

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2004

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

Also Present: Ald. Yates

#405-04      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$148,055, received as grant funds from the Institute for Museum and Library Services. Said funds will be used to support implementation of the new Public Programs and Education Department within the Jackson Homestead City Museum.

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

**NOTE:**      David Scott was present from the Jackson Homestead and provided us with a letter dated September 28, 2004. The Mayor's letter indicated that the grant will supply a full time public programs manager and expand hours for the education manager and marketing manager. There will be a restructuring of the Museum which will allow the Museum to make progress toward two primary goals from its strategic plan. The first will be to increase the quality and quantity of public programs for the Museum for Newton and surrounding communities and two to increase the education programs in the Museum for core areas of school programs. The new public programs and education department will be involved in five ongoing activities: assessment, program development, program administration, program delivery and evaluation. Once again the total budge, because there is some matching amount will be over \$290,000 in salaries, \$41,000 in fringe benefits, \$30,000 in supplies and some other miscellaneous expenses. The total project will cost over \$328,000 and the city will match close to \$180,780, so the city's share in the form of Museum fees and also budget monies will be \$180,780 and the grant will be \$148,056 which will be 45% of the cost of the program. The committee has a discussion with David and it was made clear that this program is a three year program with no guarantee that any funding will continue beyond that period. It is understood that the employees or employee that may be hired under this grant will be hired as contractual labor and therefore will not be added to the full time municipal payroll.

With that understanding a motion is made to approve carried six in favor none apposed no absentions and two absent.

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

#407-04 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$9,100, received as grant funds from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation AND appropriation of the sum of \$10,000 from Budget Reserve, to be used along with the grant funds, for funding the purchase and implementation of a system to inventory and track the City's trees (in the Forestry Division of the Parks and Recreation Department).

**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0 (Baker, Sangiolo, Merrill not voting) on 10/6/04**

**ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Gentile, Parker, Lipof not voting)**

**NOTE:** Marc Welch was presented this evening along with Fran Towle and they provided to the committee some back up regarding a new proposal to inventory and monitor the city's approximately 33,000 trees across the city. This grant was applied for by the Parks and Recreation Department, the receipt of the money to buy this system, which is mostly computer equipment and some systems which will be implemented in the department. The City is matching the \$9,100 grant with an additional \$10,000 from Budget Reserve to round out the entire budget for this project. The Committee heard the presentation and basically had no problem with the proposal and we received a letter from the Mayor's office supporting the request for funds. What they are hoping to gain from this new program is 40% reduction in time spent on data management, a 12% increase in crew productivity and a 15-20% reduction in the wait time for constitutes, in terms of the city reacting to requests and improved storm damage assessment and response as well as following up on a creating a comprehensive inventory of the city's own trees. We received a letter showing the grant and once again the Mayor's request in August asking for the funds. Having discussed the item the Committee voted 5 in favor, none apposed, no abstentions and 3 absent, Ald. Lipof, Ald. Parker and Ald. Gentile to approve the item.

#420-04 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$6,471.83 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of paying settlement of a claim filed by Ms. Robyn Carrillo and her auto insurance company as a result of a motor vehicle accident in which a city plow truck struck her automobile.

**ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Gentile, Parker, Lipof not voting)**

**NOTE:** Donnalyn Kahn, Assistant City Solicitor, was presented this evening and presented the facts regarding this claim. The accident happened on January 12, 2004, a Park and Recreation Department employee, while driving a plow, was making a left turn and misjudged whether he had enough time to turn. The City plow truck struck the passenger side of Ms. Carrillo's 1998 BMW causing extensive damage to the vehicle and personal injuries to the passenger. Ms. Carrillo's insurance company made a claim of damage of over \$8,000 in expenses and the City brought the settlement down to \$6,471.83. According to Donnalyn Kahn the City plow operator was at fault therefore with no defense the Committee voted 5 in favor, none apposed, no abstentions and 3 absent, Ald. Lipof, Ald. Parker and Ald. Gentile to approve the item.

#403-04 COMPTROLLER submitting the June 30, 2004 Annual Financial (Budgetary-Based) Report for review and acceptance.

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 8-0**

**NOTE:** Committee spent about a half an hour reviewing the data, the report was prepared by David Wilkinson in his office. Upon completion of the review and the updating in status of the Treasurer's office and the Water Department office as well as quick discussion on the upcoming final audit for the year 2004. The Committee voted 8-0 to approve the acceptance of the June 30, 2004 financial report.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#421-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of repairing the heating system in the Carr School building.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 ON 10-20-04 (Gerst not voting)**

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 6-0 (Parker, Lipof not voting)**

**NOTE:** Nick Parnell was present this evening with Carolyn Sarno from the Building Department. We received a letter dated October 14, 2004 from the Mayor indicating that there are three related items all concerning the Carr School, the building is in need of central repairs. The letter indicates that there's \$25,000 requested for the repair of the heating system. secondly, a request for making repairs to the roof. Lastly, \$80,000 of operating expenses to keep the building going. As far as the boilers is concerned the building has two boiler, one boiler is damaged and the other boiler is working appropriately. The expectation is to spend the \$25,000 to keep the existing one boiler, which operates, functioning and upgrade so it will continue to maintain heat in the building until the Board

determines what will be done with the Carr school 2 years or so down the road, at which time both boilers will be changed when the building is?

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#421-04(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$15,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of making repairs to the roof of the Carr School building.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 6-0 ON 10-20-04 (Gerst not voting)**

**ACTION: APPROVED 6-0 (Parker, Lipof not voting)**

**NOTE:**

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#421-04(3) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$80,000 be appropriated from FY05 estimated revenue for the purpose of supplementing the Public Buildings Department budget to cover increases to the accounts for utilities, maintenance, cleaning, building supervision and other costs related to occupying the Carr School building. Estimated revenue will come from rents paid by the non-profit educational entities devoted to the arts, culture, theater, music, community enrichment and other like uses that will utilize this space.

**PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED 3-0-2 ON 10-20-04 (Mansfield, Stewart abstaining, Lappin, Gerst not voting)**

**ACTION: APPROVED 5-0-1 (Stewart abstaining; Parker, Lipof not voting)**

**NOTE:**

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

#422-04 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending the following appropriations in order to provide funding for FY05 Community Preservation projects:

- A) \$376,813 (or 10% of anticipated FY05 Community Preservation Fund revenue) to be appropriated to the CPA Fund Open Space Reserve
- B) \$376,813 (or 10% of anticipated FY05 Community Preservation Fund revenue) to be appropriated to the CPA Fund Historic Resources Reserve
- C) \$376,813 (or 10% of anticipated FY05 Community Preservation Fund revenue) to be appropriated to the CPA Fund Community Housing Reserve
- D) \$1,913,602 of anticipated FY05 Community Preservation Fund revenue to be appropriated to the CPA Fund Current Year Budget Reserve.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 7-0 (Gentile not voting)**

**NOTE:**

#404-04        HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization for the Comptroller to expend the sum of \$107,331 from the Building Insurance Fund in order to cover the cost of substantially higher quotes for property insurance (on public buildings) than the original FY05 budget estimate.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 8-0**

**NOTE:**

#406-04        HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting amendments to Board Order nos. 268-00(B) and 268-00(6) that authorized the issuance of debt to fund the construction and renovation of Newton South High School, to change the term of the bonds from 10 to 20 years.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 7-0 (Gentile not voting)**

**NOTE:**

***ITEMS ON NO PREVIOUS DOCKET REQUIRING VOTE PRIOR TO SETTING OF FY05 TAX RATE:***

#268-00(7)    HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$2,334.10 be appropriated for the purpose of adding funds to the High School debt reserve fund within the Capital Stabilization Fund (source of funds will be estimated Fy05 SBAB reimbursements and premiums from the most recent sale of BANs).

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

#268-00(8)    HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$98,889 from the debt reserve fund within the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of paying interest costs on a \$10 million 6-month BAN the City issued in August.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 5-0 (Gentile, Parker not voting)**

**NOTE:**

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

#365-04        COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$575,000 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund

for purposes of funding an historic renovation and the creation of three units of community housing within a mixed-income development totaling five units located at 248 Elliot Street.

**ACTION:**     **HELD 8-0**

**NOTE:**

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman