

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23, 2001

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

Absent: Ald. Merrill, Sangiolo, Gentile

Also Present: Alan Licarie (Executive Secretary of the Election Commission) Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer)

#133-01      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing on April 17, 2001 STEPHEN J. SMALL, 833 Commonwealth Avenue, Newton Centre, as a member of the Newton Commonwealth Foundation Golf Course Management Committee; for a term of office to expire on December 31, 2003 (Board action date June 16, 2001).

ACTION:      APPROVED 5-0

#134-01      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing on April 17, 2001 ALAN GREEN, 403F Dedham Street, Newton Centre, as a member of the Newton Commonwealth Foundation Golf Course Management Committee; for a term of office to expire on April 1, 2004 (Board action date June 16, 2001).

NOTE:            Both of the appointees joined the Committee for the discussion of their appointments. Mr. Green said that his company is currently building two golf courses. He added that he has been appointed to the Conservation Commission seat on the Golf Foundation and that he is fairly knowledgeable about the issues relating to golf course construction and management. Ald. Tattenbaum asked whether Mr. Green was familiar with the current problems being faced by the Foundation and he responded that he was and has been working with the Chair of the Commission and others to stay informed.

Mr. Small said he is an active golfer. He is a tax attorney and he does a great deal of open space projects and has served on big, non-profit boards in the past.

Ald. Baker moved approval of both appointments. He said that Mr. Green is one of the leading national experts on open space preservation. Mr. Small added that he thinks that the Newton course is one of the best municipal. courses in Massachusetts and both appointments were approved 5-0.

**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****

**ELECTION DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

**ACTION:      APPROVED 5-0**

**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:      APPROVED 5-0**

**NOTE:      The Election Department budget was discussed along with docket item #55-01. Because the Committee had had time to review the new position and had resolved all its other FY2002 budget issues, approval of both the budget and the docket item #55-01 was moved. There was no further discussion of either matter and, so they were approved as amended at our earlier meeting with a resolution attached to the budget by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed.**

**#113-01(4)      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$1,166,000 be appropriated and transferred from the FY02 estimated revenue to the Capital Stabilization Fund for FY02 for the purpose of adding to the Debt Reserve established to fund capital expenses associated with the high school renovation projects.**

**ACTION:      APPROVED 4 in favor, 0 opposed with Ald. Johnson not voting**

**NOTE:      Chief Budget Officer Pooler explained that this item was the SBAB reimbursement funds for FY2002 of \$1,166,000 for the middle school projects. These are the funds for the SBAB reimbursement that he #113-01(4) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$1,166,000 be appropriated and transferred from the FY02 estimated revenue to the Capital Stabilization Fund for FY02 for the purpose of adding to the Debt Reserve established to fund capital expenses associated with the high school renovation projects calculates would be the part resulting from the middle school projects being applied immediately to the high school projects ,rather than being allowed to revert to free cash on June 30. This appropriation will help to defray the cost of bonding by allowing more of the expense to be paid with cash on hand and less would therefore need to be bonded or paid for out of bond anticipation notes. Ald. Baker moved approval, which passed 4 in favor, 0 opposed. (Ald. Johnson not voting.)**

#96-01(5) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the sum of \$600,000 be appropriated from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the FY '01 budget of the School Department.

ACTION: APPROVED 4 in favor, 0 opposed with Ald. Johnson not voting

NOTE: The Committee was joined for discussion of this item by Chief Budget Office Sandy Pooler. Mr. Pooler explained that the \$600,000 was realistic number for closing the gap in the school department budget after the School Committee took action to cut \$1.2 million in expenses of the \$1.8 million gap.

Ald. Parker asked about the procedures and protocols that would be used to prevent future problems. Mr. Pooler said there are two things that had come out of the Mayor's discussions with the School Committee. First of all, the School Committee now fully understands that they must live within their budget and they can't just come back for more money if they need it over the course of the year. The second major change is that there will be a new system of accounting used by the School Department, which breaks expenditures into functional elements with accountability by department, so that, if an account is drained, no appropriations will be allowed from that account (purchases will not be approved) until the account is replenished by a transfer from another account within that department, such as the history department at a given school. This procedure will assist the people who watch over the budget in keeping better track of expenditures. There will also be a prohibition on reverse invoicing, where items are ordered first and the paperwork to request the funds is submitted later. Accounting will be done on an accrual basis, so that encumbered funds are charged to an account.

Ald. Coletti asked about payroll accountability. He said that needs to be done on a school-by-school basis, so that more teachers would not be hired without approval.

Ald. Baker warned that we may be victims of our own success if people come to Newton because of the reputation of our schools. Ald. Baker then moved approval. The item was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed with Ald. Johnson not voting.

**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: APPROVED 4 IN FAVOR, 0 OPPOSED, (ALD. JOHNSON NOT VOTING)

NOTE: There was a brief discussion of the volunteer coordinator position bringing Ald. Coletti up to date on some of the Committee's deliberations and the

views of committee members. Ald. Baker moved approval of all straw votes previously taken by the Committee as the final action of the Committee on the FY 2002 budget. The motion prevailed 4 in favor, 0 opposed with Ald. Johnson not voting.

#192-01      ALD. SALVUCCI offering a RESOLUTION that the City of Newton observe OCTOBER as ITALIAN HERITAGE MONTH as established by the Governor of Massachusetts on 10/7/99 when Chapter 97 of the Acts of 1999, an Act Providing for the Annual Observance of October as Italian Heritage Month, was enacted and as expressed on 10/28/99 in a Resolution by the U.S. House of Representatives.

ACTION:      APPROVED 4-0 (Ald. Johnson not voting)

NOTE:      The resolution was moved approval by Ald. Coletti and was approved 4 in favor, 0 opposed with Ald. Johnson not voting, without discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Parker, Chair