

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2007

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

Absent: Ald. Schnipper

Also present: Ald. Baker

City staff present: Lou Taverna (City Engineer), A. Nicholas Parnell (Commissioner of Public Buildings), Mayor Cohen, Dori Zaleznik (Chair of the School Committee), Reenie Murphy (School Committee Member) and Shawna Sullivan (Committee Clerk)

#304-07      LASALLE DEVELOPMENT, LLC, 210 Auburn Street, Auburndale, petitioning for construction of a common sewer in PINE MEADOW DRIVE EXTENSION from an existing sewer main in Pine Meadow Drive northwesterly 140' ± to a proposed sewer manhole in Pine Meadow Drive Extension. [03-30-07 @8:46 AM]

**PETITIONER TO PAY ENTIRE COST**

**ACTION:      APPROVED SUBJECT TO SECOND CALL 6-0 (Gentile not voting)**

**NOTE:**      The City Engineer, Lou Taverna, presented the petition to the Committee. The petition is a request to extend a sewer in Pine Meadow Drive to provide service to three single-family homes located within a subdivision. Mr. Taverna stated that there would need to be an easement granted or a taking of an easement, as Pine Meadow Drive Extension is a private way. There is some question as to whether or not there is an existing easement for Pine Meadow Drive.

The public hearing was opened and the attorney for the petitioner, Peter Harrington, spoke on the petition. He believes that the Planning Board Acting as Board of Survey has a condition in the Certificate of Action requiring the petitioner to grant an easement. However, he is not sure whether an easement was granted for Pine Meadow Drive. The Public Hearing was closed.

Ald. Lappin moved the item subject to second call in order to determine if there is an easement for Pine Meadow Drive. The motion carried unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#307-07      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,600,000 from bonded indebtedness to fund the first half of the window and door replacement project at Brown Middle School. [10-12-07 @3:06 PM]

**ACTION:      APPROVED 4-0-3 (Lappin, Mansfield and Yates abstaining)**

*Chairman's Note: There is a request to amend the item and there will be additional backup information available for review included with the Finance Committee Report.*

**NOTE:** Commissioner of Public Buildings, Nick Parnell, joined the Committee for discussion of this item. The item is a request for \$1,600,000 to fund the first half of the windows and door replacements at Brown Middle School. The School Committee has voted to proceed with the project and it high on their priority list. The Commissioner explained that it is necessary to do the windows in phases, as the replacement of windows cannot be completed over the summer and it is estimated to cost over \$3 million. Mayor Cohen also stated that Ald. Coletti pointed out that the funds need to be approved quickly in order for the project to begin this upcoming summer.

The Committee members cannot understand why it is necessary to do the project two phases, as due to set-up and removal costs that will need to be done twice, the project will be more expensive. It was suggested that the project could be completed over the summer, as the last few school window replacements have been finished before the start of the school year. The Commissioner explained that there are many more windows at Brown Middle School than any of the previous window replacement projects. The School Department has been told by vendors that they cannot accomplish the replacement over the course of one summer. Reenie Murphy and Dori Zaleznik stated that the School Department would be receiving \$1,750,000 for capital projects for next year and the cost of doing half of the project is almost that amount. The Commissioner will speak with the on-call architect regarding whether or not it is possible to replace all of the windows over one summer, although he does not think it is possible.

Ald. Mansfield was very disappointed that there was no backup on the item. Other Committee members were not comfortable approving the funds without plans. The Commissioner stated that the Design Review Committee will have input and review of the windows and he will bring the plans back to the Committee. Ald. Salvucci asked that he also bring a sample of the window to the Committee, as he wants to be sure that the windows allow sufficient light. Ald. Yates moved splitting the item and voting the design money, which failed to carry. Ald. Gentile moved approval of the item, as the item still needs to go through the Finance Committee, which gives the Public Building Department and the Executive Office time to provide additional backup. The motion carried by a vote of four in favor and three abstentions. See attached letter requesting an amendment to the item dated October 30, 2007.

#53-07      NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY petitioning for a grant of location to install 10' ± of conduit at Pole 770/3 and to relocate Pole 770/3 on the southeasterly side of MERRILL ROAD to approximately 295' southwest of Ward Street. [1-7-07 @ 2:23 PM]

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED AS AMENDED 7-0**

**NOTE:** The Public Facilities Committee held a public hearing and discussed the above item on March 7, 2007. The report from that meeting is attached. Ald. Baker joined the Committee for discussion of this item. When it became apparent that the neighbors affected by the pole relocation could not agree on if and where the relocation could be done, Ald. Baker offered to work with the neighbors to resolve the problem. A resolution was reached to move the pole with the same fixtures two feet rather than the original five feet in the same direction. The Public Works Department is in favor of the resolution. The Committee was grateful to Ald.

Baker for all of his hard work in resolving the conflict. The Committee voted in favor of amending the petition by moving the pole only two feet instead of five feet.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman