

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
FINANCE COMMITTEE AGENDA  
MONDAY, MAY 12, 2003

7:15 p.m. – ***NOTE EARLY START***  
Room 222  
City Hall

***Budget Review:***

***7:15 p.m. -- Purchasing***

***7:45 p.m. – Human Resources/Benefits***

***8:15 p.m. – Treasurer/Collector/Parking Clerk***

***8:45 p.m. – Assessing***

***CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: The Committee will review the budget at the beginning of the meeting. Then regular business items will be reviewed. Finally, the Committee will review the attached Budget Reserve update information submitted by the Comptroller.***

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:**

- #195-03      IRVING FRED KOFFMAN, Constable for the City of Newton, submitting annual CONSTABLE BOND in the surety amount of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000), pursuant to MGL Ch.41, Sec.92,93.
- #196-03      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$5,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the FY03 appropriation for veterans' benefits.
- #197-03      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$12,600, received as a grant from the Governor's Highway Safety Bureau. These funds will be used to fund overtime costs for additional traffic safety enforcement, specifically targeting seatbelt enforcement. Two hand-held radar units will be purchased.

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

- #198-03      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$230,101.64 for the purpose of making the first of three payments on a lease of technology equipment for Newton North High School. The source of funding will be \$69,840 from the E-rate account and \$160,261.64 from Free Cash. Future lease payments will be made from Free Cash.

**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 ON 5/7/03**

***ITEM NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:***

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #199-03      ALD. STEWART recommending a change in water and sewer billing policy that will result in individual rental units being billed on a par with single family homes.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

***ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:***

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

- #168-03      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City [#124-02(11)] of Newton Charter, submitting the FY04 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$256,208,165, passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY04-FY08 Capital Improvement Program, submitted in October, 2002. EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 4/22/03.
- #155 -03      COMPTROLLER requesting that the Board of Aldermen appoint the City's Independent Financial Auditor for fiscal years 2003-2007.

***ITEM RECOMMITTED BY FULL BOARD ON 4/22/03:***

**REFERRED TO AD HOC COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #119-03      COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of **\$23,718** be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund in order to continue improvements to an 8,000 square foot parcel of unimproved land at the Memorial-Spaulding School. This land will serve as an outdoor classroom, "Kayla's Garden" and will be used by teachers, school staff, and students to enhance classroom curriculum and by the neighborhood to enjoy passive recreation.  
**AD HOC APPROVED 2-0-3 (Lappin, Linsky, Sangiolo abstaining; Baker not voting) ON 4/3/03**  
**FINANCE APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/14/03**

**REFERRED TO AD HOC COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #162-03      COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$96,200 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the restoration of sixteen (16) historic interior light fixtures in the main corridors of City Hall.  
**AD HOC COMM. PRES. APPROVED 4-0-2 (LINSKY, SANGIOLO ABSTAINING; LAPPIN NOT VOTING)**

**REFERRED TO AD HOC COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #163-03      COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$175,660 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the completion of the restoration of the exterior balustrade and cupola of City Hall with historically appropriate finishes.  
**AD HOC COMM. PRES. APPROVED 4-0-2 (LINSKY, SANGIOLO ABSTAINING; LAPPIN NOT VOTING)**

**REFERRED TO AD HOC COMMUNITY PRESERVATION AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #125-03      COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$119,400 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for the purpose of funding the rehabilitation of the historic windows in the Aldermanic Chamber and Memorial Hall at City Hall (but not including the restoration of light fixtures or the exterior balustrade and cupola finishes).  
**AD HOC COMM. PRES. APPROVED 4-0-2 (LINSKY, SANGIOLO ABSTAINING; LAPPIN NOT VOTING)**

***ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:***

- # 33-03      ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion with representatives of the School Department and Superintendent of Schools regarding lease vs. purchase options for technology equipment to develop a policy for acquisition of computers and technology for schools.  
**PROG. & SERV. NAN 7-0 ON 3/5/03**
- #69-03      VINCENT FILIPPONE requesting that there be a requirement that all parking ticket appeal hearings be tape-recorded.
- #92-03      STUART JOHNSON on behalf of MONTE J. WALLACE and ANNE H. WALLACE, Trs., requesting abatement of sewer betterment assessment for 256 CHESTNUT HILL ROAD, 02467 in the amount of \$7,198.43.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #94-03      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting Board of Aldermen support of a RESOLUTION affirming a change in water and sewer billing policy that will result in individual condominium units being billed on par with single family homes.

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

- #420-02 ALD. PARKER, GERST, LINSKY JOHNSON, STEWART, LAPPIN, BRYSON & LENNON requesting local acceptance and ordinance to implement recent 41A revisions allowing expansion of tax deferral program.
- #380-02 ALD. YATES proposing that the City of Newton exercise the new option offered by Ch.184 and Ch.51 of the Acts of 2002 to adjust the age, income and asset requirements seniors must meet to qualify for tax exemption under Ch.59 and Ch.51 (41C) and the amount of the exemption granted to eligible seniors.
- #214-02 ALD. STEWART requesting that the Board of Aldermen and His Honor the Mayor create a "Senior Tax Assistance Study Commission."

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #66-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting discussion on a different water rate structure for condominium owners.  
**PUBFAC NAN 7-0 ON 4/23/03**

**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.
- #276-01(A) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$110,000 be appropriated from Overlay Surplus and that the sum of \$95,000 be appropriated from the Capital Stabilization Fund in order to fund the following capital project:

Department	Project	Cost
(a) Conservation Commission	Marty Sender Path	\$5,000

**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.  
**PUB. FACILITIES HELD 7-0 ON 2/5/03**
- #429-02 ALD. PARKER requesting progress report from Treasurer/Collector on addressing Management Letter audit issues.

**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 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#485-02      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$64,947 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding construction of a customer service center in the northeast alcove of the City Hall rotunda.

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

#157-02      ALD. BULLWINKLE requesting approval of Home Rule Petition that would waive the annual earned income limitations under M.G.L. chapter 32, the public employees retirement law, as applied to retired police officer Allan L. Ciccone of 105 Fair Oaks Avenue.  
**PROG. & SERV. NAN 5-0 (Coletti not voting) on 4/23/03**

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#124-02(11)      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY04-FY08 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, pursuant to Section 5-3 of the NEWTON CITY CHARTER, which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance new local capital projects totaling \$160,847,242 over the next several years:

**SUMMARY**

PUBLIC WORKS (GRANT/FEE FUNDED) .....	\$ 58,022,114
PUBLIC WORKS (CITY FUNDED).....	\$5,820,000
PUBLIC SAFETY .....	\$3,349,000
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.....	\$3,941,400
PUBLIC EDUCATION.....	\$80,156,728
PARKS & RECREATION .....	\$7,479,000
OTHER .....	\$2,079,000
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$160,847,242</b>

#248-02      ALD. SALVUCCI asking the Board of Aldermen request that His Honor the Mayor consider accepting Chapter 116 of the Acts of 2002, the "Early Retirement Incentive Bill."

- #477-97      ALD. SAMUELSON, LIPSITT, PARKER AND COHEN requesting that the Board of Aldermen explore the ways that the City of Newton could provide an umbrella organization that residents could join in order to obtain group health benefits (i.e. self-employed, individual insurance, etc.)
- #233-01(2)      ALD. COLETTI respectfully requesting investigation, under Sec. 2-11 of the Newton City Charter, of the circumstances surrounding acceptance of gift and subsequent naming of the proposed Millennium Park and other matters pertaining to Mr. Salvatore Balsamo.
- #350-98      ALD. CICCONE requesting discussion regarding the demand for (vs. the current number of) Constables in Newton, and the possibility of creating an ordinance to require Police background checks on each Constable candidate prior to his/her appointment/reappointment.  
NOTE: #350-98(2) RESOL. TO MAYOR REQUESTING POLICY FOR APPOINTMENTS APPROVED BY COMMITTEE ON 9/28/98 AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN ON 10/5/98.
- #158-00      ALD. COLETTI requesting review and discussion of the fifteen items identified in the Powers & Sullivan management letter of December, 1999, including actions taken thus far and the city's status as it prepares for the next financial audit.
- #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)
- #295-99      ALD. GENTILE, COLETTI AND SALVUCCI, requesting an ordinance that would require any proposed settlement, which would include any funds from the Liability Trust Fund, must be approved by a majority vote of the Board of Aldermen.

- #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.
- #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.
- #96-01(2) PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting discussion of the budget deficit in the School Department.
- #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).
- #239-02 ALD. LENNON requesting a discussion with appropriate personnel regarding the process for appealing parking tickets.
- #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 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

- #20-96 ALD. CICCONE requesting discussion with the Director of Utilities regarding the re-implementation of the use of sprinkler/garden meters to measure outside water use for all residences city-wide. Item recommitted by full board on 4/5/99
- #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.
- #309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

**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 PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#478-99      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$5,400,000, which funding will be long term debt as authorized by MGL Chapter 44, Section 8(7)(a), for the purpose of replacing water meters throughout the City.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman