

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25 2006

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

Absent: Ald. Schnipper

Also Present: Ald. Merrill; Dave Wilkinson (Comptroller), Nick Parnell (Commissioner of Public Buildings), Sandy Pooler (Chief Administrative Officer), Chief Joseph LaCroix (Fire)

#330-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend the sum of \$1,325 from the Human Resources Department Legal Services Account for the purpose of paying a bill from a prior fiscal year. This bill was for an arbitration conducted in April of 2004.

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Linsky and Parker not voting)**

NOTE: Sandy Pooler, Chief Administrative Officer, and David Wilkinson, Comptroller, were present this evening. They indicated that this was a bill from a previous fiscal year that, after research by the Comptroller, has been deemed valid. Therefore, it is requested that funds be appropriated and authorized for expenditure to settle this outstanding invoice.

Since this item was non-controversial, it was listed on the Comptroller's First Call Item report (attached to this evening's agenda). Therefore, without debate, the Committee voted 5-0, with Ald. Linsky and Parker not voting, to approve this item.

#331-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$800 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of replacing the City of Newton Oath Book.

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Linsky and Parker not voting)**

NOTE: This item was also listed on the Comptroller's First Call Item report. David Olson, City Clerk, had submitted this request in order to obtain funding for the purchase of a new City of Newton Oath Book. This book is an archives document that is kept by the City Clerk; all elected officials, department heads, and appointees to boards and commissions are sworn into office and sign this book each term. The current book (which dates back to 1976) is almost completely filled, therefore, it is necessary to purchase a new book in order to continue with this important archival function.

Without debate, the Committee voted 5-0, with Ald. Linsky and Parker not voting, to approve this item.

#333-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$19,157 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of making repairs to the Police Headquarters electrical transformer that was damaged as a result of an automobile accident on April 2, 2006.

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Linsky not voting) SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL**

NOTE: Nick Parnell, Public Buildings Commissioner, was present this evening. He explained that, when the electrical transformer (which is located directly in front of the Police Headquarters building) was struck by an automobile on April 2, 2006, power service was interrupted. The damage to the transformer was so extensive that the transformer needed to be replaced.

A claim has been filed against the vehicle operator's insurance policy; said claim has not yet been settled. In the meantime, the Public Buildings Commissioner has requested funding to pay the electrical contractor for the work (which has already been finished because it is important to maintain full electrical power supply to the Police Headquarters building, therefore, the replacement could not be delayed). It is understood that, when the insurance settlement is made and the City receives payment, these funds will be returned to the Capital Stabilization Fund for future expenditure.

The Committee voted 6-0, with Ald. Linsky not voting, to approve this request. This item is subject to second call due to the fact that Committee members were looking for an update from the City Solicitor on the status of the claim and assurance that funds received from said claim will be returned to the Capital Stabilization Fund.

COMMITTEE CLERK'S NOTE: *Please refer to attached message received from Comptroller and Law Department which indicates that a settlement of this claim is expected with the insurance company, after which time, the Comptroller intends to request that the Mayor take the proper steps to reimburse the Capital Stabilization Fund.*

REFERRED TO PS&T, PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#378-05(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$58,385 from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing funds authorized under board order #378-05 (approved 11/21/05) for the installation of windows at Fire Station #4.

PS&T APPROVED 8-0 ON 9/20/06

PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 8-0 ON 9/20/06

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: This item was approved by both the Public Safety/Transportation and Public Facilities Committees on September 20th during a joint Committee discussion. This is a request that was submitted by Nick Parnell, Public Buildings Commissioner, who was present this evening. The information provided shows that there were 5 bids received by the City for this project. The lowest of those 5 has come in at an amount that is higher than the original appropriation. The lowest bid was approximately \$203,000 and the highest bid received was well over \$300,000. The City has worked with the lowest bidder (for this project) in the past; that bidder understood that the bid was lower than the appropriated amount, and that this request for supplemental appropriation would take additional time for review and approval. With that understanding, the contractor agreed to hold his price for up to 60 days, awaiting approval.

The windows to be installed will be aluminized, white trimmed. All windows in station #4 will be replaced under this contract.

The Committee briefly reviewed the scope of the work for this project. It was understood that this will be the beginning of the extensive renovation process for this and all other fire stations throughout the city. It is estimated that the additional renovations city-wide will cost approximately \$13,000,000. The Committee supported this project and voted 7-0 to approve this request so that the bid could be accepted for this project and the actual work can begin as soon as is possible.

REFERRED TO PS&T, PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#378-05(3) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$90,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of providing funding for the Fire Department Wires Division to replace and/or repair fire alarm systems in the firehouses throughout the city.

PS&T APPROVED 8-0 ON 9/20/06

PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 8-0 ON 9/20/06

ACTION: APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Fire Chief Joe LaCroix and Chief Administrative Officer Sandy Pooler presented this item to the Committee this evening. They explained that none of the fire station buildings have adequate fire suppression and alarm systems (including smoke and CO detectors). This appropriation will be necessary in order to bring these buildings up to code with current standards. This work will be performed by members of the fire wires and fire prevention divisions. A list of supplies and materials was distributed to all members of the Board in last week's packet.

The Committee reviewed the information provided and indicated its support for this project to move forward at this time. The Committee was pleased that the ongoing issues of health and safety of the firefighters that were observed during previous fire station tours are being addressed. The Committee voted 7-0 to approve this request.

#329-06 COMPTROLLER transmitting Annual Financial Report for the audit of fiscal year ending 6/30/06 for Board of Aldermen review/acceptance.

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

NOTE: David Wilkinson provided a thorough presentation of the Annual Financial Report (which he prepared in connection with the annual audit). This document was distributed to all Board members in their weekly packets earlier this month. Anyone wishing to acquire an extra copy of this document should contact the Comptroller's office to see if they are available.

Mr. Wilkinson reviewed this document and instructed the Committee as to how this report can be used as a tool when considering financial requests/projects, etc. It is suggested that the summary pages be read by all members of the Board (they are located in the front portion).

After the presentation by Mr. Wilkinson, the Committee voted 6-0, with Ald. Gentile not voting, to approve the acceptance of this report, as submitted by the Comptroller.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman