

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2007

Present: Ald. Coletti (Chairman), Lennon, Linsky, Salvucci, Gentile, Parker, Schnipper and Lipof

Also Present: Susan Burstein (Chief Budget Officer), Arthur Cabral (Budget and Project Specialist, Public Buildings), Chief Joe LaCroix (Fire), Capt. Paul Anastasia (Police), Executive Officer Hugh Downing (Police)

#32-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$7,500 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of purchasing supplies necessary for the maintenance of the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED's) that are maintained by the Fire Department. [01-30-07@5:07PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0 (Ald. Parker not voting)**

NOTE: Chief LaCroix was present this evening. He explained that new regulations require that all of the 22 defibrillators be equipped with pediatric pads, in addition to adult-sized pads, which must be routinely replaced to ensure that these machines remain in working order in the event that they are needed for use. This request also includes the purchase of replacement batteries and maintenance checks on each machine.

Chief LaCroix explained that the Fire Department assumed the responsibility for oversight of this function at the request of the Newton Emergency Medical Services Committee. At some point in the operating budget, there will be a line item established to provide these funds each year for this purpose. Currently, there is a plan to increase the availability of these machines throughout City-owned buildings (i.e. school buildings, Parks and Recreation Department and Fire Stations). Police cruisers and fire apparatus already have this equipment on board.

The Committee asked that, since maintenance of these machines is ongoing, there should be a line item included in the Fire Department operating budget (as opposed to having the Chief come to the Mayor and the Board each year for a supplemental appropriation). With the understanding that this line item will be added to the FY08 budget, the Committee voted 7-0, with Ald. Parker not voting, to approve this item.

REFERRED TO PS&T AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#33-07 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$116,650 from Free Cash for the purpose of purchasing Communications Consoles for installation in the Dispatch Center at Police Headquarters. These consoles are an important component of the upgrade of the E-911 emergency communication system. [01-30-07@5:07PM]

PS&T APPROVED 7-0 (Ald. Harney not voting) on 2/7/07

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: The Committee was joined by Capt. Paul Anastasia (of the Dispatch Center) as well as Executive Officer Hugh Downing. They explained that this equipment is especially important due to the upcoming Verizon upgrade of the E-911 emergency communication system. Capt. Anastasia reviewed the backup information that was attached to this evening's agenda, which included a timeline for the replacement of this equipment. It is anticipated that the public bidding process will take place at the end of February or in the very beginning of March; it is estimated that there will be two companies interested in this contract. In late April, the contract will be awarded, and materials, etc. will be ordered. In July, installation will be performed. After installation of the new consoles, the existing communications equipment will be transferred, allowing room for the new equipment that will come from the E-911 program (which is expected to be delivered on August 6th). The new E-911 is scheduled to "go live", statewide, on August 28, 2007.

The Committee reviewed the project budget and justification, which included photographs of the existing workstations at the Dispatch Center. The Committee had some questions regarding the expense (approximately \$93,000) for these seven consoles.

Capt. Anastasia explained that these units are somewhat specialized (due to the computer equipment that each one must accommodate, along with associated proper wiring, etc), and they are also ergonomically safe (because dispatchers need to remain at their workstations for long shifts). He pointed out that these stations need to be somewhat adaptable (to fit different persons) because they are in use 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

With that understanding, the Committee understood the necessity for purchase of this specialized equipment. The Committee then voted 8-0 to approve this item.

#28-07 **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, Sec. 26, authorizing the assessment of betterments for sidewalk construction.

<u>PROPERTY OWNER</u>	<u>LOCATION/SBL</u>	<u>BK / PG</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1. Caplis, David J.	118 Winchester St 83-10-15	1194 / 96	\$773.70
2. Krasnow, Jamie A.	134 Winchester St. 83-10-12	1253 / 37	\$725.10
3. Mallory, Margaret M. & Kevin	147 Winchester St. 83-11-10	1104 / 114	\$609.60
4. Gensir, Leslie	151 Winchester St. 83-11-9	1148 / 55	\$626.10
5. Swindle, Anne Borg	155 Winchester St. 83-11-8	13748 / 128	\$1252.20
6. Poster, Jeanine C.	166 Winchester St. 83-10-5	1088 / 20	\$658.20
7. Chari, Susan & Ravii	174 Winchester St. 83-10-3	1080 / 11	\$706.80
8. Buechler, Peter	177 Winchester St. 83-11-3	1233 / 74	\$938.70
9. Guyetsky , Viktor & Dina	193 Winchester St. 83-16-1	1207 / 40	\$577.50
10. McCarthy, John D.	194 Winchester St. 83-19-15	1193 / 73	\$872.70
11. Kanellias, Maria & Michael D.	199 Winchester St. 83-16-2	1301 / 13	\$955.20
12. Kanellias, Maria & Michael D.	199 Winchester St. 83-16-3 (empty Lot)	1301 / 13	\$2,029.50
13. Glukhovskiy, Yakir	229 Winchester St. 83-18-2	33773 / 495	\$1,846.20
14. Edelstein, Gregg & Karen	230 Winchester St. 83-19-11	46021 / 191	\$1,054.20
15. Jonas, Leslie A.	238 Winchester St. 83-19-9	1167 / 68	\$871.80
16. Martins, Paulo Y.	239 Winchester St. 83-18-4	41898 / 44	\$1,368.60
17. Ship, Annabelle	269 Winchester St. 83-28-21	31723 / 464	\$674.70
18. Hinchey, George	275 Winchester St. 83-28-22	32605 / 297	\$970.80

[01-25-07@11:14AM]

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

#29-07 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, Sec. 26, authorizing the assessment of betterments for sidewalk construction.

<u>PROPERTY OWNER</u>	<u>LOCATION/SBL</u>	<u>BK / PG</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1. Aristarkhov, Sergey	290 Winchester St. 83-27-23	1248 / 139	\$1,021.20
2. Celi, Mary & Francis	291 Winchester St. 83-28-27	35974 / 378	\$953.40
3. Massarsky, Lev	296 Winchester St. 83-27-22	1225 / 162	\$1,235.70
4. Drapkin, Melvin	308 Winchester St. 83-27-20	1229 / 20	\$1,186.20
5. Eby, David	361 Winchester St. 83-28-40	38632 / 519	\$1,021.20
6. Hillis, Duane	499 Winchester St. 83-35-2	15604 / 511	\$2,883.90
7. Ash, Paul B.	48 Greenwood St. 82-9-20	987 / 25	\$1,516.50
8. Sharon, Andre	149 Greenwood St. 81-5-39	22157 / 412	\$1,367.70
9. Mohan, Arni & Ann	141 Greenwood St. 81-5-38	41573 / 55	\$1,072.50
10. Lipton, Steven B.	166 Greenwood St. 82-7-15	35939 / 239	\$1,071.00
11. Lipton, Steven B.	170 Greenwood St. 82-7-15A	23223 / 216	\$1,071.00
12. Goldie, Mark	179 Greenwood St. 81-5-23	21390 / 104	\$1,170.00
13. Sklover, Susan K.	180 Greenwood St. 82-7-16	30050 / 287	\$1,368.00
14. Hartstein, David & Lisa	217 Greenwood St. 81-3-19	19674 / 598	\$1,117.50
15. Kozinets, Alex	229 Greenwood St. 81-3-21	1290 / 175	\$1,302.00
16. Goldberg, Arthur J.	234 Greenwood St. 82-10-3	26916 / 516	\$1,830.00
17. Holzwasser, Helen A.	1818 Beacon St. 55-16-1	41839 / 257	\$1,862.70
18. Seeto, Jean C.	1830 Beacon St. 55-17-4	27737 / 304	\$1,716.00
19. Unflat, Laura M.	1964/1966 Beacon St. 55-25-8	41784 / 533	\$1,004.70
20. Bresler, Sheryl	1970 Beacon St. 55-25-7	1078 / 2	\$1,167.90

[01-25-07@11:14AM]

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

#30-07 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, Sec. 26, authorizing the assessment of betterments for sidewalk construction.

<u>PROPERTY OWNER</u>	<u>LOCATION/SBL</u>	<u>BK / PG</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1. Etter, Faye M.	8 Varick Road 55-25-6	996 / 160	\$1,055.10
2. Waxman, Sheila	30 Clements Rd. 73-25-9	26549 / 38	\$1,433.70
3. Wand, Mitchell	62 Clements Rd. 73-25-5	32229 / 109	\$1,219.20
4. Budin, Alina	150 Country Club Rd. 82-10-1	35714 / 44	\$1,089.00
5. Campbell, Christopher	371 Highland St. 32-53-40	31612 / 169	\$1,294.50
6. Sawyer, Linda	146 Forest Ave. 32-52-1	37935 / 155	\$3,183.00
7. D'Ambrosio, Patrick	6 Freeman St. 41-30-21	9944 / 222	\$1,153.00
8. Noble, Christopher & Leslia	148 Kirkstall Rd. 22-21-32	24144 / 446	\$1,165.00
9. Logalbo, Mary	55 Herrick Rd. 65-19-8	39318 / 366	\$2,250.00
10. Cooper, Paul R.	44 Ballard St. 73-31-11	18663 / 53	\$1,206.50
11. Korin, Caren & Hiller	19 Druid Hill Rd. 83-24-7	1256 / 185	\$1,803.00
12. Scott, A.W.	49/51 Pembroke St. 72-13-9	40882 / 284	\$1,080.00
13. Camoscio, Cosmo & Madeline	57 Metacommet Rd. 55-4-1	654 / 167	\$1,452.00
14. McDonald, David J.	356 Linwood Ave. 21-24-8	19532 / 251	\$1,825.00
15. Sequeira, Shobar .	80 Woodchester Dr. 73-16-1	1152 / 191	\$1,380.00
16. Atree, Wayne	65(61?) Pembroke St. 72-13-11	10696 / 498	\$2,892.50
17. Hamilton, Michael	21 Lake Ave.	26377 / 234	\$3,460.50

62-8-8

[01-25-07@11:14AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

#31-07 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, Sec. 26, authorizing the assessment of betterments for sidewalk construction.

<u>PROPERTY OWNER</u>	<u>LOCATION/SBL</u>	<u>BK / PG</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1. Gore, Barbara	1525 Centre St. 52-26-1	32495 / 584	\$1,142.00
2. Bernstein, Stephen	97 Hillside Ave. 32-3-12	28513 / 323	\$1,368.00
3. Parmenter, David & Jennifer	165 Hunnewell Ave. 71-19-4	35663 / 211	\$1,730.00
4. Nibi, Theresa A.	154/156 Langdon St. 13-18-11	33516 / 209	\$2,224.50
5. Logalbo, Mary	55 Herrick Rd. 65-19-8	39318 / 366	\$1,476.00
6. Muzykin, Roman	60 Hatfield Rd. 34-16-44	31943 / 351	\$922.00
7. McLellan, Mary A.	59 Carl St. 83-28-59	41365 / 5	\$726.00
8. Sternberg, Edgardo R.	90 Meadowbrook Rd. 81-8-4	32601 / 425	\$5,097.00
9. Kinney, Leila & Summit, Paul	36 Regent St. 32-47-1	26450 / 316	\$4,171.50
10. Karmel, Marianne M.	391 Highland St. 24-24-2	31700 / 514	\$2,088.50
11. Hutchins, Donald Mrs.	22/24 Melbourne Ave. 14-2-7	11375 / 133	\$516.00
12. Geuss, Anne H.	88 Grasmere St. 71-25-7A	28755 / 414	\$769.00
13. McQuillian, Mark	12 Kimball Ter. 24-17-14	43492 / 565	\$548.00
14. Halem, Lynne & Steve	47 Sargent St. 72-27-1	15118 / 510	\$3,540.00

[01-25-07@11:14AM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: Lou Taverna, City Engineer, was present this evening. He explained that these lists of property owners represent locations where the owners requested sidewalk betterments (some of them were part of roadway resurfacing or reconstruction projects).

The Committee reviewed these individual property requests as well as the city's sidewalk/curbing installation policy as it relates to betterments. When the City performs Chapter 90 reconstruction (state-funded) projects, the City does not currently install new sidewalks/curbs, unless it is determined that there is a public safety issue. As a result of that policy, Winchester Street residents (as part of the recent reconstruction project) were given the opportunity to have their sidewalks/curbs upgraded for less than half of the actual cost of the installation (the City picked up the balance of that; in most cases, these betterments were for the installation of curbing. Overall, this curbing installation will add to the lifetime use of the street because it will help to prevent the road surface from cracking (curbing helps to keep moisture from getting in under the roadway surface).

The Committee noted that each of these properties meets the requirement that the betterment to be assessed be no less than \$500. The Committee then took separate votes on each of the above docket items. Each of these items was approved by a vote of 8-0.

#371-05(2) CITY ENGINEER, in accordance with Ordinance Sec.26-49, **Street Betterments**, paragraph (a)(1) requesting approval of the following list of betterment assessments for the completed project for Silver Lake Avenue Public Way Layout (from Adams Street to #24 Silver Lake Ave.):

<u>PROPERTY OWNER</u>	<u>LOCATION/SBL</u>	<u>BK / PG</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
1) Chapel Bridge Park Associates	Silver Lake Avenue 14-009-0003	Reg. Land Cert.#125269 Reg. Book 756, Pg.119 Lots 150,151,152, 153,154 (Plan No.4466a)	\$12,177.90
2) Craig R. Edsall	36-38 Silver Lake Avenue 14-010-0009	Reg. Land Cert.#226584 Reg. Book 1263, Pg.34 Lots 178,179 (Plan No.4466a)	\$4,253.15
3) Ethel A. O'Connor, David A. Proia and Carla B. Pavao	30 Silver Lake Avenue 14-010-0010	Reg. Land Cert.#231131 Reg. Book 1285, Pg.178 Lot 180 (Plan No.4466a)	\$2,296.76
4) Kit Yee Kwong Tam, Hoi Ping Tam	vacant lot Silver Lake Ave. 14-010-0011	Reg. Land Cert.#192438 Reg. Book 726, Pg.187 Lot 181 (Plan No.4466a)	\$2,296.76

5) Kit Yee Kwong Tam, 24-28 Silver Lake Avenue Reg. Land \$2,296.76
Hoi H.Ping Tam 14-010-0012 Cert.#192438
Reg.Book 1092, Pg.88
Lot 182 (Plan No.4466a)

[01-26-07@8:18AM]

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0-1 (Ald. Parker abstaining)

NOTE: Mr. Taverna explained that the above list of assessments is for the public way layout/roadway construction project for Silver Lake Avenue, which has now been completed. He assured the Committee that these final betterment amounts were accurate, and indicated that at this time, it is requested that the Board of Aldermen approve this list so that the betterment amounts for the individual properties may be assessed.

Without debate, the Committee voted 7-0-1, with Ald. Parker abstaining, to approve this item.

#371-05(3) CHAPEL BRIDGE PARK ASSOCIATES requesting abatement in the amount of \$12,177.90, as assessed to SBL 14-009-0003 by Board Order #371-05(2) for the Silver Lake Avenue Public Layout project.

ACTION: DENIED 8-0

NOTE: Don Domoretsky was present this evening as a representative of Chapel Bridge Park Associates. He explained that the property owners feel that they should not be assessed this \$12,177.90 betterment for the parking lot that abuts Silver Lake Avenue. Their rationale for the request is that they state that they do not have direct access to Silver Lake Avenue (via driveway or sidewalk). Therefore, Mr. Domoretsky indicated that the property owner wishes to have this entire amount abated.

It was pointed out that, in the first phase of this street acceptance process, the property owner was asked whether they wanted to have a sidewalk installed, and at that time, they did not respond to the letters sent to them by the Department of Public Works; this resulted in the project moving forward without the sidewalk installation.

One abutter on the opposite side of Silver Lake Avenue, because they have not had city water/sewer access installed to that home yet, asked to defer on installation of a sidewalk in front of that property. As a result of these two properties not actively requesting installation of sidewalks, this construction project moved forward as planned, but, unfortunately, the sidewalk and curbing installations were not optimal. At this time, Silver Lake Avenue appears to have 3 sections to it; the public way, which is newly paved as a result of this project (and will be maintained by the City), a portion that remains unpaved (until the aforementioned property owner can hook into proper utilities), and the private section of the road, which has been paved at the expense of the private property owner.

In speaking with the representative from Chapel Bridge Associates, Committee members explained that it was unfortunate that the property owner did not take advantage of having the sidewalk installed at the time when the DPW sent the mailing. They went on to explain that proper process was followed where this project is concerned and, unfortunately, based upon the fact that the property owner's claim is that they have not received a benefit from this project (with no other significant reason given), the Committee voted 8-0 to deny this request. No Committee member could recall a request for abatement for this reason being approved in the past, therefore, members felt that it was appropriate to uphold this process by denying the item.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#14-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of making repairs to the Gath Pool.[1-9-07 @4:54 PM]

PROGRAMS & SERVICES APPROVED 8-0 ON 2/7/07

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

NOTE: Arthur Cabral, Budget and Project Specialist for the Public Buildings Department, was present this evening. He explained that there is a necessity to repair leaks in the pool that have been caused by a deteriorating rubber expansion joint between the vertical wall and the gutter that carries filtered water back to the pool, 4 large cracks at the deep end of the pool, and numerous other small cracks have also appeared.

Upon completion of the crack repair and filling process, the entire pool surface will be painted with rubberized pool paint, in accordance with Massachusetts Health codes. The entire cost for this project is estimated at \$27,000, and the remainder of the funds will be used for design and contingency purposes.

The Committee questioned the pool maintenance history. It is apparent at this time that the pool only has approximately 5 years of useful life remaining. After that time, major work with filtration and equipment systems will be necessary. The Committee requested that the Public Buildings Department perform an analysis of the anticipated work to be performed on this pool site in future years (in order to maintain and upgrade it). There was also a question regarding the benefit of purchase of a plastic membrane to be filled with water and set down on top of the pool structure during the fall and winter months. The freezing of the water in this type of membrane would put pressure on the rubberized paint layer, preventing frost heaves (and subsequent damage). It was suggested that the Public Buildings Department look into the purchase of this type of protection for the pool.

Ultimately, the Committee voted 8-0 to approve this request.

#206-00(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend \$35,000 from Hebrew College pursuant to provisions of Special Permit #66-98(3) and a Traffic Mitigation Agreement between the City and Hebrew College, to be used toward the cost of traffic improvements, studies or transportation programs selected by the City for the purpose of mitigating potential impacts of the Hebrew College project on Herrick and Langley Roads or improving traffic and flow in the Herrick Road area. Note: #206-00, approved 6/5/00, authorized acceptance of these funds; #206-00(3), approved 6/19/00, requested implementation of accounting measures to track future expenditures; #206-00(2), the actual expenditure, was held in Committee on 6/19/00 to allow Board review of proposed mitigation measures and costs on a case-by-case basis.

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

NOTE: There was a recent appropriation made from this Traffic Mitigation fund to conduct a traffic study in the Braeland/Herrick/Langley Road area. Therefore, the Committee did not see the need to keep this item on its agenda. With that, the Committee voted NO ACTION NECESSARY on this item by vote of 8-0.

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 **PROG. & SERV. NO ACTION NECESSARY 4-0-2 (Parker, Merrill abstaining; Sangiolo not voting) on 3/8/06.**

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 5-0-3 (Ald. Linsky, Lennon, Parker abstaining)**

NOTE: In March of 2006, the Programs and Services Committee discussed this item and determined that it would not be appropriate to pursue such an action at this time. Therefore, the Programs and Services Committee voted NAN on this item.

The majority of the Committee this evening agreed that this item should be voted NO ACTION NECESSARY.

On a motion for NAN, Ald. Linsky, Lennon and Parker felt that it was necessary to have retirees come in and talk about how they felt about the proposal, therefore, they abstained, and the vote was 5-0-3.

Other Committee members felt that the retirees, under the current system, have an excellent benefits package, and there has not been significant interest shown in changing the system, therefore, they supported the motion of NAN.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman