

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2003

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chair), Gerst, Linsky, Stewart, Mansfield and Lappin

Absent: Ald. Salvucci and Yates

City personnel: John Daghlian (City Engineer), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer) and Robert Rooney (Commissioner of Public Works)

29-03 TELEPORT COMMUNICATIONS BOSTON (TCB) requesting a grant of location to install 241' ± of (2) 4" PVC conduits in WASHINGTON STREET on the northerly side 90' west of Crafts Street from existing Verizon Manhole #16/408 northerly for 90' than northwesterly onto CRAFTS STREET for 151' to existing pole #108/4 in the sidewalk area.

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0**

NOTE: Bryce Murray, TCB/AT&T Representative, was present for the discussion of this petition. The conduit is to provide telecommunication services to Newton businesses and residents. TCB will not be requesting more grants of location from the City as they are tying into the overhead wires once they hookup to Verizon. The City will receive space for conduit and there will be extra space for other telecommunication companies to use.

John Daghlian stated that the Public Works Department has no conflict with this petition but would like the conduit placed 30" down in the street and 40" down in the sidewalk instead of the 24" proposed by the petitioner. Mr. Murray agreed to this and this stipulation will be part of the street opening permit.

The public hearing was opened and no one spoke for or against the petition. Ald. Stewart moved approval of the item. The Committee voted the motion unanimously.

28-03 TELEPORT COMMUNICATIONS BOSTON (TCB) requesting a grant of location to install 102' ± of (2) 4" PVC conduits in CENTRAL AVENUE on the easterly side 190' north of Court Street from existing Verizon Manhole #16/306A northerly to existing pole #69/11 in the sidewalk area.

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0**

NOTE: Bryce Murray, TCB/AT&T Representative, was present for the discussion of this petition. The conduit is to provide telecommunication services to Newton businesses and residents. This petition is related to the one above. The above petition is to connect with the Verizon central office and this petition is to leave the Verizon central office and attach to overhead wires.

John Daghlian would like TCB to contact the Newton Tree Warden, Mark Walsh, regarding a large tree located in a grass plot on Central Avenue. There is concern that the tree roots run into the sidewalk and the City would like to avoid damage to the tree by having the Tree Warden present at excavation. Mr. Daghlian would also like the conduit placed 30" down in the street and 40" down in the sidewalk instead of the 24" proposed by the petitioner. Mr. Murray agreed to these stipulations.

The public hearing was opened and no one spoke for or against the petition. Ald. Gerst moved approval of the item, which was voted unanimously.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#56-03 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$518,007 for the purpose of supplementing the Department of Public Works control of snow and ice budget:

FROM:	Budget Reserve.....	\$400,000
	Free Cash.....	\$118,007
TO:	Various DPW accounts.....	\$518,007
	(See Mayor's letter dated 1/15/03)	

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0**

NOTE: Commissioner Rooney and Sandy Pooler were present for discussion of this item. The appropriation will provide enough funds to cover the Public Works Department's costs incurred to date and provide additional funds for two additional medium size storms. The Commissioner explained that the backup attached to the agenda breaks out of the funds for anticipated snow and ice expenditures.

Ald. Mansfield provided the Committee with a list of current problems with snow and ice removal from sidewalks and relevant ordinances (attached). The Committee had a lengthy discussion regarding sidewalk clearance. The Committee felt a better job needed to be done on sidewalks. Commissioner Rooney explained that the Public Works Department does not have the manpower or equipment to clear all of the sidewalks in the City. His department is responsible for clearing school routes and business centers, which are done as soon as the streets are cleared.

Ald. Gerst raised the possibility of student volunteers to shovel the sidewalks after snowstorms. Several Aldermen suggested reenacting the ordinance requiring residents to shovel the sidewalk in front of their house. There was some discussion regarding contracting out sidewalk clearance. Commissioner Rooney will investigate the various possibilities for sidewalk clearance but due to the current fiscal crisis it will be very difficult to find a solution to the sidewalk clearing issue. The Committee decided to docket an item for discussion on snow removal from sidewalks. Ald. Lappin moved approval of the item, which was voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman