

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2001

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

Absent: Ald. Coletti and Gentile

Election Commission Members: David Mofenson, Fay Cohen

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#113-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the Newton City Charter, submitting the FY2002 Municipal/School Operating Budget including Water/Sewer totaling \$ \$232,421,103.
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: APRIL 17, 2001
LAST DAY TO PASS BUDGET: JUNE 1, 2001

ACTION: HELD 6-0

REFERRED TO PROG.& SERVICES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

55-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$14,600 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of adding an Assistant Executive Secretary position in the Election Commission department.

ACTION: HELD

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

ACTION: HELD 6-0

442-00 ALD. JOHNSON & ALD. PARKER requesting a dialogue with the Election Commission & Executive Secretary of the Commission regarding election processes, procedures and practices.

ACTION: HELD 6-0

NOTE: There was a brief discussion of compensation of the Election Commissioners. Ald. Merrill said he doesn't see a justification for taking the stipends away unless there is an examination as to why they are not needed and he suggested a Blue Ribbon Task Force that would look into compensation for all committee and commission members.

Commissioner Mofenson said that the compensation is not a big deal one way or another and he doesn't think it would affect whether people are serving or not. Commissioner Cohen said she thinks an investigation or comparison would be worthwhile. Ald. Baker thinks the money could be better spent within the department, not on salaries for commissioners, but on staffing at the polls and other places.

The Committee then discussed the staffing at the polls and whether the one dollar an hour increase recommended by the Executive Secretary was appropriate. There are four inspectors currently paid \$8.25 an hour, one clerk currently paid \$9.15 an hour and one warden currently paid \$10.25 an hour. The Executive Secretary recommended a \$1.00 an hour increase.

Ald. Tattenbaum asked what effects an increase would have on finding poll workers. Commissioner Cohen said that she is helping to organize a campaign to get more people involved and she thinks that they could advertise the new compensation levels if there were an increase of a \$1.00 an hour that would be helpful.

Ald. Johnson then moved the resolution to increase the compensation by a \$1.00 an hour. Ald. Merrill said he supported the motion but wanted to change the way of thinking about election workers and distributed an article about high school students as election interns.

Ald. Baker asked Commission members to consider whether they need compensation and asked them to consider putting their compensation funds towards poll workers. Ald. Tattenbaum said she supports the \$1.00 an hour increase but disagrees with Ald. Baker's thought about asking the commission to consider giving up their compensation. Ald. Johnson says she agrees with Ald. Baker's thought and the resolution was approved 6 in favor, 0 opposed.

There was also a brief discussion of the creation of the new position within the department, but since the Election Commission is meeting on Thursday, Committee members felt it would be appropriate to give them a chance to reflect on the details of what the position would do and, therefore, the motion was made to hold the budget.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Parker, Chair