

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 2008

7:45 pm
Room 222

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- #156-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of funds from Wage Reserve and Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing various department's payroll accounts. [4-15-08 @6:34 PM]
- #157-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of eight thousand eight hundred eighty dollars (\$8,880) from the Budget Reserve to the severance account in the Human Resources Department for terms of severance agreements that exceed the originally budgeted amount. [4-15-08 @6:35 PM]
- #158-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a transfer of fifteen thousand one hundred dollars (\$15,100) from the Comptroller's personnel account to the audit fee account. [4-15-08 @6:33 PM]
- #159-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a transfer of sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) from the pension account to the health benefits account in the water fund. This transfer aligns the benefit costs for the current and former employees in this fund. [4-15-08 @6:33 PM]
- #359-07(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend a gift of fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) from the Newton Conservators for the purpose of funding the balance of the fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) Crystal Lake Master Plan development. [4-15-08 @6:33 PM]
- #160-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of nine thousand seven hundred eighty two dollars and thirty-one cents (\$9,782.31) from Budget Reserve for settling a claim that arose out of a motor vehicle accident in which a City truck struck another vehicle causing damage to the private vehicle. 4-15-08 @6:34 PM]
- #161-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of fifteen thousand two hundred forty-six dollars (\$15,246) from Free Cash for the purpose of funding payments to the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) to conduct mosquito larva control in catch basins to control the spread of West Nile Virus. [4-15-08 @6:34 PM]

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #162-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of twenty nine thousand dollars (\$29,000) from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the Newton Library Overtime accounts. [4-15-08 @6:35 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #167-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a transfer of two hundred twenty six thousand one hundred sixty dollars (\$226,160) from the MWRA charges to Bond Maturities in the sewer fund. [4-15-08 @6:33 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APP. 6-0-1 (Ald. Lennon abstaining) on 4-23-08

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #168-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of two hundred thirty nine thousand one hundred ten dollars (\$239,110) from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the snow and ice budget in the Department of Public Works. [4-15-08 @6:34 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 on 4-23-08

ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY & TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #163-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of purchasing a new ladder truck for the Fire Department. This ladder will replace the current Ladder 3 truck. [4-15-08 @6:34 PM]

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY & TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #164-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of a grant entitled Assistance to Firefighters in the amount of two hundred sixty six thousand three hundred forty six dollars (\$266,346) and an appropriation from Free Cash in the amount of fifty three thousand two hundred sixty nine dollars (\$53,269) as the City's matching share of this grant award. This grant will enable the Newton Fire Department to establish a ground frequency to enhance communication between all fire personnel. [4-15-08 @6:33 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #165-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of making modifications to the HVAC system at the Police Station Annex. [4-15-08 @6:35 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #166-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) from Free Cash for the purpose of the continued clean up of various 21E sites around the City. [4-15-08 @6:34 PM]

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

- #54-08 ALD. MANSFIELD, JOHNSON, HARNEY, SANGIOLO, PARKER, SWISTON AND FREEDMAN, offering a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor that the concrete foundations for the new Newton North High School not be installed until (1) the Mayor has submitted to the Board of Aldermen and the Board has approved a financing plan for a confirmed Guaranteed Maximum Price; and (2) the Mayor has requested and received from the Massachusetts State Treasurer a review of the project's plans, including the financing plan, and said review has been submitted to the Board of Aldermen. [01-29-08 @ 7:01 PM]
PROG & SERV APPROVED 5-1-1 (Baker opposed; Hess-Mahan abstaining) on 2/6/08
PUBLIC FACILITIES NO ACTION NECESSARY 8-0 on 2/20/08

REFERRED TO PROG & SERV, PUB FAC AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #54-08(2) PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE offering a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor requesting he provide to the Board of Aldermen at the earliest possible time the financing plan for a confirmed guaranteed maximum price in order to preserve cost-saving options.
PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 8-0 on 2-20-08
PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED 6-1 (Merrill abstaining; Parker not voting) on 3-12-08

REFERRED TO PROG & SERV, PUB FAC AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #54-08(3) PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE offering a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor requesting that he request and receive from the State Treasurer a review of the project plans and a review of the project's finance plan and submit said reviews to the Board of Aldermen in order to preserve cost-saving options.
PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 5-3 (Gentile, Salvucci, Schnipper opposed)
PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED 4-2-1 (Baker, Hess-Mahan opposed; Merrill abstaining; Parker not voting) on 3-12-08

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #144-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting bond authorization of two million thirty-one thousand dollars (\$2,031,000) for the costs related to energy savings improvements to be undertaken by NORESCO, an Energy Services Company, at the F.A. Day Middle School; said savings are designed to generate savings sufficient to offset the cost of the project. [4-08-08 @ 5:31 PM]
PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 on 4-23-08

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY PRESERVATION & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #146-08 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$77,076, including \$1,000 for legal costs, be appropriated from the FY08 Community Preservation Funds' historic resources and general reserves, for the second and final phase of a project to preserve archival material held in the vaults of the City Clerk, City Engineer, and the Newton Free Library by providing climate-controlled, fireproof storage and shelving, and document conservation. [04-01-08 @ 4:10 PM]

REFERRED TO COMMUNITY PRESERVATION & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #147-08 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$359,400, including \$2,000 for legal costs, be appropriated from the FY'08 Community Preservation Fund's historic resources and general reserves, for a project to rehabilitate and expand storage space for the research library and archives at the Newton History Museum, to preserve the existing collections, and enhance public access to the collections. [04-01-08 @ 4:10 PM]

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

- #89-08 ALD. PARKER requesting the following:
- A) review of the maintenance practices for buildings, parks and other properties owned by the City (including School Department facilities and grounds)
 - B) development of a comprehensive maintenance plan that includes regular schedules for preventive maintenance for each specific site or facility
 - C) a RESOLUTION requesting that implementation of said maintenance plan be funded using operating budget funds.
- [02-13-08 @ 12:07 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD 8-0 on 4-9-08

**PROGRAM AND SERVICES HELD 6-0 (Ald. Freedman not voting)
on 4-9-08**

REFERRED TO PROG&SERV, PUB FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #85-08 DANIEL PROSKAUER et al. filing on February 7, 2008 a group petition pursuant to Section 10-2 of the City Charter for a public hearing regarding the cost of construction of Newton North High School, specifically requesting the Board of Aldermen to establish a Guaranteed Maximum Price for the said project prior to the installation of foundations of the said school; and establish a maximum cost of construction of the said project that, in the opinion of the honorable Aldermen, the City can afford without sacrificing the repair and construction of other public buildings. ***NB: Board action shall be taken not later than three months from the date the petition was filed.***

PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD 8-0 on 4-9-08

PROGRAM AND SERVICES NO ACTION NECESSARY 3-0-2 (Ald. Brandel, Sangiolo abstaining; Ald. Parker, Freedman not voting) on 4-9-08

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

- #55-08 ALD. SANGIOLO, HARNEY AND PARKER proposing that the Board of Aldermen request the assistance of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and State Treasurer Tim Cahill in managing the Newton North High School construction project, including assistance with controlling project costs. [01-22-08 @ 11:05 PM]
PROG. & SERV. HELD 6-0 (Sangiolo, Hess-Mahan not voting) on 2-20-08
PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD 8-0 on 2-20-08

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #34-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting that His Honor the Mayor immediately provide the latest “estimate” of the minimum price as per the Dimeo and Turner companies (for the Newton North High School Construction Project) to the Board of Aldermen with a date certain for the filing of a supplemental funding request. [01-15-08 @ 11:14AM]
- #33-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting review of the scope of work and performance of Turner Construction and review of proposed 18-month extension of the Turner Construction contract. Included in discussion will be the process for review of future invoices of Dimeo and other vendor invoices by Turner. [01-15-08 @ 11:14 AM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #32-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion of Architect Services Contract and additional \$8 million revision to the Dorr Whittier Contract for additional services. [01-15-08 @ 11:14 a.m.]
PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD 7-0 on 1-23-08

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #31-08 ALD. COLETTI proposing a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor expressing a no confidence vote pertaining to the current status of the Newton North High School Construction Project and related Financing Plan. [01-15-08 @ 11:14 AM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #30-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting a list of current vacancies in the Police, Fire and Public Works Departments, with specific discussion in Committee relative to Police Department vacancies. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 AM]
- #24-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting an update of the Mayor’s proposal for an override ballot question prior to submittal of the proposed FY09 Operating Budget to the Board of Aldermen for review. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 AM]
- #23-08 ALD. COLETTI requesting that a modified financing plan totaling \$185 million be developed and submitted to the Finance Committee within six (6) weeks of January 14, 2008. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 AM]

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #23-08(2) ALD. COLETTI requesting that a non-binding ballot question regarding the city's expenditure of over \$185 million in bond appropriations to construct a new Newton North High School be placed on the proposed override ballot for voter reaction in Spring of 2008. [01-15-08 @ 11:15 AM]
PROGRAM & SERVICES NAN on 3-12-08

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.
PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD 7-0 on 4-23-08

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]
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES HELD 6-0 (Ald. Parker not voting) on 1-23-08

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]
NOTE: This item was amended to \$576,000 for a three-unit community housing project.
CMTE.ON COMM.PRES. HELD 6-0 (Linsky not voting) on 2/26/08

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

Note: The discussion on the below item will focus on the results of the drainage study at Newton South Fields

REFERRED TO PROG&SERV, PUB FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #86-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$2,300,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the construction of a new synthetic turf recreation complex at Newton South High School. [03-13-07 @ 7:04 PM]

PUBLIC FACILITIES HELD on 4-23-08

ITEM RECOMMITTED 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 (Gentile abstaining) on 3/7/07

FINANCE MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED TO CARRY 2-4-1 (Lennon, Salvucci, Gentile and Coletti opposed; Linsky abstaining) on 3-12-07

- #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]

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%.

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 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.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES HELD 6-0 (Ald. Merrill not voting) on 4-23-08

- #91-06 COMPTROLLER providing interim reports on the financial condition of various City funds and account groups.

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.
- #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.)

ITEM RECOMMENDED 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 (Lennon, Linsky and Parker abstaining) ON 2/12/07

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #455-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of
(21-05.2) \$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)

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
- #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 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.
PROGRAM & SERVICES HELD 6-0 (Ald. Parker not voting) on 4-23-08

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 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 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.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman