

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2010

**7:45 p.m.
ROOM 209**

Chairman's Note: The Committee will meet jointly with the Programs and Services Committee to hear a presentation from His Honor the Mayor regarding possible reorganization plans for the Public Works Department, Parks and Recreation Department, and Public Buildings Department at approximately 8:15 PM.

ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED:

- #368-08 ALD. LINSKY requesting approval of the Board of Aldermen of the design for improvements affecting the area where Walnut Street, Lowell Avenue and Watertown Street intersect including a traffic island, curb extensions and the dead ending of Lowell Avenue. [10/14/08 @ 12:53 PM]
A) Board of Aldermen approved curb extensions and traffic island @ the intersection of Walnut Street & Lowell Avenue on 11/16/09
B) On 11/18/09 the Committee approved a request for trial of one- way on Lowell Avenue from Walnut Street to Watertown Street. On 12/07/09 the Board of Aldermen denied the request for a trial.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #39-10 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend ninety thousand dollars (\$90,000) from parking meter receipts for the purpose of purchasing 450 programmable parking meter mechanisms. [01/26/10 @ 6:11 PM]
- #24-10 ALD. ALBRIGHT requesting a discussion regarding requiring any utility company that requests permission to bury wires in the street (to handle increased capacity or for any other reason) be required to: (1) choose a section of the street that has enough clearance to add additional conduit at the time of the work, or in the future, to bury additional conduit; (2) to add sufficient conduit to bury that utility's wires currently on the poles on that street at the time the work requested is undertaken. 01/11/10 @ 11:47 AM]
- #418-09 ALD. ALBRIGHT requesting discussion with NStar Electric Company regarding standards for installing underground conduits and the possibility of providing additional conduit for future undergrounding projects.
- #111-09 ALD. ALBRIGHT AND MANSFIELD requesting discussion of recent information (made available to the Land Use Committee) from NStar related to double poles, focusing on the 350 double poles waiting only for removal of wires or streetlights by the City of Newton.

- #457-08 ALD. LAPPIN AND SALVUCCI requesting discussion with NStar regarding the timely repair of City streetlights and the development of a standard response timeframe. [11/20/08 @ 12:51 PM]
- #367-09 PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting discussion with the Law Department on how to resolve the dispute with NStar regarding whose responsibility it is to repair the streetlight connection between the manhole and the base of the streetlight. [10/21/09 @ 9:00 PM]
- #385-07 ALD. SCHNIPPER AND GENTILE updating the Public Facilities Committee on the progress of the Newton North High School Project. [11/21/07 @ 10:23 AM]

ITEMS NOT YET SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #38-10 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in State Capital Bond Bill funds for the purpose of capital repairs to the Lower Falls Community Center. [01/26/10 @ 11:48 AM]
- #23-10 ALD. YATES & DANBERG proposing a Resolution urging His Honor the Mayor to re-present the city's request for State bond money to be appropriated to implement the Needham Street reconstruction plan developed in partnership with the Needham Street property owners over the past decade. [01/04/10 @ 8:16 PM]
- #22-10 ALD. YATES & DANBERG requesting a report from current and former members of the Design Review Committee on the treatment of the members of the committee relevant to the Newton North High School Project. [01/04/10 @ 8:16 PM]
- #397-09 NSTAR ELECTRIC petitioning for a grant of location to install a new pole (233/4-1X on the northeasterly side of HOMER STREET opposite Grafton Street. (Ward 6) [11-10-09 @ 12:24 PM]

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

- #376-09 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY11-15 Capital Improvement Program, totaling \$140,377,285 and the FY10 Supplemental Capital budget, which require Board of Aldermen approval to finance new capital projects over the next five years.
- #175-09 PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting monthly updates from the Department of Public Works on the Commonwealth Avenue project. [06-03-09 @ 10:30 PM]
- #126-09 ALD. LAPPIN requesting an update on the status of repairs and rental of the Kennard Estate. [04/17/09 @ 2:49 PM]

REFERRED TO PS&T, PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #60-09 ALD. SANGIOLO, GENTILE AND HARNEY requesting the installation of traffic islands on CONCORD STREET to be funded with the Cabot, Cabot and Forbes Traffic Mitigation Fund for Lower Falls (Ward 4). [02/03/09 @ 1:01 PM]

RECOMMITTED TO FINANCE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES ON 02/17/09

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #13-09 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend three hundred eighty-five thousand dollars (\$385,000) from bonded indebtedness to the Public Works Department for the purpose of replacing both the salt shed and the Quonset hut at Crafts Street. [12/30/08 @ 5:04 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PROGRAMS & SERVICES

- #8-09 ALD. HESS-MAHAN LINSKY, ALBRIGHT, FREEDMAN, MANSFIELD, JOHNSON, HARNEY & VANCE proposing an ordinance requiring that the installation of synthetic in-filled turf athletic fields on city-owned property shall use sustainable, recyclable, lead-free, non-toxic products to the maximum extent feasible. [12/30/08 @ 9:55 AM]

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV. AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES

- #271-08 ALD. JOHNSON proposing a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor requesting that he work with the Board of Aldermen, the Parks and Recreation Department, and the Department of Public Works in order to determine the most effective and efficient way to organize the work of managing our public resources. [07/17/08 @ 9:53 AM]
- #208-08 ALD. GENTILE, SANGIOLO, SALVUCCI AND SCHNIPPER requesting a discussion on establishing a permanent Building Committee in the City of Newton. [05/16/08 @ 11:47 AM]

REFERRED TO COMM. PRESERV, PUB. FAC. & FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #147-08 COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending that the sum of \$359,400, including \$2,000 for legal costs, be appropriated from the FY'08 Community Preservation Fund's historic resources and general reserves, for a project to rehabilitate and expand storage space for the research library and archives at the Newton History Museum, to preserve the existing collections, and enhance public access to the collections. [04/01/08 @ 4:10 PM]
- COMMUNITY PRESERVATION APPROVED 6-0 on 4-29-08**

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB.FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

- #89-08 ALD. PARKER requesting the following:
- A) review of the maintenance practices for buildings, parks and other properties owned by the City (including School Department facilities and grounds)
 - B) development of a comprehensive maintenance plan that includes regular schedules for preventive maintenance for each specific site or facility
 - C) a RESOLUTION requesting that implementation of said maintenance plan be funded using operating budget funds. [02/13/08 @ 12:07 PM]

ITEM RECOMMITTED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE ON 6/19/08
REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#11-08 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,200,000 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the installation of four modular classrooms. [01/02/08 @ 4:53 P.M.]

B) \$1,225,000 from bonded indebtedness

NOTE: Letter received from Mayor on 1/4/08 requesting that appropriation amount be amended to \$1.3 million. Letters received 5/7 and 5/21 requesting that the funding source to capital stabilization for costs incurred for design work and the remaining \$1,225,000 from bonded indebtedness be voted no action necessary. Part A) \$75,000 from Capital Stabilization approved on 6/19/08.

#253-07 ALD. LINSKY ALBRIGHT, JOHNSON, HARNEY, SANGIOLO, SALVUCCI, MANSFIELD, BURG, SCHNIPPER requesting (1) a review as to how provisions of applicable ordinances, specifically 5-58, were implemented during the course of the Newton North project, and (2) consider proposed revisions of 5-58 including, but not limited to:

- (a) timely provision of documentation by the public building department to the Board of Aldermen and Design Review Committee;
- (b) establishment of liaison committees to facilitate communications and input from neighborhoods affected by projects subject to this ordinance;
- (c) approval of final design plans by the Board of Aldermen of projects subject to this ordinance;
- (d) oversight during the construction phase of projects subject to this ordinance by appropriate Board committee(s) both in respect to approval of change orders as well as design changes; and
- (e) generation of a required record detailing the entire construction process by the public building department to guide present and future oversight of projects subject to this ordinance. [08/07/07 @ 3:12 PM]

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#76-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$300,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of conducting a study of the municipal buildings throughout the city. [02-27-07 @ 4:16 PM]

#54-07 ALD. SANGIOLO requesting discussion with the School Department and the Public Buildings Department about giving the School Department increased control over maintenance of school building facilities thereby allowing the School Department to have direct authority to deploy/hire staff to make necessary repairs to their school facilities. [02/09/07 @ 1:46 PM]

#224-06(2) ALD. LINSKY, ALBRIGHT & JOHNSON, BAKER & SCHNIPPER requesting further deliberation on the conditions set forth in the Site Plan Approval Board Order relating to the Newton North High School project, considering possible expansion and modification of the conditions.

#152-06 PS&T COMMITTEE requesting discussion re Road Classification Design Types (as outlined by the Planning and Development Department) for future use as an overall management tool for the City.

#386-04 ALD. SANGIOLO, HESS-MAHAN, JOHNSON, AND DANBERG proposing an ordinance to require that designers selected have LEED certification and include high performance/life cycle analysis for all municipal construction projects in the City of Newton.

#321-04(2) ALD. JOHNSON requesting a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor requesting that he expeditiously as possible find funding to create traffic calming measures on Mill Street as requested by the Traffic Council.

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chairman), Lennon, Salvucci, Gentile, Mansfield, and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Albright and Yates

Also present: Ald. Ciccone, Johnson, and Linsky

City staff: Clint Schuckel (Traffic Engineer), Danielle Bailey (Community Development Block Grant Planner), Thomas Daley (Commissioner of Public Works), Dave Turocy (Deputy Commissioner of Public Works), Susan Burstein (Chief Financial Officer), Karen Griffey (Public Works Director of Administration), and Shawna Sullivan (Committee Clerk)

#368-08 ALD. LINSKY requesting approval of the Board of Aldermen of the design for improvements affecting the area where Walnut Street, Lowell Avenue and Watertown Street intersect including a traffic island, curb extensions and the dead ending of Lowell Avenue. [10/14/08 @ 12:53 PM]

REQUEST FOR TRIAL OF ONE-WAY ON LOWELL AVE. FROM WALNUT ST. TO WATERTOWN ST. APPROVED 3-1-2 (Salvucci opposed, Lappin and Schnipper abstaining

ACTION: B) HELD 6-0 LOWELL AVENUE CLOSURE AT WATERTOWN STREET

NOTE: At the previous Public Facilities Committee meeting of November 4, 2009, the Committee approved the traffic island and curb extensions at the intersection of Lowell Avenue and Walnut Street and held the closing of Lowell Avenue at Watertown Street for further data from the Traffic Engineer. Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, provided the Committee with the police data (attached) for reported crashes from 2005 to present at the intersections of: Watertown and Walnut Streets; Watertown Street, Crafts Street and Lowell Avenue; and Walnut Street and Lowell Avenue. The Chair stated that she had received an e-mail from Ald. Albright, who was unable to attend the meeting, requesting that the item be held in order to conduct a trial of a one-way on Lowell Avenue from Walnut Street to Watertown Street. Ald. Schnipper asked for comments from Ald. Johnson and Ald. Linsky regarding the closure of Lowell Avenue.

Ald. Linsky pointed out that there has been, and continues to be, discussion regarding the turning radius for trucks and buses making a right turn from Walnut Street to Watertown Street traveling in an eastbound direction. He suggested improving the turning radius by moving the left-turn stop line in the westbound lane of Watertown Street a few feet back. If there is a way to improve the intersection, it may raise the level of comfort with the closure of Lowell Avenue. Mr. Schuckel stated that it is possible to move the stop line back but there is no data showing that a turning problem for trucks and buses exists at that location. The movement of the stop line is an inexpensive option to create a wider turning radius and Mr. Schuckel is amenable to moving the stop line.

Ald. Johnson is in favor of the traffic improvements. She feels that it is important to look at the Walnut Street/Lowell Avenue intersection in relation the Lowell Avenue Watertown Street intersection. If Lowell Avenue is reopened as a one-way, it may increase accidents at the intersection of Walnut Street and Lowell Avenue as vehicles will be crossing over four lanes of traffic to continue on Lowell Avenue. Ald. Ciccone pointed out that vehicles coming out of Lowell Avenue at Walnut Street would still cross all the lanes of traffic to take a right onto

Watertown Street. Ald. Ciccone is against the closure of Lowell Avenue and would like Lowell Avenue reopened as a one-way street with no left turn signage and a stop sign.

Ald. Lappin asked the Traffic Engineer for his recommendation. Mr. Schuckel felt that an additional trial allowing cars to access Watertown St from Lowell Ave was unnecessary since it had already been tried and evaluated by Traffic Council, and that there had been sufficient study and community input over multiple years for the Board to render a decision. Traffic Council preferred the full closure and to keep northbound traffic on Walnut Street and turning onto Watertown Street at a right angle at a traffic signal. The video provided to the Committee and related observations clearly show a fire truck and MBTA bus negotiating the northbound right turn with no problems. In addition, a new trial lacks a specific objective, further lengthens the temporary (unsightly) conditions with asphalt curbing and gravel, and provides no remedy for residents living on the north side of Watertown Street between Crafts and Walnut, who expressed concerns about getting out of their driveways. Mr. Schuckel recommended that the committee support the full closure so that a permanent design including granite curbing and concrete sidewalks could be completed over the winter in time to be constructed in the 2010 construction season.

Mr. Schuckel reviewed the police data with the Committee. The accident data includes: information on accidents between January 1, 2005 and October 16, 2007 before any traffic improvements were made; a one-way trial between October 17, 2007 and April 30, 2008; and the complete closure trial from May 1, 2008 to present. The timeframes for the trial periods and pre-improvement period are different, which makes it difficult to make comparisons. However, the data indicates that the improvements including the closure of Lowell Avenue have significantly reduced the number of crashes at the intersections. Mr. Schuckel explained that due to the safety improvements there is a 20% increase in traffic at the intersection of Watertown and Walnut Streets. He believes that the increase has raised concerns with the neighbors but it is the trade-off for the improvements. Mr. Schuckel is working on the timing of the signal. He would like to add traffic sensors to the traffic lights in order to improve the timing of the intersection.

Ald. Gentile inquired how the City could get sensors for the intersection, as the sensors really seem to help with traffic flow. Mr. Schuckel responded that he is working on a priority list for intersections that would benefit from sensors. There is difficulty with funding the sensors but it may be possible to fund sensors from the Parking Meter Receipts Fund should a proposed increase be implemented. Ald. Gentile requested that Mr. Schuckel come up with the top five locations for sensors on traffic lights. Mr. Schuckel added that he would prefer the traffic signals at Crafts and Watertown Streets be located overhead. The traffic signals at this location are the most damaged by vehicles. Ald. Lennon inquired if the sensors are allowable costs through community block grant funding. Ms. Bailey thought that it was possible that they could be part of the funding but will investigate further.

Ald. Schnipper asked if the traffic, or the proposed park, was the driving force for the changes. Ald. Linsky stated that it was both, the park and safety because the park would not be utilized unless it could be accessed safely. Ald. Salvucci voiced his support of the closure of Lowell Avenue. He does not feel that reopening Lowell Avenue is a safe alternative to the current layout. There would be a conflict with vehicles exiting Lowell Avenue and merging with the traffic on Watertown Street. Mr. Schuckel feels that if a trial of the one-way occurs he would prefer a hard right onto Watertown Street or a signal to define the right of way instead of a merge

at the intersection. In addition, Mr. Schuckel believes that a number of vehicles would continue to use their current path of travel instead of utilizing that portion of Lowell Avenue.

Ald. Gentile's preference is to go along with Ald. Albright's suggestion of a one-way trial on Lowell Avenue from Walnut Street to Watertown Street. Ald. Gentile moved a request for a one-way trial, which the Traffic Engineer would design. The Committee voted in favor of the motion and will re-evaluate the closure of Lowell Avenue in six months. Ald. Johnson suggested that the Committee receive a monthly update on accident data at the intersection of Lowell Avenue and Watertown Street.



SETTI D. WARREN
MAYOR

City of Newton, Massachusetts

Office of the Mayor

10 JAN 26 PM 6:11

CITY CLERK
NEWTON, MA. 02159

#39-10 Telephone
(617) 796-1100

Facsimile
(617) 796-1113

TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089

E-mail
swarren@newtonma.gov

January 26, 2010

Honorable Board of Aldermen
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I write to request that your Honorable Board docket for consideration a request to appropriate \$90,000 from parking meter receipts for the purchase of 450 programmable parking meter mechanisms. Installation of the new mechanisms will enable full implementation of the new hourly parking meter rates approved by the Honorable Board in December 2009.

Last week DPW learned that approximately 25% of the City's meters cannot be reprogrammed due to their age of 15 years or more. Meters that could be reprogrammed are now charging the new rate, while the older meters are charging the old rate.

Installation of the new mechanisms is expected pay for itself within a few months. Each meter will generate an average of an additional \$9.00 per week, and, at a cost of \$200 per meter mechanism, the full cost will be recovered in 22 weeks.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

Setti D. Warren
Mayor

From: Parking Meter Receipts
14D401-5901 \$90,000
To: Replacement Parking Meters
C401067-5822 \$90,000

01/27/2010

, Massachusetts 02459

www.newtonma.gov



DEDICATED TO COMMUNITY EXCELLENCE

City of Newton



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449Setti D. Warren
Mayor

To: Mayor Setti D. Warren

From: Thomas E. Daley, P.E. / Commissioner of Public Works
Clint Schuckel / Associate City Engineer-Transportation

Date: January 26, 2010

Subject: Request for Appropriation from Parking Meter Receipts

I am writing to request an appropriation of \$ 90,000 from parking meter receipts for the purchase of 450 programmable parking meter mechanisms to enable implementation of the new hourly rates approved by the Board of Aldermen in December 2009. During the week of January 18, a DPW contractor visited each of the City's 1,730 parking meters and identified the meters which could not be reprogrammed due to their age of 15 years or more. Meters that could be reprogrammed are now charging the current rate, while 450 meters (about 25% of the total) remain at the old rate. Installation of these meters will pay for itself in a few months as follows:

- Charging the current rate adds up to \$ 2.50 per day, per meter of added revenue. (rates increased 25 cents/hour, 10 hours of enforcement per day, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)
- A conservative estimate of average revenue increase is \$1.50 per day, per meter (for 6 out of 10 hours each day the space is occupied and the meter fee is paid).
- Fees are charged six days a week except for holidays, so average increase is \$9.00/week.
- At \$200 per meter mechanism, the payback time is 22 weeks, or about 5 months.

Another way to look at this request is fact that we are "losing" about \$4,000 each week (450 meters times \$9.00 per meter, per week) by having 25% of our parking meters still charging the old rates. A third perspective is that citywide, the December 2009 rate increase is expected to bring in at least another \$ 360,000 in annual parking meter revenue, so this appropriation request represents about the first three months of projected revenue.

According to the Comptroller, the total balance in parking meter revenue fund accounts as of December 31, 2009 is \$1,125,815. It is anticipated that \$1.0 million of this amount will be transferred this coming spring to the general fund for fiscal year 2011. That

leaves \$125,815 cash in hand to use as of January 1, which does not include ~\$100,000/month in ongoing monthly receipts from January 1 to present. This revenue is anticipated to increase to ~\$130,000/month after all parking meters are charging the current hourly rates.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact myself or Clint Schuckel. if you have any questions.

Cc: R. Rooney / Chief Operations Officer
S. Ecker / Chief Financial Officer
D. Turocy / Dep. Comm. of P.W.
L. Taverna / City Engineer
K. Griffey / Dir. of Admin.
R. Ferrara / Chief of Budget and Finance

Double Pole Summary By Location

Report Date: 03/11/2009 07:55 AM

NSTAR

Print

Search Criteria:

Export

State: MASSACHUSETTS
 Work Center:
 Municipality: NEWTON
 Ownership: Sole-Owned Poles/Joint-Owned Poles/Not An Owner But Attached

Municipality	Transfers						Remediation		Total Poles	
	Electric	Street Light	Fire Alarm	Private	Fiber	Cable TV	Telephone	Telephone		
NEWTON	112	29	324	2	3	122	319	3	47	961
Totals:	112	29	324	2	3	122	319	3	47	961

↑
CIRCUIT
UPGRADE

NEWTON
TO
TRANSFER

↑
NSTAR
WILL
PUSH THESE
ALONG

↑
NSTAR
TO COMPLETE
IN NEAR
FUTURE



David B. Cohen
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911



Joseph E. LaCroix
Chief

October 21, 2009

Honorable Board of Aldermen
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

Dear Honorable Board of Aldermen:

Regarding NSTAR and VERIZON pole transfers of Fire Department cables:

The Fire Department is continuously working on pole transfers, utilizing both the NSTAR Pole Management database and field discovered transfers.

To this date, the department has had no requests or contact from NSTAR indicating any problems. The Pole Management database, that the Fire Department has access to, appears to contain data that is not exclusive to Fire Department cables. The Wire Division continues to find poles where work was completed months ago, still in the system and poles, where work needs to be completed, are constantly being located in the field and are not in the system.

The Fire Department is requesting to meet with a representative from NSTAR that has an understanding of the Pole Management Database and is familiar with pole transfer problem areas, to resolve these issues.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. LaCroix
Chief of Department

Jeffrey Knight
Superintendent of Fire Alarm

JEL/cf



David B. Cohen
Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS

FIRE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS

1164 Centre Street, Newton Center, MA 02459-1584
Chief: (617) 796-2210 Fire Prevention: (617) 796-2230
FAX: (617) 796-2211 EMERGENCY: 911



Joseph E. LaCroix
Chief

October 21, 2009

Honorable Board of Aldermen
City of Newton
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

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The Fire Department is requesting to meet with a representative from NSTAR that has an understanding of the Pole Management Database and is familiar with pole transfer problem areas, to resolve these issues.

Very truly yours,

Joseph E. LaCroix
Chief of Department

Jeffrey Knight
Superintendent of Fire Alarm

JEL/cf

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2009

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chairman), Lennon, Albright, Salvucci, Gentile, Yates, Mansfield, and Lappin

Also present: Ald. Coletti, Harney, and Sangiolo

Also present: John Daghlian (Associate City Engineer), Arthur Cabral (Special Project and Budget Specialist; Public Buildings Department), Nick Parnell (Commissioner of Public Buildings), Heidi Black (Administrator of High School Construction and Strategic Planning; School Department), Sandra Guryan (Director of Finance; School Department), Dori Zaleznik (School Committee), Jonathan Yeo (School Committee), Joshua Morse (HVAC Technician; School Department), and David Tannozzini (Energy Officer; Public Buildings Department)

#457-08 ALD. LAPPIN AND SALVUCCI requesting discussion with NStar regarding the timely repair of City streetlights and the development of a standard response timeframe. [11/20/08 @ 12:51 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 7-0 (Mansfield not voting)**

NOTE: Marc Lucas, NStar Customer Service Representative, and Clint Schuckel, Traffic Engineer, both joined the Committee for discussion of this item. There are currently 55 poles within the city without electricity. Thirteen of the 55 streetlights are out due to an electrical problem between the manhole and light. The Committee and Mr. Schuckel have not received any information from the Law Department concerning whether there is any agreement between the City and NStar regarding whose responsibility it is to repair faulty wiring located between the manhole and the pole. Ald. Gentile suggested that the Committee docket a separate item requesting discussion with Law Department regarding responsibility.

Mr. Schuckel stated that the key to progress with streetlight outages is to figure out the nature of the problem and repair it regardless of legal issues. Mr. Lucas and Mr. Schuckel have been working together to solve the outages. Mr. Lucas stated that there will be on-site meetings next week with NStar and city staff to determine what is causing the outage. He hopes that it is possible to have the site meetings once a month until all the problems are resolved.

Ald. Yates requested that Mr. Schuckel provide a list of the streetlights that are out and specify which are out due to an underground connection. Mr. Schuckel would be happy to provide the list to the Committee. Ald. Gentile made a motion to hold the item and create a docket item from the Committee requesting discussion with the Law Department on how to resolve the dispute with NStar regarding whose responsibility it is to repair the streetlight connection between the manhole and the base of the streetlight. The motion carried unanimously.

#111-09 ALD. ALBRIGHT AND MANSFIELD requesting discussion of recent information (made available to the Land Use Committee) from NStar related to double poles, focusing on the 350 double poles waiting only for removal of wires or streetlights by the City of Newton.

ACTION: **HELD 8-0**

NOTE: Ald. Albright and Mansfield filed the item in response to information received at a Land Use Committee meeting. At the Land Use meeting a double pole summary was submitted and it was determined that there were approximately 350 double poles that were awaiting wire transfers by the City's Fire Department. The pole summary was attached to the agenda for Committee review.

Chief LaCroix and Jeffrey Knight of the Fire Department submitted the attached memo, as they were unable to attend the meeting. The memo implied that there were numerous issues with the NStar database that tracks double poles. Mr. Lucas felt that the database was accurate and perhaps the Fire Department was not using it properly. The memo requested a meeting between NStar and the Fire Department. Mr. Lucas agreed to meet with the Fire Department in the near future. The Committee decided to reschedule the item for discussion on November 18, 2009 in the hopes that NStar and Fire Department would have an opportunity to meet before that date.