#### IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

#### FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

#### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2014

Present: Ald. Fuller (Acting Chairman), Ciccone, Norton, Salvucci, Rice, Blazar, and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Gentile

Also present: Ald. Crossley, Lennon, Albright, Danberg, and Baker

City staff: Dave Turocy (Commissioner of Public Works), Lou Taverna (City Engineer), Donnalyn Kahn (City Solicitor), Mary Martin (Workers' Compensation Manager; Human Resources), Maureen Lemieux (Chief Financial Officer), and David Wilkinson (Comptroller)

## REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#40-14

<u>HIS HONOR THE MAYOR</u> requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one million three hundred eight thousand four hundred ninety-three dollars (\$1,308,493) from the Operating Sewer Reserve Fund to the following projects:

Project Area 2 Design for the Auburndale, Lower Falls, and

\$181,500

West Newton areas, and

Project Areas 3 & 4 inspection and assessment for the Lower

\$1,126,993

Falls, Newton Centre, Newtonville, and Chestnut Hill areas.

[01/27/14 @ 12:53 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 on 02/10/14

**ACTION:** APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: The Committee met jointly with the Public Facilities Committee to discuss this item. Commissioner of Public Works David Turocy presented the request for \$1,308,493 from sewer reserve funds for the design of Project Area 2 and the inspection and assessment of Project Areas 3 and 4. Approximately two years ago, the Department of Public Works presented a \$49 million, 11-year Sewer Improvement Plan to reduce infiltration and inflow and improve sewer structures. The schedule has been accelerated to make possible a 10-year plan. A project area map can be found on Page 149 of the City's Capital Improvement Plan online at the following address: <a href="http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/55077">http://www.newtonma.gov/civicax/filebank/documents/55077</a>. The schedule of improvements is prioritized based on the areas of the City that are measured as the largest contributors to the City sewer infiltration and inflow problem.

The request includes \$181,500 to complete the engineering design and construction documents for Project Area 2, which includes areas of Auburndale, Lower Falls, and West Newton. The project encompasses design for relining of sewer mains, sewer manhole rehabilitations, underdrain repairs, and completion of construction documents and cost estimates. The remaining \$1,126,993 would be used for the inspection and assessment of Project Areas 3 and 4, which includes areas of Lower Falls, Newton Centre, Newtonville, and Chestnut Hill. Project Areas 3 and 4 inspection and assessment involves cataloging of the sewer conditions,

television inspection of sewer pipes with light cleaning, physical inspection of sewer manholes, flow isolation, survey for infiltration and inflow, and a draft and final report. Weston & Sampson Engineers has been selected to perform the work for both projects.

Project Area 1 is about one-third complete, and will be complete by June 2014. The contractor can reline and clean pipes during the winter. The contractor has been notified that they are behind schedule and are expected to catch up. As Project Area 1 is wrapping up, the City will award the contract for Project Area 2 in order to begin the construction work this summer. It is important that there is no lag time between the completion of an area and the start of the next area in order for the City to keep to the accelerated schedule.

The City has insufficient data to confirm the reduction in inflow and infiltration from the work done on Project Area 1, as there is only data resulting from a few months of completed work to date. Over time, the Department of Public Works is confident the reduction in inflow and infiltration in the sewer system will reduce the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's (MWRA) sewer assessment. The MWRA assesses sewer charges based on the average of the total flow, with adjustments for strength of flow prior over the past three years. Therefore, at this point there is not yet a direct correlation between the MWRA assessment and the improvements to the sewer system. However, the City's 2014 sewer assessment only increased by 1.2%, while the average MWRA community saw a 3.8% increase to their assessment.

There was some concern that the Quinobequin Road area was not included in the project areas. It was pointed out that the Quinobequin Road area sewer issues were addressed a few years ago by doing pressurized sealant repairs that should last between ten and fifteen years. The Quinobequin Road area is part of Sewer Project Area 9.

There was a question related to the City's water system and the water rates. The Chair of Public Facilities stated that the Public Facilities Committee would be having discussions related to the water rates on February 19, 2014, that would include addressing unmetered and unaccounted water. Commissioner Turocy added that the City is considering doing an audit of the water system. With that, Ald. Salvucci moved approval in Finance Committee and Ald. Albright moved approval in the Public Facilities Committee. The motions in both committees were approved unanimously.

## REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#38-14

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000) from Budget Reserve for Snow and Ice Removal to the Public Works Department. [01/27/14 @ 12:53 PM] PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 AS AMENDED @ \$1,275 million on

02/10/14

**ACTION:** APPROVED 7-0 AS AMENDED @ \$1.275 million

**NOTE:** The Committee met jointly with the Public Facilities Committee to discuss the request for additional funding for snow and ice removal for the Department of Public Works. Chief Operating Officer Maureen Lemieux submitted the attached request to amend the amount

of the requested funds from \$275,000 to \$1,275,000. If approved, the original \$275,000 will be transferred from Budget Reserve to the Department of Public Works and the additional \$1 million will be appropriated from Free Cash.

Commissioner of Public Works Dave Turocy stated that the Department of Public Works has expended approximately \$3.3 million on five storms and several weather events that required salt and/or sand. A breakdown of the expenditures per storm is attached. If additional funds are required for snow removal, there is an additional \$1 million in Free Cash dedicated to snow and ice removal and there is over \$500,000 in the Inclement Weather Reserve. In addition, there is \$500,000 in Free Cash that could be dedicated to snow and ice removal. Members of both Committees understood the need for the additional funds and Ald. Lappin moved approval as amended to increase the funds to \$1.275 million, which carried unanimously. Ald. Albright moved approval of the item as amended in Public Facilities, which carried unanimously.

# REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#39-14 <u>HIS HONOR THE MAYOR</u> requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from the Stormwater Surplus Fund to conduct an assessment of the City's stormwater system and to develop a

stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Plan. [01/27/14 @ 12:53 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 5-0 (Albright not voting) on 02/10/14

**ACTION:** APPROVED 7-0

**NOTE:** The committee met jointly with the Public Facilities Committee to discuss the request to fund an assessment and the development of an improvement plan for the City's stormwater system. The cost of the assessment and improvement plan is \$100,000, which would be funded through the Stormwater Surplus Fund. There is currently \$263,000 in the fund and if the request is approved, the fund balance will be \$163,000.

The Department of Public Works does not have sufficient data on the condition or effective capacity of the stormwater system. The assessment is needed in order to develop a multi-year plan to address the needs identified in the assessment. The assessment will encompass a physical inspection of the underground mains, brooks, catch basins and outflows, a review of existing data, evaluation of flood areas, a list of prioritized projects, notification of Environmental Protection Agency permit requirements and cost estimates. It is expected that in the near future the Environmental Protection Agency will become more stringent in regards to its permitting requirements. The City will need to be able to meet these higher standards. In addition, the assessment will provide the necessary information to develop a multi-year funding plan to address stormwater needs.

The City issued a request for proposals and received three responses. Weston and Sampson Engineering was chosen as it offered both the lowest price and the quickest turn-around time for a comprehensive assessment. The price and turn-around time are likely a result of Weston and Sampson's long professional relationship with the City and its familiarity with the City's water, sewer and stormwater infrastructure. Commissioner of Public Works Dave Turocy

and the Water-Sewer-Stormwater Working Group is comfortable with Weston and Sampson Engineering being awarded the contract for the assessment and plan.

Members of both Committees were pleased that the Administration was moving forward with the stormwater assessment. Ald. Ciccone moved approval in the Finance Committee and Ald. Danberg moved approval in the Public Facilities Committee. The motion was approved by a unanimous vote in both the Finance Committee and the Public Facilities Committee.

#37-14 <u>HIS HONOR THE MAYOR</u> requesting authorization to settle a legal claim and transfer the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) from the Liability Self Insurance Fund to the Law Department Judgment and Settlements Account for the purpose of repairing the basement of property on Union Street damaged by the City. [01/27/14 @ 12:54 PM]

**ACTION:** APPROVED 7-0

**NOTE:** Commissioner of Public Works Dave Turocy and City Solicitor Donnalyn Kahn presented the request to authorize the settlement of a claim and to transfer \$75,000 from the Liability Insurance Fund to settle a claim. In 2011, the Department of Public Works began a sidewalk rehabilitation project on Union Street in Newton Centre. The project included the repair of concrete sidewalk panels and the installation of a stamped border along the edge of the sidewalk. It was necessary to saw cut the sidewalk in order to make the improvements. The Public Works Department cut approximately 40' of sidewalk in front of 81 through 93 Union Street before discovering that the basements at those addresses extend under the sidewalk. As soon as the problem was discovered, the project was halted but the cutting resulted in leaks and other issues in the basements.

When the City inspectors looked at the damage to the basements, they discovered that the support beams in the private portion of theses basements required improvements. It makes sense that the repairs to the support beams are done in conjunction with the sidewalk repairs; therefore, the repair of the support beams and the sidewalk will be done as a single project. The City and the property owner of 81 through 93 Union Street have reached an agreement that the City will pay up to a maximum of \$75,000 to fund a portion of the project cost. The same contractor will be used to make the support beam repairs in the basement and the sidewalk repairs. The City will be involved in plan review, construction inspection, and the final inspection for the project. The project needs to begin as soon as possible as water continues to leak into the basements possibly causing further damage. The settlement is fair to both the City and property owner.

The Committee understood the need to reach an agreement and proceed with the project. Ald. Rice moved approval of the item, which carried unanimously.

#35-14 <u>HIS HONOR THE MAYOR</u> requesting authorization to transfer the sum of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) from accrued saving in the Executive Department's Salary Accounts to fund the remainder of the design of the Manet Road Emergency Communications Facility including site modifications and tower optimization. 01/27/14 @12:53 PM]

# **ACTION:** APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux explained that the request is to transfer \$40,000 from salary savings within the Executive Department to fund the completion of the design for a new emergency communications building located at the Manet Road tower site. The Public Buildings Department has spent the last four years determining the needs for the existing facility and tower. All of the abandoned communication lines on the tower have been removed and all of the lines in use have been reconfigured to provide optimized placement. A structural analysis of the tower has been done and it has been determined that the tower is structurally sound and safe. However, the communications building on the site is failing and it is imperative to replace the building in order to protect the communications equipment. Once the design of the new building is completed, the construction will begin. The estimated cost of the replacement project is \$300,000.

The Public Buildings Department has been responsive to the problems with the building and has made some repairs such as a new roof, paint, and removal of vegetation to reduce rodent habitation. With that, Ald. Lappin moved approval, which carried unanimously.

#36-14 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate the sum of

sixteen thousand nine hundred eighteen dollars and seventy-eight cents

(\$16,918.78) from Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Reserve for the settlement of a loss of

function and disfigurement claim. [01/29/14 @ 11:42 AM]

**ACTION:** APPROVED 7-0

**NOTE:** Workers' Compensation Manager Mary Martin presented the request to settle a worker's compensation claim for \$16,918.78 for an employee injured as the result of a fall on March 17, 2010. The settlement is a result of a loss of function and disfigurement. The employee suffered a fracture of the foot, which resulted in a permanent slight limp that requires the permanent use of a cane. The Department of Industrial Accidents determined that the employee should be entitled to \$8,200, as a disfigurement benefit due to the limp and \$7,936 for the loss of function of a portion of the foot. The remainder of the settlement will be used to pay the employee's attorney fees. Ald. Lappin moved approval of the item, which carried unanimously.

#432-13 <u>COMPTROLLER</u> requesting that the Board of Aldermen select a qualified public

accounting firm to complete the City's annual financial audit for Fiscal years 2014

to 2018. [12-04-13 @ 10:42 AM]

**ACTION:** APPROVED 6-0-1 (Ciccone abstaining)

**NOTE:** The Financial Audit Advisory Committee is charged with making a recommendation on the selection of an external audit firm to the Board of Aldermen through the Finance Committee. The City's contract with the external auditor expired December 31, 2013 and a new auditor needs to be selected. The Financial Audit Advisory Committee (FAAC) and several members of the Finance Committee interviewed the three certified public accounting firms that responded to the City's Request for Services for an external audit firm. At the

conclusion of the interviews, the FAAC reviewed each firm's proposals, presentations and proposed audit prices and voted unanimously to recommend Clifton, Larson, Allen, LLC as the City's external auditor for the next five years. The FAAC and members of the Finance Committee that attended the interviews were impressed with all three firms but were most impressed with Clifton, Larson, Allen, LLC.

It should be noted that the City's current external audit firm, Sullivan, Rogers & Company, LLC recently merged with the national firm Clifton, Larson, Allen, LLC. Although this means that the City will essentially be using the same firm for its audits, there will be a change in the lead auditor for the City of Newton from Chris Rogers to Matthew Hunt.

Ald. Blazar moved approval, which carried by a vote of six in favor and one abstention. Ald. Ciccone abstained, as he did not have an opportunity to participate in the interviews. Ald. Lennon recognized all of the hard work of members of the Financial Audit Advisory Committee and staff in completing the interviews and making the recommendation for an external auditor. He added that the City receives a large benefit from the financial expertise of the citizen volunteers.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#32-14 JAMES E. SHAUGHNESSY, 12 Northgate Road, Chelmsford, re-appointed to

the City of Newton Board of Assessors for a term to expire February 1, 2017. (60

days - 04/14/14) [01/22/14 @ 12:45 PM]

**ACTION:** APPROVED 7-0

<u>NOTE</u>: Docket Items 32-14 and 33-14 were discussed in conjunction. Both of the individuals being re-appointed to the Board of Assessors are well known to members of the Finance Committee. Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux stated that the Mayor was happy to reappoint both Ms. Dromey and Mr. Shaughnessy, as they do a terrific job. The Committee was pleased with the re-appointments and Ald. Ciccone moved approval of both items. The motions carried by a unanimously votes.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#33-14 ELIZABETH DROMEY, 15 Horace Road, Belmont, re-appointed to the BOARD

OF ASSESSORS for a term expiring on February 1, 2016. (60 days - 04/14/14)

[01/22/14 @ 12:45 PM]

**ACTION:** APPROVED 7-0

**NOTE:** See above note.

The Committee adjourned at 8 PM and all other items before the Committee were held without discussion. Draft Board Orders for the above items that are recommended for Board of Aldermen action are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruthanne Fuller, Chairman

#### IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2014

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities Committee through its Chairman Deborah Crossley and the Finance Committee through its Chairman Leonard J. Gentile, a transfer of funds in the amount of one million three hundred eight thousand four hundred ninety-three dollars (\$1,308,493) from the Sewer Fund Reserve to the Sewer Improvement Fund to be used to accelerate the sewer capital work in the Capital Improvement Plan by funding the design for Sewer Project Area 2 and inspection and assessment for Sewer Project Areas 3 and 4 be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM: Sewer Fund Operating Reserve

(27A10498-5790).....\$1,308,493

TO: Transfer to Sewer Capital Project Fund

(27A10499-593037).....\$\$1,308,493

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date:		



# City of Newton, Massachusetts Office of the Mayor

Telephone (617) 796-1100

Facsimile (617) 796-1113 TDD/TTY

(617) 796-1089

E-mail swarren@newtonma.gov

2014 FEB

Newton City Clerk

February 10, 2014

Honorable Board of Aldermen Newton City Hall 1000 Commonwealth Avenue Newton Centre, MA 02459

## Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to request that your Honorable Board docket for consideration a request to amend Docket #38-14 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000) from Budget Reserve for Snow and Ice Removal to the Public Works Department. [01/27/14 @ 12:53 PM] by adding the following:

and a request to appropriate the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) from June 30, 2013 Free Cash to cover the Costs of Snow and Ice Removal within the DPW Budget.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Warren

Mayor

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\* Personnel Costs for 1/21 - 1/22 storm are est. \*\* All Salt Costs est.

## <u>CITY OF NEWTON</u>

## IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

#### 2014

## ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities Committee through its Chairman Deborah Crossley and Finance Committee through its Chairman Leonard J.

Gentile, the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) to be appropriated from Free Cash and the transfer of the sum of two hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000) for the purpose of supplementing the snow and ice removal accounts be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Free Cash (01-3497)	\$1,000,000
	Budget Reserve (0110499-5791)	
TO:	DPW Expenses (0140110-5273)	\$1,000,000
	(014011-513001	\$275,000

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date		
Duit		

# IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2014

## ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities and Finance Committees through their respective Chairmen Deborah Crossley and Leonard J. Gentile, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) be and is hereby appropriated from the Stormwater Management Fund to be expended under the direction and control of the Commissioner of Public Works for the purpose of conducting an assessment of the City's stormwater system and to develop a Stormwater Infrastructure Improvement Plan.

FROM: Stormwater Management Fund Balance Available for Appropriation (26-3497)......\$100,000

TO: Stormwater System Assessment (26A401A-5301)......\$100,000

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

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

#### IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2014

#### ORDERED:

That in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chairman, Leonard J. Gentile, authorization to settle a claim and the a transfer of funds in the amount of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) from the Liability Self Insurance fund to the Law Department's Judgments and Settlements Account for the purpose of settling a claim that arose as a result of damage to basements on Union Street, as a result of a sidewalk repair project be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM: Liability Self Insurance Fund
(43-5301).....\$75,000

TO: Legal Claims/Settlements

(01108935725).....\$75,000

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date		
Date		

## IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2014

## ORDERED:

That in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chairman, Alderman Leonard J. Gentile, a transfer of funds in the amount of forty thousand dollars (\$40,000) from Executive Department Full-time Salaries to Public Buildings Improvement Fund to fund the remainder of the design of the new Manet Road Emergency Communications Facility be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Executive Salaries (0110301-511001)	\$40,000
TO:	Public Bldg. Improvement Fund	
	(0110499-593038)	\$40,000
	(38E11506-530202)	

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

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

# **IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN**

2014

#### ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chairman Alderman Leonard J. Gentile, the transfer and expenditure of sixteen thousand nine hundred eighteen dollars and seventy-eight cents (\$16,918.78) from Budget Reserve to the Law Department's Judgment and Settlement Account for the purpose of funding a settlement to compensate a city employee for loss of function and disfigurement is hereby approved as follows:

FROM: Budget Reserve

 $(0110498\text{-}5790) \dots \$16,918.78$ 

TO: Transfer to Workers Comp Fund

(0110499-593042).....\$16,918.78

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

Date:	

# IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2014

## ORDERED:

That in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chairman, Alderman Leonard J. Gentile, the Board of Aldermen hereby authorizes the City of Newton to enter into a contract with the firm of Clifton, Larson, Allen to complete the City's annual financial audit for Fiscal Years 2014 to 2018.

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

D /	
Date	

# IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2014

ORDERED:

That in accordance with the recommendation of His Honor the Mayor be it known that <u>JAMES E. SHAUGHNESSY</u>, 12 Northgate Road, Chelmsford, MA is hereby re-appointed as a member of the Board of Assessors for a term of office to expire on February 1, 2017.

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON City Clerk

# IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2014

ORDERED:

That in accordance with the recommendation of His Honor the Mayor and with the confirmation of the Honorable Board of Aldermen, be it known that ELIZABETH DROMEY is hereby re-appointed as a member of the BOARD OF ASSESSORS for a term of office that will expire on February 1, 2016.

Under Suspension of Rules Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON, City Clerk