

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2007

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

Absent: Ald. Gentile

Also Present: Susan Burstein (Chief Budget Officer), David Naparstek (Commissioner of Public Health), Nick Parnell (Public Buildings Commissioner)

Re-Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#255-07 JEFFREY D. SILTON Re-Appointed on July 25, 2007 as a CONSTABLE for the City of Newton; said term of office to expire on June 1, 2010. [07-25-07 @ 4:14 p.m.] (60-day Board action date: 10/12/07)

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Parker not voting)**

NOTE: Jeff Silton is to be re-appointed as a Constable for the City of Newton. He has been associated with the City of Newton for over 14 years, serving as a Constable, a member of the Crime Commission, Newton Auxiliary Police, and as a Justice of the Peace. All appropriate backup information had been submitted for Committee review, including a copy of his current Constable Bond.

Therefore, without debate, the Committee voted 6-0, with Ald. Parker not voting, to approve Mr. Silton's re-appointment.

#269-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$972,530 from the Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund to restore the funds previously appropriated from Capital Stabilization for the fire station repairs and outstanding work at Newton South High School, as indicated at the time of those requests. [8-28-07 @4:12 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: Nick Parnell, Public Buildings Commissioner, and Susan Burstein, Chief Budget Officer, were present this evening. She explained that this item was filed as a follow-up to docket items that were approved during FY07, which were appropriations from the Capital Stabilization Fund to cover the costs for life safety fire station repairs (\$672,530) and outstanding work at Newton South High School (\$300,000). At the time that said requests were approved, it was understood that there would be a subsequent request to appropriate funds from FY08 Free Cash in order to replenish the funds taken from the Capital Stabilization Fund for this purpose.

Therefore, without debate, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve this request.

#256-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$111,630 be appropriated from Wage Reserve to the Health and Human Services Department payroll accounts in order to make FY07 retroactive salary payments and to provide full funding for said wages in the FY08 Operating Budget, pursuant to the agreement reached with the MA Nurses Association. [08-07-07 @ 4:32 p.m.]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

#268-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$102,000 from Wage Reserve to fund a settlement with the Newton Municipal Employees Association. [8-28-07 @4:13 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

#270-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$50,000 for expenditure of a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Housing and Community Development for making improvements to the Hamilton Grove Community Center in Lower Falls. [8-28-07 @4:12 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#271-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$20,669 from FY'08 Budget Reserve to fund payments to the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) for mosquito larva control in catch basins to control the spread of West Nile Virus. [8-28-07 @4:13 PM]

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Coletti and Parker not voting) ON 9/5/07

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#273-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation of \$35,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for removal of the structures located at 20 Rogers Street and preparation of the property for recreational use. [8-28-07 @4:53 PM]

PUB FAC APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Weisbuch not voting) ON 9/5/07

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: The above listed items were all contained in a First Call Item report, prepared (at the request of the Finance Chairman) by Comptroller David Wilkinson (see attached), dated September 6, 2007.

The Committee reviewed the backup information provided (see attached), as well as the First Call Item report, and understood the need for each of these appropriations.

On item #271-07, Public Health Commissioner David Naparstek was present this evening. He explained that the City continues to participate in the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Program each year in an effort to control the spread of West Nile Virus; this program has been quite successful in past years.

On item #273-07, Public Buildings Commissioner Nick Parnell was present. He explained that these funds are necessary in order to remove existing debris and structures (house and garage) from the lot at 20 Rogers Street so that it may be prepared for use by the Parks and Recreation Department. Mr. Parnell provided sufficient backup information (attached) which explained the need for this sum. This request also includes 5% contingency for the project.

Chair Coletti requested that appropriate asbestos testing be done on this property (in the basement of the house as well as in the garage area) before the lot gets filled in. Commissioners Parnell and Naparstek indicated that they would make sure that the testing is done before demolition to ensure proper and safe disposal of materials.

The Committee supported these requests and, on each of the above listed "first call" items, voted to approve the requests by individual votes of 7-0.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Paul E. Coletti, Chair