

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, JULY 24, 2006

Present: Ald. Coletti, Chair; Ald. Lennon, Linsky, Salvucci, Gentile and Lipof

Absent: Ald. Parker and Schnipper

Also Present: Sandy Pooler (Chief Administrative Officer), Fran Towle (Commissioner of Parks and Recreation), David Wilkinson (Comptroller), Jeff Knight (Fire Department), David Naparstek (Health Commissioner)

#273-06      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$81,782 from various sources for the purpose of funding the cost items set forth in the labor contract agreed upon with the AFSCME Newton Foremen Union, Local 2443.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**      Sandy Pooler was present this evening. He provided a letter dated June 26<sup>th</sup> from the Mayor indicating that he was requesting that this appropriation come from a combination of Salary Reserve (\$64,477), Sewer Fund Surplus (\$12,901) and Water Surplus (\$4,404) in order to fund the cost items set forth in this contract settlement. This is an adjustment for FY05 of 2% and FY06 of 3%, along with additional small changes in the contract with this union. Attached to the agenda this evening was a copy of the signed Memoranda of Agreement.

The Committee briefly reviewed the terms of this contract and voted 6-0 to approve this appropriation for this purpose.

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#275-06      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of replacing the existing electrical cabinet and control panels at the Halloran Sports Complex at Albemarle Field.

**PROG. & SERV. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL 3-0 (Baker not voting) on 7/12/06**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**      Fran Towle, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, was present this evening. She explained that the electrical cabinet that houses the control panels for the

field lighting for this complex is seriously deteriorated due to weather exposure over the years and needs to be replaced.

The Fire Department Wires Division has made a proposal (which was attached to this evening's agenda) to rewire the existing lighting and install a new transformer, including replacement of bulbs and all appropriate circuit breakers for this service. The proposal, dated June 8, 2006, was submitted to the Committee. This includes that the new equipment will have a weatherproof enclosure to prevent this type of problem in the future. The estimate for the installation is \$20,048. It is recommended that the total appropriation for this project include approximately \$10,000 to cover wire, cable and miscellaneous parts that may be required once the replacement project commences. Therefore, this appropriation is requested for \$30,000 to cover those anticipated costs.

Fran Towle and the Committee discussed the need for the upgrading of the light systems and how beneficial this new system will be to provide the capability to control the lights by computer program from a remote location. The Committee believed that this is a worthwhile project that will, over time, be cost effective. Therefore, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this item.

#274-06        HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$19,635 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding payments to the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) to conduct mosquito larva control in catch basins in order to control the spread of West Nile Virus.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**        David Naparstek, Commissioner of Public Health, was present this evening. He presented a letter dated June 1, 2006 which explains that these funds are needed to perform mosquito larva control in order to control the spread of West Nile Virus. The Health Department will continue to use the environmentally friendly larva control method that it has used in the past (the product being used is called Vectolex). Commissioner Naparstek reported that there have been no recorded cases of West Nile Virus in Newton thusfar, and it is important that the city's 10,000 catch basins be treated to continue with this effective program.

The Committee, without debate, voted 6-0 to approve this request.

#267-06(2)    ALD. PARKER, BURG, LINSKY, FISCHMAN, HESS-MAHAN, VANCE, HARNEY, JOHNSON, & DANBERG proposing an ordinance paralleling the state legislation that would require the divestiture of City of Newton funds from those companies that aid and abet the Sudanese government in its genocide.

**ACTION:**     **HELD 6-0**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#267-06(3) ALD. PARKER, BURG, LINSKY, FISCHMAN, HESS-MAHAN, VANCE, HARNEY, JOHNSON, & DANBERG proposing Home Rule Legislation authorizing the City of Newton to apply the ordinance proposed in item #267-06(2) to assets held by the City's retirement system.

**ACTION:** **HELD 6-0**

**NOTE:** These items were not ready for discussion this evening and will be scheduled for discussion at a later time. Therefore, the Committee voted 6-0 to hold each of the items until such time as they are ready.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#271-06 BERNARD J. GOULDING, 80 Brookside Avenue, Newtonville, re-appointed on July 1, 2006 as a CONSTABLE for the City of Newton; said term of office to expire on July 1, 2009.

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:** Because Mr. Goulding is being re-appointed as a Constable for the City, and all appropriate paperwork was filed with the Clerk's office, it was not necessary for him to be present this evening before the Committee. The Committee reviewed all documents that were attached to this evening's agenda and, without debate, voted 6-0 to approve Mr. Goulding's re-appointment.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#272-06 MARIA BIANCHI ROSEN, 41 Aspen Avenue, Newton Centre, re-appointed on July 1, 2006 as a CONSTABLE for the City of Newton; said term of office to expire on May 1, 2009.

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:** Similar to the previous item, Ms. Rosen is being re-appointed as a Constable for the City. All of her appropriate paperwork was also filed with the Clerk's office, therefore, it was not necessary for her to attend this evening's meeting. The Committee reviewed all of the documents submitted and voted 6-0 to approve Ms. Rosen's re-appointment.

**REFERRED TO PROG & SERV, ZAP AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#119-06 ALD. SALVUCCI requesting revocation of the Community Preservation Act (accepted by the Board of Aldermen as item #64-01(2) on 7/9/01 and approved by public vote at the 11/6/01 election) by vote by the Board of Aldermen and referral to the voters of Newton, pursuant to GL chapter 44B, Sec.16.

**PROG. & SERV. DENIED 6-0 ON 5/10/06**

**ZONING & PLANNING DENIED 5-0 (Dandberg not voting) on 6/26/06**

**ACTION: APPROVED 3-2-1 (Gentile, Linsky opposed; Coletti abstaining)**

**NOTE:** This item was discussed this evening at the request of Ald. Salvucci. He explained that the Programs and Services Committee discussed and denied this item on May 10<sup>th</sup>. Subsequently, the Zoning and Planning Committee discussed and also denied this item on 6/26/06.

The Committee did not spend much time discussing this item this evening, but at Ald. Salvucci's request for a vote this evening, the Committee did vote 3-2-1, with Ald. Gentile and Linsky opposed and Ald. Coletti abstaining, to approve this item as presented. Since there are conflicting Committee recommendations on this item, it will be SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL on the floor of the Board on August 14<sup>th</sup>. The reason that the Committee substituted approval on this item was to force the issue out for discussion on the floor of the Board on August 14 (because members were not necessarily willing or ready to get into detailed discussion on this item this evening). It is expected that at that time all issues and questions regarding this item will be taken up.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman