determines to require curbing for the purpose of public safety or drainage. The installation of curbing pursuant to this subsection (a) shall be at the sole expense of the city.

(b) Whenever the owner of an estate abutting on a public way requests that curbing be installed abutting such estate, the city may install such curbing. The commissioner of public works shall receive the petitions of owners requesting the installation of curbing and shall prioritize as follows:

First Priority: Request for curb installation

- (1) on any portion of an arterial or collector roadway, where there is not existing curbing; or
- (2) at any location that is deemed by the commissioner of public works or the chief of police to be a potentially serious safety hazard for pedestrians and/or motorists; or
- (3) to alleviate drainage or erosion problems, or where the steepness of the slope of the public way is 3% or greater.

Second Priority: Requests for curb installation at locations where curbing already exists on approximately fifty percent (50%) or more of the same side of the public way.

Third Priority: All other requests for curbing installation, except at those locations where the commissioner of public works determines that such curbing would serve no public purpose.

(c) Whenever curbing is installed pursuant to subsection (b), the owner shall pay fifty percent (50%) of the total cost thereof in the following manner:

- (1) in the event that said fifty percent (50%) amount is two thousand dollars (\$2,000) or more, it shall be assessed upon the owner of the abutting estate pursuant to G.L. c. 83 §26, provided that nothing herein shall prohibit an owner from voluntarily prepaying said fifty percent (50%) amount;
- (2) in the event that said fifty percent (50%) amount is less than two thousand dollars (\$2,000), it shall be paid by the owner prior to construction, except as otherwise provided in section 26-71(b)(3).

(d) For those requests for curbing which are prepaid, the commissioner of public works shall proceed with the installation, subject to availability of funding and in accordance with subsection (e). For those curbing installation requests which are not prepaid, the commissioner of public works, acting in accordance with subsection (e) shall § 26-73 NEWTON ORDINANCES — STREETS AND SIDEWALKS § 26-73 Newton Ordinances On-Line - Chapter 26 - page 23 periodically forward them to the city council for its consideration under the betterment laws. (e) For those requests which are received prior to April 15 of each year, all actions by the commissioner of public works and the city council pursuant to subsection (d) shall be taken in accordance with the priorities assigned pursuant to subsection (b), provided however, that the commissioner of public works shall have the authority to act upon a First Priority request at any time, regardless of date received. (Rev. Ords. 1995, Ord. No. V-84, 6-3-96; Ord. No. A-10, 02-04-13)