

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 2004

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

Absent: Ald. Schnipper

City staff: John Daghlian (Acting City Engineer), Lou Taverna (Director of Utilities), Arthur Cabral (Budget and Special Projects Specialist, Public Buildings Dept.), John Wood (Inspector of Wires) and Shawna Sullivan (Committee Clerk)

**Chairman's Note:** John Daghlian reviewed the upcoming Department of Public Works' projects for the upcoming construction season. The presentation is attached.

#179-04      BOSTON EDISON CO. d/b/a NSTAR ELECTRIC requesting a grant of location to relocate pole 308/21 in NEVADA STREET located on the northeasterly side approximately 90' southeast of Linwood Avenue.

**ACTION:**      **HELD 7-0**

**NOTE:**      The Committee reviewed the recommendation of the Acting City Engineer. There is no problem with the relocation of the pole; however, it appears that the area in back of the existing pole is being used for parking within the set back. The parking area is only 18' and the city usually requires a space to be 9'x19'. The Acting City Engineer recommends consultation with the Inspectional Services Department regarding the parking. The public hearing was opened and no one spoke for or against the petition. Ald. Mansfield moved hold to allow consultation with the Inspectional Services Department. The motion carried unanimously.

#257-02      ALD. SCHNIPPER requesting a discussion of the state and federal laws that govern the shared use of utility poles, including a review of the standards and procedures employed in determining whether poles have adequate space and weight-bearing capacity to support the attachment of additional cables and wires.

**ACTION:**      **HELD 6-1 (Stewart opposed)**

**NOTE:**      Gary Savignano, Verizon Right of Way Manager, Mark Lucas, NStar Community Relations Representative, Tom Morahan, NStar Manager and John Ventura, NStar Lead Engineer were present for discussion of this item. The National Electric Safety Code is used to determine the standards for attachments to utility poles. The code defines how many utilities can attach to a pole. There is a survey done by the utility that owns the pole to determine if a new wire can fit on the pole.

John Wood, Inspector of Wires for the City of Newton, has canvassed all the streets in the City and determined that all the attachments conform to the codes.

Mr. Ventura presented the Committee with a handout on the importance of guying poles (attached). He reviewed the handout with the Committee and explained the necessity of guy wires. The guy wires are necessary to support the pole because of tension forces from wires and storms. The poles are strongest when they are straight and guying helps maintain straight poles. When a new pole is placed, a guy wire should be placed, as well to maintain the integrity of the pole.

There was some question as to whether a company must get a permit through the City to attach to a utility pole. It is not necessary to get any type of permit; it is a transaction between the pole owner and the proposed attachee. The Committee also requested that Verizon and NStar resume providing the Board with lists of double poles that have been removed. The NStar representatives stated that there is a database, which Newton can access, that will provide that information. The Committee requested that NStar setup access to the database through the Clerk's Office. Ald. Mansfield made a motion to hold the item until access had been obtained. The committee voted unanimously to support the motion.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#200-04

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$90,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding several environmental cleanup and compliance projects for the Public Buildings Department:

Cabot School Envir. Compliance.....	\$20,000
Elliot St. Garage Envir. Compliance.....	\$20,000
Horace Mann Sch. Envir. Compliance.....	\$35,000
NSHS Football Stadium.....	\$ 7,500
1309 Washington St. (near Courthouse).....	\$ 7,500
TOTAL.....	\$90,000

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**      The item is a request for funds to continue environmental cleanup and compliance projects. The Committee asked how long it would take to complete these projects. The Cabot School oil cleanup should be done by July 2005. The Horace Mann cleanup is expected to be completed in two more years. It is the hope that when testing of the whole area around the Newton South Stadium is completed it will show that the composition of the soil is similar throughout the area and cleanup will be unnecessary. The testing of the site near the courthouse is nearly complete and it will most likely be the responsibility of the dry cleaner located near the site to do the cleanup. Ald. Yates moved approval, which carried unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#203-04 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the following Public Buildings Department projects:

Boiler Repl.; Pub. Bldgs. Dept.....	\$35,000
Police Dispatch Ctr. Improvements.....	\$65,000
Replacement of Utility Van.....	\$25,000
UST and Veeder Root Sys. Repair/Repl.....	\$75,000

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

**NOTE:** The Committee separated the funds for the Police Dispatch Center improvements from the original item. Arthur Cabral explained the need for a new boiler in the main building at Elliot Street. The boiler is steel, is twenty-five years old, and cannot be repaired. There was no heat during the winter in the Public Buildings Department. The utility van that needs to be replaced was purchased in 1988 and is not worth repairing.

The request for funds for the UST and Veeder Root System repair and replacement is for inspecting underground storage tanks and make repairs as the Department of Environmental Protection is going to start inspecting the City's underground tanks. The Veeder Root Leak Detection Systems will be replaced in the first six buildings. This will be an ongoing project. The Committee requested more information on the project, which is attached. Ald. Gerst moved approval, which carried unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#203-04(2) **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$65,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the following Public Buildings Department project:

Police Dispatch Ctr. Improvements.....	\$65,000
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**ACTION:** **HELD 7-0 AND REFERRED TO PS&T**

**NOTE:** Arthur Cabral presented the item to the Committee. The dispatchers need more space, as they are closely grouped and there are privacy issues. In addition, two additional dispatchers are to be added this upcoming fiscal year. The Committee felt that this item should also be before the Public Safety and Transportation Committee, as there is a change in staffing and they were more familiar with the Police Department.

The Committee asked if there were plans for the project and if the Design Review Committee had seen the plans. Mr. Cabral explained that he did not have the plans but Design Review would review the plans. There is no architect for this project. The Committee held the item in order to see the plans and referred it to Public Safety and Transportation, as well.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#201-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund Bonded account for the purpose of remodeling portions of the Newton Senior Center.

**ACTION:** **HELD 7-0**

**NOTE:** The Committee asked if there were any plans available for the remodeling of a portion of the Senior Center. Mr. Cabral stated he did not have the plans this evening. The Committee held the item until plans were available.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#206-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$150,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of replacing the existing boiler at the Bowen Elementary School.

**ACTION:** **NO ACTION NECESSARY 7-0**

**NOTE:** A letter from the Mayor was received requesting this item is voted no action necessary and the funds are used for the Peirce Elementary School windows. There was a misunderstanding between the School Department and the Public Buildings Department regarding the cost of the windows. The Bowen Elementary School boiler will be placed on the School Department's priority list for FY'05. The Committee voted the item no action necessary.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#208-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of completing repairs to the boiler and heating system in Fire Station #4 and for making other miscellaneous repairs to other City buildings.

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:** Arthur Cabral was present for discussion of this item. The new boiler was listed in the FY'04 Supplemental Capital Improvement Plan for appropriation in the spring. However, the boiler in Station #4 failed in mid-season. The failure required Public Buildings to purchase a new boiler from their operating budget. This appropriation will replace those funds and allow planned projects to move forward. The Committee approved the item unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PUB. FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#207-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding sidewalk betterments by the Department of Public Works.

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 5-0-2 (Stewart and Mansfield abstaining)**

**NOTE:** No one was available to present this item to the Committee. However, John Daghlian touched on the betterments in his earlier presentation of upcoming

construction projects (attached). The request is for \$100,000 to work on sidewalk betterments. The funds will allow about 108 sidewalk betterments to be completed. The Committee approved the item.

Respectfully submitted,

Anthony J. Salvucci, Acting Chairman