

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2008

7:45 p.m.  
Room 222  
City Hall

**\*\*\*ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

#93-06(2) ROBERT E. & ANNE M. SULLIVAN, 391 Dedham Street, applying for abatement of a street betterment assessment in the amount of \$15,880 levied by the Board of Aldermen in Board Order #93-06 which improved Countryside Road by the laying out, grading and acceptance of it as a public way.

#207-07 ALD. COLETTI (FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR) submitting City of Newton Financial Policies draft, prepared by the Comptroller, for review and adoption by the Board of Aldermen. [06-12-07 @ 5:50 PM]

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE**

#360-07 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$1,400,000 be appropriated, by issuance of ten-year bonds, from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of acquiring title to 230 Lake avenue by purchase, for public use as recreational land and open space. [10-26-07 @ 1:36 P.M.]

**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 2-1-3 (Ald. Coletti opposed; Ald. Hess-Mahan, Merrill, Sangiolo abstaining) ON 11/27/07**

**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 1-0-6 (Ald. Parker in favor; Ald. Lappin not voting) ON 11/27/07**

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE**

#360-07(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$550,000 be appropriated from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of acquiring by purchase the title to 230 Lake Avenue. [10-30-07 @ 5:17 P.M.]

**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 2-1-3 (Ald. Coletti opposed, Ald. Hess-Mahan, Merrill, Sangiolo abstaining) ON 11/27/07**

**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 1-0-6 (Ald. Parker in favor; Ald. Lappin not voting) ON 11/27/07**

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

- #381-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$20,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of increasing the Law Department account for outside legal services to pay current and anticipated bills for services related to the negotiations and settlement of interest and penalties assessed to the City by the IRS. [11-13-07 @ 3:27 P.M.]  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 ON 1/9/08**

***CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: As is customary, the remainder of this first meeting of the term will be spent planning the expected course of discussion of the following items that were referred to Committee by the 2006-2007 Board:***

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #55-02 ALD. YATES requesting that the water/sewer discount rate be made available to homeowners who receive Fuel Assistance, Supplementary Security Income, Food Stamps, Supplementary Disability Income, General Relief, Low Income Sewer and Water Assistance, School Breakfast and Lunch and other income based State and Federal programs.  
**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 on 6/16/04**

**REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #168-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the Board of Aldermen establish new civil fines under Section 20-21 of the City of Newton Ordinances for the violation of various environmental provisions enforced by the Conservation Commission.  
**ZONING & PLANNING APPROVED 6-0 ON 12/13/04**

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #264-03(3) ALD. JOHNSON AND BAKER requesting update on the work of the Taxation Aid Committee established by the Board of Aldermen in March 2004 in administering aid to the elderly taxation fund.
- #209-05 ALD. STEWART requesting that the Mayor provide the Board of Aldermen with a list of all salaried City employees who receive additional compensation (other than overtime) along with an explanation of the exact reasons for said additional payments.

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

#397-07 ALD. JOHNSON AND COLETTI requesting to increase the fee for dogs being off-leash except where dogs are legally able to be off-leash. [12-04-07 @ 12:22 AM]

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#398-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,600,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the snow and ice budget in the Department of Public Works for FY08. [12-11-07 @ 4:09 PM]

**REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#399-07 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE requesting the sum of \$26,000 be reallocated from the potential subsidies for accessory apartments to program administration for the Accessory Apartment Incentive Program. The Board originally appropriated \$320,550 for this program via Board Order #466-05 on March 6, 2006. No new appropriation is requested. This reallocation will allow the program to run for an additional year beyond its original expiration date of December 31, 2007, offering homeowners slightly modified terms as outlined in the CPC's revised recommendation to the Board. [12-07-07 @ 2:19 PM]

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB. FAC.AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#453-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$150,000 be appropriated from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding a space needs study for the elementary schools throughout the City.  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0-1 (Sangiolo abstaining; Baker not voting) ON 3/22/06**

**REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#455-05 (21-05.2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$6,000 from the Riverside Traffic Mitigation Fund for the purpose of funding the installation of a radar-controlled speed limit sign at the intersection of Concord and Grove Streets. (#65-05)

**ITEM RECOMMITTED on 3/5/07 TO FINANCE COMMITTEE ONLY:**

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

#23-06 ALD PARKER AND LINSKY requesting that the City adopt §19 of MGL Chapter 32B to allow retiree coalition bargaining of health care benefits  
**Programs & Services voted NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0-2 (Parker, Merrill abstaining; Sangiolo not voting) on 3/8/06.**  
**FINANCE NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0-3 (Ald. Lennon, Linsky and Parker abstaining) ON 2/12/07**

- #29-06      ALD. JOHNSON AND PARKER requesting creation of a Citizen Financial Advisory Committee to work with city officials and staff to facilitate bench markers, strategic planning and other initiatives to improve the financial operation of the City.  
(President's Note: While not formally referred to the Long Range Planning Committee, this item might usefully be discussed there in light of prior discussions of similar issues.)

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

- # 35-06      ALD. JOHNSON AND HESS-MAHAN requesting discussion with the School Department and School Committee members regarding the results of the studies addressing compensation for management and executive personnel and organizational structure of central administrative salaries.
- #91-06      COMPTROLLER providing interim reports on the financial condition of various City funds and account groups.

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAMS & 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.

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

- #267-06(3)      ALD. PARKER, BURG, LINSKY, FISCHMAN, HESS-MAHAN, VANCE, HARNEY, JOHNSON, & DANBERG proposing Home Rule Legislation authorizing the City of Newton to apply the ordinance proposed in item #267-06(2) to assets held by the City's retirement system.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #345-06      ALD. SCHNIPPER requesting that the contingency on smaller Public Buildings projects be increased from 5% to at least 8%.
- #453-06      LEON JR. AND MARION D. SEMONIAN, 373 Dedham Street, requesting total abatement of betterment assessment in the amount of \$2,690 (assessed for sidewalk/curbing/road improvements to Countryside Road and Patten Circle). [11-16-06@11:02 AM]

**ITEM RECOMMENDED TO PUB. FACIL & FINANCE COMMITTEES 3/19/07:  
REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#76-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$300,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of conducting a study of the municipal buildings throughout the city. [02-27-07 @ 4:16 PM]  
**PUB FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0-1 (Ald. Gentile abstaining) on 3/7/07**  
**FINANCE MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED TO CARRY 2-4-1 (Ald. Lennon, Salvucci, Gentile and Coletti opposed; Ald. Linsky abstaining) on 3-12-07**

#207-07 ALD. COLETTI (FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIR) submitting City of Newton Financial Policies draft, prepared by the Comptroller, for review and adoption by the Board of Aldermen. [06-12-07 @ 5:50 PM]

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#358-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY09-FY13 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance \$194,907,647 of new local projects over the next several years:

**SUMMARY**

PUBLIC WORKS (CITY AND GRANT/FEE FUNDED)	\$ 67,632,500
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$ 6,230,535
PUBLIC BUILDINGS	\$ 16,772,295
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT	\$ 94,259,767
PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 7,366,000
OTHER	\$ 2,646,546
TOTAL	\$194,907,647

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

#359-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$50,000 be appropriated from Free Cash to conduct a study of the properties along Crystal Lake for the purpose of developing a Master Plan for the redevelopment of these city-owned properties. [10-30-07 @ 5:17 P.M.]

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

#382-07 BOARD OF LICENSE COMMISSIONERS requesting that Sec.17-11(2) of the Revised Ordinances be amended to increase the fee for Common Victualler License from \$50 to \$100, effective January 1, 2008. [11-06-07 @ 11:17 A.M.]  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 ON 1/9/08**

**REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#383-07 THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$498,500 be appropriated from the FY08 Community Preservation Fund's community housing and general reserves for development and associated legal costs of a community housing project proposed at 29 Coyne Road, Waban, by CAN-DO (Citizens for Affordable Housing in Newton Development Organization). [11-13-07 @ 5:09 PM]

#9-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$8,650 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the heating oil budget in the Department of Senior Services. [01-02-08 @ 4:53 P.M.]

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

#10-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$73,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the transportation budget in the Department of Senior Services for FY08. [01-02-08 @ 4:53 P.M.]

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#11-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,200,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the installation of four modular classrooms. [01-02-08 @ 4:53 P.M.]  
*NOTE: Letter received from Mayor on 1/4/08 requesting that appropriation amount be amended to \$1.3 million.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman