

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2011

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

Also present: Ald. Crossley and Hess-Mahan

City staff present: Arthur Cabral (Budget and Project Specialist; Public Buildings), Maureen Lemieux (Chief Financial Officer), and David Wilkinson (Comptroller)

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#38-10(3) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred four thousand eight hundred twenty six dollars (\$104,826) from the Energy Improvement Capital Stabilization Fund to provide additional funding for costs associated with building envelope improvements at the Newton Lower Falls Community Center. [08/01/11 @ 2:23 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 (Gentile not voting) on 09/21/11

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

NOTE: Arthur Cabral, Budget and Project Specialist, explained that the transfer request of \$104,826 represents the funds needed to complete the building envelope improvements at the Newton Lower Falls Community Center. The building envelope improvements are the culmination of the renovations to the community center to provide a highly efficient building in terms of energy use. The new roof and HVAC improvements are completed. Those improvements were funded through a State Capital Bond Bill for \$500,000 and a grant of \$179,500 from the Department of Energy Resources related to the City's designation as a Green Community.

The funds to be used to complete the renovations are from a sub-fund within the Capital Stabilization Fund. The sub fund contains money from energy rebates from capital projects that have accrued over time and is to be used for future energy conservation projects.

Ald. Crossley stated that the Lower Falls Community Center renovation should be looked at as a demonstration of how much money can be saved over time by improving energy efficiency within a building when renovating. She suggested that the Board of Aldermen revisit the project after it is complete to determine what the cost of the project is versus what the savings are over time. It is expected that there will 50 to 70% savings in energy costs.

There was some concern regarding whether the windows that were installed five or six years ago could be reused in another project. Mr. Cabral assured the Committee that he would look at reusing the windows. The committee inquired if there was expectation that there would be an expansion to the buildings programming due to the renovation. The building is already heavily used but Judy Dore of the Parks and Recreation Department recently stated that there is a

rise in demand for the community center. The building may also receive some lighting improvements because of the energy service company (ESCO) projects.

Ald. Ciccone moved approval of the item, which carried unanimously.

#214-10(5) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the approval of the Economic Development Proposal for the Chestnut Hill Square Project and authorization of the final joint City of Newton and New England Development Corporation application for funding through the Infrastructure Investment Incentive Program (I-Cubed) of the Economic Development Proposal once the developer has received preliminary approval and settled all outstanding issues. [06/13/11 @ 6:05 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 8-0**

NOTE: New England Development will be providing a lengthy draft agreement with the State related to the economic development proposal for the Chestnut Hill Square Project and a summary of the agreement in the Friday, September 30, 2011 Board of Aldermen packet. The draft agreement was not available in time for the previous Board of Aldermen packet and it is important that the Committee have ample time to carefully review the draft agreement before the discussion. The item was held and tentatively scheduled for discussion at a special meeting on Wednesday, October 12, 2011.

#259-10 COMPTROLLER transmitting Annual Financial Report for the audit of fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 for Board of Aldermen review/acceptance. [09/13/10 @ 12:26 PM]

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0 (Freedman, Linsky, Rice not voting)**

NOTE: The Comptroller has submitted the Annual Financial Report for the audit of fiscal year ending June 30, 2011. The above item was held for completion of the Fiscal Year 2010 audit. The FY 10 audit was completed and accepted. Therefore, Ald. Salvucci moved no action necessary, which carried unanimously.

The Annual Financial Report for FY11 will be discussed once the auditors have completed their work. The auditors started their audit about a week ago and expect to finish in a month. The exit interview will take place in late October or early November. The Comptroller suggested that the Finance Committee might want to meet with the auditors regarding any issues.

Recommitted to Finance on July 12, 2010

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#87-09 ALD. SANGIOLO, BRANDEL, FREEDMAN AND HESS-MAHAN requesting a Home Rule Petition to allow the City of Newton to require elected officials to contribute a higher percentage rate for health insurance benefits than is required for other employee groups. [03-10-09 @ 9:17 AM]

PROGRAM & SERVICES APPROVED 5-1-1 (Baker opposed; Merrill abstaining; Parker not voting) on 4/15/09

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 8-0**

NOTE: The docketors felt that in light of the recent change in health insurance costs to all new employees, including elected officials, the item could be voted no action necessary. New employees will be paying 30% of the cost of their health insurance instead of 20% of the cost. Ald. Freedman moved the item no action necessary, which carried by a vote of eight in favor and none opposed.

The Committee adjourned at 8:30 p.m. and all other items before the Committee were held without discussion. Draft Board Orders for the above items are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard J. Gentile, Chairman

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

, 2011

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities Committee through its Chairman Sydra Schnipper and the Finance Committee through its Chairman Leonard J. Gentile, the sum of one hundred four thousand eight hundred twenty-six dollars (\$104,826) to be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Account, be and is hereby appropriated, granted, and expenditure authorized under the direction of the Public Buildings Commissioner for the purpose of funding building envelope improvements at the Newton Lower Falls Community Center:

FROM:	Transfer-Municipal Building Fund	
	39G104-593038	\$104,826
TO:	Lower Falls community Center Improvements	
	38E11504-5825	\$104,826

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

, 2011

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chairman Leonard J. Gentile, the following item be and is hereby voted NO ACTION NECESSARY:

#259-10 COMPTROLLER transmitting Annual Financial Report for the audit of fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 for Board of Aldermen review/acceptance.

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Item Voted NO ACTION NECESSARY

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON, City Clerk

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

, 2011

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Programs and Services Committee through its Chairman Amy Mah Sangiolo and the Finance Committee through its Chairman Leonard J. Gentile, the following item be and is hereby voted NO ACTION NECESSARY:

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#87-09 ALD. SANGIOLO, BRANDEL, FREEDMAN AND HESS-MAHAN requesting a Home Rule Petition to allow the City of Newton to require elected officials to contribute a higher percentage rate for health insurance benefits than is required for other employee groups.

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Item Voted NO ACTION NECESSARY

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON, City Clerk