

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2005

Present: Ald. Coletti (Chair), Linsky, Gentile, Stewart, Parker, Schnipper and Lipof;  
absent: Ald. Gerst; also Present: Ald. Danberg

**CHAIRMAN'S NOTE:** The Committee convened at 7:00 p.m. this evening in order to review the proposed FY06 budget as it relates to the Information Technology, Comptroller/Retirement Board, Assessing and Treasurer/Collector/Parking Clerk departments:

**INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:**

Ann Cornaro, director of IT was present this evening. She provided an in-depth review of her department. This Department budget includes the elimination of one staff position.

Ultimately, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this budget as presented.

**COMPTROLLER/RETIREMENT BOARD:**

David Wilkinson, Comptroller, was present this evening.

Ultimately, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this budget as presented.

**ASSESSING:**

Elizabeth Dromey was present this evening. This Department budget also includes the elimination of one staff position.

Ultimately, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this budget as presented.

**TREASURER/COLLECTOR/PARKING CLERK:**

Ed Spellman, Treasurer, was present this evening. This Department budget also includes the elimination of one staff position.

The Committee voted 6-0 to approve this budget as presented.

**The Committee then discussed the following items:**

#155-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$3,160 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of making repairs to Fire Ladder 2.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**      Acting Fire Chief Bruce Proia was present this evening. He explained that Ladder 2 suffered some damage to its control tower when it hit a tree branch while responding to a fire alarm; the damage was such that the engine needed to be taken out of service until it can be repaired.

The Committee reviewed the backup information (which was attached to this evening's agenda). The total cost of the repair is to be \$3,160, which is why this appropriation is now being requested.

The Committee voted 7-0 to approve this request.

#156-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$230,101.64 be appropriated (from a combination of Lottery Receipts, Capital Stabilization and E-rate Reimbursement funds) for the purpose of paying the final installment of a three-year lease of computers for the School Department.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**      This is for the final payment of the lease purchase agreement for the acquisition of technology for the School Department.

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

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#157-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of  
(202-04)      \$560,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of replacing windows at the Pierce Elementary School.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0-1 (Mansfield abstaining) on  
5/4/05**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#202-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$273,050 from the Capital Stabilization fund for the purpose of replacing windows at the Pierce Elementary School.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES NAN 7-0 ON 5/4/05**

**ACTION:**      **NAN 7-0**

**NOTE:** Arthur Cabral, Budget and Project Specialist for the Public Buildings Department, was present this evening.

The history on this project is that, back in 1996, the Capital Improvement Plan contained a request for approximately \$350,000 for repair and replacement of the windows at the Pierce School. This item has been left unfinished since the Board of Aldermen appropriated the funds for the architectural design on this project in order to bid the project.

The Committee reviewed the plans that were reviewed by the Public Facilities Committee on May 4<sup>th</sup>. All members of the Board received copies of the plans in their weekly packets. The Committee had questions relative to the size of the windows, the lighting that would be introduced by this installation, and operation of the windows. Appropriate screens will also be installed on the windows that will be able to tilt open.

The Buildings Department was asked to request pricing for both aluminum framing and white baked on finish frames for these windows. It was also requested that replacement glazing be included in the order; this will provide replacement glass in the event that something happens to one of the windows.

The Committee did have specific questions about the installation, warranty and timing of this project. The availability of these windows will determine whether the project happens this year or after next winter.

There was discussion regarding the term of the bonds to be issued and, ultimately, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve the bond authorization.

Since #157-05 will move forward, the original item, #202-04 was voted No Action Necessary by a vote of 7-0.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#158-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$149,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of repairing the roof at the Countryside Elementary School.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 ON 5/4/05**

**ACTION: APPROVED 6-0 (LIPOF NOT VOTING)**

**NOTE:** It was brought to the Committee's attention that the roof over the old annex of the Countryside School has experienced some leaking; the flashing is no longer water-tight. It has been determined that the roof is in need of replacement. The major section of the roof was replaced back when the masonry project was completed, but this portion of the roof was not included in that project.

The Committee understood that this was an absolutely necessary project. Therefore, the Committee voted 6-0, with Ald. Lipof not voting, to approve this item.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#159-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$405,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of replacing boilers at various school buildings.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 4-1-2 (Mansfield opposed; Yates, Albright abstaining) on 5/4/05**

**ACTION: APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:** Arthur Cabral explained this request to the Committee. The School Committee has agreed to the plan for replacing the boilers at the Bowen, Burr and Ward Elementary Schools. These are all in need of replacement at this time. This work will be completed over the summer months. Each boiler to be installed according to the site-specific needs (i.e. availability of underground storage tanks, etc.).

The Committee voted 7-0 to approve this item.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#159-05(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 (from a combination of the Capital Stabilization Fund Bonded Indebtedness and General Purposes funds) for the purpose of procuring architectural design services for the installation of boilers at various school buildings.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 ON 5/4/05**

**ACTION: APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:** The backup information submitted indicates that \$30,000 is needed for procuring architectural design services for the installation of boilers at various school buildings. \$24,455 is to be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund Bonded Indebtedness fund, and the remaining \$5,545 is to be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund General Purposes fund.

The Committee was informed that the design and oversight monies for doing this work is, in some ways, an attempt to ensure that, once the systems are installed properly and will function efficiently and effectively.

The Committee voted 7-0 to approve this item.

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

#135-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$131,035 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the Washington Park Historic Lighting Project.  
**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 7-0 (Linsky not voting)  
ON 4/26/05**

**ACTION: APPROVED 6-0 (Linsky excused)**

**NOTE:** This project will be completed under the Historic Preservation component of the CPA funding system. This request was made by the residents who live in the direct vicinity of Washington Park. This project will restore the earlier 1800's lighting to this park. The lights to be installed will be single-bulb electric lights (similar to those installed along California Street).

The Committee discussed the appropriate installation and location of these lights in order to ensure that residents who plow snow out of their driveways onto the parkland will not cause damage to these lights. Without sidewalk installation along the perimeter of the park, it is requested that the lights be placed in far enough so as not to have vehicles and city plows strike them from the roadway.

The Committee supported the concept and voted 6-0, with Ald. Linsky excused, to approve this item, with the understanding that all possible steps will be taken to assure that the potential exposure for damage of this new equipment will be limited as much as possible.

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

#143-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$15,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the Engineering and Restoration Design for Preservation of the Newton War Memorial Monumental Entrance Staircase.  
**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/26/05**

**ACTION: APPROVED 7-0**

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

#144-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$15,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the Engineering and Restoration Design for Preservation of the Newton Civil War Monument at the Newton Cemetery.  
**CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/26/05**

**ACTION: FINANCE APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:** These two items were discussed in conjunction with one another. Charles McMillen presented these items to the Committee.

The Committee's only concern with regards to item #143-05 was that appropriate railings should be installed to increase safety to persons using the stairs. Mr. McMillen expressed his commitment to ensuring that this need be met as part of the project.

In terms of #144-05, there is a situation where the physical appearance of the monument was changed years ago. It is proposed that the monument will be restored to its original appearance.

The Committee was in full support of these two items and voted 7-0 to approve each of them.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 10:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chair