

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2003

Present: Ald. Coletti (Chair), Gerst, Bullwinkle and Parker

Absent: Ald. Ciccone, Stewart, Schnipper and Lipof

Ad Hoc Community Preservation Committee Members Present: Ald. Sangiolo (Chair), Merrill, Linsky, Bullwinkle, Yates and Baker

Ad Hoc Members Absent: Ald. Basham and Lappin

Also Present: Ald. Salvucci; Mike Rourke (Chief Administrative Officer), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Jeffrey Sacks (Community Preservation Committee), Kathy Glick-Weil (Library Director), Fran Towle (Commissioner of Parks and Recreation),

Re-Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#280-03 MARIA BIANCHI ROSEN re-appointed by His Honor the Mayor on May 29, 2003 as a CONSTABLE for the City of Newton. Said term of office to expire May 1, 2006. (60-day Board action date: 8/15/03)

ACTION: **HELD 4-0**

NOTE: Maria Bianchi Rosen was not in attendance this evening, and her required \$5,000 surety bond has not yet been received by the City Clerk. Therefore, without discussion, this item was held by a vote of 4-0.

REFERRED TO AD HOC COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#285-03 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$99,931 be appropriated from Community Preservation Unreserved Funds for the purpose of funding costs for creating the Albemarle Community Classroom/Park.

AD HOC HELD UNTIL 6/30/03

ACTION: **HELD 4-0**

NOTE: *See Ad Hoc Community Preservation Committee report.*

REFERRED TO AD HOC COMMUNITY PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#286-03 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$1,110,000 be appropriated from the Community Open Space Reserve Fund and the FY03 CPA Reserve fund for purposes of funding the purchase of a conservation restriction on 76 Webster Street, with an option to purchase for nominal consideration.

AD HOC HELD UNTIL 6/30/03

ACTION: **HELD 4-0**

NOTE: *See Ad Hoc Community Preservation Committee report.*

#282-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$12,500 be appropriated from Marathon receipts for the purpose of purchasing playground apparatus at the Albemarle playground.

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0**

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#284-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$30,000 be appropriated from Marathon receipts for the purpose of purchasing new Fibar and playground equipment to replace worn, defective or unsafe playground equipment throughout the city.

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 4-0 ON 6/18/03

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0**

NOTE: Fran Towle was present this evening. She explained that this was part of the playground improvement program which involved upgrading children's equipment, specifically at the Albemarle playground. It also provides for the installation of fibar under other equipment throughout other parks and playgrounds in the city. There will be an additional \$80,000 remaining in marathon receipts to deal with other playground issues as they arise.

This particular project has been on the waiting list and is being taken care of at this time.

After brief discussion about the status of the marathon reserves, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve each of these items.

#281-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$1,000, received as a grant from the United Way, to be used to fund Youth Commission programs through the Human Services Department.

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0**

NOTE: The Committee reviewed the backup presented and, without debate, voted 4-0 to approve this item.

REFERRED TO AD HOC COMM. PRES. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#120-03 **COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE** recommending that the sum of \$195,129 be appropriated from the Community Preservation Fund for purposes of funding the rehabilitation of the Newton Corner Branch Library.

AD HOC COMM. PRES. APPROVED 3-0-2 (Sangiolo, Linsky abstaining) on 4/3/03

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0**

NOTE: Kathy Glick Weil, Library Director, was present. The Committee discussed the fact that this money would be used for external rehabilitation of the building and maintenance. This is the former Boys and Girls Library. This will continue on to serve as a branch library for the Newton Corner community. No interior renovations will be made as part of this project, but handicapped access and other much needed exterior improvements will be made.

Ald. Gerst expressed his gratitude that this project will move forward. It has been a concern of his that this facility continues to exist.

The Committee supported this project, and, without further debate, voted 4-0 to approve this item.

#276-01(A) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting that the sum of \$5,000 be appropriated from Overlay Surplus in order to fund the following capital project:

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

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0**

NOTE: Mr. Sender's widow was present this evening along with Fran Towle. The Committee reviewed a plan which showed the scope of the work to be performed. This \$5,000 is part of a \$30,000 project.

The Committee had no problem supporting this appropriation. Without debate, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve this item.

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

#253-03 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting a RESOLUTION from the Board of Aldermen supporting the expenditure of up to \$100,000 from the proceeds of the bond authorization for Newton North High School to pay for professional services the School Committee will need to analyze the Newton North High School Task Force recommendation for renovating Newton North High School.

PUBFAC APPROVED 5-0-3 (Linsky, Gerst, Yates abstaining) on 6/4/03

PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 3-0-1 (Sangiolo abstaining) on 6/18/03

ACTION: MOTION TO APPROVE FAILS TO CARRY 1 in favor (Coletti), 1 opposed (Bullwinkle), 2 abstaining (Gerst, Parker)

NOTE: It is expected that this item will be the subject of second call due to conflicting Committee votes. A detailed verbal report will be given on the Floor of the Board on July 14th.

Basically, the Committee had a 40 minute discussion with Nick Parnell regarding the necessity for this item, but more importantly, the end result of the study. Potential conflicts regarding DRA's selection to do the feasibility study and ultimate preparation of architectural plans.

Other Committee members had additional concerns that financing of the proposed hybrid addition is far from guaranteed. Therefore, they were reluctant to proceed at this time.

The Chairman expressed his belief that, in order for any progress to be made regarding the possible adoption of the Task Force recommendation, this feasibility study needed to proceed. He did express concern to Mr. Parnell that his expectation was that the Building Commissioner would take personal responsibility for oversight of the study and that responsibility for the end product not be delegated to Dick Amster/Turner JLA, or DRA's representative (Carl Francesci). Further discussion regarding Nick's response will be debated on this item in the months to come.

The Chairman, with reservation, recommended approval, understanding that the Executive Department, because of a loosely worded bond authorization board order, had access to these funds without Board of Aldermen action. The Committee received assurances from the School Department and Nick Parnell that results of this study will be presented back to the Board of Aldermen before proceeding to any major step forward in design and development of a new plan.

On a motion to approve, Ald. Coletti was in favor, Ald. Bullwinkle was opposed, and Ald. Gerst and Parker abstained.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman