

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT  
SPECIAL MEETING  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2001

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

Absent: Ald. Bryson and R. Lipof

Also Present: David Wilkinson (Comptroller), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Nick Parnell (Public Buildings Commissioner), Ed Spellman (Treasurer/Collector), Beverly Droz (Office for Volunteer Services), Jeff Knight (Superintendent of Fire Alarm/Wires), Lt. Paul Anastasia (Police Dept.), Capt. Howard Mintz (Police Dept.)

#389-01      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting establishment of a gift account to accept and expend gifts totaling as much as \$25,000 from donations for the purpose of supporting the activities of the Cops and Kids program.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 4-0 (GERST, PARKER NOT VOTING)**

**NOTE:**          Captain Howard Mintz and Lt. Paul Anastasia of the Police Department joined the Committee this evening. They presented a letter dated October 30 that was attached to the agenda. This account is to be set up in order to accept gifts up to \$25,000 for the purpose of supporting the activities of the Cops and Kids program. Members of the Newton Police Department Community Services Bureau have been informed of the interest on the part of various businesses and individuals throughout the city to contribute in order to keep this program. Some of the funding for this program was cut from the FY02 operating budget. The staff working in this program takes children on field trips and hosts activities programs at the Newton Community Service Center and provides a safe environment for children to play in.

The grant documents were reviewed by the Committee and subsequently approved by a vote of 4-0, with Ald. Gerst and Parker not voting.

#394-01      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR recommending that the sum of \$8,900 be transferred within the FY02 Police Department operating budget in order to pay the total NCSC contract as follows:

FROM:	Cops & Kids Grant Acct. (overtime)
	(0120105A5130).....\$8,900
TO:	Cops & Kids; Technical Services
	(0120105A5302).....\$8,900

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 4-0 (GERST, PARKER NOT VOTING)**

**NOTE:** Lt. Anastasia explained that the NCSC contract requires a certain amount of money to be paid for the use of the center by the Cops and Kids program. The money was budgeted into the wrong account, therefore, because the funds are to be transferred from a personal services (overtime) account to a technical services account, it requires Board of Aldermen approval.

Without debate, the Committee voted 4-0, with Ald. Gerst and Parker not voting, to approve this request.

**REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB.FAC AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#113-01(8) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting that the FY02 Purchasing Department Operating Budget be increased by \$80,000 for capital outlays. The source of funding will be FY02 revenue. These funds will come from increases in fees that AT&T and RCN will pay to the City of Newton for their cable franchises. These funds are necessary to replace the 20-year-old telephone system in all municipal and school buildings.

**PROG. & SERV. APPROVED 6-0 (SANGIOLO NOT VOTING) ON 11/7/01**

**PUBFAC RECOMMENDED APPROVAL 3-0 ON 11/7/01**

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

**NOTE:** A letter dated October 30<sup>th</sup> was submitted to the Committee. The Purchasing Department is planning to implement the purchase of a new telephone system that will cost in excess of \$1 million. Some of the work that needs to be done “up front” for the implementation of this program involves the immediate appropriation of close to \$179,000. This \$80,000 component, to be funded from FY02 revenue before the tax rate gets set on 11/28, is being allocated into the Purchasing Department. This is part of the funding for the new telephone system. Additional funding has been set aside as part of the high school renovation projects, and the remaining funds will be part of an FY02 Supplemental Capital Budget request that will be made by the Mayor once Free Cash has been certified.

The Committee briefly went through a list of items involved with this request. The Committee had some information from Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Officer, that when the full appropriation request for over \$650,000 comes forward in another couple of months, more in-depth information will be provided in form of a full overview of the telephone system. This system will operate on the City’s fiber optic network and will use the 5 major trunks that were installed by RCN and the City in order to handle all telephone and internet services needed for City operations. As a result, the City will save over \$90,000 per year by having control of its own telephone network. This system will replace the outdated Centrex system (which is in excess of 25 years old).

With that background, the Committee voted 5-0, with Ald. Gerst not voting, to approve this item.

#237-97(B2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the remaining amount of \$350,000, which was authorized for borrowing to fund the closure of the Rumford Avenue landfill, be rescinded. This project has been completed and will require no further borrowing.

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

**NOTE:** Ed Spellman, Treasurer/Collector, and Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Officer, presented this item to the Committee. They presented a letter dated September 25<sup>th</sup> from the Mayor which states that the capping and closure of the Rumford Avenue dump has been completed and, therefore, the additional debt authorization need not be encumbered. Therefore, it is being requested that the balance of \$350,000 be rescinded.

With that understanding, the Committee voted 5-0, with Ald. Gerst not voting, to approve this item.

#249-99(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the remaining amount of \$615, which was authorized for borrowing to fund the final phase of the Bowen Elementary School renovation project, be rescinded. This project has been completed and will require no further borrowing.

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

**NOTE:** This item is very similar to the previous item in that it requests rescission \$615 authorized for borrowing to fund the completion of the Bowen Elementary School project. Sandy Pooler indicated that the project is indeed completed and the Mayor is requesting that this amount be rescinded.

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

#322-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$43,557.25 from FY02 Revenue, to be expended for the purpose of increasing the Authentication of Notes item in the Treasurer/Collector's budget. The City of Newton received premiums and accrued interest of \$174,807.71 from bond sales, and this will allow for a portion of that amount to offset the issuance costs of these debt instruments. The remaining portion of these proceeds will remain as revenue for FY02.

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

**NOTE:** Ed Spellman presented this item to the Committee. He explained that he has been working with the city's bond counsel (Ropes & Gray) on two bond sales for this year (as opposed to the usual one bond sale that the City undertakes). He indicated that there are additional costs associated with the bond sale, and these funds are being generated in FY2002 revenue in order to fully account for the funds that are necessary to be paid out to the various legal and accounting arms for the sale of the bonds.

With that understanding, the Committee voted 5-0, with Ald. Gerst not voting, to approve this request.

#114-00(2) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting that board order #114-00 (authorizing \$13,055,285 in debt for the rehabilitation of the City's water mains) be amended by adding wording that will give the City flexibility in issuing this debt. Said amendment has been recommended by the City's bond counsel, Ropes and Gray.

**ACTION:** **HELD 6-0**

**NOTE:** The Committee reviewed this item this evening and looked at the proposed language. There was some concern by the Committee Chair that, unfortunately, some of the language is actually an integral part of the actual approval of the original docket item for over \$17 million of infrastructure improvements. More information is actually needed for this item due to the nature of the change. The Committee is interested in spreading out the sale of these bonds over five borrowing periods and is also looking for a ten year payment cycle (since these bonds are interest-free) in order to keep down the rising water/sewer rates (which are driven by the cost of providing water/sewer services as well as the cost of borrowing for infrastructure improvements).

Since the Committee required more information on what the intent of bond counsel was in recommending that we loosen up the bond board order that was approved in February of this year, a motion to hold carried by a vote of 6-0.

#388-01 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$45,000, received as a grant from the Massachusetts Technology Park Corporation. Said funds are to be used to support the Million Solar Roofs program.

**ACTION:** **HELD 6-0**

**NOTE:** Similarly, the Committee had some concerns about the solar roofs program and the City's goal of installing 500 new solar roof panels on business, residential and public buildings. The Committee reviewed the grant and the budget for expenditure of these funds. Although some of these funds are not anticipated to be used for the installation, basically, the tasks involve setting up meetings to talk with commercial and residential property owners to install the systems, as well as conducting market research and outreach and education programs. The project deliverables shall involve the preparation of educational materials, monthly reports, final reports, as well as cooperative meetings with agencies that will assist in getting funds for the installation of these panels in the future.

The Committee requires additional information from the city's energy officer (i.e. how many of these roofs are proposed for municipal buildings and how the program is to be implemented). At the request of the Chair, this item was held for discussion at the Special Meeting on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, the item was held 6-0 in the hopes that Sandy Pooler could gather the requested information on this item.

#390-01      **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$25,000, received from Newton 2000, Inc. for support of the work of the Office of Volunteer Services.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:** Beverly Droz, Director of Volunteer Services, was present this evening. She provided the Committee with an overview of the Office of Volunteer Services. She explained that these grant funds were sought in order to expand the activities and quality of materials produced by this office. Over the next three years, these funds will be used to support the spring Serv-a-thon as well as volunteer programs in the school department, municipal departments and various private and religious organizations. A budget was submitted for the Committee's review. These funds will be allocated at approximately \$8,000 per year for the Serv-a-thon and printed materials within the department.

The Committee held a lengthy discussion with Beverly regarding the actions and operations of the Volunteer Services group. The Committee was impressed with the work that is being coordinated by this office. Therefore, the Committee voted 6-0 to approve this item.

**CHAIRMAN'S NOTE:** Since the backup information submitted for the following items was in order and these projects have been completed, the Committee voted, without debate, to approve the assessment of these betterments as requested by the City Engineer:

#345-97(2) CITY ENGINEER requesting approval of the following Order and Schedule of Sewer Assessments #1883 for completed Common Sewer Extension in PARKER TERRACE:

<b>S-B-L</b>	<b>OWNER/ADDRESS</b>	<b>BK./PG.</b>	<b>AMT.</b>
i)81-49-19	Sholomo & Dalia Cohen 6 Brandeis Road	1083-150	\$45.00
ii)81-50-20	Ratna & Nirmala S. Rajakumar 4 Brandeis Circle	24806-539	\$67.00
iii)81-50-14	David & Donna Medoff 11 Brandeis Road	29489-050	\$79.48
iv)81-50-14A	Vladimir Raygorodsky & Olga Veysman 51 Parker Terrace	29639-286	\$2,540

**ACTION: APPROVED 6-0**

#346-97(2) CITY ENGINEER requesting approval of the following Order and Schedule of Sewer Assessments #1882 of completed Common Sewer Extension in WATER STREET:

<b>S-B-L</b>	<b>OWNER/ADDRESS</b>	<b>BK./PG.</b>	<b>AMT.</b>
i)64-38-9	Jerry L. & Susan M. Robertson 15 Water Street	15079-138	\$45.00
ii)64-38-10	Warner V. & Carolyn P. Slack 75 Homer Street	11876-271	\$97.00
iii)64-39-1	Paula Blackburn & Michael Older 700 Commonwealth Avenue	29035-093	\$30.00
iv)64-39-2	Phillip Bakalchuk & Lee Silverstone 692 Commonwealth Avenue	31396-592	\$37.00
v)64-39-7	Eleanor F. & James J. Burton, Jr. 67 Grafton Street	11115-113	\$85.00

**ACTION: APPROVED 6-0**

#347-97(2) CITY ENGINEER requesting approval of the following Order and Schedule of Sewer Assessments #1885 of completed Common Sewer Extension in CHESTNUT HILL ROAD:

<b>S-B-L</b>	<b>OWNER/ADDRESS</b>	<b>BK./PG.</b>	<b>AMT.</b>
i)63-31-5	Stephen B. Kay 16 Essex Road	20873-349	\$100
ii)63-31-6	A. Arthur & Marise S. Gottlieb 215 Chestnut Hill Road	21163-406	\$2,473.25
iii)63-31-6A	Stephen B. Kay 16 Essex Road	20873-349	\$2,583.50

**#347-97(2) CONTINUED**

iv)63-31-7	A. Arthur & Marise S. Gottlieb 215 Chestnut Hill Road	21163-406	\$4,010.83
v)63-31-8	Endicott P. & Susan Saltonstall 231 Chestnut Hill Road	20899-198	\$4,878.10
vi)63-31-8A	G. West & Victoria G. Saltonstall 245 Chestnut Hill Road	10809-436	\$4,449.16
vii)63-31-10	Chestnut Hill School, Inc. 142 Essex Road	11328-331	\$16,760.00
viii)63-32-2	Monte G. & Anne H. Wallace, TRS MJAHW Realty Trust 256 Chestnut Hill Road	23720-411	\$10,509.75
ix)63-32-2A	Monte G. & Anne H. Wallace, TRS The Wallace Cottage Trust 256 Chestnut Hill Road	10121-328	\$4,711.00
x)63-32-3	Monte G. & Anne H. Wallace TRS MJAHW Realty Trust 256 Chestnut Hill Road	23720-411	\$7,198.43
xi)63-32-4	Emily S. Byrd 240 Chestnut Hill Road	31444-153	\$7,750.17
xii)63-32-5	Joan Golub 222 Chestnut Hill Road	23085-370	\$7,363.10
xiii)63-32-6	Joseph C. McNay & Beth Pfeiffer 206 Chestnut Hill Road	15625-213	\$6,388.20
xiv)63-32-7	Richard W. Lee 210 Chestnut Hill Road	8290-180	\$3,602.25
xv)63-32-8	Janice L. & Richard E. Byrd, III, TRS 190 Chestnut Hill Road	24677-394	\$4,997.25

**ACTION:      APPROVED 6-0**

#27-99(2)      CITY ENGINEER requesting approval of the following Order and Schedule of Sewer Assessments #1884 of completed Common Sewer Extension in MORRILL STREET:

<b><u>S-B-L</u></b>	<b><u>OWNER/ADDRESS</u></b>	<b><u>BK./PG.</u></b>	<b><u>AMT.</u></b>
i)34-4-13	George T. & Cynthia A. Murphy 11 Morrill Street	15884-179	\$20.00
ii)34-6-13	Ronald Perreault & Janet L. White 24 Morrill Street	24541-460	\$131.90
iii)34-6-14	Valentin & Svetlana Pilyaskaya 16 Morrill Street	28764-490	\$2,304.50

**ACTION:      APPROVED 6-0**

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman