



## **Public Facilities Committee Report** **City of Newton** **In City Council**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

**Present:** Councilors Leary (Acting Chair), Norton, Kelley, Danberg, Lappin, Downs

**City Staff Present:** Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle, City Engineer Lou Taverna, Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo, Director of Transportation Jason Sobel

**#531-18      Petition for water main extension in a private way off Farwell Street**

STEPHEN VONA, 77 Oldham Road, West Newton, petitioning for a water main extension through a proposed utility easement in a private way off Farwell Street from the existing water main in Farwell Street 150' ± northeasterly thence turning easterly and continuing a distance of 320'± thence turning northeasterly and continuing 30'± to a proposed hydrant in the private way off Farwell Street.

**Action:**      **Public Facilities Approved 4-0 (Danberg not Voting)**

**Note:**      City Engineer Lou Taverna presented an overview of the request to extend the water main in Farwell Street for service to a newly constructed six house subdivision. Mr. Tavera stated that the subdivision was approved by the Board of Survey in 2017 and noted that while the drainage and sewer is contained on the property; the water main and corresponding easement will become public and maintained by the City after installation. It was noted that the petitioner will fund the entire cost of constructing the water main extension.

The Public Hearing was opened. Seeing no member of the public who wished to speak, Councilor Norton motioned to close the public hearing which carried unanimously. Councilor Lappin motioned to approve the item. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the petition and voted unanimously in favor of approval.

### **Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

**#536-18      Appropriate \$500,000 for a wash bay at the Crafts Street Garage**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the installation of a new wash bay at the Crafts Street Garage.

**Action:**      **Public Facilities Approved 4-0 (Danberg not Voting)**

**Note:**      Commissioner of Public Works Jim McGonagle presented the request to appropriate \$500,000 for a new wash bay at the Crafts Street Garage. The Commissioner noted that the wash bay structure is in good condition but explained that the interior of the wash bay was not built to live in a salt environment, when it was constructed in 1986. The Commissioner stated that the interior and the

mechanicals in the wash bay are corroded and the City vehicles can only be hand washed in the bay. Currently, the City has a contract with a Watertown facility to wash sedans and pickup trucks. The \$500,000 requested will be used to build a stainless-steel wash facility with the capacity to wash vehicle undercarriages and spray corrosion inhibitor on the vehicles. The Commissioner noted that the NPDES (National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit requires that the pollutants are captured prior to going into the stormwater system. A Committee member questioned whether the excessive salt conditions are typical. Commissioner McGonagle stated that the salt conditions are due to the exclusive use of salt for snow and ice removal. He confirmed that the new wash facility is expected to last approximately 20 years and can be utilized for all City vehicles, including police vehicles.

A Committee member questioned how effectively washing extends vehicle life. The Commissioner noted that he has sought feedback on how vehicle washing impacts vehicle life, but no data is available at this time. A Committee member requested that the Commissioner provide a fiscal breakdown of the request for the Finance Committee meeting. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the request and voted unanimously in favor of a motion to approve from Councilor Norton.

### **Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

**#537-18**      **Appropriate \$420,000 for 2 6-wheel dump trucks**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate four hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$420,000) from bonded indebtedness for the purpose funding the purchase of two (2) Mack 42FR 6-wheel dump trucks for the Public Works Department.

**Action:**      **Public Facilities Approved 4-0 (Danberg not Voting)**

**Note:**      Commissioner McGonagle presented the request to appropriate \$420,000 from bonded indebtedness to purchase two dump trucks. The city's dump trucks are used for construction as well as for snow plow operations. The Commissioner noted that the vehicles to be replaced include a 1998 dump truck (already off the road because it did not pass inspections) and a 2004 dump truck. A Committee member questioned whether the City is exploring the option to purchase electric dump trucks. The Commissioner stated that while there are no electric dump trucks for sale yet, the City is interested in purchasing electric equipment as it becomes available. He noted that the City is using the maximum allowable 20% biodiesel.

A Committee member questioned whether purchasing used dump trucks was considered. The Commissioner noted that purchasing used vehicles at auction is not cost effective for large vehicles, as their true condition cannot be fully assessed. He confirmed that the request is in the CIP and the vehicle replacement plan is currently projected ten years out. Committee members expressed no concerns relative to the request. With a motion from Councilor Kelley to approve the item, Committee members voted unanimously in favor.

### **Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

**#538-18**      **Appropriate \$89,600 for engineering services for evaluation of Bullough's Pond Dam**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate eighty-nine thousand six hundred dollars (\$89,600) from the Stormwater Reserve Fund for consulting engineering services to perform the Phase 2 Dam Safety Engineering Evaluation for the Bullough's Pond Dam, NID No. MA03414.

**Action:** **Public Facilities Approved 4-0 (Danberg not Voting)**

**Note:** City Engineer Lou Taverna presented the request to appropriate \$89,600 for a Phase II Dam Safety Evaluation for the Bullough's Pond Dam. Mr. Taverna explained that the Bullough's Pond Dam is a small sized dam with significant hazard potential to several houses on Dexter Avenue, tennis courts at Newton North and some possibly some portions of the high school, if the level of water rises to a critical level. At the dam, there is a low-level outlet that is manually operated by the Utilities Division when water levels become too high. The request for funds is to allow a Phase II evaluation of the safety of the dam to assess and recommend minor and major improvements. The survey is being done by City staff. A Committee member questioned how and when abutters will be notified. Mr. Taverna confirmed that the Parks and Recreation Department has informed the Friends of Bullough's Pond of the safety evaluation and a site visit has already occurred. Mr. Taverna noted that abutters will also be notified prior to the Conservation Commission review process. A Committee member noted that the Office of Dam Safety is requiring the repairs to the dam to be made by 2020. Mr. Taverna confirmed that the in-house survey is expected to be completed by December 7. Committee members were supportive of the proposal, noting that the dam poses a safety threat, if left unaltered. It was noted that improvements to the dam will include the removal of tree stumps, roots and trees, which can be complicated. Council Lappin moved approval of the item which carried unanimously.

### **Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

**#539-18** **Transfer \$100,000 for Audible Pedestrian Signal Installation at intersections in the City**

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) from Budget Reserve for the purpose of funding Phase 1 of 3 of Audible Pedestrian Signal Installation at all remaining intersections throughout the City.

**Action:** **Public Facilities Approved 4-0 (Danberg not Voting)**

**Note:** Commissioner McGonagle presented the request to transfer \$100,000 for the installation of audible pedestrian signal installations throughout the City. The Commissioner explained that the request for \$100,000 is Phase I of a three-year program to install audible pedestrian signals (APS). There are currently 97 signals throughout the City, 58 of which have APS. There are 39 remaining intersections. Each intersection has approximately 8 signals at a cost of \$800/each. The Commissioner anticipates that all of the City's intersections can be completed over the next three years. A Committee member questioned whether the crossing times can be adjusted post installation to allow for additional time, if necessary. Director of Transportation Jason Sobel confirmed that the crossing times can be easily adjusted after installation and noted that there are minimum standards for crossing times. Committee members expressed support for the replacement of the City's signals. Councilor Kelley motioned to approve the request which carried unanimously.

### **Referred to Public Facilities and Finance Committees**

**#540-18**      **Authorize acceptance of \$105,103 from the State's Transportation Infrastructure Fund**  
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept, appropriate, and expend one hundred five thousand one hundred three dollars (\$105,103) from the City's FY18 allocation from the Commonwealth Transportation Infrastructure Fund to be used for concept design engineering services for the complete streets design of the Wells-Nahanton Traffic Signalization and Intersection Improvement Project.

**Action:**      **Public Facilities Approved 4-0 (Danberg not Voting)**

**Note:**      Commissioner McGonagle presented the request to accept, appropriate and expend \$105,103 to be used for concept design and engineering services of the Wells-Nahanton traffic signalization and intersection improvement project. The Commissioner noted that the requested funding will be used for conceptual design of the Wells-Nahanton intersection which is a high traffic and high priority area that currently contains no pedestrian facilities (sidewalks, crossings). After performing a survey of the site, the City determined that there is a significant amount of right of way available. The Commissioner stated that the \$105,103 will cover the cost of six concept designs which could include bike lanes, pedestrian facilities and intersection reconfiguration. He confirmed that DPW will return to the Public Facilities Committee prior to final design.

A Committee member expressed support for the addition of pedestrian facilities at this location, noting that residents in the area currently lack safe pathways. The Commissioner confirmed that the City will work with all stakeholders prior to concept and final design but the intersection will be constructed to maximize pedestrian safety. Given the potential for the intersection, the Commissioner noted that major improvements, such as; intersection realignment or protected bike lanes could contribute to the total cost of the project (\$3 million dollars estimated in the CIP). Commissioner McGonagle confirmed that the City will consider future developments and plans for the neighborhood. A Councilor noted that there is a pathway in the neighborhood that could be upgraded to a bike path that would connect to the West Roxbury Rail. Councilor Lappin motioned to approve the item and Committee members voted unanimously in favor of approval.

**#118-18**      **Request for a Public Hearing for Auburndale Square**  
COUNCILORS GENTILE, KRINTZMAN AND MARKIEWICZ requesting that the Department of Public Works and Police Department Representatives hold a public hearing to obtain feedback from the public on the recently completed improvements to Auburndale Square.

**Action:**      **Public Facilities Approved 4-0 (Danberg not Voting)**

**Note:**      Councilor Gentile requested that the Committee hold this item pending additional updates. Councilor Norton motioned to hold the item which carried unanimously. The Committee adjourned at 9:05 pm.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Deborah Crossley**