



Finance Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, June 10, 2024

Present: Councilors Gentile (Chair), Grossman, Lipof, Bixby, Malakie, Greenberg, Micley and Humphrey

City staff present: Manager of Financial Planning & Analysis Perry Rosenfield, Senior Financial Analyst Connor Roach, Comptroller Stephen Curley, Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works Shawna Sullivan, Superintendent of the Newton Police Department George McMains, Chief Information Officer Joe Mulvey and Deputy Director of IT Greg Ansaldi

Also Present: Bob Kelly, NewTv representative

All Finance agendas and reports, both past and present, can be found at the following link:
<https://www.newtonma.gov/government/city-clerk/city-council/council-standing-committees/finance-committee>

For more information regarding this meeting, a video recording can be found at the following link:
[Finance Meeting- June 10, 2024](#)

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#219-24

Appropriation of \$450,000 for Police Department Overtime

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) from Comptroller's Snow and Ice budgeted reserves to Acct# 0120103-513010 Police Patrol- Regular Overtime

Public Safety & Transportation Approved 6-0 on 05/08/24

Finance Held on 05/13/2024

Action:

Finance Approved 8-0

Note: George McMains, Superintendent of the Newton Police Department joined the committee to discuss the request for \$450,000 for Police Department Overtime. Superintendent McMains explained that they had unprecedented occurrences that cost the department additional monies in overtime. The teachers' strike and openings in the department added to these costs.

A councilor questioned if the union were sharing in the expenses of the teachers strike. Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer explained the City and the State ended up sharing what the union was charged. The City received between \$225,000 to \$250,000. She explained that they allowed the School Department to keep the full amount because of the many expenditures that incurred. The City absorbed the costs for the Police Department and Parks, Recreation & Culture.

Councilor Malakie motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#224-24 Transfer \$125,000 to the Library Building Maintenance- Electricity

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) from Acct # 0160110-511001 Newton Free Library - Full Time Salaries to Acct # 0160112-521000 Library Building Maintenance - Electricity.

Public Facilities Approved 7-0-1 (Councilor Laredo Abstained) on 06/05/24

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer joined the committee to discuss the request to transfer \$125,000 to the Library Building Maintenance- Electricity account. Ms. Lemieux explained that the HVAC system has failed at the Newton Free Library. This has increased the electricity costs for the library especially during the summer months. The new system will not be up and running until Fall 2024.

A councilor questioned why this was not budgeted for. Ms. Lemieux explained they did not want to add additional funds for this ongoing expense and for-go spending these funds on another project.

Councilor Lipof motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#246-24 Transfer \$200,000 to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc. (NewTV)

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer and expend a sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc (NewTV).

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Bob Kelly, NewTv representative joined the committee to discuss the annual transfer to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc (NewTv). It was questioned if there have been further conversations on also taxing the streaming services. Mr. Kelly explained that there is a bill at the State level and it was noted that the Council has sent a resolution in support of the bill.

Councilor Lipof motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees

#245-24 Appropriate \$500,000 for IT infrastructure improvements

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund") to Micro/Network Services - PC Hardware (0111154-585111), to make improvements to the City's IT infrastructure.

Programs & Services Approved 6-0 on 06/05/24

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Joe Mulvey, Chief Information Officer joined the committee to discuss the request to appropriate and expend \$500,000 for improvement to IT infrastructure. Mr. Mulvey explained that the fiber network is over 10 years old and has come to the end of its useful life. This infrastructure is necessary for the zoom meetings the City has been having since Covid and many other aspects of the day to day work.

Councilor Humphrey motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees

#221-24 Appropriation of \$296,312 for student transportation

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of two hundred ninety-six thousand three hundred and twelve dollars (\$296,312.00) from June 30, 2023 Certified Free Cash (0001-3240) to Newton Public Schools for student transportation for children who are homeless or in foster care.

Programs & Services Approved 5-0 (Councilor Baker Not Voting) on 06/05/24

Action: **Finance Approved 8-0**

Note: There was no member of the School Department available for the discussion. Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer joined the committee to discuss the appropriation for \$296,312 for the student transportation for children who are homeless or in foster care.

A councilor questioned if this appropriation will pay for the entire cost of the program or are additional funds being used. It was also questioned what school year this will be paying for. The answer to these questions were provided after the conclusion of the meeting and are attached to the report.

Councilor Humphrey motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#191-24 Authorization to appropriate and expend \$200,000 from the Stormwater Management Operating Reserve FY2024 Operating Budget

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend a total of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the Stormwater Management Operating Reserve FY2024 Operating Budget to fund the design and installation of a subsurface system that will manage stormwater from Myrtle Street and McGrath Park.

Public Facilities Approved 8-0 on 05/15/24

Action: **Finance Approved 8-0**

Note: Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works joined the committee to discuss the request to appropriate and expend \$200,000 for stormwater management from Myrtle Street and McGrath Park. Ms. Sullivan explained that that this will fund the design and installation of a subsurface system located along the edge of the park that will manage stormwater runoff from Myrtle Street and McGrath Park. It is a complimentary project to the Parks and Rec field renovation project at McGrath. The system will also capture approximately 5 pounds of phosphorus annually.

A councilor questioned if this will help the flooding at Border Street. Ms. Sullivan explained that they hope that this will help flooding.

Councilor Malakie motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#216-24 Transfer funds to for the City’s Accelerated Roads Program

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer funds from several DPW Accounts resulting from FY24 savings in various DPW accounts to Acct# 01C40112-553100 as a part of the City’s Accelerated Roads Program

DPW Streets- Full Time Wages (0140120-511002).....	\$500,000
DPW Snow & Ice- Overtime (0140123-513010).....	\$250,000
DPW Snow & Ice- Contractors (0140123-529100).....	\$200,000
Comptroller’s- Snow/Ice Reserve (0110498-579400).....	\$1,050,000

Public Facilities Approved 8-0 on 05/15/24

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works joined the committee to discuss to transfer funds from the above accounts to the City’s Transportation Network Improvement Program and the below request to appropriate \$2,888,274.38 from Free Cash for the same purpose.

Ms. Sullivan explained that these funds bring the department over the \$9.5 million that the Transportation Networks Improvement Program is budgeted for in FY25. There is a breakdown of the FY25 roads program attached. She further explained that by starting this process at the beginning of the year it allows them to go out to bid early which provides the opportunity for cost savings. It was noted that approximately \$700,000 is dedicated to traffic calming which includes line painting.

Councilor Grossman motioned to approve items 216-24 and 235-24 which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#235-24 Appropriation of \$2,888,274.38 for Transportation Network Improvement Program

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of two million eight hundred eighty-eight thousand two hundred seventy-four dollars and thirty-eight cents (\$2,888,274.38) from June 30, 2023, Certified Free Cash to Acct #01C40112-553100 Accelerated Roads program- Paving Supplies to support the City’s Transportation Network Improvement Program

Public Facilities Approved 7-0 (Councilor Leary Not Voting) on 06/05/24

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Please see the note for item 216-24.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#243-24 Appropriate \$3.2 million for Water Main Improvements in FY25

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three-million two-hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) and authorize a general obligation borrowing of an equal amount for the Water Main Improvements in FY25 and authorization to apply any premium received upon the sale of the bonds or notes, less the cost of preparing, issuing, and marketing them, and any accrued interest received upon the delivery of the bonds or notes to the costs of the project and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for the project by like amount.

Public Facilities Approved 7-0 (Councilor Leary Not Voting) on 06/05/24

Action: **Finance Approved 8-0**

Note: Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works joined the committee to discuss the request to appropriate and bond \$3.2 million for Water Main Improvements in FY25. Ms. Sullivan explained that these improvements are a part of the Capital Improvement Plan. There is also a \$2 million dollar loan from MWRA for the project. The department is currently in phase 9 of this multi-phase program.

Councilor Malakie motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#242-24 Appropriate \$3.2 million for Water Main Repair and Replacement Project

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to rescind the three million two hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) million bond authorization for FY23 water main repair and replacement project as approved by Council Order #294-22 on May 16, 2022, and appropriate and expend a total of three million two hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) from the water fund undesignated fund balance for the same purpose.

Action: **Finance Approved 8-0**

Note: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer and Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works presented the request to rescind a \$3.2 million bond and appropriate the same amount from the water fund undesignated fund balance for the Water Main Repair and Replacement Project.

Ms. Lemieux explained that there is \$16 million in the water reserve and \$17.5 million in the sewer reserve. These are both healthy reserves, so the plan is to draw down those accounts. This also impacts the item 249-24. The City wanted to use the cash that is available instead of bonding them.

Councilor Micley motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#249-24 Appropriate \$5 million for Water Meter System Replacement Project

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to rescind five million dollars (\$5 million) of the ten million dollars (\$10 million) bond authorization for the water meter system replacement project as approved as part of Council Order #170-22 on April 19, 2022, and appropriate a total of five million dollars (\$5 million) from the water and sewer undesignated fund balances for the same purpose.

Action: **Finance Approved 8-0**

Note: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer and Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner of Public Works presented the request to rescind a \$5 million bond and appropriate the same amount from the sewer undesignated fund balance for the Water Meter System Replacement Project.

Ms. Lemieux explained that the Water Meter System Replacement program is costing the City approximately \$16 million. The original request was to spend some cash from the sewer and water funds and bond \$10 million. These funds are being allocated from both funds because there is no way to measure the individual sewer usage. The City has sold \$5 million of the bonds and this request is to rescind the remainder.

If the Council approves both this docket item and item 242-24, the water reserve will be \$9.5 million and the sewer reserve will be \$15.8 million.

Councilor Malakie motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#248-24 Transfer \$25,000 to Stormwater System- Health Insurance

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer and expend the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from Stormwater - Current Year Reserves (62A10498-579000) to Stormwater System - Health Insurance (62A40101-57HLTH).

Action: **Finance Approved 8-0**

Note: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer joined the committee to discuss the request to transfer \$25,000 to the Stormwater System- Health Insurance account. Ms. Lemieux explained that as part of the budget each year there is language that authorizes the Comptroller to take any of the benefit accounts and go back in and smooth out any of the accounts at the end of the year. This year because of what employees picked for health plans and the cost increase for Blue Cross, the stormwater fund will run short in health insurance.

Councilor Malakie motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#247-24 Requesting Authorization to rescind bonds

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to rescind the below previous bond authorizations, as they are no longer required.

Zervas Elementary School Construction (#255-14(4))..... \$1,505,182

Bigelow Boiler Replacement 2019 (# 100-19).....	\$319,860
FA Day Boilers (#347-19).....	\$131,484
Newton Early Childhood Prog (#419-19).....	\$3,776
Countryside Feasibility Study (#237-21).....	\$1,250,000

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer joined the committee to discuss the request to rescind the above-mentioned bonds. Ms. Lemieux explained they do not choose to rescind bonds until they come to end of the project and this is a housekeeping matter.

Councilor Grossman which passed unanimously.

#218-24 Transfer any unexpended General Fund Municipal health insurance funds to the Health Insurance Trust Fund

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer any unexpended General Fund municipal health insurance funds (57HLTH), remaining as of June 30, 2024 into the Health Insurance Trust Fund (fund 6600).

Action: Finance Approved 8-0

Note: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer joined the committee to discuss the request to transfer any unexpended General Fund municipal health insurance funds (57HLTH), remaining as of June 30, 2024 into the Health Insurance Trust Fund (fund 6600). Ms. Lemieux explained that the City is self-insured and that became complicated when the City moved to Blue Cross Blue Shield. The City is still receiving claims from Harvard and Tufts and that all needed to be paid this year. So far this year the City has paid out \$6.6 million dollars this year to Harvard and Tufts and in addition to there are claims from Blue Cross Blue Shield. Ms. Lemieux explained that they need to set aside another \$6 million for Blue Cross.

Ms. Lemieux noted that they will not have the full amount until after the last payroll of the fiscal year is finalized. She noted that they had also made this request last year.

Councilor Malakie motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Leonard Gentile, Chair



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#219-24
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(617) 796-1100
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(617) 796-1089
Email
rfuller@newtonma.gov

April 29, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to transfer the sum of \$450,000 from Comptroller's Snow and Ice budgeted reserves to Account # 0120103-513010 Police Patrol – Regular Overtime.

As you will see in the attached request from Chief Carmichael, several factors contributed to this shortfall in Overtime funds including the fact that the department will incur approximately \$80,000 resulting from the Newton Teachers Association Strike and approximately \$370,000 more than we anticipated for "Injured On Duty Expenses."

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



City of Newton
Police Department



TELEPHONE
(617) 796-2101
FAX # (617) 796-3679

Office of the Chief of Police
HEADQUARTERS
1321 WASHINGTON STREET
NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02465

JOHN F. CARMICHAEL, JR.
CHIEF OF POLICE

April 29, 2024

Hon. Ruthanne Fuller
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, Massachusetts 02459

Re: Special Appropriation Request, Police Overtime

Dear Mayor Fuller,

After running reports for our payroll accounts and projecting expenses for the remainder of the fiscal year, we anticipate a shortfall of approximately \$450,000.00 in our overtime accounts. This is after offsetting our overtime deficit with the remaining funds in unused salaries. In addition to this, the cost of Police Details for the Teacher's Strike and No Place for Hate in the amount of \$84,000.00 were absorbed temporarily by our overtime budget.

There are many factors contributing to this shortfall. Some of the major factors are:

When Lieutenant Bruce Apotheker retired on October 31, 2022, there were no remaining Lieutenant candidates on the Civil Service promotional list. The 2022 promotional exam had to be retaken by all candidates a year later due to a lawsuit filed against Civil Service and the new list did not come out until February 15, 2024. This led to the hiring of overtimes to cover the OIC (Officer- In-Charge) position in Patrol. Through April 6, approximately \$109,000.00 was spent on overtime for this purpose.

The Newton Police Department no longer sought national accreditation from CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies), instead seeking accreditation on the state level from MPAC (Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission.) As part of the state accreditation process, the Newton Police Department must comply with the state's POST (Peace Officer Standards and Training) requirements which became effective in 2021 after the creation of POST in 2020. The overtime costs of preparation for our on-site accreditation assessment in April 2024 were approximately \$62,000.00 through April 6, 2024.

All sworn personnel were required to be trained on our new electronic ticketing system which cost approximately \$34,000.00 in overtime.

Dispatch coverage overtime, including that worked by NPSOA members as call takers, has cost the department approximately \$350,000.00 through April 6, 2024. The Department continues to deal with staffing shortages in Dispatch, with seven positions still vacant as of this date.

Respectfully,

John Carmichael
Chief of Police

FIRST ACCREDITED CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT IN MASSACHUSETTS



CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile and the Public Safety & Transportation Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman, authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) from Comptroller’s Snow and Ice budgeted reserves to Acct# 0120103-513010 Police Patrol- Regular Overtime be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Comptroller’s Snow and Ice Budgeted Reserves (0110498-579400)..... \$450,000
TO:	Police Patrol Overtime (0120103-513010)..... \$450,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

April 29, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to transfer the sum of \$125,000 from Acct # 0160110-511001 Newton Free Library – Full Time Salaries to Acct # 0160112-521000 Library Building Maintenance – Electricity.

Throughout the course of Fiscal Year 2024, the Newton Free Library had several vacant positions which have generated a substantial amount of savings from attrition. These funds will supplement the FY25 Library Electricity budget. We anticipate this to be the last summer season, where we will be dependent on the old HVAC system, which uses an unusual amount of electricity. When the new system is installed for the summer of 2025, the FY26 utility costs for the library will stabilize.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



Jill Mercurio
Library Director



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

April 29, 2024

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Re: Library Utilities Docket Item

Dear Mayor Fuller:

The Newton Free Library Department requests \$100,000 for electric and gas utilities.

The Library's HVAC system, the original system for the 33 year old building, has reached its end-of-life capabilities and its operational costs have increased well above previous levels included in the budget. We are incredibly grateful for the City's support in approving the replacement of this system and work on this project should begin in the coming months. Proper climate conditions are important for staff and public comfort in a public library as well as for maintaining book conditions.

This funding will allow us to pay the necessary higher utility bills until the system is replaced and running at its anticipated efficiency near the end of FY2025.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jill Mercurio", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jill Mercurio
Library Director

Scott Matthews

From: Jonathan Yeo
Sent: Friday, June 7, 2024 1:50 PM
To: Scott Matthews; Carol Moore; Cassidy Flynn
Subject: Response to questions on #224-24 (Library electricity)

Please distribute to PF and Finance Committee regarding #224-24.

Councilor Laredo asked questions in PF regarding how the Newton Free Library solar canopies are functioning compared to initial estimates and what future energy consumption will be for the facility after the HVAC project is completed next spring. I have the following information from Co-Director of Sustainability Bill Ferguson.

- Before the existing HVAC began to fail, the Library used about 850,000 kWh of electricity and 44,000 therms of gas per year.
- Currently, with the HVAC system not working optimally, the Library is using about 1.375,000 kWh of electricity and 44,000 therms of gas per year. The large increase in electricity use is a direct result of the quickly aging 32 year old HVAC system.
- The new HVAC system will both cool and heat the Library, eliminating the use of gas. The decreased CO2 emissions related to the elimination of gas is 104 tons/yr, equivalent to 107 acres of forest and over 222,000 vehicle miles traveled. While electricity use will rise to produce heat, the new system will also be much more efficient than the old, so predicting exact future use is difficult at this time. Public Buildings will work with their design team to estimate use of the new system in order to accurate budget for FY26.
- The original proposal for the parking lot solar panels in 2018 stated they would produce 326,023 kWh/year. The 2019 contract guarantee with Ameresco was for 323,835 kWh/year. The actual production in FY2023 was 390,895 kWh/year, greatly exceeding the original proposal and the contract guarantee.

Jonathan Yeo

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities Committee through its Chair Susan Albright and the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, authorization transfer the sum of one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000) from Acct # 0160110-511001 Newton Free Library - Full Time Salaries to Acct # 0160112-521000 Library Building Maintenance -Electricity be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Library- Full Time Salaries (0160110-511001).....	\$125,000
TO:	Library Building Maint.- Electricity (0160112-521000).....	\$125,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

246-24

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

May 28, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Dear Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable City Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$200,000 from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund") to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc. ("NewTV").

The single payment of \$200,000 from the Fund to NewTV will allow the station to balance their FY25 budget with level staffing, cover payments for fixed expenses, maintain a high level of overall service, and increase governmental services including meeting coverage.

The City of Newton derives revenues from franchise fees and capital payments made by Comcast, RCN and Verizon. These are allocated between the City and NewTV pursuant to a grant agreement between the City, acting through its Mayor as cable license Issuing Authority (the "City") and NewTV dated July 23, 2018. NewTV receives eighty percent (80%) of these franchise fee revenues and forty percent (40%) of these capital payments.

On July 11, 2017, the City accepted G.L.c. 44, §53F¾, which established a separate revenue fund known as the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund"). Monies in the Fund are derived solely from the City's portions of franchise fee and capital payments made by the three cable operators in accordance with their franchise agreements. By statute, monies in the Fund shall only be appropriated for cable-related purposes consistent with the franchise agreements, including but not limited to (i) support of public, educational or governmental access cable television services; (ii) monitoring compliance of the cable operators with their franchise agreements; or (iii) preparing for renewal of the franchise agreements.

The \$200,000 in this docket item is consistent with the use of PEG Funds to support public, educational, and governmental access cable television services.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



**Mayor Fuller
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Ave.
Newton, MA 02459**

Honorable Mayor Fuller,

Once again we are experiencing a loss in PEG revenues derived from cable subscribers who have decided to transition to streaming services here in Newton. This past calendar year of 2023 we saw Comcast lose 881 subscribers (-10%), Verizon lost 579 subscribers (-7.6%) and RCN saw a cut of 79 subs (-7.4%). Therefore, we humbly and respectfully request a **\$200,000.00 grant/allocation from the PEG Enterprise Fund managed by the City of Newton to replace lost cable related PEG funding NewTV sorely needs to manage its operation. Our grant request is as a direct result of declining PEG support due to the aforementioned 1,539 cable subscribers jumping to streaming options.**

Attached is the latest version of a worksheet illustrating the negative impact cable television cord cutting has had on NewTV over the past few years and what is projected to occur in FY25. The FY25 anticipated cable subscriber counts, average cable bill per operator and associated PEG revenues earmarked for NewTV are shown in red.

We hope our request for PEG support will be met favorably by you and the City Council as it was one year ago. We are available to answer any questions you and your staff have as it pertains to NewTV's request. Thank you for your continued support of our mission and of our team.

Respectfully,



**Robert S. Kelly
Executive Director**

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, authorization to transfer and expend sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the PEG Access and Cable Related Fund to the Newton Communications Access Center, Inc (NewTV) be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Verizon CATV License Fees (5515R114-590001)	\$200,000
TO:	Executive – PEG –Consultants (0110320-530106).....	\$200,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

245-24

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

May 28, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of \$500,000, from PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund") to Micro/Network Services – PC Hardware (0111154-585111), to make improvements to the City's IT infrastructure, as broken out below.

The \$500,000 in funding will be expended in three key areas:

- \$425,000 will be utilized to replace the three core switches that were purchased with PEG Access and Cable Related Fees in 2014 when the City installed the fiber network,
- \$45,000 to enhance redundancy by relocating the load balancers and firewalls in separate buildings, and
- \$30,000 to add fiber and connectivity to the new ambulance service building.

The City of Newton derives revenues from franchise fees and capital payments made by Comcast, RCN and Verizon. Monies in the Fund are derived solely from the City's portions of franchise fee and capital payments made by the three cable operators in accordance with their franchise agreements. By statute, monies in the Fund shall only be appropriated for cable-related purposes consistent with the franchise agreements. The City's fiber network broadcasts to or from NewTV from any school or municipal facility. This infrastructure is the core of our technological foundation, and is crucial to communications between NewTV and the City, particularly as it pertains to broadcasting Education and Government information.

The PEG Access and Cable Related Fund currently has a balance of more than \$980,000. The \$500,000 of investments in this docket item is consistent with the use of PEG Funds to support public, educational, and governmental access cable television services.

Due to the nature of these requests and the need for security, Chief Information Officer, Joe Mulvey will be available to discuss further details in an executive session.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor

Joseph P. Mulvey
Chief Information Officer

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Telephone (617) 796-1180
Facsimile (617) 796-1196
TDD/tty # (617) 796-1089

To: Maureen Lemieux, CFO
From: Joseph Mulvey, Information Technology Department
Re: Supplemental Funding Requests, \$500,000
Date: May 15, 2024

Good day, Maureen,

The foundation of the city network is built on three core switches. Located at crucial intersections of our wide area network, these “top of rack” switches were purchased to light the fiber network when it was installed in 2014. These switches provide access to our phone system, our financial system, all network data, all hosted applications, and backups. As the cores of our infrastructure, these switches provide the avenue for all municipal buildings to connect to all cloud-based applications such as email, NewGov, 311, city hall systems, Zoom, Teams, NewTV, and more. The existing electronics have performed for a decade.

Respectfully, we are requesting \$425,000 to replace this equipment, as well as ancillary items related directly to this project.

We are also proposing to enhance redundancy by relocating our load balancers and firewalls in separate buildings. We estimate the cost for this relocation to be \$45,000.

Finally, we are requesting \$30,000 to add fiber and connectivity to the new ambulance service building.

In total, we are requesting \$500,000 in capital funds to enhance and bolster our network. Due to the nature of these requests and the need for security, I am more than happy to discuss further details in an executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph P. Mulvey
Chief Information Officer
Information Technology Department

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from PEG Access and Cable Related Fund (the "Fund") to Micro/Network Services - PC Hardware (0111154-585111), to make improvements to the City's IT infrastructure ne and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Comcast CATV License fees (5515R114-590001)	\$500,000
TO:	IT Micro/Network Services- PC Hardware (0111154-585111).....	\$500,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

April 29, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of \$296,312.00 from 0110498-579400 - Comptroller Reserve-Budget Reserve/Snow & Ice, to Newton Public Schools for student transportation for youngsters who are homeless or in foster care.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in December 2001 as part of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, ensures educational right and protection for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Massachusetts Educational Plan provides services aimed at preventing homeless children from experiencing further instability in their lives by minimizing their moves from school to school.

The Foster Care Transportation reimbursement started in FY21.

Appropriating these funds to the School Department will allow for the district to directly offset a portion of the cost of bus transportation in FY24.

- McKinney-Vento Homeless Student Transportation (0130101-433007) for \$278,918.00
- Foster Care Transportation (0130101-433008) for \$17,394.00

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



Office of Business, Finance and Planning
100 Walnut Street
Newtonville, MA 02460
617-559-9025

TO: Maureen Lemeiux, Chief Financial Officer

FROM: Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent / Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

DATE: 3/25/24

RE: Docket Request – McKinney Vento and Homeless Students State Reimbursement

A vote of the City Council is requested to appropriate the state reimbursement of \$278,918 for McKinney Vento Homeless Student Transportation and \$17,394 for Foster Care Transportation to the School Department. Current receipts in the amount of \$296,312 are housed in the following general revenue accounts.

0130101-433007
FY23 \$278,918.00

0130101-433008
FY23 \$17,394.00

The memo requesting this vote to the School Committee as well as the vote from school committee is attached.

Thank you.



Office of Business, Finance and Planning
100 Walnut Street
Newtonville, MA 02460
617-559-9025

TO: School Committee

FROM: Liam Hurley, Assistant Superintendent / Chief Financial and Administrative Officer

DATE: March 20, 2024

RE: Vote to Accept McKinney-Vento State Reimbursement for Homeless Students and Foster Care Transportation

We are requesting a vote of the School Committee to approve a request to the Mayor's office to docket a vote of City Council to appropriate the state reimbursement of \$278,918 for McKinney Vento Homeless Student Transportation and \$17,394. for Foster Care Transportation to the School Department.

Current receipts in the amount of \$296,312 are housed in the following general revenue accounts.

0130101-433007
FY23 \$278,918.00

0130101-433008
FY23 \$17,394.00

Appropriating these funds to the School Department will allow for the district to directly offset a portion of the cost of bus transportation in FY24.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, reauthorized in December 2001 as part of the Federal No Child Left Behind Act, ensures educational rights and protection for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Massachusetts Educational Plan provides services aimed at preventing homeless children from experiencing further instability in their lives by minimizing their moves from school to school.

The Foster Care Transportation reimbursement is new, starting in FY21.

CC: Stephen Curley, Comptroller
Maureen Lemeiux, Chief Financial Officer



NEWTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WARD	
I	Rajeev Parlikar
II	Christopher Brezski, Chair
III	Anping Shen
IV	Tamika Olszewski
V	Emily Prenner, Vice-Chair
VI	Paul Levy
VII	Amy Davenport
VIII	Barry Greenstein

MAYOR RUTHANNE FULLER— EX OFFICIO

MEMO

To: Liam, Director of Business Operations
From: Lisa Mazzola
Re: School Committee Approval
Date: March 28, 2024

On March 20, 2024 the School Committee voted to approve the following items:

1. McKinney-Vento State Reimbursement for Homeless Students and Foster Care Transportation
2. Transfer Textile Recycling Funds
3. Request to solicit Five-Year Substitute Staffing Vendor bids

Motion to approve was made by Levy and seconded by Olszewski

The motion passed 9-0.

Lisa Mazzola

Secretary, School Committee

From: [Liam Hurley](#)
To: [Cassidy Flynn](#)
Cc: [Leonard J. Gentile](#)
Subject: Re: Last night's Finance Meeting
Date: Tuesday, June 11, 2024 4:54:37 PM

[**DO NOT OPEN** links/attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]

Hi Cassidy,

Thanks for the email. The McKinney Vento and Foster Care reimbursements are technically FY23 expenditures that we received in FY24. So, the reimbursement is always trailing by 1 year from the expenditure.

The reimbursement in FY24 is NOT the full cost, and it reimbursed NPS 88% of our reported costs. Some years, this reimbursement rate has varied depending upon the state budget. The reimbursement covers the cost to transport students that are homeless and/or living in foster care that we provide direct transportation services for.

I hope this answers your questions and I have provided a link to the DESE website here: <https://www.doe.mass.edu/finance/transportation/>

Please let me know if you have any questions

Liam

On Tue, Jun 11, 2024 at 9:02 AM Cassidy Flynn <cflynn@newtonma.gov> wrote:

Good Morning,

At last night's Finance meeting the Councilors had the following questions. Please provide answers by 5 pm this Thursday so that it can be in the Friday packet this week.

Does the appropriation to NPS for student transportation cover all of the costs for the program?

What year does this appropriation cover?

Thank you,

Cassidy Flynn

Deputy City Clerk

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Programs & Services Committee through its Chair Joshua Krintzman and the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, authorization to appropriate and expend the sum two hundred ninety-six thousand three hundred and twelve dollars (\$296,312.00) from June 30, 2023 Certified Free Cash (0001-3240) to Newton Public Schools for student transportation for children who are homeless or in foster care be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Certified Free Cash (0001-3240).....	\$296,312.00
TO:	McKinney-Vento Transportation (01C30104-538301)	\$278,918.00
	Foster Care Transportation (01C30106-538301).....	\$17,394.00

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

191-24

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

April 8, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend a total of \$200,000 from the Stormwater Management Operating Reserve FY2024 Operating Budget to fund the design and installation of a subsurface system that will manage stormwater from Myrtle Street and McGrath Park.

As you know, the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department is in the process of a major renovation project at McGrath Park including field reconfiguration and improvement, tennis court resurfacing, installation of a lacrosse practice wall, and development of an accessible path.

The stormwater improvements will complement the exciting improvements to McGrath Park and will be done in coordination with that project.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
James McGonagle
Commissioner of Public Works

Telephone (617) 796-1000
Facsimile (617) 796-1050
E-mail: jmcgonagle@newtonma.gov

To: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

From: James McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works

Subject: Appropriation for Stormwater/Phosphorus Reduction
Improvements at McGrath Park

Date: April 5, 2024

I respectfully request that the Mayor docket a request to appropriate \$200,000 to fund a stormwater management system at McGrath Park. The request includes design and installation of a subsurface system that will manage stormwater from Myrtle Street and McGrath Park. The stormwater improvements will complement the Parks, Recreation, and Culture Department's improvements to McGrath Park and will be done in coordination with that project.

This project includes at least 3.20 lb/yr reduction in phosphorus, which will help meet the Environmental Protection Agency's phosphorus reduction requirements for the City of Newton.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities Committee through its Chair Susan Albright and the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) from the Stormwater Management Operating Reserve FY2024 Operating Budget to fund the design and installation of a subsurface system that will manage stormwater from Myrtle Street and McGrath Park be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Stormwater Budget Reserve (62A10498-579000)	\$200,000
TO:	Mrytle & McGrath Subsurface System (7216D401-553000)	\$200,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

April 29, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to transfer funds from several DPW accounts resulting from FY24 savings in various DPW accounts to support the City's Transportation and Paving Improvement Program. All funds should be transferred to Acct # 0140121-553300 DPW Admin Support – Paving Supplies Override.

<u>From Acct</u>	<u>Savings Resulting From:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DPW Streets – Full time Wages	Salary savings from DPW Open Positions	\$ 500,000
DPW Snow & Ice – Overtime	Savings in Staff Overtime – Mild Winter	\$ 250,000
DPW Snow & Ice – Contractors	Savings in Contractors – Mild Winter	\$ 200,000
Comptroller's – Snow/Ice Reserve	Savings Comptroller Reserve – Mild Winter	\$1,050,000

Throughout the course of Fiscal Year 2024, the Department of Public Works had several vacant positions which have generated a substantial amount of savings from attrition. The use of these funds, combined with savings resulting from the mild winter, will allow us to contribute to our target spending of \$9.5 million for Fiscal Year 2025, with the goal of continuing to improve the city's roadways, sidewalks, and ramps.

Under the leadership of DPW Commissioner Jim McGonagle and Deputy Commissioner Shawna Sullivan, our paving condition index has improved as we pave miles and miles of roads each year, but we have a lot of work still in front of us. This work makes our streets safer and smoother for those walking, riding, or rolling.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
James McGonagle
Commissioner of Public Works

Telephone (617) 796-1000
Facsimile (617) 796-1050
E-mail: jmcgonagle@newtonma.gov

To: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer; Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer,

From: James McGonagle, Commissioner

Date: April 29, 2024

Subject: Request for Transfers to Transportation Network Improvements Accounts

I respectfully request that the Mayor docket a request to transfer \$2 million in FY24 attrition savings and FY 24 snow and ice account savings to the Transportation Network Improvements Accounts.

The Department of Public Works will use this funding to support our planned paving projects during FY25 with the goal of continuing to improve the city's roadways, sidewalks, and ramps.

<u>From Acct</u>	<u>Savings Resulting From:</u>	<u>Amount</u>
DPW Streets – Full time Wages	Salary savings from DPW Open Positions	\$ 500,000
DPW Snow & Ice – Overtime	Savings in Staff Overtime – Mild Winter	\$ 250,000
DPW Snow & Ice – Contractors	Savings in Contractors – Mild Winter	\$ 200,000
Comptroller's – Snow/Ice Reserve	Savings Comptroller Reserve – Mild Winter	\$1,050,000

Thank you for your consideration.

cc: Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner
Coleman Flaherty, DPW Finance and Administration Director

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, authorization to transfer and expend funds from several DPW Accounts resulting from FY24 savings in various DPW accounts to Acct# 01C40112-553100 as a part of the City’s Accelerated Roads Program be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	DPW Streets- Full Time Wages (0140120-511002).....	\$500,000
	DPW Snow & Ice- Overtime (0140123-513010).....	\$250,000
	DPW Snow & Ice- Contractors (0140123-529100).....	\$200,000
	Comptroller’s- Snow/Ice Reserve (0110498-579400).....	\$1,050,000
TO:	Accelerated Roads Program (01C40112-553100)	\$2,000,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

235-24

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

May 16, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$2,888,274.38 from June 30, 2023 Certified Free Cash to support the City's Transportation and Paving Improvement Program. All funds should be transferred to Acct # 01C40112-553100 Accelerated Roads Program - Paving Supplies.

The use of these funds, combined with funding in the FY2025 Public Works operating budget, FY25 Chapter 90 funds, and the proceeds of Docket Item # 216-24 (transferring FY24 DPW savings from attrition and other savings to the roads program) will allow us to improve the city's roadways, sidewalks, and ramps.

Under the leadership of DPW Commissioner Jim McGonagle and Deputy Commissioner Shawna Sullivan, our paving condition index has improved as we pave miles and miles of roads each year, but we have a lot of work still in front of us. This work makes our streets safer and smoother for those walking, riding, or rolling.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton
FY 2025 Roads Budget

Budget Item	Budget Value	Description
Streets Budget	\$ 630,500.00	Concrete/Asphalt/Curbing
Traffic Calming	\$ 400,000.00	
Line Striping	\$ 300,000.00	
Routine Maintenance	\$ 350,000.00	Crack Seal/Fog Seal
Preventative Maintenance	\$ 1,250,000.00	Bonded Wearing Course/Micro/Cape Seal
Rehabilitation	\$ 4,200,000.00	Mill and Overlay/Cold In-Place Recycling
Maintenance Overlays	\$ 500,000.00	Residential Streets
Sidewalks	\$ 1,000,000.00	Repair, replace, new
Engineering/Construction Oversight	\$ 850,000.00	Design, Bid Documents, Program Management
	\$ 9,480,500.00	

City of Newton
 FY 2025 Preliminary Road List

Street Name	To Street	From Street	Length	Width	SY	Treatment	Unit Cost	Cost
Beacon Street	Town Line	Hammonds Pond Parkway	3850	46	19,677.8	Mill and Overlay	\$ 50.00	\$ 983,888.89
Brookline Street	Brookline Town Line	Dedham Street	6000	34	22,666.7	Mill and Overlay	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,133,333.33
Grant Avenue	Ward Street	Beacon Street	3400	33	12,466.7	Mill and Overlay	\$ 50.00	\$ 623,333.33
Rachael Road	Winchester Street	Dedham Street	1700	30	5,666.7	Cold In-Place	\$ 50.00	\$ 283,333.33
Wiswall Road	Dedham Street	Walsh Street	3800	34	14,355.6	Mill and Overlay	\$ 50.00	\$ 717,777.78
Washington Street	Boston City Line	St James Street	2700	36	10,800.0	Mill and Overlay	\$ 50.00	\$ 540,000.00
								\$ 4,281,666.67

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities Committee through its Chair Susan Albright and the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of two million eight hundred eighty-eight thousand two hundred seventy-four dollars and thirty-eight cents (\$2,888,274.38) from June 30, 2023, Certified Free Cash to Acct #01C40112-553100 Accelerated Roads program- Paving Supplies to support the City’s Transportation Network Improvement Program be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Certified Free Cash (0001-3240).....	\$2,888,274.38
TO:	Accelerated Roads Program (01C40112-553100)	\$2,888,274.38

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

243-24

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

May 28, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three-million two-hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) and authorize a general obligation borrowing of an equal amount for water main improvements in FY2025. This proposed borrowing will allow Public Works to implement a portion of the water main improvements as part of the 10 year - \$40 million Capital Improvement Plan.

Further, I request that your Honorable Council authorize any premium received upon the sale of the bonds or notes, less the cost of preparing, issuing and marketing them, and any accrued interest received upon the delivery of the bonds or notes be applied to the costs of the project being financed by the bonds or notes and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for the project by a like amount.

In the Capital Improvement Plan, the City expects to borrow up to \$5,283,700 annually from City debt and MWRA loans to upgrade our water system, which will ensure the delivery of superior water quality. Combining the \$3.2 million in bonding with the MWRA annual loan of \$2,083,700 results in full funding of \$5,283,700 of water main improvements.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Date: February 12, 2024

To: Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer
Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer

From: James McGonagle, Commissioner

Subject: Request for Water Bond Borrowing Authorization,
\$3,200,000 for Water System Improvements FY 2025

I respectfully request authorization to borrow up to \$3,200,000 for water main improvements in FY 2025. This proposed borrowing will allow Public Works to implement a portion of the water main improvements as part of the 10 year - \$40 million Capital Improvement Plan.

In the Capital Improvement Plan, the City is committing to borrow up to \$5,283,700 annually from City debt and MWRA loans to upgrade our water system, which will improve fire flows, and ensure the delivery of superior water quality. MWRA awards an annual loan of \$2,083,700 for water main improvements. MWRA water loans have been used for the water main replacements in Ward Street.

Water main rehabilitation projects for FY 2025 include the following:

Upham Street (Mague Place to Cherry Street) 900 lf
 Taft Avenue (Hazelhurst Avenue to Harding Street) 1,163 lf
 Rossmere Street (Watertown Street to Lowell Avenue) 560 lf
 Washington Park (north side) (Walnut Street to Harvard Street) 1,550 lf
 Crescent Square (Thornton Street to Waban Street) 300 lf
 Commonwealth Avenue (carriage lane) (Higgins Street to Melrose Street) 275 lf
 Bothfield Road (Ellison Road to Manemet Road) 725 lf
 Hale Street (Eliot Street to Pennsylvania Avenue) 800 lf
 Woodcliff Road (Centre Street to Dedham Street) 4,000 lf
 Brookline Street (Vine Street to Pond Brook Road) 1,175 lf
 Washington Street (Greenough Street to Auburn Street) 900 lf
 Walker Street (Washington St to Watertown St) 1360 lf
 Mechanic Street (Elliot St to Greenway) 760 lf

Please docket this request with the City Clerk's office for consideration by the Honorable City Council.

cc: Shawna Sullivan, Deputy Commissioner
 Louis M. Taverna, P.E., City Engineer
 Tom Fitzgerald, Director of Utilities
 Doug Valocin, Deputy Director of Utilities
 Coleman Flaherty, DPW Budget Director
 Stephen Curley, Comptroller
 Ron Mendes, Treasurer



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

242-24

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

May 28, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to rescind the \$3.2 million bond authorization for the FY 23 water main repair and replacement project as approved by Council Order #294-22 on May 16, 2022, and appropriate and expend a total of \$3.2 million from the water fund undesignated fund balance for the same purpose.

6000-3599 Water Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance \$3,200,000

As discussed in-depth, during the budget process, the City of Newton's Water Fund has approximately \$15.5 million in undesignated fund balance. Prudent financial management suggests that we maintain approximately 3 months' worth of use charges, which equates to \$6.5 million. At this point in time, it is appropriate to utilize \$3.2 million of fund balance to save significant interest costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
James McGonagle
Commissioner of Public Works

Telephone (617) 796-1000
Facsimile (617) 796-1050
E-mail: jmcgonagle@newtonma.gov

To: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

From: James McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works

Subject: Rescission and Appropriation – Water Main Project

Date: May 13, 2024

I respectfully request that the Mayor docket a request to rescind the \$3.2 million bond authorization for the FY 23 water main repair and replacement project as approved by Council Order #294-22 on May 16, 2022, and appropriate a total of \$3.2 million from the below account for the FY 23 water main repair and replacement project.

6000-3599 Water Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance \$3,200,000

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, to rescind the sum of three million two hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) million bond authorization for FY23 water main repair and replacement project as approved by Council Order #294-22 on May 16, 2022, and appropriate and expend a total of three million two hundred thousand dollars (\$3,200,000) from the water fund undesignated fund balance for the same purpose be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Water Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance (6000-3599)	\$3,200,000
TO:	Water Main Improvements- 2024 (7012L401-530203)	\$3,200,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

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rfuller@newtonma.gov

May 28, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to rescind \$5 million of the \$10 million bond authorization for the water meter system replacement project as approved as part of Council Order #170-22 on April 19, 2022, and appropriate a total of \$5 million from the water and sewer undesignated fund balances for the same purpose.

6000-3599	Water Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance	\$3,312,500
6100-3599	Sewer Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance	\$1,687,500

As discussed in-depth, during the budget process, the City of Newton's Water and Sewer Funds have approximately \$15.5 and \$17 million respectively in undesignated fund balance. Prudent financial management suggests that we maintain approximately 3 months' worth of use charges. At this point in time, it is appropriate to utilize \$5 million of fund balance to save significant interest costs.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ruthanne Fuller, Mayor
James McGonagle
Commissioner of Public Works

Telephone (617) 796-1000
Facsimile (617) 796-1050
E-mail: jmcgonagle@newtonma.gov

To: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer
Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer

From: James McGonagle, Commissioner of Public Works

Subject: Rescission and Appropriation – Water Meter System Replacement Project

Date: May 13, 2024

I respectfully request that the Mayor docket a request to rescind \$5 million of the \$10 million bond authorization for the water meter system replacement project as approved as part of Council Order #170-22 on April 19, 2022, and appropriate a total of \$5 million from the below accounts for the water meter system replacement project:

6000-3599	Water Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance	\$3,312,500
6100-3599	Sewer Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance	\$1,687,500

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, to rescind the sum of five million dollars (\$5 million) of the ten million dollars (\$10 million) bond authorization for the water meter system replacement project as approved as part of Council Order #170-22 on April 19, 2022, and appropriate a total of five million dollars (\$5 million) from the water and sewer undesignated fund balances for the same purpose be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Water Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance (6000-3599)	\$3,312,500
	Sewer Fund-Undesignated Fund Balance (6100-3599)	\$1,687,500
TO:	Meter System Replacement-Water (7011L401-585180)	\$3,312,500
	Meter System Replacement-Sewer (7119L401-585180)	\$1,687,500

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

248-24

Telephone
(617) 796-1100

Fax

(617) 796-1113

TDD/TTY

(617) 796-1089

Email

rfuller@newtonma.gov

May 28, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to transfer the sum of \$25,000 from Stormwater – Current Year Reserves (62A10498-579000) to Stormwater System – Health Insurance (62A40101-57HLTH).

Each year, we budget each enterprise fund's fringe benefits based on what we expect each position's insurance selection to be. This year health insurance selections combined with the increased working rates for active employees will result in a deficit in the Stormwater Health Insurance expenditures without this transfer.

Transferring the funds from Current Year Reserves into Health Insurance will allow all fringe benefits, within the Stormwater Fund, to end FY2024 with a positive balance.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

Perry Rosenfield

From: Stephen Curley
Sent: Thursday, May 23, 2024 12:30 PM
To: Perry Rosenfield; Maureen Lemieux
Subject: Stormwater Fringe docket

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hi Maureen and Perry,

I am requesting that the City docket \$25,000 to cover the additional Health Insurance costs incurred in the Stormwater fund (62A40101-57HLTH) in FY24.

Thanks,
Steve

Stephen Curley | Comptroller | Ex-Officio Member NRB
Comptroller's Office | City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Ave, Newton, MA 02459
617-796-1301

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile, authorization to transfer and expend the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from Stormwater - Current Year Reserves (62A10498-579000) to Stormwater System - Health Insurance (62A40101-57HLTH) be and is hereby approved as follows:

FROM:	Stormwater-Budgeted Reserves (62A10498-579000)	\$25,000
TO:	Stormwater Fund Health Insurance (62A10498-57HLTH).....	\$25,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
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Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
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May 28, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councillors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to rescind the previous bond authorizations below, as they are no longer required.

Zervas Elementary School Construction (#255-14(4))	\$1,505,182
Bigelow Boiler Replacement 2019 (#100-19)	\$319,860
FA Day Boilers (#347-19)	\$131,484
Newton Early Childhood Prog (#419-19)	\$3,776
Countryside Feasibility Study (#237-21)	\$1,250,000

Under the leadership and dedication of Public Buildings Commissioner, Josh Morse and his team, construction of the Zervas Elementary School was completed more than \$1.5 million under budget.

Both the Bigelow and the FA Day Boiler replacement projects were eligible for the Accelerated Repair Program, through the MSBA. This program is primarily for the repair and replacement of school roofs, windows/doors, and boilers, and focuses on the preservation of existing assets, by performing energy efficient and cost-saving upgrades. Because of the covered funding through the MSBA, the City did not need to bond the full amount of the authorization.

The remaining authorization for the Newton Early Childhood Program is no longer needed.

Finally, as the Countryside School debt exclusion was approved by voters, we can release the initial \$1.25M bond authorization. It is being financed through Debt Exclusion.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Lenoard Gentile, to rescind the below previous bond authorizations, as they are no longer required be and is hereby approved as follows:

Zervas Elementary School Construction (#255-14(4)).....	\$1,505,182
Bigelow Boiler Replacement 2019 (# 100-19).....	\$319,860
FA Day Boilers (#347-19).....	\$131,484
Newton Early Childhood Prog (#419-19).....	\$3,776
Countryside Feasibility Study (#237-21).....	\$1,250,000

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____



Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

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April 29, 2024

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to transfer any unexpended General Fund municipal health insurance funds (57HLTH), remaining as of June 30, 2024, into the Health Insurance Trust Fund (Fund 6600).

The City moved to Blue Cross Blue Shield as our health insurance administrator, beginning July 1, 2023. In addition to all Blue Cross Blue Shield claims incurred during this fiscal year, the City has been responsible for the "runout" of claims for both Harvard Pilgrim Health Care and Tufts Health Plan. As a result of the surge in health insurance costs during the past two years, these Incurred But Not Reported (IBNR) claims have exceeded the set aside that we originally had in the self-insurance trust fund. The movement of these funds to the Trust Fund will provide additional funds during this transitional period.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Finance Committee through its Chair Leonard Gentile authorization to transfer any unexpected General Fund municipal health insurance funds (57HLTH), remaining as of June 30, 2024 into the Health Insurance Trust Fund (fund 6600) be and is hereby approved.

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) CAROL MOORE
City Clerk

(SGD) RUTHANNE FULLER
Mayor

Date: _____
