

CITY OF NEWTON
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2001

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

Absent: Ald. McGrath

Also Present: R. Lipof

City Officials: Jay Fink (Utilities Director), Robert Rooney (Commissioner of Public Works), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Gayle Smalley (Associate City Solicitor) and Tom Daley (City Engineer)

Also Present: R. Lipof

APPOINTMENT BY HIS HONOR THE MAYOR

8-01 ALBERT D. FINE 55 Wilde Road, Waban, appointed on 11/14/00 as a member of the DESIGNER SELECTION COMMITTEE for term of office which will expire on December 31, 2001 (60-day Board action date 03/03/01).

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0 (Gerst Not Voting)**

NOTE: Mr. Fine was present to discuss his appointment to the Designer Selection Committee. He is an architect with twenty-five years of experience and is a long-time Newton resident. Mr. Fine feels it would be good to become involved in the community and he has the time to do it.

Mr. Fine is familiar with the architectural firms involved with the high school project and has attended several Designer Selection Committee meetings during the selection of the architectural firm. Ald. Salvucci moved the appointment, which was approved unanimously. The Committee thanked Mr. Fine for his willingness to serve the City.

#367-00 ALD. R. LIPOF requesting discussion on the clean up and repair of South Meadow Brook.

ACTION: **HELD 7-0**

NOTE: Jay Fink and Ald. R. Lipof were present for the discussion of this item. Ald. Lipof docketed the item because there is an ongoing problem with the flooding of South Meadow Brook and he would like to know if there is anything the City can do to improve the situation. The biggest problem is two concrete culverts, which restrict the flow of the brook because the brook goes from an open channel flow to underground structures with limited capacity. In addition, the underground pipe takes a sharp left under Needham Street, causing a slow down of the velocity of the water. The City has placed trash traps at the opening of the culverts but, nonetheless, refuse still enters the culvert and is trapped. It is very difficult to clean the culverts due to the confined space. It is not possible to use machines in

the culvert because of the fumes generated. Two years ago the City put out a bid to clean the underground culverts, but the bids came in at \$268,000 and \$323,000.

There was a question as to whether or not opening the culvert would be a possible solution. The City cannot open the culvert because it runs under Needham Street. It was suggested that Mr. Fink investigate the possibility of grant money for maintenance of the City's brooks. Several Aldermen raised the issue of the Avalon Bay Project and its impact on the drainage on the area. Mr. Fink has not yet spoken with anyone involved with the project.

Mr. Sanjar Azar of 36 Jaconnet Street spoke on the item. He feels that the City needs to better maintain the South Meadow Brook. There should be a schedule for maintenance and cleaning.

The Committee feels that the City needs to act on this problem but it will take more investigation for a solution. The Committee held the item with an expectation that Mr. Fink will report to the Committee by April 1.

7-01 HOWARD MARSHALL, 11 Cumberland Road, requesting a common sewer to be constructed in CUMBERLAND ROAD from Stratford Road southerly 80'± to cover 11 Cumberland Road, West Newton.

PETITIONER TO PAY ENTIRE COST

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0 (Mansfield Not Voting) WITH THE CONDITION THAT Subject to Second Call**

NOTE: The City Engineer, Tom Daley, was present for the discussion of this item. Mr. Daley would like a more detailed plan before he recommends approval of the sewer construction. He also wanted to be sure the petitioner realized that the City would not be responsible for the force main. Mr. Daley recommends that the Board votes the item with the condition that the City will never be responsible for the maintenance, repair or replacement of any portion of the sewer from the dwelling located at #11 Cumberland Road to the end of the force main located at the farthest upstream terminus gravity sewer manhole. The owner of the sewer shall be responsible for all costs and liability for said maintenance repair and/or replacement in perpetuity. This includes all repairs to Cumberland Road, as deemed necessary by the City at the time of said repair, maintenance, and/or replacement.

The public hearing was opened and Mr. Marshall, who owns 11 Cumberland Road, explained that in order for him to sell the house it must meet Title V. He would like the Board's approval as soon as possible to proceed with the sale of the house. The property abuts the Dolan Pone Conservation area and the Conservation Commission will be very happy to have the sewer instead of the septic system. Mr. Richard Stuart, Registered Professional Engineer, prepared the plans for the sewer and apologized for the incomplete plans. He feels that he will be able to provide the Engineering Department with a full set of plans in a very short time. Mr. Paul Kerese, the attorney for Mr. Marshall, would like to get the plan approved expediently as the process for the sewer was begun over a year ago. Maurice and Margaret Keough, 6 Cumberland Road, are in full support of the project. The Keoughs will be able to hook up to the sewer line, which will benefit them if they decide to sell their home because they will also have to meet Title V.

The Committee agreed to approve the item subject to receiving a memo from the City Engineer signing off on the project before the Board of Aldermen's meeting of February 5, 2001. Ald. Lipof moved approval of the item with the City Engineer's recommended condition and subject to second call. The motion was approved unanimously.

#532-00 BOSTON EDISON requesting a grant of location to install 40'± of conduit at manhole #7068, in WASHINGTON STREET northwesterly approximately 160' northeast of Prospect Street.

ACTION: **APPROVED 6-0 (Mansfield Not Voting)**

NOTE: Maureen Carroll, Right of Way Manager for Boston Edison, presented the item. The new conduit is required to provide an upgrade of the electrical service at the Little People's School, 1507 Washington Street. Boston Edison would like to proceed as soon as possible with the petition at the request of the customer. The manager of St. Bernard's Church explained that the school is being renovated and the renovations cannot continue work without electricity. The renovations to the school are required to comply with the Disabilities Act. There was some discussion regarding whether or not Boston Edison would be allowed to open the street before the spring. The street opening permit will be either approved or denied by the Commissioner of Public Works.

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

29-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$283,000 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the snow and ice accounts in the Department of Public Works.

ACTION: **APPROVED 7-0**

NOTE: Robert Rooney, Commissioner of Public Works, and Sandy Pooler, Chief Budget Officer, presented the item to the Committee. The Committee questioned why the amount was not larger. The Commissioner requested a larger appropriation to cover four more storms but Mr. Pooler recommended a smaller appropriation, which would cover two more storms. Mr. Pooler wanted to avoid placing money in those accounts that would not be used. This item will be discussed at the next Finance Committee meeting and it will be easier to determine if more money is required as there is a storm predicted for the weekend. Ald. Lipof 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: **APPROVED 7-0 WITH CONDITIONS**

NOTE: Warren Gibson and Fran O'Leary from Keyspan/Boston Gas were present for the discussion. Keyspan is requesting an amendment to Board Order #385-99 concerning the condition of curb to curb paving. The Department of Telecommunications and Energy guidelines say that if a street is more than five years old it should be put in as good condition as it was before a street opening. The Department of Telecommunications and Energy guidelines suggest that patching the street is putting the street in as good a condition as before it was

opened. Woodland Road was over five years old at the time of the original Board Order.

The City Engineer is agreeable to an amended condition. The City Engineer's memo specifying the details of the new conditions is attached. Mr. Gibson of Keyspan finds these conditions satisfactory. Ald. Lipof moved approval of the item with the recommended conditions. The item was approved unanimously.

All other items were held.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chair