

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 2003

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

Absent: Ald. Mansfield and Lappin

Also present: Ald. Lipsitt

City personnel present: Ted Jerdee (Utilities Department), Lou Taverna (Director of Utilities), Angela Clark (Department of Public Works), Elaine Gentile (Department of Public Works), Brian Connolly (Department of Public Works), Ron Mahan (Department of Public Works), Steve Tocci (Public Works Department), Robert Rooney (Commissioner of Public Works) and Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer)

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#226-03      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$2,261,700 for the purpose of funding infiltration/inflow projects in the City sewer system. The sources of funding will be debt (\$1,244,039) and a grant of \$1,017,850 provided through the MWRA Infiltration/Inflow Local Financial Assistance Program. The City receives a grant of 45% of the total proceeds and 55% in interest-free loans under this grant/loan program.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)**

**NOTE:**      Commissioner Rooney, Lou Taverna, Ted Jerdee and Sandy Pooler were present for discussion of this item. This is a continuation of a program to upgrade the City's sewer system. It is a grant/loan program through the MWRA, which is available until 2010. The program is beneficial to the City because it allows the City to reduce infiltration/inflow, which decreases the MWRA assessment.

Ald. Salvucci asked if The Town of Wellesley would be contributing funds to the payback of the debt. Commissioner Rooney explained that any projects within the footprint in which their sewage flows would require Wellesley to contribute through reimbursement to the City of Newton. Ald. Salvucci asked that he be informed when Newton receives the reimbursement from Wellesley. Ald. Salvucci then moved the item for approval, which was voted unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#222-03      HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$25,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding lighting upgrades at various school buildings. These funds constitute the City's matching funds to the NStar donation for the continuation of a program in which the utility company pays between 50% and 80% of the cost of new energy efficient light fixtures.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)**

**NOTE:**        Dave Tannozi and Arthur Cabral were present for discussion of this item. NStar is continuing a program, in which 80% of the cost is provided to change the lighting fixtures to energy efficient light fixtures in municipal and school buildings. Many of the City's buildings have been upgraded and it is the Building Department's plan to upgrade Angier, Cabot, Countryside and Lincoln-Eliot Elementary Schools. The upgrades will provide significant savings to the City. Ald. Salvucci moved approval of the item, which was voted unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#223-03        **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$55,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purpose of funding repairs to lavatories in various school buildings (specifically at the Day and Brown Middle Schools).

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)**

**NOTE:**        Arthur Cabral was present for discussion of this item. It is a request for funds to update the lavatories at the Day and Brown Middle Schools. These school lavatories have not been updated in the past thirty years. The Committee had no problems with the request and voted to approve the item unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#224-03        **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$93,179 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding several environmental clean-up and compliance projects.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)**

**NOTE:**        Arthur Cabral was present for discussion of this item. This is a request for funds to continue with several environmental compliance projects previously discussed in 2001. Mr. Cabral provided the Committee with cost estimates for each of the projects (attached). Ald. Salvucci moved approval and he Committee voted unanimously to approve the item.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#225-03        **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$77,236 from Free Cash for the purpose of making improvements to the entrance of the Police Department Annex building (25 Chestnut Street) in order to make it handicapped accessible. This appropriation will be augmented by CDBG funds.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 5-0 (Gerst Not Voting)**

**NOTE:**        Arthur Cabral was present for discussion of this item. The Committee received a memorandum from Lowell Haynes and a cost breakdown from Nick Parnell (attached). Handicap access at the Police Department Annex building is limited to the basement entrance. The improvements would allow handicap access at the

Chestnut Street entrance of the building. The design approved by the Historical Commission is a handicap ramp from the parking lot to the Chestnut Street entrance.

The Committee had no problems with this item. A motion was made to approve the item, which was voted unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chairman