

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT
MONDAY, JULY 23, 2001

Present: Ald. Coletti (Chair), Ciccone, Bullwinkle and R. Lipof

Absent: Ald. Gerst, Bryson, Parker and Schnipper

Also Present: Mike Rourke (Chief Administrative Officer), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Mike Kruse (Director of Planning and Development), Dan Funk (City Solicitor)

#251-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR recommending that the sum of \$982,676 be appropriated (\$802,676 from Salary Reserve and \$180,000 from Budget Reserve) in order to fund the cost items set forth in the labor contract agreed upon with the Newton Firefighters' Association.

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 AS AMENDED FOR \$1,011,583 FROM SALARY RESERVE AND \$180,000 FROM BUDGET RESERVE**

NOTE: Mike Rourke, Chief Administrative Officer, and Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Officer, presented this item to the Committee. They presented the attached letter which amends the amount of the settlement to \$1,011,583 from Salary Reserve and \$180,000 from Budget Reserve, totalling \$1,191,583. The Committee reviewed the backup information provided and, with little debate, voted 4-0 to approve this request as amended.

#248-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$10,751 be appropriated from Budget Reserve and expended for the purpose of paying a prior fiscal year bill for the legal services of the law firm of Morgan, Brown & Joy related to collective bargaining and the defense of legal actions against the City of Newton.

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL**

NOTE: Dan Funk joined the Committee for its discussion of this request. He presented the backup information that was attached to the agenda. The Committee had little debate on this issue and voted 4-0 to approve the item, however, on August 7th, the Mayor filed a letter with the City Clerk (see attached) requesting that this item be voted NO ACTION NECESSARY, as the funds have been found elsewhere in the Law Department budget and will be transferred accordingly. Therefore, this item will be SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL.

#249-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$8,000 be transferred from the Planning Department full-time personal services account to the Planning Department expenses account for the purpose of paying temporary clerical staff while the Administrative Assistant and Senior Clerk positions within the department are vacant.

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0**

NOTE: Mike Kruse joined the Committee this evening and presented the backup information that was attached to tonight's agenda. After little debate, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve this request.

#250-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$8,000 be appropriated from Budget Reserve and expended for the purpose of contracting with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Urban Studies and Planning, for work on the land use and transportation elements of the City of Newton comprehensive plan.

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0**

NOTE: Mr. Kruse also presented this item to the Committee. Without debate, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve this request.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#252-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$130,000 of FY02 General Fund Revenue be transferred to the NEXUS transportation budget.

PS&T APPROVED 6-0 ON 7/18/01

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0 (NOTE: DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY MEASURE FILED BY MAYOR ON 8/7/01, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 2-9 OF THE NEWTON CITY CHARTER)**

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

252-01(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$12,500 be transferred from the Human Services Department Senior Transportation account (015203-5392) to the NEXUS transportation fund.

PS&T APPROVED 6-0 ON 7/18/01

ACTION: **APPROVED 4-0**

NOTE: Mr. Kruse, Sandy Pooler and Mike Rourke presented these items to the Committee. They explained that, when the Board of Aldermen passed the final budget in the spring, part of what was to occur was to continue the NEXUS bus and other senior transportation programs around the City. The whole transportation system will undergo a change this fall when the current contract ends. At that time, the City will go out for an all-inclusive transportation contract that will include the NEXUS, shoppers' bus, transportation to doctor's appointments, taxi, etc. The City has been funding and will

continue to fund the NEXUS from a variety of sources. There is a small amount of federal grant money, grants received by the Human Services Department from the division of elder services that have been used for this purpose. The general fund has put money into senior transportation in the past as part of the Human Services Department for several years. Until recently, there was a direct appropriation into the NEXUS system. The recent vote to increase the fees for short-term parking will provide additional revenue for the City. Mr. Pooler indicated that parking meter receipts can be used for a limited number of things, and therefore, the Executive Department is proposing to put \$130,000 of parking meter receipts into the DPW Street Lighting account and then to take \$130,000 from the Street Lighting account and transfer it into NEXUS operations. The long-term plan is to take \$271,000 worth of parking meter receipts and redirect them towards the NEXUS operations.

Without debate, the Committee voted 4-0 to approve each of these two items.

NOTE: A letter dated August 7, 2001 was received by the City Clerk through which the Mayor has declared item #252-01 to be an emergency measure, in accordance with Section 2-9 of the City Charter. Therefore, on August 13th when the Board votes on that item, there will be a need for an additional vote on the emergency preamble in order to allow some of these funds to be spent right away to pay for services rendered since July 1st.

CHAIRMAN'S NOTE: The Committee then reviewed the status of the following items and determined that it was appropriate to vote **NO ACTION NECESSARY** on each of them at this time:

89-99 ALD. CICCONE AND ANTONELLIS recommending that there be a requirement that all H-grade employees hired in the future who will earn an annual salary in excess of \$60,000 reside in Newton.

ACTION: **NAN 4-0**

#295-96 ALD. COLETTI requesting that the Comptroller of Accounts and the Director of Personnel implement a Weekly Payroll Time Sheet to monitor attendance for all salaried City of Newton employees.

ACTION: **NAN 4-0**

#296-96 ALD. COLETTI requesting that the Mayor and Board of Aldermen create a policy which defines the circumstances regarding the earning and use of Compensatory Time by all H-Grade employees.

ACTION: **NAN 4-0**

#297-96 ALD. COLETTI seeking adoption of a new Ordinance which would require public disclosure of all outside employment and consulting work conducted by City of Newton employees earning above a certain level of compensation for serving as a Department Head or Assistant Department Head.

ACTION: **NAN 4-0**

#174-99 ALD. CICCONE requesting that Board of Aldermen staff members be removed from their current "H-grade" status and that all future salary adjustments be governed by City Ordinance, in the same manner as the Board of Aldermen sets the salary for the City Clerk.

ACTION: **NAN 4-0**

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#237-97A2 COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS informing the Board of Aldermen that a plan is being drafted for passive recreational use of 2.5 acres of land at the Rumford Avenue landfill site. Plan is being drafted in accordance with the request of the Bd of Aldermen upon its approval (on 8/11/97) of increase in bond authorization (\$350,000) for the capping of Rumford Avenue landfill.

PUBLIC FACILITIES NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0 12/8/99

ACTION: **NAN 4-0**

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chair