

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2008

Present: Ald. Coletti (Chair), Lennon, Johnson, Salvucci, Schnipper, Freedman, Gentile and Parker

City Staff: Ann Cornaro (Director of Information Technology), Re Cappoli (Chief Procurement Officer), David Wilkinson (Comptroller), Nunzio Piselli (Retirement Board), Susan Burstein (Chief Budget Officer), Scott Perrin (Newton South High School Athletic Director), Ed Spellman (Treasurer & Collector), Sandy Pooler (Chief Administrative Officer), David Olson (City Clerk), Dolores Hamilton (Director of Human Resources), Elizabeth Dromey (Assessor), Chief Joseph LaCroix (Newton Fire Department), Lou Taverna (City Engineer), Alice Ingerson (Community Preservation Program Manager), Nick Parnell (Commissioner of Public Buildings), Cindy Stone (History Museum) and Susan Abele (History Museum)

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]

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPROVED 6-0 on 4-29-08

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0 (Johnson not voting)

NOTE: Mr. Olson appeared before the committee. A memorandum from the Community Preservation Committee dated April 14, 2008 was provided to the committee.

This is phase two of a project that will complete the preservation of archival material held in the vaults of the City Clerk and City Engineer offices. The archives hold documents that date back to the year 1679 and contain tremendous amount of historical information about Newton and the citizens. By law, this material has to be available to city residents and anyone with an interest in history and genealogy.

The work which needs to be completed in phase two is to preserve the documents which costs \$44,800.00 the additional costs are for fire proof cabinets \$14,360.00, document scanning which is converted to microfiche will cost \$10,000.00. Ten percent contingency fee at \$6,916.00 in addition, legal costs will be \$1,000.00

Community Preservation Committee stated the project is to be done under the direction of David Olson, City Clerk. The project will start no later than October 2008 and be completed by July 2009.

The committee asked that Mr. Olson shall complete regular written and oral reports on the project progress and any funds unspent on this project shall be returned to the Community Preservation Committee fund.

The committee moved the motion to approve this project without hesitation.

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]

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS. APPROVED 5-0 on 4-23-08

ACTION: APPROVED AS AMENDED 7-0 (Johnson not voting) for the amended amount of \$800,000

NOTE: Chief LaCroix appeared before the committee. The committee received a revised letter today dated March 17, 2008 recommending the amount be increased to \$800,000 from His Honor the Mayor.

Ladder 3 truck is a 1985 model with approximately 92,000 miles. Ladder 3 has a hydraulic interlocking system for the outriggers. The outriggers have been repaired and adjusted and still do not work properly. The truck has only one rear axle, therefore, the truck sways and is unstable and does not have a tandem axle and weight is not distributed efficiently. Brakes and tires have also been a problem with this truck.

This truck is a duplicate to ladder 4, which was just replaced by the new ladder 2 tower truck. Proposal is to replace this truck with a 110' aerial custom-built ladder truck and to outfit this truck with all the necessary materials to be effective.

Chairman Coletti from Finance Committee and Chairman Linsky from the Public Safety & Transportation Committee have inspected this ladder truck in late April 2008, realizing the ladder is a valuable piece of equipment to be used as a back up ladder truck. The current truck has very little trade in value and little value if sold.

It is anticipated the City will have two main functioning ladder trucks, which will be ladders 2 and 3. The City will keep as spares ladder 4 and 5, which are both Emergency 1 ladders and have value to the City as back up equipment to supplement the three ladder trucks. The City also has a fifth ladder truck, which will be transferred to service at station 10.

The committee understood the delivery of the new truck would be prior to January 2009.

The committee approved without hesitation to move the motion for approval.

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]

PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS. APPROVED 5-0 on 4-23-08

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0 (Johnson not voting)

NOTE: Chief LaCroix once again joined the committee for discussion of this item. The City received a letter dated April 8, 2008 from Chief LaCroix indicating he was applying for the matching grant of \$53,269 in order to round out the total package, which was approved by FEMA and U.S. Department of Homeland Security indicating the City of Newton has received a federal emergency management agencies national preparedness directory.

Budget for the grant information was submitted to the committee stating it covered all equipment.

Chief LaCroix advised the committee that the grant would enable the Newton Fire Department to establish ground frequency to enhance communication between all fire personnel. Chief LaCroix stated this meant all fire trucks will be on the same frequency from one specific fire frequency allowing emergency vehicles to communicate effectively with each other.

All firefighters in each truck will have individual radios which will be stationed inside of the vehicles and on each shift each person will have a radio on them while fighting fires providing them with effective communication with other emergency people on this frequency.

This grant was originally for the Police Department. The Fire Department made the decision to transfer police frequency to use by the Fire Department.

The committee realized this money is a grant received from the Federal Government made motion to approve without hesitation.

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]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 on 5-7-08

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0 (Johnson not voting)

NOTE: Mr. Parnell joined the committee this evening for this discussion. The Police Department annex is actually the former West Newton Branch Library. The Public Building Department is requesting \$6,300.00 to replace the carpet in this facility, \$1,000.00 for the vent/duct cleaning, \$21,275.00 for HVAC modifications and \$1,425.00 contingency fee, which will also include the disposal and cleaning out of this facility.

Mr. Parnell indicated the work has been completed on the exterior of the building, which included roof repairs, brick re-pointing, and a new handicapped access. There is also additional work needed inside the building that has not been completed.

The committee made the motion for approval without hesitation.

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]

PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 on 5-7-08

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0 (Johnson not voting)**

NOTE: Mr. Parnell once again joined the committee for discussion on this item. Mr. Parnell indicated there is ongoing remediation at two sites, the Cabot Elementary School and the Hollis Mann Elementary School.

Approximately \$30,000.00 of this money will be to continue the underground remediation treatment on these sites and the disposal of material that is pumped out of the ground from a treatment shed.

There is also additional reporting to close out the Newton South High School football field and the Elliot Street DPW yard where the underground fuel is stored where there is continuing clean up work to contamination that was found behind the former incinerator.

To clean up the Elliot Street DPW yard will cost approximately \$11,850.00 and a \$2,375.00 contingency fee.

Motion was made without hesitation for approval.

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 APPROVED 3-1-4 (Ald. Salvucci opposed; Ald. Lappin, Albright, Mansfield and Gentile abstaining) on 5-7-08

PROGRAM AND SERVICES APPROVED 3-0-3 (Ald. Sangiolo, Hess-Mahan, Brandel abstaining; Johnson not voting) on 5-7-08

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0 (Johnson not voting)**

NOTE: The committee was advised prior to the meeting that this item was voted no action necessary in November and December of 2007 by the Full Board.

The City was undergoing the drainage study and understood the docket request for the synthetic turf tracks at Newton South would be a different price once the drainage study was completed.

In November of 2007, 2.4 million dollars was put into Capital Stabilization Fund as a first payment towards the engineering and construction work associated with these projects.

Lou Taverna joined the committee this evening with a brief presentation. The committee was presented with three colored photos of the three proposed areas and back up pricing information was provided. **The Finance Committee Chair asks all members of the Board to retain the cost estimates from Gayle Associates material because it provides current cost analysis for this project.**

The committee took the information provided under advisement with the understanding His Honor the Mayor is proposing to docket a new item to release 2.4 million dollars from Capital Stabilization Fund with an additional bond authorization request for 3.2 million dollars to cover the costs for the installation of two synthetic turf fields, the associated drainage study and to cover the grass fields with sod.

Included in the 2.4 million dollars Capitalization Stabilization request is \$500,000, which is to be set aside in a special reserve account to be used as a perpetual maintenance fund for these fields. These fields would be maintained by a private landscaping company in order to sustain their usability and lifetime. The cost of maintaining these fields cost more than \$62,000.000 per year, this cost would be a drainer of the Parks and Recreation Department budget if these funds are not put aside.

This new docket item would replace this docket item #86-07, therefore, the committee took no action on this item this evening.

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]
COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPROVED 6-0 on 4-29-08
FINANCE HELD 7-0 (Johnson not voting) on 5-12-08

ACTION: **HELD 7-0 (Johnson not voting)**

NOTE: Ms.Ingerson, Ms. Stone and Ms. Abele joined the committee tonight for the discussion on this item.

The committee was informed that this project would rehabilitate and expand the research library archives at the Newton History Museum. The current storage conditions at the museum poses significant risks to the archives themselves and the areas, which these materials are stored. These materials are actually in the 1600's in terms as age of the facility. Ms. Stone stated that the description of the work is to rehabilitate and expand the research archives in the museum.

This project will rehabilitate the library storage area and expand the space for the collection storage. Installation of compact shelving in the new area would be installed to relieve the current over crowding and to provide space for future material. Remodeling will also involve climate control and new fire suppression system with an installation of new boiler and heating system. This project will also improve access for people with disabilities.

When the work was explained to the committee, two committee members asked the question why this item was not properly docketed with Public Facilities Committee.

Ald. Salvucci was concerned this project would require an oversight by the Public Buildings Department. Public Buildings was not in attendance this evening to discuss. The committee was also concerned there were no plans at this time and did not understand what the architectural arrangement would be regarding the contractors who would be providing the design services and whether the work may have to be reviewed by the Design Review Committee.

The committee held this item because it was not properly reviewed in the Community Preservation sub-committee and was not properly docketed to go before the Public Facilities Committee.

A request was made for Ms. Ingerson to provide additional information as well as a joint referral of this item to be docketed to the Public Facilities Committee along with a presentation by the Public Buildings Department relative to the scope of the work, which parts are archival and which parts are renovations to the Jackson Home Stead.

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

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0 (Johnson not voting)

NOTE: It has been determined that the Finance Committee can not put a bond appropriation on the upcoming May 20, 2008 election ballot due to the fact the rules are very specific stating these ballot questions can only be put on municipal election ballots which means the next time this item be suggested would be in 2009.

In order to be put on May 20, 2008 election ballot, information would have required home rule legislation and the City did not have enough time to do this.

The committee voted no action necessary.

The committee adjourned at approximately 12:25 AM on May 13, 2008.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman