

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2010

Present: Ald. Linsky (Vice-Chair), Merrill, Hess-Mahan, Blazar, Baker, Fischman
Absent: Ald. Sangiolo (Chairman), Rice

**REFERRED TO PROG & SERV, PUBLIC FACIL. AND FINANCE
COMMITTEES**

#367-10 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate an amount not to exceed five million dollars (\$5,000,000) from bonded indebtedness for the following:
(A) seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) for site plan design work for modular classrooms at Horace Mann, Zervas, and Countryside Elementary Schools
(B) installation of up to six modular classrooms at five elementary schools as well as the addition of permanent classrooms and renovations to the core of F.A. Day Middle School.

ACTION: **APPROVED AS AMENDED 6-0**

NOTE: The Programs and Services Committee discussed the item jointly with the Public Facilities Committee. Please see the Public Facilities report for a detailed account of that discussion.

#317-10 PRESIDENT LENNON re-appointing Melissa Hanenberger of 56 Valentine Street, as the parent member of the Newton Child Care Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2012 [11/4/10 @ 9:54pm]

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 (Merrill not voting)**

NOTE: Ald. Linsky read items #317-10, #318-10, #354-10, and #316-10 into the record so that they could be voted on simultaneously. After a brief discussion, Ald. Baker made the motion to approve all four items; the motion carried unanimously.

#318-10 PRESIDENT LENNON re-appointing Katey Grossman of 47 Brookline Street, as the child care provider member of the Newton Child Care Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2012. [11/4/10 @ 9:54pm]

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 (Merrill not voting)**

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, please contact the Newton ADA Coordinator Kathleen Cahill, 617-796-1125, via email at KCahill@newtonma.gov or via TDD/TTY at (617) 796-1089 at least two days in advance of the meeting date.

NOTE:

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#354-10 BARBARA C. LIETZKE, 68 Highland Avenue, Newtonville, re-appointed to the Board of Trustees of the Newton Free Library for a term of office to expire on June 30, 2015. [11/24/10 @ 3:08pm]

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 (Merrill not voting)**

#316-10 PRESIDENT LENNON appointing Alderman John Rice as a member of the Newton Child Care Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2011 [10/25/10 @ 9:30pm]

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 (Merrill not voting)**

#422-06(2) ALD. HESS-MAHAN requesting that a task force be established to meet and prepare a report and recommendations regarding the regulation of noise, air pollution and best practices with respect to the operation of power equipment used in landscaping, property and yard maintenance, including, without limitation, leaf blowers. [01/27/09 @ 3:47 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0 (Merrill not voting)**

NOTE: Ald. Hess-Mahan began the discussion by sharing with the Committee that there has not been much progress on this issue but that he believes it is worth pursuing given the amount of complaints he receives on a regular basis. Before he pursues this further though, he'd like to coordinate with Bob DeRubeis, Tom Daley, Sarah Ecker, and Bob Rooney. Interest from the Executive Department is important; should the Executive not be interested in pursuing the issue, then Ald. Hess-Mahan feels that there's little point in the Board pursuing it. He expects that the proposed task force would be comprised of a variety of different volunteers including landscapers and other citizens. Ald. Hess-Mahan has looked at the task force that Cambridge instituted through which an ordinance was created. We would use their model as a guide but of course it would need to be altered given the differences in the Cities. Ald. Baker suggested that Ald. Hess-Mahan look into addressing these issues but shared that a task force may not be the most effective way to do so. He also noted that noise and pollution are two distinct issues and that Ald. Hess-Mahan may want to address them separately. Ald. Hess-Mahan noted that he would like to docket a new item for this that is worded differently after thinking about different routes to accomplish his goal. Ald. Hess-Mahan then moved to hold the item 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 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

ACTION: **REFERRED TO RULES SUBCOMMITTEE 5-0 (Merrill not voting)**

NOTE: Ald Linsky read #355-10, #356-10, and #357-10 into the record. Ald. Baker moved to refer all three items to the Rules Subcommittee. The Committee agreed and voted unanimously to refer the items. A discussion on these items will occur in the Rules Subcommittee. After the Subcommittee has voted, the item will return to the Programs and Services Committee for review.

#356-10 PRESIDENT LENNON and ALD. LAPPIN 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

ACTION: **REFERRED TO RULES SUBCOMMITTEE 5-0 (Merrill not voting)**

#357-10 PRESIDENT LENNON and ALD. LAPPIN 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.

ACTION: **REFERRED TO RULES SUBCOMMITTEE 5-0 (Merrill not voting)**

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#207-08 ALD. BRANDEL AND SANGIOLO proposing that the following question be put before the Newton voters:

“Shall the City of Newton be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2 ½ the amounts required to pay for the bond issuance in order to fund Newton North High School?” [05/21/08 @ 12:58 PM]

FINANCE VOTED NO ACTION NECESSARY ON 3/8/10

ACTION: **HELD 5-0 (Merrill not voting)**

NOTE: The Committee received word from former Alderman Brandel that he'd prefer more discussion on this item and asked that it be held and not voted No Action Necessary. Ald. Hess-Mahan shared his thought that this proposal is futile if the Mayor is not going to support it; therefore, Ald. Hess-Mahan suggests that the docketers discuss this with the Mayor Warren and see where he stands, as he drives the fiscal policy, before continuing this discussion in Committee. After this brief discussion there was a move to hold the item which carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stephen Linsky, Vice-Chairman