

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEES REPORT

MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011

Public Facilities Members present: Ald. Schnipper (Chairman), Lennon, Albright, Salvucci, Gentile, Crossley, Danberg, and Lappin

Finance Committee Members present: Ald. Gentile (Chairman), Ciccone, Linsky, Salvucci, Rice, Danberg, Fuller, and Freedman

Also present: Robert Rooney (Chief Operating Officer), Maureen Lemieux (Chief Finance Officer), and Joshua Morse (Facilities and Operations Supervisor; Public Buildings)

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#146-11 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of one hundred twenty thousand dollars (\$120,000) of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement funds for expenses incurred during the March 2010 flooding for the purpose of funding renovations to the former Newton Corner Branch Library, repair of the Senior Center elevator, abatement and restoration of the stairs at the Homer Street entrance to City Hall and other building maintenance expenditures. [04-25-11 @ 5:55 PM]

ACTION: **PUBLIC FACILITIES APPROVED AS AMENDED 7-0-1 @ \$140,000 (Salvucci abstaining)**
FINANCE APPROVED AS AMENDED 7-0-1 @ \$140,000 (Salvucci abstaining)

NOTE: The Public Facilities Committee and Finance Committee met jointly to discuss the item. Facilities and Operations Supervisor Joshua Morse presented the request to expend the \$120,000 received from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a reimbursement for funds the City expended to repair damage to the basement of City Hall because of flooding in March 2010. The Mayor is proposing that the funds be used for several renovation projects that include the Senior Center elevator, the Homer Street stairs at City Hall, the Director of Planning's office, and renovation of the Newton Corner Boys and Girls Library.

The Senior Center elevator failed and inspection by the State Elevator Inspector. The elevator needs to be repaired and the operation software upgraded to bring the elevator up to the State code requirements by the end of the month. The quote for all of the necessary material and labor is \$9,696. The majority of the cost is related to the purchase of the software and the hardware. The Public Buildings Department is using an on-call elevator company to provide.

The stairs leading from the Department Heads parking lot on the Homer Street side of City Hall are scheduled to be abated and restored. The stairs are the most heavily used in the building. The stairs are covered with asbestos tiles and mastic. The tiles are beginning to wear and should be removed to prevent any health issues. Once the tile is removed, the original marble stairs and terrazzo landings will be restored. The Public Buildings Department

investigated using Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds for the project. The Community Preservation Planner stated that it is not the type of project that the Community Preservation Committee looks favorably on, as the damage to the stairway is a result of neglected maintenance. Ald. Freedman suggested that the Public Buildings Department apply for CPA funds for just the restoration portion of the stairs and landings as the stairwell is being restored to its original marble and terrazzo finish, which is in keeping with the historical significance of City Hall. Mr. Morse stated that Public Buildings would apply for the CPA funds and may have a better chance of receiving the funds without the inclusion of the abatement.

The Director of Planning's Office is not secure or private. It is important the director have the ability to lock the door to the office for security purposes and to hold private conversations. The office walls currently do not meet the ceiling. The renovation will consist of a new insulated wall and door.

The renovation to the Boys and Girls Library in Newton Corner is the last proposed project to be funded with the reimbursement. The Mayor submitted a letter requesting an amendment to the docket item for an appropriation of \$20,000 from an energy conservation capital stabilization fund to insulate the walls and attic of the library. The insulation would provide a more energy efficient building, which is an appropriate use of the energy conservation capital stabilization funds. The renovations also include plumbing, electrical, carpentry, and painting within the interior of the building. Currently, the building cannot support any long time use and the renovations could allow the building to be used to house a City department.

Ald. Schnipper moved approval as amended to include the additional \$20,000 in Public Facilities, which carried by a vote of seven in favor and one abstention. Ald. Danberg moved the item in Finance, which carried by a vote of seven in favor and one abstention.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Public Facilities Chairman
Leonard J. Gentile, Finance Chairman