

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004

Present: Ald. Coletti (Chair), Linsky, Gentile, Stewart, Parker, Schnipper and Lipof

Absent: Ald. Gerst

Also Present: Ald. Vance; David Wilkinson (Comptroller), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Fran Towle (Commissioner, Parks and Recreation), Bob DeRubeis (Deputy Commissioner, Parks and Recreation), Bob Rooney (DPW Commissioner), Brian Connolly (DPW)

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#36-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$219,436 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding current and future snow and ice and tree emergency expenses in the Parks and Recreation Department.

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: Fran Towle and Bob DeRubeis were present from the Parks and Recreation Department this evening. They presented some backup information dated December 30th (which was attached to the Committee agenda this evening). This explained that they seek to replace their “seed money” for costs associated with tree emergencies and snow and ice control. Thusfar, the department has expended \$184,068 for equipment rental, \$32,115 for department overtime, and \$3,253 for tree equipment rental. They provided information relative to the five contracts that they will be using this winter for snow and ice control as well as tree emergencies.

As part of the review of this item the Committee discussed the role that the Parks and Recreation Department plays in supporting the Public Works Department in its snow removal efforts. The Committee understood that the schools (including parking lots) and municipal buildings (including the Senior Center) are handled by this Department. Many of the employees who work in Parks and Recreation work with the Public Works Department to accomplish this.

It was understood that the contractors had not yet been paid for the work performed in the two previous snowstorms. An analysis was done at the Programs and Services Committee on 1/7 that showed that the contractors had not submitted all of the necessary paperwork (including insurance documents) in order for their contracts to be processed so that they could subsequently be paid. The Programs and Services Committee (including

the Finance Chairman) requested that both the Public Works and Parks and Recreation Departments expedite the filing of paperwork to ensure that these contracts could be signed and the contractors can be paid in short order.

The attached information shows the names of these companies and facts relative to the processing of their contracts. It is expected that, by the end of this week, all contracts will be signed and checks for these contractors will be cut manually.

With that understanding, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve this item.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#39-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$548,480 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the Department of Public Works control of snow and ice budget.

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: This item is similar to the previous item in that backup information was presented by Commissioner Bob Rooney and Brian Connolly of the Public Works Department requesting that funds be appropriated to the following accounts; (\$197,765) Overtime Snow and Ice, (\$13,647) Special Compensation, (\$270,475) Rental of Vehicles and Equipment, (\$17,083) Sand and Salt, (\$33,525) Auto Parts/Lube/Vehicle Maintenance, (\$5,985) Meals. A spreadsheet showing the various costs for snow and ice control efforts from December 2nd through 22nd was submitted to the Committee for review.

The Committee reviewed this request carefully. There has been a total of 26" of snow and a cost of \$214,843 in Overtime, \$239,942 for Overtime for workers from other departments, \$326,775 for rental of equipment, \$177,043 for sand and salt, and \$31,525 on vehicle maintenance. To date, the Public Works Department has spent \$779,735 on control of snow and ice. The Committee also reviewed some re-cap information on these storms that was presented by Brian Connolly.

The Committee was satisfied with the information presented in regards to this request. This appropriation should replenish the proper accounts in the hopes of carrying the City through the next month or so for what it might need for control of snow and ice.

There are only two contracting companies working for the Public Works Department in this function (Paolini Corp. and Jewett Construction). One of these contractors has brought in all of the required paperwork and the other is very close to having the required final insurance documents filed. Both of these contracts will be signed and checks cut within this week, as assured by both Mr. Rooney and Mr. Connolly.

With that understanding, the Committee voted 7-0 to approve this item.

REFERRED TO ALL COMMITTEES

#15-04 ALD. BAKER requesting discussion and planning of upcoming committee agendas, process, future work, and how to streamline committee work on minor or routine approvals in order to allow time to focus on more major or non-routine matters.

ACTION: **HELD 7-0**

NOTE: Please refer to the attached documents in regard to how the Committee will handle its business more effectively.

This item was held in Committee this evening. Any Alderman wishing to know the details of the discussion on this item may please refer to attachments #1, #2, and #3 for specifics. These items are somewhat self-explanatory.

Committee members expressed a desire to have the opportunity to review the fine details of these documents over the next two weeks and come back to discuss the item further for possible vote at that time. Ald. Parker requested that one change be made by the Comptroller, and that change is reflected in the attached document (attachment #1).

With that, the Committee voted 7-0 to hold this item at this time.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman