

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2001

Present: Ald. Schnipper (Chair), Gerst, Antonellis, Salvucci, Yates and Mansfield

Absent: Ald. McGrath and M. Lipof

City Officials Present: Nick Parnell (Public Buildings Commissioner), Tom Daley (City Engineer), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer) and Carol Stapleton (Parks & Recreation Department)

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#118-00(5) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY02-FY06 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, pursuant to Section 5-3 of the NEWTON CITY CHARTER, which requires Board of Aldermen approval of a plan to finance new local capital projects totaling **173,907,870** over the next several years:

SUMMARY

PUBLIC WORKS (GRANT/FEE FUNDED).....\$46,394,228

**APPROVAL RECOMMENDED 3-0 (McGrath & Mansfield Not Voting**

**12/06/00**

PUBLIC WORKS (CITY FUNDED).....\$2,710,000

**APPROVAL RECOMMENDED 3-0 (McGrath & Mansfield Not Voting**

**12/06/00**

PUBLIC SAFETY..... \$2,911,000

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.....\$351,575

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

PUBLIC EDUCATION.....\$111,782,167

PARKS & RECREATION..... \$2,215,000

OTHER.....\$5,543,900

TOTAL.....\$173,907,870

NOTE: Nick Parnell and Sandy Pooler presented the Public Buildings' Capital Improvement Program request to the Committee, which begins on page 38 of the C.I.P. Nick Parnell gave a brief overview of the Capital Improvement Program (C.I.P.) in regards to Public Buildings. The C.I.P. reflects what is coming up in the next five years and the proposed funding sources and the timing of projects. The School Buildings are not within the Public Buildings CIP and are found under Public Education.

The Committee reviewed the line items of the document. There was some questions on the Energy Conservation Projects line item. Commissioner Parnell explained that these funds would be used to conserve energy and maximize how

energy is used. The department has begun a process of testing and evaluating roofs but at this time, they are not included in the C.I.P. The Kennard Estate Renovation is contained in FY'02, will include new windows, roof and an update of the kitchen.

The Kennard Estate repairs is shown as operating funds on Page 38 and shown as Kennard Estate income on 39. The funds will come from the Kennard Estate income for the repairs. There is another error on Page 38. Two libraries appear twice under Interior Painting. Ald. Salvucci moved approval with the condition of correction of typographical errors.

REAPPOINTMENT BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN

#331-00      JOSEPH MICHELSON, 94 Park Avenue, Newton, to be re-appointed as an Aldermanic appointee to the DESIGNER SELECTION COMMITTEE, term of office to expire 12/31/01.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**      Alderman Schnipper has spoken with Mr. Michelson regarding his reappointment to the Designer Selection Committee and he would be delighted to continue serving on the Committee. Mr. Michelson has served on the Designer Selection Committee for a number of years and all of the Public Facilities Committee members have met him several times. It was agreed to approve the reappointment of Mr. Michelson without requiring him to come before the Committee. Ald. Salvucci moved approval of the item and it was approved unanimously.

#129-00      ALD. YATES requesting the Recycling Committee to develop a book exchange in the Emerson Community Center and in such former branch libraries as may be suitable.

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**      There is a book exchange in the Robert Shuman Center in Oak Hill Park, which gives residents the opportunity to get books in their neighborhood. This is especially helpful to the seniors, who do not have to make the trip to the main library for reading material. There is also an exchange at Rumford Avenue, which is a wonderful way for people to recycle and exchange books.

Suzanne Spatz, Coordinator of the Senior Program at the Emerson Community Center, felt that an exchange would be excellent for the center. Ms. Spatz is willing to volunteer some time each week to setting up the book exchange but she needs shelves. The senior citizens, who use the community center, are very interested in having a book exchange. The Emerson Community Center is located on the site of the former Upper Falls Library, which was a fundamental part of the community. Bookshelves need to be installed in the center for the storage of books. Lt. Castro had some concern on the placement of the bookshelves due to blockage of exits. It was determined that the best place for an exchange would be in the rear of the Center where people did not exit or enter. Carol Stapleton is willing to coordinate with Ms. Spatz to deliver books from other exchanges.

Barbara Herson, who serves on the Recycling Committee, felt that it should be modeled after the existing exchanges. She thinks the Emerson Center should be specific about what types of books are needed for the exchange. There is a potential that the exchange will receive books that are in poor condition and very outdated, which will need to be recycled.

Ald. Yates moved approval of the item, which passed unanimously.

#385-99(2) BOSTON GAS requesting an amendment of grant of location #385-99 granted on November 1, 1999 to install a 2,154' gas main in WOODLAND ROAD.

**ACTION:** **HELD 6-0**

**NOTE:** Tom Daley presented the item to the Committee. In November of 1999, the Board of Aldermen approved a grant of location with the condition that a curb to curb overlay be done on Woodland Road. Boston Gas does not want to comply with this condition. Through communications with the past Commissioner of Public Works, the Law Department and Boston Gas/Keyspan, Boston Gas/Keyspan can perform the installation of the main without complying with the condition. The Commissioner would not allow Boston Gas/Keyspan to perform the work without going back to the Board of Aldermen to have the condition removed or modified.

Boston Gas/Keyspan recently petitioned for the modification or removal of the condition. Boston Gas/Keyspan has more leeway under the Department of Telecommunications and Energy's regulations than the other telecommunication and utility companies. Mr. Daley feels that Boston Gas would be within its rights if they only agreed to patch the trench. However, Mr. Gibson of the gas company has agreed to pave, mill, clean, tack and adjust structures where necessary in the half of the road where the work is performed. Mr. Daley recommends this, as it is more than what they are required to do, and would leave the road in good condition.

Ald. Salvucci questioned whether there was a law or regulation that restricts the Board from conditioning grant of locations. The Department of Telecommunication and Energy has jurisdiction over the utility companies and what requirements the City can place on utilities under the law. There was some discussion on whether the City should pursue petitioning the Department of Telecommunication to base the requirements on condition of a road rather than the time since it was reconstructed. Several Aldermen think that the City should look at possible legal avenues that would allow conditions to be placed on the gas company.

There are two options available to the Committee. First, the Committee can accept what sounds like a reasonable resolution or go to court to get the full overlay or pursue a change in the regulations with the Massachusetts Municipal Association. The Committee felt that both Boston Gas/Keyspan and the Law

Department should be present for the discussion; therefore, the Committee held the item.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chair