

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2003

Present: Ald. Sangiolo (Acting Chair) President Lipsitt, Ald. Merrill, Ald. Coletti, Ald. Gentile, Ald. Parker

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#410-03 KATHERINE DONOVAN, 46 Oakland Avenue, Auburndale, appointed as a member of the NEWTON CHILDCARE COMMISSION for a term of office expiring January 1, 2005. (60-day 12/6/03)

**ACTION:** **Laid on the Table**

**NOTE:** President Lipsitt asked that the Mayor resubmit this item.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACIL. & PROG.& SERVICES COMMITTEES**

#94-03(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting Home Rule Legislation to allow the City of Newton to charge fees for water and sewer usage for single meter/multi-residence condominium properties based on the average consumption per dwelling unit.

**ACTION:** **NAN 4-2 (Gentile and Sangiolo opposed)**

**NOTE:** SEE PUBLIC FACILITIES REPORT

#264-02(2) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting adoption of an ordinance to establish the composition, terms of office, and procedures in order to implement the Aid to Elderly Taxation Fund (to which voluntary donations may be made for the purpose of defraying the real estate taxes of elderly citizens in Newton per acceptance of G.L. c. 60 §3D.)

**ACTION:** **HELD**

#44-03 ALD. STEWART proposing that the Rules and Orders of the Board of Aldermen be amended to allow a public comment period before one Board of Aldermen meeting a month.

RULES SUB-COMMITTEE HELD 2-1 (Lipsitt) on 10/24/03

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND LAND USE**

#267-02 ALD. BASHAM requesting creation of rules for Board of Aldermen acting as Special Permit granting authority.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 5-0**

#230-01 ALD. PARKER requesting an amendment to the Rules and Orders of the Board re the release of confidential documents.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 5-0**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#432-02 ALD. PARKER, JOHNSON, LINSKY, LIPSITT, LAPPIN, BAKER requesting ordinance change and home rule legislation to implement a policy of indexing automobile excise tax to emissions and/or fuel economy, so low-pollution vehicles have lower taxes than those that pollute more.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD**

**NOTE:** There was a motion to NAN that failed and the Committee agreed to refer to the next board.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES & PROG. & SERVICES COMMITTEES**

#510-00 ALD. GERST seeking a report from the departments of Public Works and Parks and Recreation on the operational status of water fountains in city parks and schoolyards.

**PUB FACIL. VOTED NAN 5-0 ON 2/7/01**

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

#346-99 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting creation of an ordinance that would prohibit dogs (leashed or unleashed) from all elementary school playgrounds.

**ACTION:** **HELD 5-0**

**NOTE:** The Committee agreed to hold this item for discussion at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Programs and Services.

#113-01(2) PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting discussion with Commissioner of Parks and Recreation regarding ongoing expenditures for maintenance of public land and other items contained in the Parks and Recreation Department FY2002 Operating Budget, particularly with respect to the effectiveness of work being done that has been contracted out as of this fiscal year.

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

#174-03 ALD. JOHNSON, LENNON, PARKER, SANGIOLO, SAMUELSON & STEWART requesting that a joint Aldermanic and Citizen's Task Force be established to determine the best way to accommodate dogs off leash in our parks or other locations in the City.

**ACTION:** **HELD 5-0**

#190-03 PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting discussion with Human Services regarding the implementation of the Senior Volunteer program.

**ACTION:** **HELD 5-0**

#191-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a discussion with the Information Technology and Clerk of the Board Departments re increasing efforts to source reduce the amount of paper to be duplicated and to disseminate more information via the Internet.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0-1 (LIPSITT ABSTAINING)**

#274-03 ALD. JOHNSON requesting discussion with School Committee regarding implementation of transportation fees in FY04.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0 (GENTILE NOT VOTING)**

**REFER TO PROG&SERV, PUBLIC FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#369-03 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting a presentation of the findings and results of the *Newton North Feasibility Study* to the Board of Aldermen in a public forum to allow a greater number of the public to hear the presentation and offer public comment.

**ACTION:** **HELD 4-0**

# 93-01(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authority to file Home Rule Legislation that would authorize the City of Newton to grant to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority certain permanent easements in Edmands Park and Bulloughs Pond Park for the purpose of MWRA's construction and maintenance activities on the Weston Aqueduct, and upon enactment by the Legislature, authority to negotiate with and grant such permanent easements to the MWRA.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0**

**NOTE:** Sandy Pooler was present and agreed this item should be referred to the next board.

#275-03 ALD. LIPSITT transmitting request of Jean and Michael Morrisey requesting the Newton Board of Aldermen to file for a home rule petition for Safe Placement for Newborns and Infants," also known as a Baby Safe Haven law.

**ACTION:** **NAN 4-0**

#367-03 ALD. MANSFIELD requesting consideration of ordinance(s) to allow enforcement of Parks & Recreation Commission regulations regarding swimming and boating at Crystal Lake.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0**

#134-03 ALD. JOHNSON requesting discussion with the School Department regarding the air quality in all of our schools.

**ACTION:** **HELD 4-0**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#311-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR recommending the creation of a revolving fund with an expenditure limit of up to sixty-five thousand dollars (\$65,000). Said fund will be established in accordance with MGL Ch.44, Sec.53 ½. This fund will receive student-parking fees and expenditures will pay the wages of campus aides and administrative salaries for the parking program.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-0**

**REFERRED TO PROG&SERV AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#221-02 ALD. COLETTI et al requesting home rule legislation or any other legal instrument that would allow the City a maximum of \$350,000 to be set aside in overlay reserve to provide tax relief for eligible senior homeowners.

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

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

#309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 5-0**

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEES**

#420-02 ALD. PARKER, GERST, LINSKY JOHNSON, STEWART, LAPPIN, BRYSON & LENNON requesting local acceptance and ordinance to implement recent 41A revisions allowing expansion of tax deferral program.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 4-1 (Gentile against)**

#45-03 ALD. SANGIOLO & PARKER requesting discussion of possible amendments to the Tree Preservation Ordinance.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 5-0**

#115-03(2) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting discussion with administration on procedures for funding snow and ice removal operations.

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

#158-01(2) PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting ordinance to implement increase in eligibility threshold for Clause 41A Senior Citizen Tax Deferral program.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 5-0**

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACIL. & PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEES**

#83-03 ALD. GENTILE, BRYSON, COLETTI AND LIPSITT requesting that the Health Commissioner conduct/oversee a testing program to evaluate the air quality at Newton North High School and, if necessary, make recommendations to ensure the safety of all students and staff in the building.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 5-0**

#336-98 ALD. PARKER, MANSFIELD, SANGIOLO proposing an ordinance to limit light trespass across property lines.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 Board.**

**NOTE:** This item was first voted NAN. Ald. Parker explained the item is very close to being ready for discussion and preferred the courtesy of a referral to the new board. Ald. Gentile moved reconsideration and the Committee voted 6-0 to refer to the new board.

#466-02 ALD. GENTILE requesting a discussion with the Committee regarding the future of Newton North High School and the role that the Board will play in the planning process.

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

#293-02 ALD. R. LIPOF, MANSFIELD, LAPPIN requesting amendment to Sec. 20-13(e)(5) changing prohibition of deliveries and pick-ups for commercial business purposes to 12 am to 7 am.

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

#440-01(2) PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting that any site designated as a smoke free zone include adjacent sidewalks.

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

#21-02 ALD. GERST, BASHAM, PARKER seeking increased use of digital delivery systems for Board of Aldermen documents.

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#477-97 ALD. SAMUELSON, LIPSITT, PARKER AND COHEN requesting that the Board of Aldermen explore the ways that the City of Newton could provide an umbrella organization that residents could join in order to obtain group health benefits (i.e. self-employed, individual insurance, etc.)

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

#411-99(4) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting discussion on the potential for requesting home rule legislation to allow local control of other departmental fees.

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

#211-99 ALD. GERST, LIPSITT requesting report on Student Information Management System and Newton's response options.

**ACTION:** **NAN 5-0**

#73-00 PRESIDENT LIPSITT transmitting the request of Parks and Recreation Commission to discuss with the MWRA the possibility of developing the Sudbury Aqueduct for the benefit of Newton residents. (Prog.&Serv. approved Resolution on Feb. 7, 2001)

**ACTION:** **NAN 6-0**

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#503-03 ALD. PARKER AND STEWART requesting discussion of the possibility of including re-importation from Canada in City of Newton health plans, as pioneered by the City of Springfield, MA.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD 6-0**

#137-03(3) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting revisions to the "Smoke-Free Newton" ordinance to prohibit smoking in private clubs".

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

#241-03 ALD. BAKER, JOHNSON, & COLETTI requesting discussion of City's delay in renewal of, and possible modifications in, the longstanding arrangement whereby the Newton Commonwealth Foundation, whose volunteer members have been appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the Board of Aldermen, oversees the operation of the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course, including, if necessary, ordinance or other measures to insure continued successful Foundation stewardship of the Course on behalf of the citizens of Newton.

**ACTION:** **NAN 6-0**

**NOTE:** Ald. Coletti reported to the Committee that a lot of work has been done on this item including the addition of an audit function and a set of standards and procedures for the function of the golf course that has been very positive.

#242-03 ALD. JOHNSON, SAMUELSON AND SANGIOLO requesting a discussion to determine times and places where dogs may be off leash on public grounds excluding schoolyards.

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

**REFERRED TO PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#426-03 DAVID DONAHUE, GINNY GARDNER, ROBERT ANTONELLIS requesting His Honor the Mayor, appropriate 1.2 million dollars from free cash to the School Department for the purpose of eliminating all user fees, i.e. sports, bus, parking.

**ACTION:** **REFERRED TO 2004-2005 BOARD**

#514-03 ALD. JOHNSON requesting discussion of election process, practices and hearings with new voting machines in preparation for the March Presidential Primary.

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

#515-03 ALD. CICCONE requesting creation of Charter Commission in order to perform thorough review of all sections of the City Charter.

**ACTION:** **NAN 6-0**

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Sangiolo,  
Vice Chair

