CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5th, 2011

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
#268-11   HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and
               expend $470,292 from FY12 Free Cash for the purpose of funding
               additional appropriations in the School Department. The amount reflects
               an increase in the Medicaid Direct Services reimbursements. [09/12/11
               @4:39 PM]
ACTION: **APPROVED subject to second call 5-0 (Baker not voting)**

NOTE: The Committee voted to approve this item subject to second call. Maureen
Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer, was unable to attend this meeting but provided an
email (attached to this report) which was at times unclear and lacked detail.   The
Programs and Services Committee did not want to hold up this item as the Finance
Committee is awaiting it, and on a programmatic level they do not disagree with
anything. Because of this they decided to vote subject to second call so that they may
have the assurance of knowing that discussion can be had at the full Board level after
more clarifying information is given at the Finance Committee.
        A motion was made by Ald. Hess-Mahan to approve subject to second call, which
carried unanimously.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES
#269-11   HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and
               expend $200,000 for the purpose of funding additional appropriations in
               the School Department. This amount reflects an increase in the State
               Chapter 70 Education Funding. [09/12/11 @4:39 PM]
ACTION: **APPROVED subject to second call 5-0 (Baker not Voting)**

NOTE: The Committee also voted to approve this item subject to second call to
give the opportunity to discuss it in more detail at the full Board should the Finance
Committee be given more information that they'd like to comment on. Ald. Hess-Mahan
made the motion which carried unanimously.

#355-10   PRESIDENT LENNON and ALD. LAPPIN requesting a change to the
               rules of the Board of Aldermen to eliminate the Real Property & Reuse

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible and reasonable accommodations will
be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you have a special accommodation need,
contact the Newton ADA Coordinator Trisha Guditz at 617-796-1156 or
tguditz@newtonma.gov or via TDD/TTY at (617) 796-1089 at least two days in advance
of the meeting.

Committee. Issues regarding reuse of public buildings to be referred to the Public Facilities Committee and issues regarding reuse of City owned land would be referred to the Land Use Committee. Effective date of this change will be January 1, 2012. [11/26/2010 @ 11:59 AM]
<u>REPORTED BACK TO PROG/SERV FROM RULES ON 6/8/2011</u>

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: Ald. Lennon presented the item to the Committee. Though there were a variety of suggestions and concerns for the future of this Committee, and the items which it hears, the outcome of the discussion was that the Real Property Reuse Committee should become an adhoc Committee and, as such, should meet on an as-needed basis. This was the decision settled upon since the Real Property Reuse committee meets infrequently as-is, and its status as a standing committee is unnecessary and allows for inefficiencies while reporting out progress at the full Board; additionally, keeping the Reuse Committee in existence eliminates the concern by many that it's disappearance would overburden the Land Use Committee and would be inappropriately assigned to that Committee.

Though the Committee was comfortable with their determination for the future of the Reuse Committee, Ald. Lennon requested that it be held so that language and information could be given to Committee and the Board before it needs to be voted on by the full body. It was suggested by Ald. Linsky that Pres. Lennon discuss the rules change with the Law Department. The motion to hold carried unanimously.

#356-10 <u>PRESIDENT LENNON and ALD. LAPPIN</u> requesting a change to the rules of the Board of Aldermen to eliminate the Post-Audit Committee. All post audit/follow-up items will be discussed in the substantive committee that originally heard the item. Effective date of this change will be January 1, 2012.[11/26/2010 @ 11:59 AM]
<u>REPORTED BACK TO PROG/SERV FROM RULES ON 6/8/2011</u>

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: Recognizing that the post-audit function is a necessary one, the Committee decided that it does not want to eliminate the function, but would still like to eliminate the Post-Audit Committee. Instead of having this committee, consisting of members whom are mostly unfamiliar with the issue and whom need to be educated about it, items that need to be reviewed would be docketed for discussion in the substantive committee in which they originated with a deadline to be heard and resolved. It was proposed that there be a rules change to give the President the power to choose the Committee that the Post-Audit item should be referred to in the event that the initial item was doubly (or more) referred. As with item #355-10, there was also a motion to hold item #356-10 so that Pres. Lennon can provide the committee with draft language and with additional documentation to all Aldermen before the Board takes a formal vote on this item. The motion to hold carried unanimously.

#357-10 <u>PRESIDENT LENNON and ALD. LAPPIN</u> requesting a change to the rules of the Board of Aldermen to eliminate the Committee on Community

Preservation. All Community Preservation items will be referred to the Finance Committee. Effective date of this change will be January 1, 2012. [11/26/2010 @ 11:59 AM]

REPORTED BACK TO PROG/SERV FROM RULES ON 6/8/2011

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: Item #357-10 was discussed in conjunction with item #357-10(2). Pres. Lennon and Ald. Lappin would like to eliminate having two Board committees go through Community Preservation Proposals as it slows down the process and makes it difficult for petitioners. The initial proposal by the docketers was to have the projects only be reviewed by the Board's Finance Committee, perhaps with a member of the Finance Committee sitting in on the meetings of the citizen Community Preservation Committee so that they may relay that information back to the Board. It was ultimately decided through deliberations that there is a benefit to having proposals go through the vetting of two Board Committees and not just through the citizen committee to review the programming. It was determined though that the best way to go about this would be to eliminate the Board's Committee on Community Preservation and have the item referred to Finance, as well as to the most fitting substantive committee. The committee decided to hold these two items as well so that Pres. Lennon and Ald. Lappin can prepare information to present to the full Board in advance of the vote.

#357-10(2)   ALD. YATES proposing a change in the proposed rule to eliminate the Committee on Community Preservation: community preservation items relating to housing and recreation shall be referred to the Programs and Services Committee; items relating to historic preservation and open space shall be referred to the Zoning and Planning Committee; all items shall then be referred to the Finance Committee. [12/6/2010 @ 10:57PM]

REPORTED BACK TO PROG/SERV FROM RULES ON 6/8/2011

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: See note for item #357-10.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Linsky, Vice-Chair

From: "Maureen Lemieux" <mlemieux@newtonma.gov>
To: rsmith@newtonma.gov
Date sent: **Sun, 02 Oct 2011 15:36:52 -0400**
Subject: **(Fwd) (Fwd) Items in Prog/Serv**
Priority: **normal**

fyi
------- Forwarded message follows -------
From: Maureen Lemieux <mlemieux@newtonma.gov>
To: Sangiolo Amy
Subject: (Fwd) Items in Prog/Serv
Copies to: Rooney Robert, Costello Megan
Date sent: Sun, 02 Oct 2011 15:35:42 -0400

Ald Sangiolo,

I understand you requested that I attend the Programs & Services meeting on Wednesday. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend and Bob has not been involved in these 2 docket items.

In reference to docket #268-11 - the City of Newton was informed in the late spring that we would receive additional medicaid reimbursements for direct services that had been provided to the student population. The actual allocation was $543,487.40, however, the school departments reimbursements for Mdeicaid Administrative Services as well as Charter Tuition Revenues did not meet budgeted expectations. Therefore, the Mayor has requested that the amount of $470,292 be transferred to the school department. It is the net amount that actual school department revenues exceeded school dept budgeted revenues.

Th$543K was posted on June 16th. Therefore, because of the timing, we thought it was most appropriate to allow the funds to be certified as Free Cash, with the intention, of then transfering the money to the school department.

In reference to docket #269-11 - the Governor's budget as proposed included a Chapter 70 allocation of $13,504,221 for the school department - an amount that was more than $100K over the FY11 Chapter 70 allocation. Therefore, to remain conservative, we prepared the budget projecting $200,000 less than the Governor's budget. It has been out intent all along to allocate any excess Chapter 70 aid to the school department once it was finalized.

In the end - the Governor's budget for Chapter 70 aid remained unchanged, therefore, the Mayor is requesting that $200,000 be added to the school department FY12 budget.

If you have any questions regarding either of these two items - please do not hesitate to call me - 796-1100 - is the best way to reach me - Megan always knows where I am.

Again, i apologize for not being able to attend on Wednesday night - and hope this provides any info you need from a financial perspective.

Maureen

------- Forwarded message follows -------
From: "Rebecca Smith" <rsmith@newtonma.gov>
To: rrooney@newtonma.gov,
         mlemieux@newtonma.gov
Date sent: Fri, 30 Sep 2011 12:15:25 -0400
Subject: Items in Prog/Serv
Priority: normal