

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN\

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 2002

Present: Ald. Johnson (Chairman) Ald. Merrill, Lipsitt, Parker, Gentile, Fischman

Absent: Ald. Coletti, Sangiolo

Other Aldermen Present: Ald. Salvucci, Bullwinkle, Linsky, Bryson, Mansfield, Stewart, Baker, Lennon

Also Present: Peter Karg (Election Commission) Michael Rourke (Chief Administrative Officer) Kathy Glick-Weil (Library Director)

NOTE: The meeting had an early start to have an opportunity to see a demonstration of an optic-scan voting system (Accu-Vote).

Mr. Karg addressed the Committee and explained that one of the main issues he has been dealing with has been the condition of our voting machines which are about 32 years old and in need of constant repair. A moving company is paid close to \$12,000 a year to move the current voting equipment around. Mr. Karg believes that many expenses would be eliminated with an upgraded voting system. A representative of Accu-Vote, Ken Hajjar, presented an in-depth presentation of this voting system. The Mayor is expected to docket an item that will come to the Board early next year.

#94-00            ALD. PARKER, JOHNSON & SANGIOLO requesting discussion regarding the operation of the current voting machines and their possible replacement.

ACTION:        NAN 5-0 (Ald. Merrill not voting)

NOTE:            Ald. Lipsitt asked that Mr. Karg check further into this voting equipment and be sure to compare to other possible alternatives. Ald. Johnson supported President Lipsitt on this position. Ald. Parker stated that in the past he had done a lot of research on voting systems and, in fact, spoke to the exact representative of Accu-Vote and does agree that this company is probably the best, but the City should still explore other options. Ald. Parker said his goal for docketing this item was to remove the current voting machines. Ald. Fischman and Ald. Gentile questioned the public bidding laws. Mr. Karg pointed out that Congress recently enacted legislation that, if funded, would provide some retroactive assistance to cities and towns to upgrade their voting systems and if this passes, the City

would be able to recoup some of the cost. Mr. Karg said he would discuss with the Purchasing Agent how other communities have handled a similar situation. He said once there is a handle on the actual budget request, the Mayor is prepared to file a docket item with the Board using Capital Improvement Funds to purchase this voting system. He is also waiting for a quote on construction on the actual polling stations from the School Department.

#480-02

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE ELECTION COMMISSION

requesting Board of Aldermen approval of the following:

A. To fix the date of Tuesday, July 15, 2003 as the final day and hour for filing with the Election Commission nomination papers of candidates for office at the Preliminary City Election to be held on Tuesday, September 16, 2003, and for filing with Election Commission of all petitions or other papers for placing on the official ballot and questions which may be lawfully submitted to the voters at said election. (Nomination papers will be available May 1, 2003)

B. To fix the date of Tuesday, July 1, 2003 as the deadline for submission to Election Commission nomination papers and petitions or other papers for placing on the official ballot any questions for purpose of certifying as voters the names or signers thereof.

C. To fix the date of September 16, 2003 for the nomination of sixteen (16) Aldermen-at-Large, eight (8) Aldermen-by-Ward, eight (8) members of the School Committee. Polling places to be open from 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

D. Election to be held November 4, 2003. Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

ACTION:

**DELETING SECTIONS A.B.D. 4-1-1** (Lipsitt, Johnson Gentile, Fischman in favor, Parker abstaining, Merrill not voting)  
**APPROVED SECTION C. 5-0** (Merrill not voting)

NOTE:

After discussion with the Secretary of State's Office, Mr. Karg learned that much of these voting deadlines are determined by state statute. Unfortunately, the dates in the original docket item did not conform with existing state statute. Dan Funk and Gayle Smalley of the Law Department researched the time lines. It is the Board's role to actually set the date of the preliminary election. Mr. Karg's suggestion for the date is September 16<sup>th</sup>. The remaining dates fall into place following certain guidelines. After checking with both the Secretary of State's Office and

the City Law Department, dates were set. (See copy of Elections Calendar for 2003 in packet)

Appointment by the President of the Board

#474-02 DR. JOHN CASTELLOT, 3 Albion Place, Newton Centre, appointed as a community member of the INSTITUTIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE for a term of three years (60-day Board action date 1-31-03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Merrill not voting)

NOTE: Dr. John Castellot told the Committee that he was a Professor of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Tufts Medical School and received his doctorate from Harvard Medical School. He was on the Biosafety Committee at Harvard Medical School for five years and Chair of the Laboratory Safety Committee at Tufts Medical School in 1990. This Committee will meet two to four times a year and more often if needed and Dr. Castellot told the Committee that as both a scientist and resident of Newton, he feels it was a good idea to set up an oversight committee with community representatives and he will be happy to serve.

Appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#475-02 DR. ROY KISLIUK, 65 Grasmere Street, Newton, appointed on December 1, 2002 as a community member of the INSTITUTIONAL BIOTECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE for a term of three years (60-day Board action date 1-31-03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Merrill not voting)

NOTE: Dr. Kisliuk told the Committee that he has a Master's Degree in Microbiology from Yale University, Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Case Western Reserve University, and a degree from Oxford University, Oxford, England. He has taught pharmacology for nine years and then moved on to biochemistry where he was a Professor of Biochemistry at Tufts University School of Medicine. He also said he would be happy to serve his community in this capacity.

Re-appointment by His Honor the Mayor

#476-02 PETER JOHNSON, 121 Fairway Drive, West Newton, re-appointed on January 1, 2003 as a member of the PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2006 (60-day Board action date 1-31-03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Merrill not voting)

NOTE: Mr. Johnson told the Committee he was a life-long Newton resident. This is a reappointment and his priority is to provide the same high-level of

service and facilities that the Parks and Recreation Commission has always been known for within the current budget constraints.

Issues were discussed regarding open space, dog parks, and skateboard parks. Ald. Gentile hoped that if a skateboard park were approved, conditions and rules such as wearing helmets would be implemented.

Ald. Gentile said that Peter Johnson has represented Ward 3 for a number of years and has always been an outstanding representative.

Re-appointment by the President of the Board  
#477-02 ALD. MARCIA JOHNSON, 39 Bemis Street, Newtonville, re-appointed on January 1, 2003 as a member of the CHILD CARE COMMISSION for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2005 (60-day Board action date 1-31-03).

ACTION: APPROVED 4-0-1 excused (Ald. Johnson excused)

NOTE: Ald. Johnson said the Commission does works with After-School Programs and Home-Care Providers. There was a big effort last year to set up an inter-net site for information for child-care providers.

Ald. Lipsitt moved the appointment and the Committee voted 5-0 in favor.

Re-appointment by the President of the Board  
#478-02 ALAN DeCEW, 260 Chestnut Street, West Newton, re-appointed on January 1, 2003 as a member of the CHILD CARE COMMISSION for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2005 (60-day Board action date 1-31-03).

ACTION: HELD 5-0

NOTE: Mr. DeCew was not present and his reappointment was held.

Re-appointment by the President of the Board  
#479-02 JOANNE SPEIDEL, 100 Norwood Avenue, Newtonville, re-appointed on January 1, 2003 as a member of the CHILD CARE COMMISSION for a term of office to expire on January 1, 2005 (60-day Board action date 1-31-03).

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Ms. Speidel said her energies have been directed to an annual fundraiser (Kids in Jeopardy) that is held every year. She has been with the Child Care Commission since 1999 and enjoys it. Ms. Speidel said they are working on how to raise more money.

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

#484-02 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the overtime account in the Library.

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0 (Ald. Gentile not voting)

NOTE: Kathy Glick-Weil was present and said there has not been enough money in the overtime account to fund overtime. Ald. Parker felt the administration should understand that more money must be budgeted into this account. Ald. Lipsitt said she would support this item and the Committee voted 5-0 in favor.

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

ACTION: HELD

NOTE: Ald. Johnson said that a small group has been interested in trying to find ways to accommodate dog owners and having dogs off leash. Two issues to discuss would be establishing a group to look at the feasibility of doing a pilot dog park and the possibility of having off-leash hours.

#466-02(2) PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting Monthly progress reports from the NNHS Renovation Task Force.

ACTION: HELD 5-0

NOTE: Ald. Lipsitt explained that many people have expressed interest in this Committee. There was an announcement of an appointment by Anne Larner of the School Committee Members. Anne Larner and Susan Albright are both going to serve and will be joined by Patty Kellog. Dr. Jellinek has asked both Ald. Lipsitt and Anne Larner to serve. President Lipsitt has asked Ald. Gentile, Ald. Bryson and Ald. Coletti to serve on the Committee. In her opinion they represent great depth and breadth of experience on the Board and in the Community. Almost half the members of the Board offered to serve on this committee and there were others who were also interested. There are eleven community members, seven members from the two elected bodies and there are another ten or twelve who will represent the Administration, School Department, and various others such as PTO's, high schools, and two feeder middle schools. The meetings will start on January 13. Theresa Park from the Planning Department will be the Staff Coordinator; Sandy Pooler, Chief Financial Officer, Nick Parnell, Building Commissioner, and Carol Boch, Planning Appointee from the School Department.

The Committee adjourned at 9:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Johnson, Chair