

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013

Present: Ald. Gentile (Chairman), Ciccone, Linsky, Salvucci, Blazar, Fuller and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Rice

Also present: Maureen Lemieux (Chief Financial Officer)

#411-13 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of seventeen thousand five dollars and twenty-six cents (\$17,005.26) from Budget Reserve to the Law Department's Judgments and Settlements Account to be used as full and final settlement of DIA Claim #03819411 to compensate a city employee for loss of function and disfigurement. [11/12/13 @ 3:27 PM]

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

NOTE: Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux presented the request for \$17,005.26. The request is for the settlement of a claim by an employee for loss of function and scarring because of an accident at work. The settlement amount is predetermined by union contract. A doctor does an independent medical exam to determine the percentage of loss of function and compensation for scarring is determined by the length of the scar. This is not a settlement of the related Worker's Compensation Claim.

The Human Resources Department is very comfortable settling this claim. The City is moving to disability retire the individual or have him retire. The Administration will be back looking for final settlement of case. The employee is at a point in his career where he could disability retire in the pension system. The City will own the medical bills associated with the injury for the rest of the employee's life. Ms. Lemieux added that the City's new Workers' Compensation Manager is aggressively working on settling older cases.

There was some concern among Committee members regarding lack of information provided for backup. It was explained that less information is provided in order to protect employee privacy. The Chairman asked that in the future the Workers' Compensation Manager join the Committee for discussion regarding any settlement requests. With that, Ald. Lappin moved approval, which carried by a vote of six in favor and one opposed.

#140-11 ALD. HESS-MAHAN requesting acceptance of MGL Chapter 59 §5c which allows communities to shift the tax burden away from homeowners who live in lower than average valued single and multi-family homes to owners of higher valued homes, second homes, and most apartment buildings. [04-15-11 @ 3:07 PM]

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0**

NOTE: There is a similar item requesting a resolution to the Mayor to request that the Mayor adopt the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59 Section 5C on the Finance Committee agenda. Ald. Salvucci moved no action necessary, which carried unanimously.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEES

#245-06 ALD. JOHNSON AND HESS-MAHAN requesting an amendment to the City Charter to require the Mayor annually to prepare and submit to the Board of Aldermen a long-term financial forecast of anticipated revenue, expenditures and the general financial condition of the City, including, but not limited to identification of any factors which will affect the financial condition of the City; projected revenue and expenditure trends; potential sources of new or expanded revenues; anticipated municipal needs likely to require major expenditures; and a strategic plan for meeting anticipated municipal needs, to include, but not be limited to, any long or short-term actions that may be taken to enhance the financial condition of the City.

FINANCE VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY on 03/08/10

REFERRED TO FINANCE 03/07/11

PROG & SERV VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0 on 05/22/13

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0**

NOTE: The Programs & Services committee voted the item no action necessary. It was pointed out that the forecast is already a requirement of the City's Charter and the Administration is doing most of what is requested in the Docket Item. Therefore, Ald. Fuller moved no action necessary, which carried unanimously.

All other items before the Committee were held without discussion and the meeting adjourned at 7 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard J. Gentile, Chairman