

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2004

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

Absent: Ald. Parker

Also Present: Ald. Salvucci and Danberg; Capt. Mike Castro (Fire), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Nick Parnell (Public Buildings Commissioner), Catherine Farrell (Assistant City Solicitor)

#390-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$21,500 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of settling a claim against the City from an auto accident in which a Police vehicle driven by a parking control officer collided with and damaged a parked vehicle.

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

NOTE: Assistant City Solicitor Catherine Farrell was present this evening. She presented a letter dated September 14th from the Mayor which requests that these funds be appropriated to settle this case. The case dates back to November 8, 2003 when cruiser N529, operated by a parking control officer, rear-ended a parked 2002 Mercedes which was pushed into a third vehicle. The Mercedes sustained damage to the extent that it was ultimately totaled. After negotiations on this claim, the City has agreed to pay this settlement in the amount of \$21,500 (instead of the original requested \$25,507.94).

The Committee agreed that this was a fair settlement of this claim and voted 6-0, with Ald. Gentile not voting, to approve this item.

#391-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$3,500, received as a grant from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (through Newton-Wellesley Hospital) for the purpose of paying for supplies and training related to the Fire Department's Mobile Decontamination Unit.

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

NOTE: Capt. Mike Castro was present this evening and presented a letter dated September 4th which requests acceptance of and authorization to expend these grant funds to purchase supplies for the Mobile Decontamination Unit. Newton-Wellesley Hospital

was the pass-through party on this grant, therefore, the City actually received the grant funds in the form of a check from them.

Capt. Castro explained that the unit was a gift to the City from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. The City has successfully used this unit for various public demonstrations. He explained that this unit is certainly an important part of the city's emergency response fleet.

With the understanding of the function of the Mobile Decontamination Unit and its relation to the hospital, the Committee voted 6-0, with Ald. Gentile not voting, to approve this request.

Reappointment by His Honor the Mayor

#387-04 LORETTA BACCARI, 104 Los Angeles Street, Newton, reappointed as a CONSTABLE for the City of Newton for a term of office expiring June 1, 2007.

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

Reappointment by His Honor the Mayor

#388-04 FRANK M. CARUSO, 262 River Street, Newton, reappointed as a CONSTABLE for the City of Newton for a term of office expiring June 1, 2007.

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

Reappointment by His Honor the Mayor

#389-04 JEFFREY D. SILTON, 120 Cherry Street, Newton, reappointed as a CONSTABLE for the City of Newton for a term of office expiring on June 1, 2007.

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

NOTE: Since these three items were all for reappointments, they were taken up simultaneously by the Committee this evening. The only request that the Committee had was that Loretta Baccari provide a copy of her actual required bond (the other two Constables have already provided their documentation, which was attached to this evening's agenda).

With the understanding that Ms. Baccari will provide proper paperwork, the Committee voted 6-0, with Ald. Gentile not voting, to approve each of these items.

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#364-04 ALD. SANGIOLO & HARNEY requesting a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor to ask that the City acquire, whether by eminent domain or by purchase, the two parking lots associated with the St. Bernard's property for the purpose of providing commuter parking.
ZONING & PLANNING APPROVED AS AMENDED 8-0 ON 9/13/04

ACTION: **HELD 6-1 (Stewart opposed)**

NOTE: The Committee spent approximately 30 minutes discussing this issue. Ultimately, at the request of the Executive Department and members of the Committee, this item was held. It is anticipated that the Mayor will submit further information when it becomes available regarding the MBTA acquisition of one of these lots for future parking use. The Committee voted 6-1, with Ald. Stewart opposed, to hold this item.

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

#320-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization for the issuance of 20-year bonds in the amount of \$10,250,000 for design fees, legal fees, and project management costs associated with constructing a new Newton North High School.
PROG.& SERV. APPROVED 6-0-1 AS AMENDED @ \$3.8 Million (Sangiolo abstaining) on 7/21/04
PUB.FAC. APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0 @ \$3.8 Million on 7/21/04

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

NOTE: Both substantive Board Committees voted to reduce the original request to \$3.8 million. Since it is expected that this item will be placed on Second Call on October 4th, the Chairman will not provide a detailed report of Committee discussion at this time. Copies of the Programs and Services and Public Facilities Committee report are attached for your review.

Sandy Pooler was present for the Committee's review of this item this evening. The item deals with 20-year bonds totaling \$3.8 million to be used for (\$2.8 million) design fees, (\$500,000) legal fees, (\$500,000) and project management costs. These funds are for initial design work related to the Newton North High School project.

Ultimately, after lengthy discussion, the Committee voted 6-0, with Ald. Gentile not voting, to approve this item, as amended at \$3.8 million.

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

- #320-04(2) **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE** proposing a resolution to His Honor the Mayor, the Superintendent of Schools and the Designer Selection Committee requesting an analysis of reusing all or part of the space at the existing Newton North High School by the City or through leasing to a private establishment.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 5-2 (Baker and Fischman opposed) ON 7/21/04
PUB FAC APPROVED 4-3 (Lappin, Salvucci, Schnipper opposed) on 9/8/04
ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FAILED TO CARRY 3-4 (Gentile, Lipof, Schnipper, Stewart opposed)

NOTE: As was the case with the previous item, the Committee spent substantial time reviewing this item. This item will be placed on Second Call because there are conflicting Committee reports on it. Therefore, the details of discussion on this item will be given in form of an oral report by the Chairman on the floor of the Board on October 4th.

Ultimately, the motion to approve the proposed resolution, as written in the docket item itself, failed to carry by a vote of 3 in favor, 4 opposed (Gentile, Lipof, Schnipper and Stewart).

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

- #320-04(3) **PRESIDENT BAKER AND ALD. SANGIOLO** requesting discussion of elements of a resolution to help shape the scope of work for initial design services for the construction of a new Newton North High School, including, in addition to the program of educational elements, consideration of the experience of similar projects elsewhere, including problems and successes; long term operating costs; design team engineering experience and expertise; neighborhood input; adaptive reuse, if any, of the existing facilities; and how, in light of these and other relevant factors, the designers would propose to respond to the challenge of a new high school building.
PROG. & SERV. APPROVED AS AMENDED 4-0 (Sangiolo, Johnson not voting) on 9/22/04 SEE REPORT
PUB FAC APPROVED 7-0 ON 9/8/04
ACTION: APPROVED 7-0

NOTE: Basically, the Committee agreed that there should be a Committee to provide oversight of the details of design, architectural work and construction of the Newton North High School project. Said Committee has been established by President

Baker. The Board and its Committees will receive updates from this Committee throughout the project process.

After discussion in support of this concept, the Committee ultimately voted 7-0 to approve this item.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman