

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE BUDGET  
AND C.I.P. REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 05, 2004

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chairman), Linsky, Salvucci, Stewart, Yates, Mansfield and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Gerst

City personnel present: A. Nicholas Parnell (Public Buildings Commissioner), Arthur Cabral (Budget and Project Specialist; Public Buildings), Robert Rooney (Public Works Commissioner), Brian Connolly (Deputy Commissioner of Administration; Public Works), Angela Clark (Executive Administrator; Public Works), Stephen Tocci (Director/Highway Operation; Public Works), Elaine Gentile (Director of Environmental Affairs, Public Works), Ron Mahan (Superintendent of Equipment; Public Works), John Daghlian (Acting City Engineer), Lou Taverna (Director of Utilities; Public Works) and Shawna Sullivan (Committee Clerk)

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#209-04 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter, submitting the FY05 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$266,992,346, passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY05-FY09 Capital Improvement Program, submitted in November, 2003. EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION 4/20/04.

**ACTION:** **PUBLIC BUILDINGS PORTION APPROVED 7-0**  
**PUBLIC WORKS PORTION APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Mansfield not voting)**

**NOTE:** **Public Buildings Department**

Commissioner Parnell and Arthur Cabral were present for the budget and Capital Improvement Program discussion. The Public Buildings Department was asked to prepare a budget with a 5% decrease. The department did decrease the budget by 5% but it appears that it is only a 2% decrease due to the rise in the cost of utilities. The department has lost 1 1/2 positions for FY'05. A part-time custodial position at City Hall has been eliminated and the Building Maintenance Specialist position at the Public Buildings Department has been eliminated. The vacant electrician's position will be filled in the upcoming fiscal year. The Building Department will outsource some of the design work handled by the Building Maintenance Specialist.

There have been cuts in the outside contractor accounts but the Commissioner feels that the remaining funds are adequate. The CPA funds will take up some of the slack, such as the balustrades and windows at City Hall. The Chair asked if there was money available what would the Department use the funds for. The

Commissioner responded that he would use it in the Material Accounts, as things like new carpeting and fresh paint have a big impact.

Ald. Stewart asked if the Public Buildings Department had made any progress in presenting statistics. Commissioner Parnell stated that there is a system that is going on-line at this time. It is a real time account software, called School Dude. There is also a maintenance and repair database and the Building Department will be using Citi-Stat. The Commissioner went on to say that payment of transfer bills between the School Department and the Building Department has improved dramatically since the implementation of the maintenance and repair database. The Commissioner will be able to give presentations on various statistics, such as how many hours are spent on school buildings. Ald. Stewart asked if it would be helpful to have another person for short-term and long-term planning. The Commissioner felt that he will have a better idea if he needs another person after the implementation of Citi-Stat.

Ald. Yates asked if any other software besides School Dude had been investigated. Arthur Cabral responded that several software programs were investigated but School dude was the best fit. It provides help with capital items and replacement of equipment time lines. The Commissioner stated that the preventative maintenance program has been failing over the past twenty years and the software should aid in the effort to improve the program.

Commissioner Parnell told the Committee that it has been a banner year for energy conservation grants through the work of David Tannozi the Electrical Engineer. The Commissioner expects this trend to continue into FY'05.

Ald. Yates moved approval of the Building Department's budget, which carried unanimously.

### **Public Works Department**

Commissioner Rooney and his division heads were present for the discussion of the Public Works Department's budget. The Commissioner thanked his staff for all of the work on the budget. The Commissioner gave a PowerPoint presentation of the proposed budget (attached). The total department budget is \$44,824,476, which is split into two categories: The General Fund, which makes up \$18,213,404 of the total and the Enterprise Budget, which makes up \$26,611,072 of the department total. The total General Fund budget increased by 1%, however, the increase is due to a rise in cost for services, such as utilities and health care. Expenses under the department's control have been decreased by \$471,000, which is a 4% cut. This is the fourth year the Public Works budget has declined. There is a 3% increase in the overall Enterprise Budget due to MWRA assessments. It is the hope that the Chapter 90 funds are level funded over the next few years.

The department is shifting revenue and retooling services in order to cover the decrease in the General Fund budget. The attached handout outlines the revenue shift and services retooled. The department is eliminating two vacant positions and adding three. The CAD Operator in the Engineering Department and the Assistant Stockroom Clerk/Welder at the Elliot Street Yard have been eliminated. The Public Works Department will be adding a Deputy Commissioner, a Permit Processing Engineer and a Statistical Coordinator.

The Commissioner than reviewed the Enterprise portion of the budget with the Commissioner. 77% of the Enterprise Budget is dedicated to the MWRA Assessments. The remaining items are expenses, personnel and capital. The burden of the MWRA assessments is shifting from sewer to water. There is an increase of 8% in water assessments compared to the 3% increase in sewer assessments. The Utilities Division is consolidating the meter readers under operations to target 100% readings per quarter. The billing service representative and customer service will be located together for efficiency. The second shift for emergencies and maintenance will also be implemented, saving on overtime costs. The Committee requested that the Commissioner submit an organizational chart for the Utilities Division, which is attached.

Ald. Yates moved approval of the Public Works Department budget, which carried unanimously.

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#549-03

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY05-FY09 Capital Improvement Program pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance \$170,899,860 of new local projects over the next several years:

**SUMMARY**

PUBLIC WORKS (City-Funded).....	\$8,075,000
PUBLIC WORKS (Grant/Fee Funded) .....	\$54,256,057
PUBLIC SAFETY .....	\$4,611,000
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.....	\$4,555,750
SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.....	\$89,293,029
PARKS AND RECREATION.....	\$8,143,500
OTHER .....	\$1,965,524
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>\$170,899,860</b>

**ACTION:**

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS PORTION APPROVED 7-0**

**PUBLIC WORKS PORTION APPROVED 6-0 (Ald. Mansfield not voting)**

**NOTE:**

**Public Buildings Department**

Sandy Pooler, Commissioner Parnell and Arthur Cabral were present for the discussion of the Capital Improvement Program pertaining to the Public Buildings Department portion. The Chair asked what projects will be accomplished in FY'05. Mr. Pooler responded that he does not know yet but he does not think that the city will have as much Free Cash as we had this year. The Commissioner

explained that some critical CIP item, such as LSP projects and boiler replacements, have moved forward in FY'04 and he will try to do the same in FY'05.

Ald. Albright asked about the repair of the library bridge. The Commissioner stated that the bridge will be repaired in FY'05, if it is funded. Ald. Mansfield asked why the bridge did not have a description. Commissioner Parnell will get the last description of the project for the Committee. Ald. Stewart stated that he is considering offering a resolution to either move the bridge project to early FY'05 or a resolution stating that the library bridge is a priority.

The Commissioner also let the Committee know that the main coils and cooling tiles for the air conditioning in the library need to be replaced immediately. The cost is approximately \$85,000 but it is hoped that the City will recoup its cost from Trane, as they should have drained the coil and maintained it. The funds for the air conditioning will be docketed next week, along with an emergency measure.

The top priorities for the Public Buildings Department's C.I.P. are the LSP projects and heating problems. Ald. Yates pointed out that the totals for environmental remediation are not correct as they are missing \$100,000. It was explained that it was just an error. Ald. Yates also asked about the \$130,000 for the renovations to the Senior Center. There is currently an item before Public Facilities for \$50,000 for the creation of an office and a vestibule. **Ald. Yates moved approval with the correction of the \$100,000 in the environmental remediation figures**, which carried unanimously.

#### **Public Works Department**

The top priorities for the Public Works Department C.I.P. are the water meter replacement, the reservoir security, water main replacement and relining, fleet replacement, upgrading of radios to hi-frequency for better communication and water tank painting.

Ald. Salvucci asked why the Cheesecake Brook had been removed from the CIP. The Commissioner responded that he believed the funding was there under storm drain cleaning but is not specifically labeled as Cheesecake Brook funds. There was a resolution offered to include Cheesecake Brook in the CIP under FY'05 and investigate funding through a Community Development Block Grant.

Ald. Yates moved approval of the CIP including the proposed resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman