



Public Facilities Committee Report

City of Newton

In City Council

Thursday, September 6, 2018

Present: Councilors Crossley (Chair), Leary, Danberg, Laredo, Lappin

City Staff Present: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle, Director of Utilities Ted Jerdee, City Engineer Lou Taverna

#449-18 **Verizon petition for a grant of location for conduit in Moulton Street**

VERIZON NEW ENGLAND, INC. petitioning for a grant of location to install 225' ± 2" conduit in Moulton Street from existing Handhole #HH3 located on the easterly side of Moulton Street northerly to existing Handhole #HH4 located on private property on the northerly side of Moulton Street.

Action: **Public Facilities Held 5-0**

Note: City Engineer Lou Taverna presented the Verizon petition to locate conduit in Moulton Street. Mr. Taverna stated that Moulton Street is a private way and noted that the Engineering Department's recommendation is to vote No Action Necessary, as private ways are not subject to the grant of location process. Mr. Taverna noted that residents of Moulton Street hope to delay construction because Moulton Street was paved in 2014 but reiterated that this must be a private agreement between Verizon and the residents on Moulton Street.

Bill Renke, 142 Cornell Street, stated that in 2013, Councilor Gentile and former Alderman Stewart researched the status of Moulton Street as there had been some indication that it may have been accepted as a public way. He noted that while some construction of Moulton Street was completed in the 1970s, it was determined that the road remained a private way. After the research was conducted in 2013, the City approved the cost of paving the street, possibly with the intent of making it a public way.

Mr. Taverna confirmed that Moulton Street was paved in 2013, subject to an agreement between the City and the residents. A Committee member questioned why the City would fund paving of a private way. Commissioner of Public Works, Jim McGonagle confirmed that the Ordinances allow paving of a private way, upon Council approval, if 50% of the residents petition the City. Mr. Taverna reiterated that any acceptance of a public way would require approval by the Council. Committee members agreed that the City should confirm that Moulton Street is a private way prior to voting to NAN the item. Mr. Taverna confirmed that he will work with the Clerk's Office and the Law Department to confirm the status of Moulton Street. Councilor Leary motioned to hold the item which carried unanimously.

(Update: Committee Reports reviewed following the meeting confirm that in 2013 the Board of Aldermen passed a Resolution recommending accepting Moulton Street as a Public Way, but no further action has been taken to date.)

#447-18 Appointment of Carol Schein to the Design Review Committee

PRESIDENT LAREDO appointing CAROL SCHEIN, 82 Garland Road, Newton Centre, to the DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: Committee members invited Ms. Carol Schein to discuss her interest in serving on the Design Review Committee. Ms. Schein noted that when she works for the Parks and Recreation Department as a Project Manager and Open Space Coordinator, she attended DRC meetings and identified a need for assistance related to Site Planning. Ms. Schein is confident that she can offer expertise in Site Plan review. The Chair noted that the DRC has been seeking landscaping and civil engineering expertise for a while and Committee members expressed their support for Ms. Schein's appointment to the Committee. Councilor Danberg moved approval of the appointment which carried unanimously.

#448-18 Appointment of Tamar Warburg to the Designer Selection Committee

PRESIDENT LAREDO appointing TAMAR WARBURG, 102 Herrick Road, Newton Centre, to the DESIGNER SELECTION COMMITTEE for a term to expire December 31, 2019.

Action: **Public Facilities Held 5-0**

Note: Councilor Danberg motioned to hold the appointment of Ms. Tamar Warburg to the Designer Selection Committee. Committee members voted unanimously to hold the item.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#473-18 Appropriation and grant acceptance for energy efficiency projects

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate sixty-one thousand four hundred twenty-three dollars (\$61,423) from the Energy Stabilization Fund and authorize the acceptance and expenditure of one hundred thirty-eight thousand five hundred twenty-one dollars (\$138,521) in matching rebate funds from Eversource for the purpose of upgrading LED lighting and controls at Newton South High School and Bowen Elementary School.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved as Amended 5-0**

Note: Public Buildings Project Manager Bill Ferguson presented the amended request to **accept** \$149,481 in grant funding from Eversource and appropriate \$50,463 from the **Energy Stabilization fund** in order to upgrade LED lighting and controls at Newton South High School and Bowen Elementary School. The amended docket request is attached.

Mr. Ferguson stated that Eversource's typical incentives are \$47,000. After identifying that they are behind schedule in meeting the Public Utilities Commission's energy savings goals, Eversource created an Enhanced Incentive Program to motivate customers. Eversource reached out to Newton,

based on their reputation for successfully and efficiently completing projects. The Enhanced Incentive funding grant requires that the project be completed by the end of October. Mr. Ferguson has no concerns about completing the work in time. Committee members expressed support for the request and were pleased to be taking advantage of the incentive program. A Committee member noted that the project will have an excellent return on investment. Councilor Lappin motioned to approve the item as amended which carried unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#456-18

Authorization for the MWRA grant/loan program

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and expend a grant of three million four hundred thirty-five thousand dollars (\$3,435,000) from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and authorization to borrow one million one hundred forty-five thousand dollars (1,145,000) as part of the MWRA interest free loan/grant program for the purpose of funding sewer improvements.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: City Engineer Lou Taverna presented the request to accept \$3,435,000 in grant funding and \$1,145,000 as a zero-interest loan from the MWRA. Mr. Taverna noted that the MWRA Advisory Board recommended a \$100,000 loan grant program to MWRA communities to continue Infiltration/Inflow removal. The MWRA has approved the \$100,000 as Funding Phase 11. Newton's share of \$4.585 million dollars represents 4.5% of the sewer flow. The program provides 75% (\$3.435 million) in grant funds and 25% (\$1.145 million) as a zero-interest loan. Mr. Taverna stated that the MWRA has approved additional phases for funding but noted that approval of those phases is contingent on spending funds from each prior phase.

Mr. Taverna confirmed that the City will apply the funds to CIP sewer Project 7 and the no interest loan will be repaid over ten years, which is budgeted in the sewer operating budget. Mr. Taverna stated that MWRA funds will continue to be available noting that increasing rehabilitated sewer is advantageous to reducing flow to MWRA's Deer Island Treatment Plant. He noted that it is difficult to determine a "completion" for the sewer rehabilitation project and stated that the City can always continue to incorporate additional rehabilitation (i.e. laterals, etc.) to further improve I&I. Committee members asked that the Engineering Department provide a summary from when the program started (in FY13), how much grant funding has been received, City dollars spent and mile of pipe rehabilitated and replaced.

Director of Utilities Ted Jerdee provided an overview of the 10-year sewer rehabilitation plan which has 11 project areas. Project Areas 3 and 4 were combined in one year. The proposed funds will be used for project areas 7-10. Currently, the City is constructing Project Area 5, bidding Area 6, designing Area 7 and investigating Area 8. Each year, the City advances each project area to the next phase. Phases 1-4 have been constructed. The City has spent \$17 million dollars and has lined 23% of the City's sewers, rehabilitated 26-2700 of 6742 manholes and sealed 805 drain access points. A Committee member questioned whether the City can determine what portion of I&I comes from laterals and/or private portions of the sewer infrastructure. Mr. Jerdee stated that it would be difficult to identify the proportion

of I&I contributed from laterals and private portions of the sewers but noted that it may be easier to identify upon completion of Phases 1-10. Mr. Taverna noted that because the I&I contribution is measured based on a three-year average, City was unable to identify improved conditions immediately. He stated that in the past two years the City has seen significant improvements, however. It was noted that IN 2011, the City's worst sewer flows showed 63% clean water in the sewer system, during last year's budget meetings (Spring 2018), DPU reported only 43% clean water in the sewer system. Additionally, it was noted that the City is at 90% compliance relative to eliminating illegal private inflow connections to the sewer system. The Chair noted that the Water-Sewer-Stormwater Working Group will meet to discuss water rates as well as an Ordinance for Point of Sale Inspection and Repair for sewer and water laterals (private service lines). With a motion from Councilor Lappin to approve the request to accept the MWRA grant and loan, Committee members voted unanimously in favor.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#457-18 **Appropriate \$232,000 for a new street sweeper**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate two hundred thirty-two thousand dollars (\$232,000) from bonded indebtedness to fund the purchase of a new 2018 Elgin Pelican Street Sweeper.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle presented the request to appropriate \$232,000 to replace a street sweeper. Commissioner McGonagle stated that the sweeper to be replaced was purchased in 2002 and noted that the life expectancy for a street sweeper is 6-8 years. He stated that after 10 years, maintenance costs exceed the value of the street sweeper. The Commissioner noted that stormwater quality can be significantly improved through street sweeping. As such, street sweeping has been moved into the Stormwater budget and Public Works now street sweeps year-round, weather permitting. The Commissioner noted that village centers are swept once a day in the early morning and the area around Crystal Lake is swept three times a week. A Committee member questioned whether any improvements have been identified in the water quality in Crystal Lake. Commissioner McGonagle confirmed that the City has seen water quality improvements this year and noted that Crystal Lake was not at risk of being shut down this year. It was noted that the street sweepers must sweep between cars and a Committee member questioned whether the department has considered ways to sweep when cars are not on the roads. Commissioner McGonagle noted that the City might consider alternating days for street sweeping routes in the future but stated that designating street sweeping days will require increased investment in the street sweeping program. Councilor Leary moved approval of the item which carried unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#458-18 **Appropriate \$149,000 for a new backhoe**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate one hundred forty-nine thousand dollars (\$149,000) from bonded indebtedness to fund the purchase of a new 590S Backhoe for the Public Works Department.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: Commissioner McGonagle presented the request for \$149,000 to replace a 1995 backhoe used in the Highway Division. It was determined that the backhoe needed a major repair and was declared surplus. The Commissioner stated that life expectancy for a backhoe is between 10-15 years and noted that it is an instrumental piece of equipment for snow fighting. Councilor Leary moved approval which carried unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#459-18 **Appropriate \$2,200,000 for I/I Improvements in Project Area 6**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate two million two hundred thousand dollars (\$2,200,000) from bonded indebtedness to fund the construction of the Sewer System Inflow and Infiltration Capital Improvement Program Project Number 6 located in the areas of Newton Centre, Newtonville, Nonantum, and Chestnut Hill.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: Director of Utilities Ted Jerdee presented the request for \$2.2 million from bonded indebtedness to fund the construction of Project Area 6 in the north east corner of the City (Including areas of Nonantum, Newtonville, Chestnut Hill and Newton Centre). Mr. Jerdee noted that the proposed work includes the rehabilitation of manholes, sewer lining and sealing of 6200 drain access ports. He stated that it is expected that the work will be advertised within the next week for a 3-week bid period. He estimates that the total construction cost is \$4.3 million and the balance will be covered by funds in existing DPW accounts. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the request. Councilor Danberg moved approval which carried unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#474-18 **Appropriation and authorization to purchase a DPW front end loader**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate two hundred and fifty thousand six hundred and forty dollars (\$250,640) and authorize a general obligation borrowing of an equal amount for the purpose of funding the purchase of a new front- end loader for the Public Works Department – Highway Division.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: Commissioner McGonagle presented the request for \$250,640 to purchase a front-end loader to be used for loading materials year-round and plowing in the winter. The Commissioner stated that the new front-end loader will replace a 1998 front end loader and will be available by winter. He noted that the average life expectancy for front end loaders ranges from 10-15 years. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the request. Councilor Leary moved approval which carried unanimously.

Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#475-18 **Appropriation and expenditure for Hammond Brook Culvert Replacement Project**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend two hundred and three thousand nine hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$203,975) from the Municipal Federal

Grant Fund 18, authorize the appropriation of three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) and authorize a general obligation borrowing of an equal amount for the purpose of funding the Hammond Brook Culvert Replacement Project.

Action: **Public Facilities Approved 5-0**

Note: Director of Utilities Ted Jerdee presented the request to appropriate and expend \$203,975 from the Municipal Federal Grant Fund 18 and \$300,000 in bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the Hammond Brook Culvert Replacement Project. Mr. Jerdee noted that the Hammond Brook Culvert, located off of Glen Avenue, shares approximately 350 linear feet with the MBTA Green line. During a significant weather event in 2010, the failed culvert caused erosion of a ballast underneath the green line tracks which resulted in derailing the train. The City investigated and found that the existing pipe was flattened, and an outlet pipe was clogged, forcing water in through a manhole cover. After several iterations of a plan, the City proposes to replace the existing 24" pipe with a new 24" pipe. A Committee member questioned how the \$50,000 for tree and shrub replacement will be used. Mr. Jerdee noted that to repair the culvert, a haul road must be built for access and a considerable number of trees must be removed. Because the area is a wetlands area, it is subject to the Conservation Commission tree replacement policy and Order of Conditions. Mr. Jerdee confirmed that the new plantings will not be placed in a location that interferes with the engineering equipment. A Committee member questioned whether the work could be daylighted and Mr. Jerdee stated that it is not feasible to do so. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the request. Councilor Laredo moved approval of the item which carried unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted, Deborah Crossley



RUTHANNE FULLER
MAYOR

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Office of the Mayor

#473-18

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Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to request that your Honorable Council amend Docket Item #473-18 by reducing the amount of money required from the Energy Stabilization Fund from \$61,423 to \$50,463.

The City is the beneficiary of an increase of \$10,960 in the Eversource grant, therefore our match can be reduced.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Ruthanne Fuller
Mayor

RECEIVED
Newton City Clerk
2018 SEP -7 PM 2:33
September 7, 2018
David A. Olson, CMC
Newton, MA 02459