

# **Finance Committee Report**

# City of Newton In City Council

# Monday, May 9, 2016

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

Absent: Councilor Ciccone

Also present: Bruce Proia (Fire Chief), Robert DeRubeis (Commissioner of Parks and Recreation), Sue Dzikowski (Director of Finance; School Department), James McGonagle (Commissioner of Public Works), John Lojek (Commissioner of Inspectional Services), and James Freas (Acting Director of

Planning)

#134-16 MEMA Grant for equipment for the heavy duty rescue truck

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend a reimbursable Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency grant in the amount of twenty-two thousand seventy dollars (\$22,070) for a for the purpose of purchasing equipment and related items for the Fire Department's heavy duty rescue truck. [04/11/16 @ 11:32]

AM]

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

**Note:** Fire Chief Bruce Proia presented the request to accept and expend the annual reimbursable grant funds of \$ 22,070 from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). The City receives the grant funds based on salaries and number of hours the Fire Department dedicates to emergency management. The grant funds are going to be used to pay the annual emergency communication application fee, to purchase two thermal imaging cameras and a multi-gas meter for the heavy-duty rescue truck. There were no questions and Councilor Fuller moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#167-16 Acceptance and Appropriation of a bequest to the Parks and Recreation Department

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and appropriate a gift of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the Estate of Helen Curtis Abel to be used for the purchase of a van or transportation for senior citizens and/or for the

benefit of programs for Senior Citizens. [04/25/16 @ 6:53]

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

<u>Note</u>: Commissioner of Parks and Recreation explained that the Parks and Recreation Department received an endowment from the estate of Helen Curtis Abel, who was a dear friend of the Parks and Recreation Department. She volunteered at and participated in a number of the Parks and Recreation Department programs and activities. The endowment is to be used to provide transportation for senior citizens participating in Parks and Recreation Department programming and/or to benefit programs for senior citizens.

Commissioner DeRubeis stated that approximately \$50,000 of the endowment will be used to replace cluster equipment used for exercise at Wares Cove, which seems appropriate as Ms. Curtis Abel spent a lot of time at the Cove. The remainder of the money will be used to purchase a second larger van for Parks and Recreation Department trips that many senior citizens enjoy. The new van will increase capacity for trips.

The Committee members asked that the Commissioner let them know what other things that the money will be spent on if there are any funds left. The Commissioner agreed to keep the Committee informed. The Parks and Recreation Department has already received the endowment funds. With that, Councilor Rice moved approval, which carried by a vote of seven in favor and none opposed.

#### #170-16 Authorization of appropriation and expenditure of E-rate Funds

<u>HIS HONOR THE MAYOR</u> requesting authorization to appropriate and expend one hundred sixteen thousand nine hundred twelve dollars and eighty-seven cents (\$116,912.87) from E-Rate Receipts – Schools to the Newton Public Schools. [04/25/16

@ 6:53 PM]

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

**Note:** The School Department's Director of Finance Sue Dzikowski reviewed the request to appropriate and expend \$116,912.87 received from E-Rate reimbursement funds collected during Fiscal Year 2016. The School Department plans to use the funding to upgrade information technology infrastructure at the elementary schools to leverage the new citywide fiber network. The upgrades will increase the network performance between the schools and the internet and other resources, as well as improve network performance within each of the elementary schools.

Ms. Dzikowski informed the Committee that this is the 18<sup>th</sup> year of E-Rates and the School Department has received over \$1.6 million, since its inception. Councilor Lappin moved approval, which carried unanimously.

# <u>Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees</u>

## #142-16 Appropriation from Free Cash for Street Paving

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing Chapter 90, override and grant funding for street paving in Fiscal Year 2017. [04/11/16 @ 11:32 AM]

Public Facilities Approved 7-0 on 05/04/16

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

<u>Note</u>: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle presented the request to appropriate \$500,000 from Free Cash to supplement the department's paving budget in the upcoming fiscal year. The additional funding will allow the department to add three more miles of street to its paving schedule

for the upcoming construction season. The Department will have at least \$4.5 million in its budget for paving. Commissioner McGonagle is awaiting the results of the completed Street Scan project, which will be available this summer before developing a long-range paving plan. In addition, the Commissioner is looking at the best way to accelerate the paving program but has not made any decisions. With that, Councilor Rice moved approval, which carried by a vote of seven in favor and none opposed.

## **Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

# #144-16 Transfer to supplement DPW accounts for vehicle parts and recyclable collection

<u>HIS HONOR THE MAYOR</u>, requesting authorization to transfer the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from Public Works Full-time Salaries Account to the following accounts:

Vehicle Repair Parts

(0140103-5484)......\$50,000

Collection-Recyclables

(0140111-52322) ......\$200,000

[04/11/16 @ 11:32 AM]

Public Facilities Approved 7-0 on 05/04/16

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

<u>Note</u>: Public Works Commissioner Jim McGonagle joined the Committee to discuss the transfer of funds from the Public Works Department's Salaries Account to fund the purchase of vehicle repair parts to the end of the year and cover the increased contract costs for the collection of recyclables.

Vehicle repairs have increased over this past year due to the aging fleet and the severe 2014/2015 Winter. The Public Works Department has also implemented a new inspection process to identify repair needs, which has resulted in more repairs this year. The recycling disposal costs have gone from \$40 per ton to \$60 per ton, which is the maximum cost in the contract with Waste Management The costs are similar to other communities. The value of recyclable materials is down because of the low cost of petroleum. It is cheaper to manufacture new plastic instead of recycling existing plastic material. The hope is that as petroleum costs increase, the value of recyclable material increases, which would result in a decrease in the recycling disposal costs.

Councilor Lappin moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#### #166-16 Funding for training expenses in the Inspectional Services Department

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate twelve thousand sixty-one dollars and twenty cents (\$12,061.20) from the Special Appropriation Fund created for receipt of funds for tickets issued under MGL 148A for the purpose of funding building inspector training expenses. [04/25/16 @ 6:54 PM]

Finance Approved 7-0

Action:

**Note:** Commissioner of Inspectional Services John Lojek presented the request to appropriate \$12,061.20 from funds collected under Massachusetts General Law 148A for tickets issued for building code violations. The funds are required to be used for training and education of building inspectors in the State's building codes. Commissioner Lojek plans to use the funds to purchase training books, training sessions, and safety equipment like flashlights. Councilor Fuller moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#### #168-16 Interagency payment for admin of Homelessness Consortium Continuum of Care

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and appropriate the sum of thirty-nine thousand eighty dollars (\$39,080) from the inter-agency agreements executed between the City of Newton and agencies of the Brookline-Newton-Waltham-Watertown Homelessness Consortium Continuum of Care for administrative services provided by the City of Newton in Fiscal Years 2014/2015 as the lead agency for this program. 04/25/16 @ 6:53 PM]

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

**Note**: See below note.

#### #169-16 Interagency payment for admin of Homelessness Consortium Continuum of Care

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and appropriate the sum of ninety-nine thousand one hundred twenty-six dollars (\$99,126) from the inter-agency agreements executed between the City of Newton and agencies of the Brookline-Newton-Waltham-Watertown Homelessness Consortium Continuum of Care for administrative services provided by the City of Newton in Fiscal Year 2015/2016 as the lead agency for this program. [04/25/16 @ 6:53 PM]

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

<u>Note</u>: Acting Planning & Development Director James Freas presented Docket Items #168-16 and #169-16 together as they are essentially the same request for different fiscal years. The requests are to appropriate and expend funds for administrative tasks associated with the Brookline Newton Waltham Watertown Continuum of Care program sponsored by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The program provides shelter and rapid rehousing to homeless families and individuals.

The City of Newton is the lead agency for the program; as a result, Newton is entitled to half of the administrative funds each of the grantees receives from HUD. The administrative funds available to Newton for use in Fiscal Year 2014/2015 are \$39,080 and available funds for 2015/2016 total \$99,126. The Planning Department applied for additional funding from HUD for 2015/2016 for administrative support of the consortium. The Department plans to continue to apply for the additional funding and expect to receive it in the future. The Planning Department uses the funds offset salary and benefit costs for the Continuum of Care Program administration. Councilor Lappin moved approval, which carried unanimously.

## **Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

#133-15(A2) Amend lease agreement to replace 60 Elliot St with 70 Elliot St as solar panel site

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an amendment to Board Order #133-15(A) on November 16, 2015 by replacing 60 Elliot Street with 70 Elliot Street as an approved site

for solar car canopies. [04/25/16 @ 6:52 PM] **Public Facilities Approved 7-0 on 05/04/16** 

Action: Finance Approved 6-0 (Brousal-Glaser not voting)

<u>Note:</u> Commissioner of Public Buildings Josh Morse explained that the request is to amend a previously approved Board Order for solar panel projects by changing the location of car canopies with solar panels from 60 Elliot Street to 70 Elliot Street. The new location is still part of the City's property on Elliot Street but it is a better location in terms of sunlight for the solar panels. Councilor Norton moved approval and the Committee voted unanimously to support the motion.

# **Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

#171-16 Transfer within Public Buildings to fund CO2 Detectors, elevator, electrical repairs

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of seventy-five six hundred forty-two dollars (\$75,642) from the Public Buildings Full-time Salaries Account to the Public Buildings Repairs and Maintenance Account for the purpose of funding CO Detectors, major elevator and electrical repairs, as well as other repair requests.

[04/25/16 @ 6:53]

Public Facilities Approved 7-0 on 05/04/16

Action: Finance Approved as amended 7-0 @ \$90,000

**Note:** Commissioner of Public Buildings Josh Morse presented the request to transfer funds from the Public Buildings Full-time Salaries Account to fund to the department's Repairs and Maintenance Account for the remainder of the fiscal year. The funds will cover the costs of the purchase of carbon monoxide detectors, elevator repairs for the older elevator at City Hall, electrical repairs at a number of locations, plumbing repairs at City Hall, and Stage II of the Vapor Recovery System Decommissioning at Crafts Street & Elliot Street fuel dispensing tanks.

A letter from the Mayor was provided at the meeting and is attached requesting that the Committee amend the amount of the transfer to \$90,000 to include the cost of the tank removal at Crescent Street.

The funds are available in the department's salary line item, as the Capital Analyst position moved to the Department of Public Works. There are also a few open positions within the department that are not likely to be filled until sometime in the early summer. Councilor Lappin moved approval of the item as amended at \$90,000, which carried by a vote of seven in favor and none opposed.

# **Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

#172-16 Free Cash appropriation to fund security cameras at City Hall and the Police Dept

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate ninety-nine thousand four hundred seventy-five dollars (\$99,475) from Free Cash to the Public Buildings Department for costs associated with the installation of security cameras at City Hall and the Police Department of 104/25/16 © 6.552 PM.

and the Police Department. [04/25/16 @ 6:53 PM]

Public Facilities Approved 7-0 on 05/04/16

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

**Note:** Commissioner of Public Buildings Josh Morse presented the request for \$99,475 to replace security cameras at the Police Department and add security cameras at City Hall. The current cameras at the Police Department do not provide quality images and would be upgraded to digital cameras. The security cameras at City Hall are going to be installed in the hallways and at the entrances to the building. The Police Department supports the installation, as there have been some incidents of theft at City Hall including a generator and some laptops.

Commissioner Morse added that the plan is to make sure that the public is aware that there are cameras at City Hall. The cameras will be large enough to see and may act to curb bad behavior and thefts. The camera footage will not be monitored or reviewed unless there is an incident. The cameras will store information for two weeks. With that, Ald. Rice moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#### #138-16 Appropriation to fund busing Zervas School students to Carr School

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the Override Capital Project Stabilization Fund to the Newton Public Schools for the purpose of funding the busing costs associated with the transfer of the Zervas Students to the Carr Elementary School for the January 2016 – June 2016 timeframe. [04/11/16 @ 11:32 AM]

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

<u>Note</u>: This item was previously held on April 23, 2016 because Committee members felt that the busing costs should be part of the School Department's operating budget. At that meeting, Councilors asked how much money the School Department spent on busing for the Zervas School before the school moved to the Carr School because the School Department could contribute that money towards the costs of busing students to the Carr School.

Chief of Staff Maureen Lemieux spoke with Assistant Superintendent Sandy Guryan who explained that the only bus that Zervas School needed before moving was a shared bus with Angier Elementary School. Angier School still needs the bus; therefore, the Zervas School needs six buses to transport the Zervas students to the Carr School. The total cost of busing the students to the Carr is \$289,008. Ms. Lemieux and Ms. Guryan attempted to net out the cost of the half bus and agreed to an appropriation request of \$250,000 for the remainder of the busing costs.

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Ms. Lemieux added that the funding for the buses is coming out of the Override Capital Project Stabilization Fund as the Zervas School replacement is an override project. She informed the Committee that the invoices for the buses will be paid through the School Department; therefore, the costs will be reflected in the School Department's Budget.

All other items before the Committee were held without discussion and the Committee adjourned at 9:55 PM. Draft Council Orders for the above items that are recommended for City Council action are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard J. Gentile, Chair

**IN CITY COUNCIL** 

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chairman Leonard J. Gentile, the authorization to expend a reimbursable grant from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency in the amount of twenty-two thousand seventy dollars (\$22,070) to be administered by the Fire Chief to be used for purchasing equipment and related items for the Fire Department's heavy duty rescue truck, be and is hereby approved.

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date			
Date			

**IN CITY COUNCIL** 

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair

Leonard J. Gentile, the acceptance and authorization to expend a bequest of two hundred

thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the Estate of Helen Curtis Abel to the Parks and Recreation

Department for the purchase of a van or transportation for senior citizens and/or for the benefit of

programs for senior citizens, is hereby approved.

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Item Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date:
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## IN CITY COUNCIL

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard J. Gentile the sum of one hundred sixteen thousand nine hundred twelve dollars and eighty-seven cents (\$116,912.87) be and is hereby appropriated for the purpose of upgrading the School Department's information technology infrastructure, as follows:

From: E-Rate Receipts Reserved

(14|301-5901).....\$116,912.87

To: School Technology

(C301052-595111I) ......\$116,912.871

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Adopted

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date:		
1/016.		

#### IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities and Finance Committees through their respective Chairs Deborah J. Crossley and Leonard J. Gentile, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) be and is hereby appropriated from Free Cash to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Works for the purpose of supplementing the street paving funding for Fiscal Year 2017.

FROM: Free Cash

(01-3497).....\$500,000

TO: Supplemental Street Improvements - 2016

(401071-586002)......\$500,000

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date
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#### IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

#### 2016

#### ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities and Finance Committees through their respective Chairs Deborah J. Crossley and Leonard J. Gentile, , the transfer of the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) from the Public Works Full-time Salary Account to the Public Works Expense Accounts for the purpose of providing funding for vehicle repair parts and supplementing the funding for collection of recyclables be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Public Works Salar	ries	
	(0140104-511002)	)	. \$250,000

TO: Public Works Expenses

(0140103-5484).....\$50,000 (0140111-52922).....\$200,000

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date		

# **IN CITY COUNCIL**

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard J. Gentile, the special appropriation of twelve thousand sixtyone dollars and twenty cents (\$12,061.20) for the purpose of funding training expenses in the Inspectional Services Department be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM: CH 148A ISD Fines

(14M220-5901) ...... \$12,061.20

TO: ISD Training

(C220050-5319) ......\$12,061.20

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date:		

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its

Chair Leonard J. Gentile, the Director of Planning and Development is hereby authorized to

accept and expend the sum of thirty-nine thousand eighty dollars (\$39,080) received from

interagency agreements executed between the City of Newton and agencies of the Brookline-

Newton-Waltham-Watertown Homelessness Consortium Continuum of Care for services

provided by the City of Newton as the lead agency for this program. The funds originate from

the Federal Fiscal Year 2014 Continuum of Care grant allocation through the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development.

**Under Suspension of Rules** Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON

City Clerk

(SGD) SETTI D. WARREN Mayor

Date:

**IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN** 

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its

Chair Leonard J. Gentile, the Director of Planning and Development is hereby authorized to

accept and expend the sum of ninety-nine thousand one hundred twenty-six dollars (\$99,126)

received from interagency agreements executed between the City of Newton and agencies of

the Brookline-Newton-Waltham-Watertown Homelessness Consortium Continuum of Care for

services provided by the City of Newton as the lead agency for this program. The allocation

includes a direct planning grant of sixty thousand forty-six dollars (\$60,046) to support a staff

person dedicated to this work.

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON

City Clerk

(SGD) SETTI D. WARREN Mayor

Date:

#133-15(A2)

**CITY OF NEWTON** 

**IN CITY COUNCIL** 

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendations of the Public Facilities Committee

through its Chairman Deborah J. Crossley and the Finance Committee through its Chairman

Leonard J. Gentile, Board Order 133-15(A) is amended to authorize His Honor the Mayor to

enter into negotiations for the potential lease for the purposes of third-party construction

ownership and operation of on-site renewable solar energy generation from which the City will

purchase electric output and/or net metering credits for solar panels installed on carports at 70

Elliot Street instead of 60 Elliot Street.

Under Suspension of Rules

Readings Waived and Adopted

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk (SGD) SETTI D. WARREN Mayor

Date:



# City of Newton, Massachusetts Office of the Mayor

#171-16

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May 9, 2016

Honorable City Council Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton Centre, MA 02459

# Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to request that your Honorable Council amend Docket Item #171-16 by increasing the amount to be transferred by \$14,358 to cover the costs of the Tank Removal at Crescent Street. The total transfer request is now \$90,000.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerell

Setti D. Warren

Mayor

# **Public Buildings Department Supplemental Maintenance Funding Request**

<u>Project</u>	Facility (ies)		Cost
Install CO2 Detectors	City Hall, Senior Center & Main Library	\$	13,032.00
Major Elevator Repairs	City Hall	\$	25,100.00
Stage II Vapor Recovery System Decommissioning	Crafts Street & Elliot Street Fuel Dispensing Tanks	\$	14,500.00
Major Electrical Repairs	Various	\$	14,660.00
Waste Plumbing Repairs	City Hall Basement	\$	8,350.00
Tank Removal	Crescent St	\$	14,358.00
		_	
	Total Request	\$	90,000.00

From 0111502-511002

#### IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities and Finance Committees through their respective Chairs Deborah J. Crossley and Leonard J. Gentile, , the transfer of the sum of ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) from the Public Buildings Full-time Salary Account to the Public Buildings Repairs and Maintenance Account for the purpose of funding carbon monoxide detectors, major elevator and electrical repairs, tank removal at Crescent Street, as well as other requests is hereby approved as follows:

FROM: Public Building Salaries (0111502-511002)......\$90,000

TO: Security Cameras

(0111502-52407).....\$90,000

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date		

#### IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2016

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities and Finance Committees through their respective Chairs Deborah J. Crossley and Leonard J. Gentile, the sum of ninety-nine thousand four hundred seventy-five dollars (\$99,475) be and is hereby appropriated from Free Cash to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Public Buildings for the purpose of installing security cameras at City Hall and the Police Department.

FROM: Free Cash

(01-3497).....\$99,475

TO: Security Cameras

(C115036-58506) ......\$99,475

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date	
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# **IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

2016

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chairman Leonard J. Gentile, the sum of two hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$250,000) be and is hereby appropriated from Override Capital Project Stabilization Fund to the Newton Public Schools for the purpose of funding the busing costs associated with the transfer of the Zervas Elementary School students to the Carr Elementary School for the January 2016 to June 2016 timeframe.

FROM:	CSF (39H104-5901)	\$250,000
TO:	Zervas Transportation (C301050-538301)	\$250,000

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Adopted

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON	(SGD) SETTI D. WARREN
City Clerk	Mayor
	D - L -