

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2008

Present: Ald. Coletti, Salvucci, Parker, Johnson, Schnipper and Gentile  
Absent: Ald. Lennon and Freedman

Also Present: David Wilkinson (Comptroller), Thomas Daley (Commissioner of Public Works), Susan Burstein (Chief Budget Officer), Clint Schuckel (Traffic Engineer), Lori Burke (Human Resources) and Chief Joseph LaCroix (Fire Department)

**NOTE: The Comptroller has prepared a "First Call Report" for the following four items (see attached memo dated June 6, 2008)**

#183-08      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a transfer of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) from the Liability Insurance Fund to the Settlements and Judgments account in the Law Department to cover the unusually high number of weather related claims this year. [5-13-08 @ 5:02 PM]

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

**NOTE:**      The Comptroller prepared a "First Call Report" for this item dated June 6, 2008. The committee was satisfied with the report provided by Dave Wilkinson, Comptroller and made the motion for approval.

#185-08      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting a transfer of one hundred forty one thousand four hundred eight dollars (\$141,408) from Wage Reserve to the Human Resources Fringe Benefit account for the purpose of pre-paying the first month of benefits to the new dental insurance provider, which sum the Comptroller is authorized to return to Wage Reserve upon collection of premiums from employees in July 2008. [5-13-08 @ 5:00 PM]

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

**NOTE:**      The Comptroller prepared a "First Call Report" for this item dated June 6, 2008. The committee was satisfied with the report provided by Dave Wilkinson, Comptroller and made the motion for approval.

#187-08      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend one hundred ten thousand dollars (\$110,000) from Capital Stabilization to pay issuance costs related to the sale of bonds in June 2008. [5-13-08 @ 5:02 PM]

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

**NOTE:** The Comptroller prepared a “First Call Report” for this item dated June 6, 2008. The committee was satisfied with the report provided by Dave Wilkinson, Comptroller and made the motion for approval.

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

#190-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to appropriate fifty thousand five hundred ninety-five dollars and thirty-six cents (\$50,595.36) from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding police details that are uncollectible. [5-13-08 @ 5:02 PM]  
**PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS. APPROVED SUBJECT TO 2<sup>ND</sup> CALL 7-0 (Coletti not voting) on 5-21-08**

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

**NOTE:** The Comptroller prepared a “First Call Report” for this item dated June 6, 2008. The committee was satisfied with the report provided by Dave Wilkinson, Comptroller and made the motion for approval.

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#177-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter, submitting the FY09 Budget, totaling \$318,354,461 passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY09-FY13 Capital Improvement Program.  
**Effective date of submission: 5/5/08; last day to pass budget: 6/19)**  
**HELD 7-0 (Ald. Johnson not voting)**

**ACTION:** **HELD 5-0 (Gentile not voting)**

**NOTE:** This item will be voted on at the Committee of the Whole on June 16, 2008.

The committee made the motion to hold this item.

Re-Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#210-08 DORIS BREAY of 19 Blake Street, Newtonville, re-appointed as a Trustee of the Newton Cousens Fund for a term to expire on June 30, 2011. [5-27-08 @12:50 PM]

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

**NOTE:** The committee received a letter dated May 23, 2008 from His Honor the Mayor recommending the re-appointment of Ms. Breay as a Trustee to the Newton Cousens Fund.

Ms. Breay was not in attendance this evening for her re-appointment.

The committee reviewed her resume and without hesitation made the motion to approve her re-appointment.

#209-08      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to appropriate and expend fifteen thousand five hundred dollars (\$15,500) from the Worker's Compensation Lump Sum Account for the purpose of settling a Workers' Compensation claim for an injury sustained on November 12, 2004. [5-27-08 @ 3:48 PM]

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

**NOTE:**      The committee received a letter from His Honor the Mayor dated May 23, 2008 requesting this appropriation.

Lori Burke from the Human Resources Department joined the committee this evening for discussion on this item. Ms. Burke stated that this claim was for an injury to a fifty-eight year old man from the utilities department who sustained injuries in November 2004. This gentleman has had two major surgeries since November of 2004. The surgeries were performed in July 2006 and December of 2007. Ms. Burke stated that this gentleman has significant scarring and loss of function due to these surgeries

This settlement request is for Section 36, which is loss of function and scarring. This gentleman requested the settlement fee of \$15,500 including \$500.00 for his attorney fee. He has also applied for disability retirement. This gentleman's claim was not negotiated until his last surgery was completed.

The committee made motion for approval without hesitation.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#186-08      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend one hundred fifteen thousand dollars (\$115,000) from Parking Meter receipts for upgrading the parking meter collection system. [5-13-08 @ 5:01 PM]

[**Clerk's Note:** This previously docketed item appeared on the May 19, 2008 docket as a single referral to the Finance Committee. This item should have been referred to both the Public Facilities and Finance Committees and appears here with the proper referrals.]

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVAL RECOMMENDED 3-0 on 6-4-08**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**      The committee received a letter dated May 13, 2008 from His Honor the Mayor requesting upgrading the parking meter collection system. Thomas Daley and Clint Schuckel joined the committee for discussion on this item relating to parking meter maintenance and collection.

The funds requested will be used for Department of Public Works to purchase 1,000 new locked meter canisters, up to twelve collection canisters, three collection carts, a collection van with rear truck lift, and a meter maintenance pickup truck.

The funds will also be used for the Treasury Department to purchase a new counting machine and a lifting device for coin bags.

The funds are intended to implement recommendations from the City Auditor, Department of Public Works Safety Committee and Human Resources regarding the security and manual lifting of coin containers.

The committee made motion to approve this item without debate.

#184-08      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) from Parking Meter receipts to install a left turn arrow for north bound traffic on Lowell Avenue at Washington Street. [5-13-08 @ 5:02 PM]

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**      The committee received a letter dated May 13, 2008 from His Honor the Mayor requesting this appropriation.

Clint Schuckel again joined the committee for this discussion. Mr. Schuckel stated this traffic signal would be operated by using a video camera, which is traffic sensitive. The City currently has two traffic signals that use the same style video camera. The camera will be programmed of the traffic patterns in this location.

Mr. Schuckel made clarification that the video picture is not clear enough to site tickets, note license plate numbers, and is not clear enough to be used for enforcement purposes.

The video camera will note when there are cars at the light and therefore will keep the light green for a longer period. The Washington Street traffic signal will remain green unless there are cars on Lowell Avenue.

The committee agreed this signal is necessary and made the motion to approve without hesitation.

#211-08      COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS requesting approval of the following mentioned sidewalk/driveway apron and/or curb betterments; said betterments graded and constructed and assessments to be levied under the provisions of MGL Chapter 83, §26, authorizing the assessment of betterments for sidewalk construction. [5-23-08 @ 4:24 PM]

Property Owner	Location/SBL	Book/Page	Amount
1. Jack & Bette Gerber	117 Glen Ave.	031221/0370	\$880.00
2. Jeffrey Colt & Cassandra Warshowsky	106 Glen Ave.	023401/0008	\$908.50
3. William T. Steffens & Mary Foley	70 Glen Ave.	030906/0547	\$2,186.00
4. Jeffrey and Catherine Tumpowsky	164 Quinobequin Rd.	032304/0281	\$2,884.50
5. Michael & Joan Resnicow	162 Fuller St.	001047/0143	\$1,328.50
6. Robert & Joan Johnsen	201 Fuller St.	0209072/0185	\$1,432.00
7. Mitchel & Stacy Bernstein	8 Lansing Rd.	043819/0028	\$1,872.50

8. Joseph Bontempo	420 Fuller St.	001056/0176	\$1,239.50
9. Michael F. & Ines Koskinen	242 Fuller St.	013258/0098	\$2,569.50
10. John & Margery Chisholm	117 Fuller St.	043584/0227	\$2,359.50

**ACTION:    APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**        The committee received a letter from Thomas Daley dated May 3, 2008 regarding these assessments of sidewalk/driveway apron and /or curb betterments.

Thomas Daley again joined the committee for discussion of this item. Mr. Daley stated these residents meet the necessary assessment requirement because they are all over \$500.00. The work has been completed and the City will record this on the property homeowner's record.

These are new sidewalks that have been installed, the City pays fifty percent up-front to have the work completed and the homeowners will have twenty-years to re-imburse the City.

Without hesitation, the committee made the motion for approval.

#189-08        **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting authorization to appropriate and expend seventy-five thousand two hundred dollars (\$75,200) from Wage Reserve to the Police Department salaries for the purpose of funding a settlement with the Traffic Supervisors and Parking Control Officers for retroactive wages for FY07 and FY08. [5-13-08 @5:12 PM]]

**ACTION:    APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**        The committee received a letter from His Honor the Mayor dated May 13, 2008 for the purpose of funding this settlement.

Susan Burstein joined the committee this evening for discussion on this item. Ms. Burstein stated the settlement is with the meter collection and parking enforcement employees of the Police Department. The City has been trying to settle contracts to support the committee to investigate changing their schedule to allow them to return to being parking control employees for enforcement after their school crossing guard duties.

Ms. Burstein stated the money is to cover wages. Retroactive wages is for two percent in FY'07. The additional money is for two percent on July 1, 2008 and one percent on January 1, 2008. Two percent on July 1 and one percent on January 1, 2009.

The committee made the motion for approval without debate.

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

#191-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting to appropriate two hundred ninety-seven thousand four hundred eleven dollars (\$297,411) from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the Fire Department overtime account. The Department has expended the balance of the funds appropriated in this account. This appropriation will fully fund Fire Department overtime costs for the remainder of the fiscal year based on historical overtime spending patterns. [5-13-08 @ 5:02 PM]

**PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS. APPROVED 8-0 on 5-21-08**

**ACTION: APPROVED SUBJECT TO 2<sup>ND</sup> CALL 5-0 (Gentile not voting)**

**NOTE:** The committee received a letter dated May 13, 2008 from His Honor the Mayor requesting this appropriation.

**Committee Clerk's Note:** Attached to this report as requested from the committee is the Fire Department's overtime account memorandum dated June 11, 2008 from Chief LaCroix.

Chief LaCroix joined the committee for discussion on this item. Chief LaCroix stated as of May 13, 2008 the Fire Department had a deficit of \$138,256.00 in the overtime account. From May 12 to June 30 of 2007, the Fire Department expended \$94,719.00 in overtime. Chief LaCroix stated if the status remains the same, he might only be requesting \$247,050.00 for overtime. Chief LaCroix believes this appropriation will carry the Fire Department to the end of the year. The additional money requested is to cover administrative and suppression salary issues.

When asked, Chief LaCroix did not know if the Fire Department would save money in the overtime account if he could employ additional firefighters.

The committee made the motion for approval without debate.

**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.***

**PROGRAM AND SERVICES NO ACTION NECESSARY 3-0-2 (Ald.**

**Brandel, Sangiolo abstaining; Ald. Parker, Freedman not voting) on 4-9-08**

**PUBLIC FACILITIES NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0 (Lennon, Salvucci not voting) on 5-7-08**

**ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0**

**NOTE:** There was no discussion of this item. The committee voted No Action Necessary.

**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. Additional letters received 5/7 and 5/21 requesting that the funding source for \$75,000 be changed to capital stabilization for costs incurred for design work and the remaining \$1,225,000 from bonded indebtedness be voted no action necessary.*

**PUBLIC FACILITIES A) \$75,000 from Capital Stabilization APPROVED 5-0-1 (Lennon abstaining, Gentile not voting) on 5-21-08**

**PUBLIC FACILITIES B) \$1,225,000 from bonded indebtedness voted NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0 (Gentile not voting) on 5-21-08**

**ACTION:** **A) \$75,000 from Capital Stabilization APPROVED 3-2-1**

**(Johnson and Gentile opposed, Parker abstaining)**

**B) \$1,225,000 from bonded indebtedness voted NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0-1 (Parker abstaining)**

**NOTE:** The committee received a letter dated May 7, 2008 from His Honor the Mayor requesting this appropriation.

Ald. Coletti stated that the modular classrooms were to be ordered and construction started by May 26, 2008. It is now too late to take action on the modular classrooms this year. The design work that was completed can and may be used in the future if necessary.

After a brief discussion, the committee voted on these two sections of this item without hesitation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman