

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

**SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH PROG. & SERV. AND PUB. FACILITIES**

MONDAY, MAY 22, 2006

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

Programs & Services Present: Ald. Johnson (Chair), Merrill, Hess-Mahan, Sangiolo and Baker

Public Facilities Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chair), Weisbuch, Albright, Yates and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Mansfield

Also Present: Ald. Burg and Vance; Lt. Hugh Downing (Police), Rob Ricchi (CPC), Sandy Pooler (Chief Administrative Officer), David Wilkinson (Comptroller), Fran Towle (Commissioner, Parks & Recreation), Carol Stapleton (Parks & Rec.), Doug Dickson (CPC), Curtis Betts (Friends of Albemarle), Hon. David B. Cohen (Mayor), David Olson (City Clerk/Clerk of the Board), Nick Parnell (Commissioner, Public Buildings), Heidi Black (School Dept.), Reenie Murphy (School Committee), Anne Lerner (School Committee), Dori Zaleznik (School Committee)

***CHAIRMAN'S NOTE:*** *Due to the fact that there was much to be discussed at the Joint Committee portion of this evening's meeting, the Finance Committee reviewed information provided on the following items, but did not get into detailed discussion on them (for details on CPC items, please refer to the Committee on Community Preservation Report dated 4/25/06):*

#228-06      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the following grant funds received by the Police Department:

- A) \$12,000, received as a Homeland Security Local Preparedness Equipment Grant, to be used to purchase equipment for first responders, and
- B) \$16,000, received from Massachusetts Department of Public Health, to be used to implement the Enhanced Medical Dispatch (EMD) system in the Dispatch Center

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

**NOTE:**      Lt. Hugh Downing, Executive Officer for the Police Department, was present this evening. He presented the Committee the (attached) backup information which explains the intended use of these funds.

Without debate, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this item.

**REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMMUNITY PRESERV. AND FINANCE**

#188-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$92,080 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the *Upper falls & Newton Highlands Playground Strategic Design* recreation project.

**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/25/06**

**ACTION: APPROVED 8-0**

**NOTE:** The Committee reviewed the backup information provided on this item, as well as the recommendations from both the CPC and Committee on Community Preservation. The one concern that Committee members had was that every effort should be made by the Parks and Recreation Department to seek neighborhood input on this project (perhaps by having some sort of liason(s) appointed to work with them in following through on this phase and any additional phases of the project.

Ultimately, the Committee voted 8-0 to go along with the CCP recommendation and support this appropriation for design funds at this time.

**REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#142-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$33,400 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the *Albemarle Park Central Corridor Design* open space and recreation project in Newtonville.

**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/25/06**

**ACTION: APPROVED 8-0**

**NOTE:** The Committee reviewed the backup information on this item and, without debate, voted 8-0 to approve this request.

**REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#143-06 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$25,100 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the *Cheesecake Brook Greenway Design* open space project in Newtonville

**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/25/06**

**ACTION: APPROVED 8-0**

**NOTE:** The Committee reviewed the proposal for this project and made one request; that the Cheesecake Brooke itself not be fenced in. This request was made in order to ensure that proper access would be possible if needed in water emergency. The Committee was also concerned that the cost of this overall project be monitored closely to ensure that there is not a future need for a significant amount of City funding (i.e. storm drain fee revenues) to be used to fund improvements at this location.

After brief discussion the Committee ultimately voted 8-0 to support the recommendation of the CPC and approve this item.

The Finance Committee finished its discussion of regular Committee business at approximately 8:45 p.m. The Committee then discussed the following item:

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#230-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization for the issuance of long-term debt in the amount of \$3,648,750 for the purpose of completing the design phase of the Newton North High School Project.

**ACTION:** **PROG. & SERVICES APPROVED 5-1-2 (Ald. Sangiolo Opposed) (Ald. Parker, Johnson abstaining)**  
**PUBLIC FAC. APPROVED 4-0-3 (Ald. Weisbuch, Yates, Albright abstaining)**  
**APPROVED 6-0-2 (Ald. Parker, Linsky abstaining)**

**NOTE:** This item was discussed at length with the Programs and Services and Public Facilities Committees this evening. Details of said discussion can be found in the Joint Committee Report which is being distributed under separate cover.

All other items were held. The Committees ultimately adjourned at approximately 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman