

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY  
PRESERVATION

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2005

Present: Ald Coletti (Chairman), Linsky, Gentile, Stewart, Parker, Schnipper and Lipof  
Absent: Ald. Gerst

Committee on Community Preservation Members Present: Ald. Linsky (Chairman),  
Hess-Mahan, Sangiolo, Yates, Parker, Vance and Lappin  
Absent: Ald. Lennon

Also Present: Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Mike Rourke (Chief Administrative  
Officer), Fran Towle (Commissioner, Parks & Recreation), David Wilkinson  
(Comptroller), Bob Rooney (DPW Commissioner), Lou Taverna (City Engineer), Eileen  
McGettigan (Assistant City Solicitor)

***CHAIRMAN'S NOTE:*** *This evening's meeting began at 7:30 p.m. as a special JOINT  
COMMITTEE MEETING with the Committee on Community Preservation. Together,  
the Committees reviewed and voted on the following items:*

**REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
#360-05 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the  
sum of \$387,089, or 10% of anticipated fiscal year 2006 Community  
Preservation Fund revenue, be appropriated to the CPA Fund Historic  
Resources Reserve.

**ACTION:** **CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 7-0**  
**FINANCE APPROVED 7-0**

**REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
#360-05(2) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the  
sum of \$387,086, or 10% of anticipated fiscal year 2006 Community  
Preservation Fund revenue, be appropriated to the CPA Fund Community  
Housing Reserve.

**ACTION:** **CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 7-0**  
**FINANCE APPROVED 7-0**

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

#360-05(3) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$1,949,783 of anticipated fiscal year 2006 Community Preservation Fund revenue be appropriated to the CPA Fund Current Year Budget Reserve.

**ACTION:** **CMTE. ON COMM. PRES. APPROVED 7-0**  
**FINANCE APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:** These items are dealing with the distribution of various percentages of Community Preservation funds. Attachment 1 (the draft board order, to this report explains what these figures will be. This allocation has been proposed each year since the Community Preservation Act was passed. These two Committees review this request each year and make a recommendation to the Board for final appropriation of these funds into the various accounts.

The Committees briefly discussed these items as they relate to the overall distribution of these funds. Without debate, the Finance Committee voted 7-0 to approve each of these items.

The Committee on Community Preservation voted 7-0 to approve each of these three items.

*After the JOINT COMMITTEE meeting was concluded, the Finance Committee went on to discuss the following items:*

*The first group of items considered were voted without debate, upon the recommendation of the Comptroller as outlined in his "First Call Items Report"(see attached):*

#318-05 COMPTROLLER transmitting the Annual Financial Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2005 for review.

**ACTION:** **REPORT ACCEPTED, ITEM APPROVED 7-0**

#319-05 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$450 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of providing matching funds for the purpose of providing matching funds for a federal work-study intern in the Planning Department.

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 7-0**

#352-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$4,500 be transferred within the FY06 Election Commission budget for the purpose of allowing the Department to contract for the services of a temporary agency employee to assist with the work necessary to prepare for and conduct the municipal election in November, 2005.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 5-0-2 (Linsky, Stewart abstaining)**

#353-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$3,203 from Free Cash for the purpose of purchasing a replacement photocopier for the Elections Department.

**ACTION:**      **NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0**

#354-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$15,000 from Budget Reserve to provide seed money for a Million Solar Roof grant from the US Department of Energy, which will promote the installation of solar panels on municipal, school and private buildings.

**ACTION:**      **NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0**

#356-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$8,604, received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) as a grant for the purpose of administering a HUD-required homeless management information system on behalf of the Brookline-Newton-Watertown Consortium.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

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

#358-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$30,775.35 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of paying a previous fiscal year's electric bills. *This amount represents a deficit from FY05 and must be closed before the City sets its tax rate for FY06.*

**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 5-0-2 (Coletti, Sangiolo abstaining) on 10/19/05**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

*The following items were also discussed and voted upon by the Committee this evening:*

#350-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$386,120 in order to fund the cost items set forth in the labor contract agreed upon with the Newton Police Association. Said appropriation is to come from Salary Reserve (\$350,720) and FY06 Estimated Revenue (\$35,400).

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:** Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer, was present this evening. He gave the Committee an overview of the contract that had been settled with this union. This calls for a similar collective bargaining pattern to previous contract settlements with other unions. There was some question about additional appropriations made in the settlement with regard to adjustments in the rate for overtime (detail pay). The Committee was supportive of this request and, ultimately voted 7-0 to approve this request.

#351-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$15,414 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of settling two claims arising from accidents resulting in a collision between a City of Newton fire truck and several private passenger cars at the intersection of Centre and Church Streets on December 18, 2003.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:** Eileen McGettigan, Assistant City Solicitor, was present this evening. She informed the Committee that the city's ladder truck was involved in this collision with 2 cars, during the winter of 2003, and there was significant damage to these private vehicles. The backup information explains that two claims were filed against the city (one from each car owner); these claims total \$15,414. Both of the vehicles involved were stopped in traffic, waiting to turn onto Center Street, when they were side-swiped by the ladder truck.

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

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

#359-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$86,120 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding current and future tree emergency expenses in the Parks and Recreation Department. **PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 (Sangiolo, Parker not voting) ON 10-19-05**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:** The Committee was joined this evening by Fran Towle, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation. She explained that there have been a few weather events which have strained the department's forestry budget. There are three accounts that have been used for tree emergencies; tree equipment rental, tree overtime, work by other departments. In anticipation of the upcoming winter weather, it is now requested that funds be appropriated to replenish these accounts.

The Committee carefully reviewed the list of expenses thusfar (which was provided by the Commissioner). Committee members agreed that this request is appropriate at this time, and voted 7-0 to approve this item.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#38-05        HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization of debt issuance in the amount of \$12,930,095, through a zero interest loan program sponsored by the MWRA to fund rehabilitation of the City's water mains.  
**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 5-0 ON 3/23/05**

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**        The Committee was joined this evening by Lou Taverna, City Engineer, and DPW Commissioner Bob Rooney. Extensive backup materials had been provided as attachments to this evening's agenda regarding this program.

This is a program whereby the MWRA makes direct, zero-interest loans to cities and towns. Newton borrows approximately \$2.6 million per year to rehabilitate the City's water mains. In some, cases cleaning and lining are performed, in others, replacement of the main is done. Please refer to attached project list.

The Chairman had an earlier, detailed meeting with Mr. Taverna and Mr. Rooney to review the status of this program.

After reviewing the proposed schedule for upcoming projects, the Committee supported this request and, therefore, voted 7-0 to approve this item.

#355-05        HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$400,000 from FY06 Estimated Revenue to the Budget Reserve Account for future appropriations to cover the anticipated increased costs of electricity and natural gas for various City departments.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**        Sandy Pooler presented this item to the Committee. He indicated that the Assessors have certified more growth this year than originally estimated (during the budget review process). This will allow for additional funding to be set aside to cover costs such as the increased rates for electricity and natural gas.

Many Committee members agreed that it was a sound idea to set these funds aside, particularly since the energy markets are unstable at this point in time. The Committee voted 7-0 to approve this request.

#357-05      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$2,083,739 for the purpose of adding funds to the debt reserve fund within the Capital Stabilization Fund. These funds will come from FY06 Estimated Revenue (School Building Assistance Program and BAN premiums received).

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**      These funds will be set aside towards financing projects at Newton North and Newton South in the future.

Without debate, this item was approved 7-0

#357-05(2)      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$413,625 from the Debt Service fund within the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of paying interest costs on the \$22,060,000 6-month BAN the City issued in August, 2005, which will come due in February of 2006.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**      In February of 2006, the City will determine whether these BANs will actually be sold. At this time, however, this money will need to be set aside in order to pay the interest amounts on the temporary bonds.

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

#357-05(3)      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$45,000 from the Debt Reserve fund within the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding debt issuance costs for the bonds the City will sell in February of 2006 to fund previously approved school projects and other municipal projects

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**      After reviewing the letter provided by the Mayor (which was attached to this evening's agenda), the Committee agreed that this is the proper time to move forward on this appropriation. Without debate, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve this request.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman