

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006

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

Also Present: Ald. Merrill; Sandy Pooler (Chief Administrative Officer), David Wilkinson (Comptroller),

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: With apologies, this report will be quite concise, as personal circumstances, combined with a busy meeting schedule this week have pre-empted detailed reporting of this evening's discussion. The Chair will offer full details of discussion in the form of an oral report on the floor of the Board on 3/20 on any item that any Alderman wishes to place on SECOND CALL.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEES

#131-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to file a Home Rule Petition with the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for special legislation which will allow the City Treasurer to use the Prudent Man Rule for investing trust funds of the City.

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

NOTE: David Wilkinson, Comptroller, presented this item to the Committee this evening. The Committee reviewed the supporting information provided (see attached) and was in full support of moving forward with this request for Home Rule Petition.

After brief discussion, the Committee voted 8-0 to approve this request. This item will next be reviewed by the Programs and Services Committee and then subsequently Full Board vote will be required prior to submitting the item to the General Court for approval.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#118-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$195,738 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding current and future snow/ice and tree emergency expenses in the Parks and Recreation Department.

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 7-0 AS AMENDED @ \$228,554 ON 3/8/06

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0 AS AMENDED @\$228,554

NOTE: Mark Welch was present this evening from the Parks and Recreation Department. He provided a summary of the need for these funds to replenish the various accounts for the Department in the event that there are future snow/ice/tree emergencies.

The Committee reviewed all backup materials provided (see attached) and ultimately voted to approve this requested, as amended for \$228,554, with the understanding that, if these funds are not needed for future storms before the end of FY06, they will be returned to the General Fund. The vote for approval of this request was 8-0.

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRESERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

#96-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$753,700 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the *Stearns and Pellegrini Parks Phase I Improvements* recreation project.

**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 7-0-1 (Linsky abstaining)
ON 2/28/06**

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0-3 (Linsky, Salvucci, Schnipper abstaining)
SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL**

NOTE: The Committee reviewed the report of the Committee on Community Preservation report, along with all supportive documents related to this project (see attached). There was much discussion relative to design/construction, and oversight of this project. The ultimate outcome of the discussion this evening was that it will be recommended that this item be referred to the Public Facilities Committee for further scrutiny. For that reason, this item will be placed on SECOND CALL. Since this item will be discussed under SECOND CALL on the floor of the Board on 3/20, the Chairman will give an oral report to share the details of this evening's discussion.

Ultimately, the Committee voted 5-0-3, with Ald. Linsky, Salvucci and Schnipper abstaining) to approve this item.

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRESERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

#97-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$43,600 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the historic restoration of clapboards on the 248 *Elliot Street* community housing and historic preservation project.

**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 4-0-4 (Linsky, Parker,
Vance and Lappin abstaining) ON 2/28/06**

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-2-1 (Salvucci, Parker opposed; Gentile abstaining;
Lipof not voting)**

NOTE: Again, the Committee reviewed the report of the CCP, the recommendation of the Community Preservation Committee (Planning), and all supportive backup materials provided. There are three components to this project; there

is the clapboard restoration, restoration of the stone wall at the rear of the foundation, and door/ceiling restoration.

It is expected that, due to the final action on this item, it will be discussed on SECOND CALL, therefore, the Chair will offer a detailed oral report. Ultimately, the Committee voted 4-2-1, with Ald. Salvucci and Parker opposed, Ald. Gentile abstaining, and Ald. Lipof not voting, to approve this request.

REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRESERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE
#98-06 **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE** recommending that the sum of \$208,250 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the continuation of the *Newton Homebuyer Assistance Program* to provide assistance to low/moderate income home purchasers.

CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 2/28/06
ACTION: APPROVED 6-0-1 (Lipof not voting)

NOTE: As with the previous items, the Committee reviewed the recommendations of the CCP and CPC in regards to this item. The Committee reviewed the backup information presented (attached) and ultimately voted 6-0-1, with Ald. Lipof not voting, to approve this request.

All other items were held.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman