

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011

Present: Ald. Gentile (Chairman), Ciccone, Salvucci, Rice, Danberg and Fuller  
Also present: Robert DeRubeis (Commissioner of Parks and Recreation)

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#143-11 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of ninety-seven thousand eight hundred five dollars (\$97,805) from Free Cash for the purpose of funding costs associated with tree emergencies through June 30, 2011. [04-25-11 5:54 PM]

**PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED 6-0 (Rice not voting) on 05/18/11**

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 5-0 (Danberg not voting)**

**NOTE:** Mr. DeRubeis explained that the Parks and Recreation Department is asking for an appropriation of \$97,805 to pay expenses incurred for tree emergencies from January 1 through April 1, 2011. Much of the expense is related to a large storm that caused a significant amount of tree damage throughout the City. The department needs \$52,805 of the requested funds to pay the tree contractor for work performed, \$20,000 for the rental of a tub grinder to take care of brush from storms, and the department is also anticipating an estimated \$25,000 of tree emergencies expenses from April 1 to June 30, 2011.

Ald. Rice inquired if the contractors usually ground the trees and disposed of them. Mr. DeRubeis stated that the contractor normally provides that service. In an emergency, a bucket truck responds with a chipper and a log loader attached. However, during the winter, a significant amount of brush came down and rather than hire a contractor, the Public Works Department and Parks and Recreation Department collected it and stored it at Rumford Avenue and Nahanton Park. It became too large of a pile of brush at both sites for a log loader to remove; therefore, the Parks and Recreation Department rented a tub grinder. Ald. Rice then asked if the City should purchase a tub grinder. Mr. DeRubeis stated that he is in the process of researching the cost of a tub grinder but believes that they are very expensive.

Ald. Fuller asked if the department had already spent the tub grinder money, as she believed the department was supposed to request the money before spending it. Mr. DeRubeis stated that it was an emergency to get the brush out of Rumford and Nahanton Park. Maureen Lemieux added that the item was already docketed before the money was spent and the Comptroller was comfortable allowing the department to spend the funds. There was a significant amount of pressure to remove the brush from those sites. Ald. Gentile added that it is important that these types of requests are docketed as soon as the need for funding is apparent and not after the fact. Ms. Lemieux stated that the budget line item for tree emergencies has been increased in the next budget in order to avoid this type of situation. With that, Ald. Ciccone moved approval of the item, which carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard J. Gentile, Chairman