

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2001

Present: Ald. Parker (Chair), Ald. Johnson, Sangiolo, Baker, Tattenbaum

Absent: Ald. Gentile, Ald. Merrill, Coletti

Also: Chief Budget Officer Sandy Pooler, Parks and Recreation Commissioner Fran Towle, Deputy Parks & Recreation Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Recreation Manager Carol Stapleton.

- # 40-01 The following individuals are re-appointed to the NEWTON COMMONWEALTH GOLF FOUNDATION (60 day Board action date 4/6/01):
- D. Edwin Resnick, 62 Manet Road, Chestnut Hill, effective 12/31/00, for a term to expire 12/31/03.
 - E. Robert Quirk, 1019 Washington Street, Newtonville, effective 12/31/00, for a term to expire 12/31/03.

 - G. Robert Perruzzi, 25 Warwick Road, West Newton, effective 12/31/00, for a term to expire 12/31/03.

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: Mr. Resnick reported to the Committee that there is a broken MWRA sewer pipe on the golf course. It is a big pipe running all the way from Framingham and he said that the stench is terrible, even as of today when he stopped by the course. It is the second time the pipe has broken recently and he believes that the City actually was involved in repairing it. The other appointees confirmed that there was a problem but there had been some progress in addressing it. There was also a problem with the irrigation system at the course and that the work on that has also been delayed for several years but they are trying to do it all a once as opposed to doing it piecemeal and they want bundle it with the City's bonding. Chief Budget Officer Sandy Pooler said that Mike Rourke was taking the lead on that and he wasn't sure what the details were but that it was in progress. The other issue that was raised was if the City had done work on a MWRA pipe whether the City ought to try to seek reimbursement so there were three issues making sure the course was playable as soon as possible in terms of cleaning up the sewerage and fixing the pipe and secondly getting the reimbursement for any work the City did from the MWRA and third, fixing the irrigation system.

With that the Programs and Services Committee decided to create a (2) of this item PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE requesting a report on the status of repairs and improvements to the Newton Commonwealth Golf Course. Mr. Quirk, Mr. Perruzzi, and Mr. Resnick were all present and approved unanimously 5-0.

REFERRED TO PUB. FAC. & PROGRAMS & SERVICES COMMITTEES

#26-99(3) ALD. SALVUCCI requesting a re-vote of a previously submitted Home Rule Petition approved October 18, 1999 by the Board of Aldermen, for special legislation to allow the Commissioner of Public Works to grant orders and act upon utility petitions for the alteration in location or existing poles, pipes, abutments or conduits in circumstances in which the city is engaged in street construction or reconstruction or underground utility work and said work is to be erected within the limits of such street or utility work.

(Public Facilities Committee Approved)

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: This item was simply a revote of Home Rule Legislation, which was previously passed by the Board. The Legislature is demanding that the Board pass it again since it is officially a different Board. The petition is currently sitting there in the Clerk of the House of Representative's Office awaiting our revote. Chief Budget Officer Pooler refreshed the Committee's memory on this issue. It allows the Commissioner of Public Works to authorize the moving of poles up to 5 ft. during the course of construction on the utility poles and that item had been approved by the full board by a 23-0 vote and the committee approved the revote of that on a 5-0 vote.

REFERRED TO PROG/SERV.PUBLICFACIL. & FINANCE COMMITTEES

76-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$20,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of completing work at Levingston Cove at Crystal Lake.

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: The Committee was joined for discussion of this item by Parks and Recreation Commissioner Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Recreation Manager Carol Stapleton, and Chief Budget Officer Sandy Pooler. Commissioner Towle reported to the Committee that the modifications to the Levingston Cove Park project would cost the city an additional \$20,000. She distributed a revised list of modifications for Levingston Cove which explains the nature of those cost increases (see attachment). Committee members reiterated their sentiment (expressed at the previous meeting of the Committee) that this amount is quite reasonable given the nature of the improvements that were being made to the park above and beyond what previously had been allocated, including

the removal of a wall, improvement of a handicapped ramp, and a number of other features that are being approved. Ald. Baker moved approval, which passed unanimously 5-0. Included in packet is revised list of modifications.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

73-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$61,250 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of providing initial funding for construction at the Davis Community Playground. The City has been awarded a grant, but must expend the money and then seek reimbursement from the State.

ACTION: APPROVED 5-0

NOTE: The Committee was joined for discussion of this item by Parks and Recreation Commissioner Fran Towle, Deputy Commissioner Bob DeRubeis, Recreation Manager Carol Stapleton, and Chief Budget Officer Sandy Pooler. The Board had already approved acceptance of the grant, but the state is now saying that the City must spend the money first and be reimbursed later. The state is treating the City as a contractor and the contractor as a subcontractor of the City, Mr. DeRubeis explained. The work that is being done on the site is the installation of a water fountain, some landscaping, play equipment, and surfacing. Since this is just fronting money that will be reimbursed, Ald. Baker moved approval. Ald. Johnson asked whether the amount being reimbursed would be the same as that which is being expended by the City and the answer was yes, because the state had actually included this specific appropriation in last year's state budget. It would be reimbursed exactly.

The Committee voted to approve the item 5-0.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES & FINANCE COMMITTEES

74-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$55,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the Law Department's Legal Assistance account, which principal use has been for labor counsel.

ACTION: HELD 5-0

NOTE: The Committee was joined by Chief Budget Officer Sandy Pooler to explain the item. He said that a large number of contracts have come up this year resulting in a great deal of collective bargaining with unions. We have been using an outside firm for that and that firm has taken on some extra hours and needs to be paid for their work. Ald. Johnson and Ald. Sangiolo asked whether the item could be delayed to wait for Dan Funk to get back from vacation. Mr. Pooler said it was not time-sensitive. Ald. Baker asked whether a delay would hold up paying the outside counsel.

Mr. Pooler replied that because there is money that can be transferred internally in the Law Department, the answer is no, there would be no delay in paying bills. Since Committee members were interested in asking people wanted to asking City Solicitor Funk specific questions about the use of this account, Ald. Tattenbaum moved hold, which prevailed unanimously 5-0.

REFERRED TO PROG&SERV; PUB FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEE

#268-00(3) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$175,000 to lease four modular classrooms for Newton South High School.

ACTION: HELD 5-0

NOTE: The Committee was joined for this item by Chief Budget Officer Sandy Pooler. The Committee decided that this item would be heard at a Public Hearing on March 21 so that the Committee could get input from the public as to the details of the project, but Ald. Sangiolo did ask about the decision to lease as opposed to buy the modular classrooms. Mr. Pooler reported that for just one year it is cheaper to lease than to buy and it is unlikely the City will need this beyond one year because of declining enrollments in the elementary schools and the high schools space problem will obviously be solved by the major project going on there. Ald. Baker moved hold, which prevailed 5-0.

REFERRED TO PROGRAMS & SERVICES, ZAP & FINANCE COMMITTEES

64-01 ALD. PARKER, M. LIPOF, YATES, TATTENBAUM, SANGIOLO, BAKER, MANSFIELD, JOHNSON, SAMUELSON requesting discussion of possible implementation of the Massachusetts Community Preservation Act in Newton.

ACTION: HELD.

NOTE: This item was held as it is not yet ready for discussion and primarily will require briefing from the Law Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Parker, Chair