

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 2007

Present: Ald. Salvucci (Acting Chairman), Weisbuch, Gentile, Yates, Mansfield and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Albright and Schnipper

City staff: A. Nicholas Parnell (Public Buildings Commissioner), Arthur Cabral (Budget and Project Specialist; Public Buildings Department) and Shawna Sullivan (Committee Clerk)

#134-07 ALD. LENNON, SALVUCCI, GENTILE, MERRILL AND WEISBUCH
requesting the intersection of MURPHY COURT and ADAMS STREET,
Nonantum be dedicated in the memory of Nonantum resident Domenic Bianchi,
as “DOMENICO B. BIANCHI, JR. SQUARE.” [4-23-07 @9:54 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0**

NOTE: Ald. Salvucci referred the Committee to the two letters of support from His Honor the Mayor and Joseph DeNucci, State Auditor, that were attached to the agenda. Mr. Robert Tennant also submitted a letter to the Committee supporting the naming of the intersection of Murphy Court and Adams Street after Mr. Bianchi, Jr (attached). Mr. Bianchi was well known for his kindness and support of many community groups, such as the St. Mary of Carmen Society and the Nonantum Children’s Christmas Party Association. In addition, he was very involved in the John Barry Boys and Girls Club. Mr. Bianchi was a graduate of Newton High School and grew up on Lincoln Road. Mr. Bianchi owned and operated a neighborhood shop located at the corner of Murphy Court and Adams Street, which is why this corner was selected for dedication to Mr. Bianchi. The Committee was in favor of the dedication and Ald. Weisbuch moved approval, which carried unanimously.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#195-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of
\$672,530 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding the Tier I
work identified in the Fire Station Report of April 20, 2007. Said funds will go
toward the design, testing and renovation of 6 fire stations. [5-29-07 @ 4:54 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0**

NOTE: Commissioner Parnell was present for the discussion of this item. The Commissioner explained that this is a request for funds to address the Tier 1 items identified in the fire station study, which are considered life/safety repairs. The Tier 1 items include repairs to electrical systems, plumbing systems, HVAC systems, egress lighting, ground faults, roofs and windows at all six fire stations.

The Commissioner stated that it is his intent to hire RDK Engineers to handle the design portion of the repairs. He would like to start the plans as soon as possible. RDK performed the recent study on the fire stations and therefore are familiar with the design of each of the stations. RDK is also one of the firms that are approved as an on call architect/engineer. The Commissioner will check with other architectural firms to determine that the price given by RDK is appropriate. The estimated cost of each station is \$100,000; however, the cost of each station will vary due to the extent of repairs required. The Public Buildings Department will hold the cost of the Tier 1 repairs to \$672,530.

Ald. Salvucci asked if the repairs would interfere with future renovation at the stations. The Commissioner felt that there would not be a problem and the repairs would improve the quality of life for the firefighters. However, the life cycle on the repairs may be short due to the planned renovation of the stations. Ald. Lappin asked if the pricing included the materials needed for the repairs and the Commissioner responded that all costs for materials are included in the appropriation request.

Ald. Mansfield requested that the Commissioner provide the Committee with a report on the repairs as they proceed through the stations. The Commissioner agreed to provide that information as well as the bid package. Ald. Lappin moved approval of the item and the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the item.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#196-07 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,969,227 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the rehabilitation of Fire Station #4. [05-29-07 @ 5:54 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: Commissioner Parnell presented the item to the Committee. The Fire Chief was not present at the meeting due to a family emergency. It is a request for an appropriation of \$1,969,227 to renovate Station #4. The request includes funds for a project manager, design and testing. Station #4 was chosen as the first station to be renovated by the Fire Chief and the Commissioner agreed with him because it is the logical choice as the roof and windows are already being replaced at the station. The renovation will get the whole process of bringing the fire stations up to code moving forward. The renovation does not require Design Review approval but Commissioner Parnell will bring the design to them for review. He will provide the Public Facilities Committee with updates on the design as it progresses and provide the plan when it is completed. The Commissioner is estimating a year of construction for the station.

Ald. Salvucci asked if Stations #4, #2 and #1 are similar enough in design to use the same plan for renovation. The Commissioner explained that the stations were built around the same time but they are not the same plan and will need separate designs for each.

Ald. Lappin asked why the request is for the whole amount, as the usual process is to request the design funds and come back for the construction money once the designs are completed. The Commissioner thought that the intent of requesting the entire amount of money was to show a commitment by the Executive Office. Ald. Lappin was concerned that the

Committee did not know the actual cost of the construction piece of the request. The Commissioner is aware that the request is an estimate and will need to be refined. He is concerned with the architectural fees and project management fees at this point. As the Commissioner is busy with the Newton North project, the modular classrooms and various other Public Building Department related projects, he would like to get a Project Manager on board for the renovation. Ald. Lappin asked if all Public Building Department projects are going to have a project manager from this point forward. The Commissioner responded that projects of considerable size would have project managers. The Commissioner stated that the Executive Department has asked department heads to look at the past five years and summarize the impact of losses and gains to the department due to budget cuts. The Commissioner will be looking at whether it makes sense to hire someone to handle project management for city projects. However, at this time the Commissioner needs a project manager for the renovations of the fire stations.

Ald. Gentile asked what the reception was to doing Station #4 versus another station. The Commissioner has not been apprised about the reception and suggested that Ald. Gentile speak with the Fire Chief. The Commissioner reiterated the reasoning behind choosing Station #4 as the first to rehabilitate. Ald. Gentile understood the logic behind the choice of Station #4. Ald. Gentile stated that the Chief has been encouraged to get union input on the renovations to promote goodwill. The Commissioner cannot speak to whether the Chief has spoken with the union.

Ald. Mansfield suggested separating the design, project management and testing money from the construction money by creating a parens (2), which will assure that the design comes back to the Committee. The Commissioner had no problem with splitting the item. Ald. Weisbuch moved hold on the item and approval of the parens (2) for \$325,000. The Committee voted to hold the main item and approve the \$325,000 for design, project management and testing.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#196-07(2) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,969,227 from bonded indebtedness for the purpose of funding the rehabilitation of Fire Station #4. [05-29-07 @ 5:54 PM]

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0 @ \$325,000 FOR DESIGN, PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND TESTING**

NOTE: See above note.

#68-07 **ALD. LENNON, GENTILE SALVUCCI & COLETTI** requesting discussion with the Public Buildings Commissioner and the Fire Chief regarding the structural integrity of Fire Station #7 and the inspection performed by DM Berg Consultants. {2/27/07 @ 12:33 PM}

ACTION: **NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0**

NOTE: Commissioner Parnell was present for the discussion of this item. A second structural engineering inspection has been performed by a different consultant on Fire Station #7

with the same results as the first. Both results of the inspection state that the floor of Fire Station #7 can bear the weight of the new engine. Therefore, the Committee recommended no action necessary on the item.

REFERRED TO PUB. SAF/TRANS. AND PUB FACILITIES COMMITTEES

#61-05 ALD. SAMUELSON, DANBERG AND CANDACE HAVENS requesting that, as part of the reconstruction process for TYLER TERRACE and/or CLARK STREET, speed humps be redesigned in order to improve safety for moving traffic while still slowing speeds to 25 mph.

PUBLIC SAFETY APPROVED 8-0 ON 4/5/06

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: This item was docketed in an attempt to improve conditions on the only two streets in Newton that have speed bumps (there is a citywide moratorium on these speed bumps). During a previous discussion with the Committee, the Traffic Engineer stated that Tyler Terrace has already been reconstructed with new speed bumps. The speed bumps were replaced with a new design built according to current specifications and industry standards for traffic calming. If and when Clark Street is reconstructed, the Traffic Engineer expects the City to do the same and build them to the most current industry standards, with the goal to install speed bumps with a comfortable speed of about 20 miles per hour. As Clark Street is unlikely to be reconstructed within the next five years and industry standards often change in that period, the Committee voted the item no action necessary.

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEES

#127-06 ALD. YATES requesting a RESOLUTION to His Honor the Mayor to authorize the HISTORICAL COMMISSION to submit applications to the Mass Historic Commission and the National Park Services to place the Crafts Street stables on the National Register of Historic Sites.

ZONING & PLANNING NO ACTION NECESSARY on 7/20/06

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: The application to place the Crafts Street stables on the National Register of Historic Sites has been submitted to the Massachusetts Historic Commission. Therefore, the item was voted unanimously no action necessary.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Salvucci, Acting Chairman