

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2013

Present: Ald. Gentile (Chairman), Ciccone, Linsky, Salvucci, Rice, Blazar, Fuller and Blazar
Also present: Ald. Danberg

City officials present: Josh Morse (Interim Commissioner of Public Buildings), and Sandra Guryan (Deputy Superintendent/Chief Administrative Officer of Schools),

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#137-13 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to appropriate an amount that is yet to be determined from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of installing a sprinkler fire protection system at the Mason-Rice Elementary School.
[03/25/13 @ 3:58 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 @ \$480,000

ACTION: APPROVED SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL 7-0 (Ciccone not voting)

NOTE: Interim Commissioner of Public Buildings Josh Morse presented the request for funding for the sprinkler installation and the modular classrooms together. The City has actual values for cost of the projects, as the bid results for both projects have been received and contracts awarded.

There was only one bidder for the sprinkler system project at Mason-Rice Elementary School; however, it is the same contractor who handled the last sprinkler installations at the elementary schools, which came in on time and 20% under budget. The Mayor is requesting \$480,000 for the construction and administration associated with the sprinkler installation, which includes a 10% project contingency. The bid came in \$2,000 under the estimated price for the project. The Commissioner is comfortable with the contractor and believes that the price for the installation is appropriate.

At this point most of the elementary schools have sprinkler systems installed. The sprinkler system requirement is triggered by renovations to the building; therefore, a number of the elementary schools had sprinkler systems installed during the Tier 1 projects and when modular classrooms were added to the schools.

The Request for Proposals (RFPs) advertised by the City for the modular classrooms was for eight classrooms with an alternate for two additional classrooms. The plan is to install four modular classrooms at Bowen Elementary School, one modular classroom at Burr Elementary School, one modular classroom at Horace Mann Elementary School, and two or four modular classrooms at Mason-Rice Elementary School to address short-term space needs. There were only two bid submissions for the project. The contract was awarded to the low bidder, Triumph Modular Inc., whose bid was significantly lower than the other bidder's was. The Public

Buildings Department evaluated the RFPs and checked all references. There were no negative comments regarding Triumph Modular, Inc. and it is national company with an excellent track for completing every job. The same company installed the Oak Hill Middle School modular classrooms. The Commissioner believes that the excellent price for the modular is a result of the company being slow this summer.

Triumph's base bid was \$1,865,900 and the bid for the alternate was \$324,000. The Mayor is requesting \$2.4 million in funding for eight modular classrooms, and the two alternate modular classrooms. The original estimate for the eight modular classrooms was \$3.5 million.

The School Committee will be discussing and voting on the additional two modular classrooms on Thursday, May 2, 2013 at 8 AM. Deputy Superintendent Sandy Guryan stated that the school department is clarifying projected enrollment projections at the Mason-Rice School before the School Committee meeting. However, the school will do well with the additional modular, as extra space can always be utilized. Ms. Guryan added that the principal and the school community are in favor of the additional modular.

The Ward 6 Aldermen were not informed until two weeks ago of the possibility of two additional modular classrooms at the Mason-Rice Elementary School, which was upsetting. They also raised concerns regarding population parity between elementary schools. The two elementary schools in Ward 6 are getting eight modular classrooms and they already have some of the highest enrollments in the City. The Ward 6 Aldermen would like to know why the School Administration has not considered redistricting some students to create parity. Ms. Guryan stated that there is no intention to make Mason-Rice School larger than any of the other elementary schools.

The Committee questioned whether the School Committee had discussed the possibility of voluntary placement for students in the area of two schools. Ms. Guryan explained that buffer zones have been created and are designed to make that option available. The School Administration will be taking a comprehensive look at school assignments in the upcoming year.

Ms. Guryan explained that when the planning process to address the short-term space needs began, it was recommended that four modular classrooms should be placed at Mason-Rice. However, when the planning process reached the financial discussion point, the thought was that the purchase of eight modular was more feasible. Therefore, the bid was constructed with the two additional modular classrooms as an alternate. The bid was very favorable and it was within the budget to include the two additional modular classrooms. There was a request for the criteria for the installation of modular classrooms, which Ms. Guryan will supply to the Committee.

The Chairman pointed out that the modular classroom project is on a very tight timeline, as they need to be installed by September 1, 2013 to address space needs for that school year. He requested that the School Committee and School Administration meet with and provide information to the Ward 6 Aldermen immediately. Ms. Guryan will report to Superintendent of Schools and the School Committee regarding the discussion.

Ald. Lappin moved approval of both items subject to second call, as the School Committee has not voted the additional two modular classrooms. The motion for the \$480,000 for the sprinkler system at Mason-Rice Elementary School was approved unanimously. The motion for approval of the \$2.4 million for the ten modular classrooms carried by a vote of five in favor and two abstentions.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#136-13 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate an amount that is yet to be determined from bonded indebtedness for the installation of up to ten modular classrooms at the Burr, Horace Mann, Mason-Rice and Bowen Elementary Schools. [03/25/13 @ 3:58 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL 7-0 @ \$2.4 MILLION

ACTION: APPROVED SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL 5-0-2 (Blazar and Linsky abstaining; Ciccone not voting) @ \$2.4 MILLION

NOTE: Please see above note for the report on this item.

Draft Board Orders for the above items are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard J. Gentile, Chairman

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2013

ORDERED:

In accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities, and Finance Committees through their respective Chairmen Anthony J. Salvucci and Leonard J. Gentile that for the purpose of paying for the construction and construction administration expenses associated with the sprinkler system installation at the Mason Rice Elementary School, and all other costs associated therewith, there be and hereby is appropriated and authorized to be borrowed under and pursuant to Chapter 44 Sections 7(3A) and 7(9) of the General Laws, as amended and supplemented, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, the sum of four hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$480,000).

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON
City Clerk

(SGD) SETTI D. WARREN
Mayor

Date _____

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

2013

ORDERED:

In accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities, and Finance Committees through their respective Chairmen Anthony J. Salvucci and Leonard J. Gentile, that for the purpose of paying costs of purchasing and installing one modular classroom at Burr Elementary School; one modular classroom at Horace-Mann Elementary School; four modular classrooms at Bowen Elementary School, and four modular classrooms at Mason-Rice Elementary School, and all other costs associated therewith, there be and hereby is appropriated and authorized to be borrowed under and pursuant to Chapter 44 Sections 7(9) and 7(22) of the General Laws, as amended and supplemented, or pursuant to any other enabling authority, the sum of two million four hundred thousand dollars (\$2,400,000).

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON
City Clerk

(SGD) SETTI D. WARREN
Mayor

Date _____