

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2001

Present: Ald. Ciccone (Vice-Chair), Bullwinkle, Bryson, Parker, Schnipper and R. Lipof

Absent: Ald. Gerst and Coletti (Chair)

Also Present: David Wilkinson (Comptroller), Mike Rourke (Chief Administrative Officer), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Edward English (City Clerk/Clerk of the Board), Donnalyn Kahn (Assistant City Solicitor), Catherine Farrell (Assistant City Solicitor), Kathy Glick-Weil (Library Director), David Dues (Police Dept.), Bob Rooney (Commissioner of Public Works), Arthur Cabral (Budget & Project Specialist, Public Buildings Dept.)

#218-99(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$7,600 be transferred from the personal services account in the office of the City Clerk/Clerk of the Board to a contractual account for the purpose of supplementing the contract for training members of the office of the Clerk of the Board in the use of the Legistar system.

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 (PARKER NOT VOTING)**

NOTE: Edward English was present this evening. He indicated that these funds are necessary to pay for the extra week of training that was needed for the new Legistar system which is to be installed in the Board of Aldermen's office. He explained that this additional week was not included in the original contract, therefore, additional funds were needed. These funds will be transferred from the surplus funds in the Personal Services account in the Clerk of the Board division.

Without debate, the Committee voted 5-0, with Ald. Parker not voting, to approve this request.

#197-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$29,431.43 from Sewer Surplus for the purpose of paying the settlement of the claim of Ian and Janet Grable v. City of Newton. This claim was made as the result of damages incurred when the Quinobequin Road Sewage Pumping Station failed subsequent to the intense rainstorm of June 13, 1998.

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0**

NOTE: Catherine Farrell, Assistant City Solicitor, presented this item to the Committee. The Committee reviewed the facts of the case (as summarized in the backup

information that was attached to the Committee agenda this evening) and, without debate, voted 6-0 to approve this request.

#198-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$50,000 be appropriated and expended from the Liability Insurance Fund for the purpose of settling a claim brought against the City of Newton by TLT Construction Corporation for work performed as the general contractor for the 1996 renovation of Newton South High School.

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0**

NOTE: Donnalyn Kahn, Assistant City Solicitor, presented this item to the Committee. She explained the facts of the case and the Committee understood that this was a settlement that was agreed upon and that these funds were due to be paid to this company. With that, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this request.

#199-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$4,600 be transferred within the FY01 operating budget for the Law Department in order to ensure that there are sufficient funds to pay the maternity leave of Catherine Lester Salchert and the salary of her temporary replacement, Catherine Farrell, as follows:

FROM:	Law Dept. expenses; Printing (01-108-01-5342).....\$4,600
TO:	Law Dept.; Admin. Salaries (01-108-01-5110001)....\$4,600

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0**

NOTE: Due to the fact that the City Solicitor was unable to be in attendance this evening, Catherine Farrell presented this item to the Committee. She explained that this was a transfer of funds that would be needed in order to ensure that there would be ample funds in the Administrative Salaries account for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Without debate, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this item.

#195-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation and authorization to expend funds in the amount of \$211,551 from Salary Reserve in order to fund the cost items set forth in the labor contract agreed upon with the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), Local 544.

ACTION: **APPROVED AS AMENDED (AT MAYOR'S REQUEST) FOR \$29,000 FROM SEWER SURPLUS, \$29,078 FROM WATER SURPLUS AND \$66,036 FROM SALARY RESERVE 6-0**

NOTE: Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer, presented the attached letter which explains that the amount of money to be appropriated from Salary Reserve should be reduced and that there will be appropriations from Sewer Surplus and Water Surplus in order to fund this contract settlement. This reduction is also possible because the Public Works and Parks and Recreation departments have identified surplus funds within their FY01 Operating Budgets that will be used for this purpose.

Understanding that this contract follows the pattern of other contract settlements, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the item as amended (see attached letter).

#214-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR recommending that the sum of \$29,250 be appropriated and expended from Salary Reserve in order to fund the cost items set forth in the labor contract agreed upon with the Massachusetts Nurses Association.

ACTION: NAN 6-0

NOTE: Mike Rourke explained that, since this request was docketed, it has been determined that there is a surplus within the FY01 Health Department operating budget that will cover the cost of this contract settlement. (see attached letter)

Therefore, the Committee voted 6-0 to NAN this item.

#138-01(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that docket item #138-01 be amended to increase the gift expenditure authorization for monies due from Residential Communications Network (RCN) under its franchise agreement by \$2,309.60. This will increase RCN's total gift amount from \$35,233.44 to \$37,543.04.

ACTION: APPROVED 6-0

NOTE: This item was filed because the City has received more monies from RCN under its franchise agreement. Since the Committee had recently discussed this issue in regards to the initial gift received, it voted, without debate, 6-0 to approve this item.

#196-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$2,000 be transferred within the Library department's FY01 operating budget in order to cover the full expense of electricity for the remainder of this fiscal year as follows:

FROM:	Library; Pers. Serv.; Perm. Part-time (0160103-5116).....\$2,000
TO:	Library; electricity (0160102-5210).....\$2,000

ACTION: APPROVED 6-0

NOTE: Kathy Glick-Weil, Library Director, was present this evening. She explained that this transfer is necessary in order to cover the costs of electricity for operation of the Library (including weekend hours) for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Without debate, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this request.

#213-01 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$463,319, received as a grant from the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation. This grant will offset the costs associated with the installation of pollution control devices at the Wheelbrator-Millbury facility to which the City of Newton sends its refuse. This grant is a pass-through of a subsidy from the State, to the City, for the operators of the incinerator.

APPROVED 6-0

NOTE: Commissioner Rooney was present this evening. He explained that this is a “pass-through” grant, which means that the monies are given to the City from the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation for the sole purpose of being paid out to the Wheelbrator-Millbury facility. These funds will offset the costs associated with the installation of pollution control devices there.

With that understanding, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this request.

#200-01 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting that the sum of \$6,400 be transferred within the FY01 Human Services Department operating budget for the purpose of funding a contract with a professional placement agency for the services of a temporary clerical staff person. The Department has hired a temp to fill in for its clerk/receptionist, who has been on an extended special leave.

APPROVED 6-0

NOTE: David Wilkinson, Comptroller, explained that, due to the fact that the full-time clerk/receptionist has needed to take an extended special leave, the department has retained a temp to fill in during her absence. These funds are necessary to fund the contract with the professional placement agency.

With that understanding, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this request.

#113-01(4) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting that the sum of \$1,166,000 be appropriated and transferred from the FY02 estimated revenue to the Capital Stabilization Fund for FY02 for the purpose of adding to the Debt Reserve established to fund capital expenses associated with the high school renovation projects.

APPROVED 6-0

NOTE: It is necessary at this time to ensure that these funds are set aside for the high school renovation projects. This move will add to the Debt Reserve established to fund capital expenses associated with these projects.

Agreeing that this is a sound fiscal move, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this request.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#215-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the following transfers of funds within the FY01 Police Department operating budget be made in order to cover projected shortfalls in the gasoline and natural gas accounts for the remainder of this fiscal year:

FROM:	Police; Pers. Serv.; Traffic Control Salaries (0120105-511501).....	\$25,000
	Police; Telephone (0120114-53401).....	\$ 3,000
TO:	Gasoline (0120108-5480).....	\$25,000
	Natural Gas (0120107-5211).....	\$ 3,000

PS&T APPROVED 5-0 ON 6/6/01

**\$25,000 TRANSFER APPROVED 6-0; BOARD ACTION NOT
REQUIRED FOR \$3,000 TRANSFER, NAN 6-0**

NOTE: This request is necessary due to the increase in gasoline costs. Some of these costs are being absorbed by the Public Works budget, but it is also necessary to transfer these funds in order to cover the remainder of the costs.

It was also pointed out that the request for the transfer of \$3,000 from the telephone account to the Natural Gas account does not require Board of Aldermen approval (it only requires approval by the Mayor). Therefore, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve the transfer of \$25,000 and the remaining \$3,000 was voted NAN by a vote of 6-0.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

97-01(B) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of **\$33,612 from THE CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND** for the purpose of funding the environmental compliance projects as follows:

PROJECT	COST
Municipal UST Leak Detection System.....	\$ 17,075
Municipal UST Testing and Repairs.....	\$ 16,537
TOTAL.....	\$ 33,612

PUBFAC APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0 ON 6-6-01
FINCOM APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0

NOTE: Please refer to attached letter received from the Mayor on 6/8 which requests that the funding source be changed from Free Cash to Capital Stabilization and that the appropriation for the Municipal UST Leak Detection System be reduced from \$33,075 to \$17,075.

Sandy Pooler, Budget Officer, had asked Commissioner Parnell to re-evaluate the needs for this equipment, and that re-evaluation resulted in this reduction of the item.

The Committee voted 6-0 to approve this request as amended.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#203-01 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting a transfer of funds in the amount of \$28,000 from personal services to the capital expenses account in the Engineering Division of the Department of Public Works for the purpose of purchasing a large scale plan copier and scanner.

PUBFAC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL 3-0 ON 5/23/01
APPROVED 6-0

NOTE: Commissioner Rooney presented this item to the Committee this evening. He explained that the Engineering Department desperately needs a quality plan copier and, due to vacancies within the Department, adequate funds are available to purchase a new one. The Commissioner explained that the increase in quality between the proposed copier and the existing copier used in the department was substantial and the new copier would allow plans to be scanned to a file system and linked to the G.I.S. system or similar computer system.

The Committee agreed that this purchase would make a great difference and voted 6-0 to approve this request.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#204-01 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting that the sum of \$70,000 be transferred from the Department of Public Works supply account to a Sidewalk Betterments account in an effort to bolster the funds available to reduce the current 2-year sidewalk betterments backlog.

PUBFAC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL 3-0 ON 5/23/01
APPROVED 6-0

NOTE: Commissioner Rooney explained that there is approximately \$76,000 in the account, which is not enough to cover the backlog of people who have paid cash or committed to a betterment. The cost of performing these betterment installations is \$214,000. Therefore, this \$70,000 is being requested in order to help cut back on some of the backlog on these projects.

The Committee agreed that this would be a positive step and, therefore, voted 6-0 to approve this request.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Allan L. Ciccone, Acting Chairman