

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA  
MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2004

7:45 p.m.  
Room 222  
City Hall

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**\*\*\*ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED**

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#147-04      WILLIAM D. CHENARD appointed on February 20, 2004 as a member of the NEWTON BOARD OF ASSESSORS, filling the unexpired term of William Figler; said term to expire on February 1, 2006.  
(60-day Board action date: 4/30/04)

#148-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$157,000 (\$140,000 from Free Cash; \$17,000 from Sewer Surplus) in order to supplement Workers' Compensation accounts for the remainder of this fiscal year.

# 67-04(2)      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of an additional \$2,000, received from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to the Newton Health Department for support of emergency preparedness activities.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**\*\*\*ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

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

#130-04      COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$90,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund as a grant for \$40,000 and a loan for \$50,000 for the purpose of completing the installation of the new black ornamental steel fence and two new gate sets at Houghton Garden.

**CMTE COMM PRES APPROVED 7-0 ON 2/24/04**

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

- #131-04      COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that sum of \$2,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund as a grant for the purpose of funding the design, fabrication and installation of sixteen historic district signs for the Newtonville and Newton Upper Falls Historic Districts.  
**CMTE COMM PRES APPROVED 7-0 ON 2/24/04**

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

- #132-04      COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$20,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund as a grant for the purpose of conducting a restoration/preservation needs assessment for the Brigham House at 20 Hartford Street.  
**CMTE COMM PRES APPROVED 7-0 ON 2/24/04**

**REFERRED TO CMTE. ON COMMUNITY PRESERV. AND FINANCE  
COMMITTEES**

- #227-03(3)      COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that, in accordance with Board Order #227-03, the sum of \$65,375 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the June 15, 2004 interest payment on \$5,000,000 in general obligation bonds.  
**CMTE COMM PRES APPROVED 7-0 ON 2/24/04**

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

- #264-02(2)      PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting adoption of an ordinance to establish the composition, terms of office, and procedures in order to implement the Aid to Elderly Taxation Fund (to which voluntary donations may be made for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly citizens in Newton per acceptance of G.L. c. 60 §3D.)  
**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 7-0 AS AMENDED ON 2/18/04**

***\*\*\*ITEMS TO BE VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY:***

- #120-98      ALD. PARKER AND COMPTROLLER recommending the appointment of a special subcommittee of the Board to work with the Comptroller in developing a summary level financial report for public information.
- #241-02      ALD. PARKER, GERST, LINSKY, MANSFIELD, CICCONE, LIPSITT requesting discussion of City policy with respect to city-owned vehicles, in particular, the use of such vehicles during non-working hours.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES, PS&T AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- # 34-03 ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion with Executive Department and Fire Department relative to street light maintenance contract with Wellesley Power and Light with the possibility transferring this function to of the Fire Department's Wire Group.

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #426-03 DAVID DONAHUE, GINNY GARDNER, ROBERT ANTONELLIS requesting His Honor the Mayor, appropriate 1.2 million dollars from free cash to the School Department for the purpose of eliminating all user fees, i.e. sports, bus, parking.  
**PROGRAMS & SERVICES NAN'D 7-0 on 1/21/04.**

**ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:**

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

- #128-04 ALD. SALVUCCI proposing revocation of the Community Preservation Act to be effective after the completion of the five-year term, as provided in MGL Ch. 44B, Sec.16.

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

- #124-03(2) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$376,750 that was appropriated through Board Order #124-03 (pertaining to the community housing project for City employees at Christina Street) be rescinded.  
**CMTE COMM PRES HELD 5-1-1 (Hess-Mahan opposed; Sangiolo abstaining) on 2/24/04**

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

- #133-04 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$375,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund as a grant for the purpose of creating the Municipal Employee Homebuyer Assistance Program (MEHAP) to provide downpayment assistance for City of Newton employees with household incomes at or below 100% of the area median and to permanently convert existing market rate units to affordable units in perpetuity through permanent deed restrictions.  
**CMTE COMM PRES HELD 5-1-1 (Hess-Mahan opposed; Sangiolo abstaining) on 2/24/04**

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #55-02 ALD. YATES requesting that the water/sewer discount rate be made available to homeowners who receive Fuel Assistance, Supplementary Security Income, Food Stamps, Supplementary Disability Income, General Relief, Low Income Sewer and Water Assistance, School Breakfast and Lunch and other income based State and Federal programs.

**REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #168-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the Board of Aldermen establish new civil fines under Section 20-21 of the City of Newton Ordinances for the violation of various environmental provisions enforced by the Conservation Commission.
- #429-02 ALD. PARKER requesting progress report from Treasurer/Collector on addressing Management Letter audit issues.
- #33-01 ALD. YATES proposing an ordinance to establish a special assessment policy for the substantial rehabilitation of owner-occupied residential properties listed in the State Register of Historic Places (Sec. 5J. of MGL Chapter 59).
- #206-00(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend \$35,000 from Hebrew College pursuant to provisions of Special Permit #66-98(3) and a Traffic Mitigation Agreement between the City and Hebrew College, which funds will be used toward the cost of traffic improvements, studies or transportation programs selected by the City for the purpose of mitigating potential impacts of the Hebrew College project on Herrick and Langley Roads or improving traffic and flow in the Herrick Road area. NOTE: #206-00, approved 6/5/00, authorized acceptance of these funds; #206-00(3), approved 6/19/00, requested implementation of accounting measures to track future expenditures; #206-00(2), the actual expenditure, was held in Committee on 6/19/00 to allow Board review of proposed mitigation measures and costs on a case-by-case basis. (ITEM HELD IN COMMITTEE AT 6/19/00 FULL BOARD)
- #239-02 ALD. LENNON requesting a discussion with appropriate personnel regarding the process for appealing parking tickets.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FAC., PROG&SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #94-03(4) ALD. PARKER requesting His Honor the Mayor submit Home Rule Legislation to create a separate rate structure for water and sewer rates for condominiums and apartments.

- #397-03 KPMG AND COMPROLLER submitting status report on completion of the financial audit for the City's fiscal year ending 6/30/03.
- #128-98 ALD. PARKER, SANGIOLO, MERRILL, MANSFIELD requesting an adjustment to the water and sewer rate structure to allow rate relief for low-volume water and sewer users.

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #503-03 ALD. PARKER AND STEWART requesting discussion of the possibility of including drug re-importation from Canada in City of Newton health plans, as pioneered by the City of Springfield, MA.

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

- #432-02 ALD. PARKER, JOHNSON, LINSKY, LIPSITT, LAPPIN, BAKER requesting ordinance change and home rule legislation to implement a policy of indexing automobile excise tax to emissions and/or fuel economy, so low-pollution vehicles have lower taxes than those that pollute more.

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

**REFERRED TO PROG&SERV, PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #369-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a presentation of the findings and results of the *Newton North Feasibility Study* to the Board of Aldermen in a public forum to allow a greater number of the public to hear the presentation and offer public comment.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #250-03 ALD. JOHNSON, SAMUELSON AND SANGIOLO requesting amendments to Chapter 19 Sections 8 and 9 of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton to increase the fines for traffic and parking violations.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #519-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a discussion and possible ordinance amendment to Sec. 29-36 "Rates, schedule" and 29-80 "Sewer use charge" of the City of Newton Revised Ordinances, 2001 regarding water and sewer rates for condominiums.

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

#94-03(3) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR proposing Sec. 29-36(a) and Sec. 29-80(b) of the Revised Ordinances of the City of Newton, 2001 be amended to include language and a definition for single meter/multi-residence water and sewer rates.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#258-02 PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting discussion of feasibility and appropriateness of more progressive water/sewer rates.

#69-03 VINCENT FILIPPONE requesting that there be a requirement that all parking ticket appeal hearings be tape-recorded.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#135-01 ALD. M. LIPOF offering a resolution urging His Honor the Mayor to hire an independent auditor to oversee and report monthly through the Mayor to the Board of Aldermen for the duration of the construction and renovations to the high schools.

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#549-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY05-FY09 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance \$170,899,860 of new local projects over the next several years:

SUMMARY

PUBLIC WORKS (City-Funded).....	\$ 8,075,000
PUBLIC WORKS (Grant/Fee Funded).....	\$ 54,256,057
PUBLIC SAFETY.....	\$ 4,611,000
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.....	\$ 4,555,750
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.....	\$ 89,293,029
PARKS AND RECREATION.....	\$ 8,143,500
OTHER.....	\$ 1,965,524
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$170,899,860</b>

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#548-03 ALD. GENTILE, SALVUCCI AND LENNON requesting discussion and possible City acceptance of Chapter 137 of the Acts of 2003, an Act relative to public employees serving in the armed forces. If accepted, city employees who have been granted a military leave of absence as members of the armed forces called to service after September 11, 2001 will be entitled to receive pay at regular base salary and will not lose any seniority or any accrued vacation leave, sick leave, personal leave, compensation time or earned overtime.

#518-03      ALD. STEWART recommending the creation of a task force to study and report to the Mayor, Board of Aldermen and School Committee on the policies and criteria that should be used in imposing fees for various kinds of city services.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chair