



## Finance Committee Report

### City of Newton In City Council

Monday, July 10, 2017

**Present:** Councilors Gentile (Chair), Ciccone, Norton, Brousal-Glaser, Rice, Blazar, and Fuller

**Absent:** Councilor Lappin

**City staff present:** Ouida Young (Associate City Solicitor), Jim McGonagle (Commissioner of Public Works), Maureen Lemieux (Chief of Staff/Chief Financial Officer), and Sue Dzikowski (Comptroller)

**#198-17 Request for authorization to settle a \$9,120 claim for damage to a fence**

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to settle a claim of nine thousand one hundred twenty dollars (\$9,120) from the Law Department's Judgments and Settlements Account as full and final settlement of a claim against the City for extensive damage to a decorative metal fence that occurred during snow clearing operations.  
[06/14/17 @ 1:14 PM]

**Action:** Approved 7-0

**Note:** Associate City Solicitor Ouida Young joined the Committee and explained that the Law Department would like to settle a \$9,120 claim for the repair of a metal fence that was damaged by a City sidewalk plow. The cost of the repair is high because the fence is 160' in length and there are pavers below the fence that need to be removed in order to repair the fence. The City's own fence contractor inspected the fence and provided a quote that was higher than the quote the property owner received from the company that originally installed the fence. The Law Department negotiated with the owner and the total claim was reduced by about \$1,000. The Law Department feels that the settlement that was reached is reasonable and consistent with damage of this sort. A Committee member moved approval of the authorization to settle the claim, which carried unanimously.

### Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

**#199-17 Appropriate \$338,397 for undergrounding utilities for Austin St Redevelopment**

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three hundred thirty-eight thousand three hundred ninety-seven dollars (\$338,397) from previously declared Overlay Surplus to cover the costs associated with Eversource undergrounding utilities associated with the Austin Street Parking Lot Redevelopment Parking Lot. [06/12/17 @ 5:15 PM]

**Public Facilities Approved 5-0 on 06/21/17**

**Action:** Approved as Amended 7-0

**Note:** The request is to provide funding to underground Eversource utilities in the area of the Austin Street Parking Lot. The Public Facilities Committee reviewed the request and unanimously approved the item. The Mayor submitted a letter dated July 3, 2017 requesting that the item be

amended by changing the funding source from Overlay Surplus to Retiree Health Insurance. A motion to approve the item as amended carried by a vote of seven in favor and none opposed.

**Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

**#200-17      \$875,000 to fund the Accelerated Roads Program**

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three hundred seventy five thousand dollars (\$375,000) from previously declared Overlay Surplus and transfer a total of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from the below accounts for the 2017 Pavement Program: [06/12/17 @ 5:15 PM]

Public Works Full-time Salaries..... \$300,000

Public Works Street Department – Health Insurance..... \$200,000

**Public Facilities Approved 4-0-1 (Lappin abstaining) on 06/21/17**

**Action:      Approved as Amended 7-0**

**Note:**            Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle presented the request to appropriate funds to provide additional funding for the Accelerated Roads Program in 2017. The Mayor submitted a request to amend the item by deleting the request to appropriate \$375,000 from Overlay Surplus and replace it with the transfer of \$38,450 from DPW Health Insurance, \$33,810 from Budget Reserve, and \$96,975 from Interest on Debt Service – Newton North High School Accounts. The amendment reduces the requested funds from \$875,000 to \$669,235, which still brings the total funding over \$9 million for the 2017 pavement program. A Councilor moved approval of the item as amended, which carried unanimously.

**#197-17      Transfer \$10,000 to Veterans’ Benefits**

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from Budget Reserve to Veterans’ Benefits to provide funding for the final month of this fiscal year. [06/12/17 @ 2:58 PM]

**Action:      Voted No Action Necessary 7-0**

**Note:** The requested transfer of \$10,000 to Veterans’ Benefits is no longer necessary; therefore, the Committee unanimously approved a motion for no action necessary.

All other items were held without discussion and the meeting adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted;

Leonard J. Gentile, Chair