

CITY OF NEWTON  
IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN  
PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 2001

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

Absent: Ald. M. Lipof

Also Present: Ald. Johnson

City Officials Present: Nick Parnell (Commissioner of Public Buildings), Arthur Cabral (Public Buildings Department) Susan Albright (School Committee Member), Carol Bock (School Department), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer), Bob Rooney (Commissioner of Public Works) and Brian Connolly (Director of Administration, Department of Public Works)

#268-00(2) DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE petition pursuant to Sec 5-58 for site plan approval to place four modular classrooms at Newton South High School in order to accommodate increased enrollment for the 2001-02 school year, after which the new wing of the high school will be completed.

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:** Nick Parnell presented the item to the Committee. The modular classrooms are needed to provide space for students during the 2001-2002 school year. The new wing at Newton South High School should be completed in time for student use in the fall of 2002. There is a possibility that four more modular classrooms will be needed if the new wing is not completed in time. The modular classrooms are only to be placed at Newton South for the duration of the construction of the new wing. These classrooms are part of the original proposal for the high schools.

The City will lease the modular classrooms for a year with the option of a second year. The modular classrooms are to be located on the north side of the school by Brandeis Road. The placement will give students in the modular classrooms access to the school through a set of bi-parting doors located near the modular classrooms. Electricity is to be used to heat and cool the modular classrooms, which will have a minimal noise level.

The public hearing was opened and Ms. Jane Yoffe, 99 Littlefield Road, had some questions. The questions she raised were regarding the reconstruction and renovations at the high school, which would be best answered at the hearing on April 4, 2001. Ald. Yates moved approval of the item, which passed unanimously.

# 69-01 DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE petition pursuant to Sec 5-58 for site plan approval to relocate two modular classrooms from the Memorial-Spaulding School to the Carr School in order to provide space for students attending Carr School during renovations to Memorial Spaulding School.

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 6-0-1 WITH THE CONDITION THAT MODULAR CLASSROOMS WILL BE REMOVED FROM THE SITE 90 DAYS**

**AFTER THE MEMORIAL SPAULDING STUDENTS ARE OFF THE SITE  
(Salvucci Abstaining)**

**NOTE:**

Nick Parnell presented the item to the Committee. The petition requests the relocation of two modular classrooms from Memorial Spaulding School to Carr School during renovation of Memorial Spaulding. The Carr School will be used as a swing school for Memorial Spaulding during these renovations. There are not enough classrooms at Carr School to house all the students at Memorial Spaulding. The modular classrooms are to be placed at the rear of Carr School. The modular classrooms will be removed from the Carr School once renovations at Memorial Spaulding are complete.

The relocation of the modular classrooms will be funded through the Tier 1 Program. Ald. Salvucci questioned whether this project is scheduled to go forward. Susan Albright explained that, even with a decline in student enrollment at Memorial Spaulding, the renovations are still necessary to provide for art, music, and library programs. The contract documents are almost completed and the Design Review Committee will review them in the next few weeks. It was requested that Superintendent Young supply the Committee with a letter stating that the project is going forward.

Ald. Johnson would like some assurance that the modular classrooms will not become permanent fixtures at Carr School. She has received a number of calls from residents of the area that are concerned about the modular classrooms becoming permanent. It is likely that the modular classrooms will be used elsewhere within the City immediately following the completion of the project.

The public hearing was opened and Amy McGregor, 66 Greenwood Street, spoke in favor of moving the modular classrooms. If the modular classrooms are not moved, it will create space issues for the relocated Memorial Spaulding School students. Mr. Chris Marzilli, 246 Linwood Avenue, also spoke on the petition. He is very nervous that the modular classrooms are not going to be moved when the Memorial Spaulding students leave the Carr School. He is very happy to have children using the Carr School but would like assurances that the modular classrooms will be removed at the proper time. The public hearing was closed and the item was brought back to Committee.

There was some discussion about the use of the modular classrooms after the project is completed but no one was able to answer where they would be going next. Ald. Mansfield pointed out that it is possible for the Committee to condition the approval.

Ald. McGrath moved approval of the item with the condition that the modular classrooms will be removed from the site 90 days after the Memorial Spaulding students are off the site. The item passed with a vote of six in favor and one abstention (Ald. Salvucci).

**REFERRED TO PROG&SERV; PUB FACILITIES & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

#268-00(3) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$175,000 to lease four modular classrooms for Newton South High School.

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**       Nick Parnell and Sandy Pooler presented the item to the Committee. The funds for the lease of four modular classrooms at Newton South High School will be coming from Capital Stabilization. The lease is for one year with the option of a second year and does not encompass the possibility of additional modular classrooms. Ald. Salvucci moved the item, which was approved unanimously.

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

# 98-01       HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$578,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the snow and ice accounts within the FY01 Department of Public Works operating budget as follows:

|       |                                  |                  |
|-------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| FROM: | Free Cash .....                  | \$578,000        |
| TO:   | Overtime                         |                  |
|       | (0140110-5130).....              | \$200,000        |
|       | Special Compensation             |                  |
|       | (0140110-5143).....              | \$ 30,000        |
|       | Rental of Vehicles and Equipment |                  |
|       | (0140110-5273).....              | \$223,000        |
|       | Salt and Sand                    |                  |
|       | (0140110-5532).....              | \$125,000        |
|       | <b>TOTAL .....</b>               | <b>\$578,000</b> |

**ACTION:**     **APPROVED 7-0**

**NOTE:**       Commissioner Rooney and Brian Conley the new Director of Administration for Public Works presented the item. A storm by storm breakdown of the costs was distributed to the Committee (Attached). There has been a great deal of snow since the last request for funds and the snow and ice accounts are depleted. The Committee requested that any of the above unused funds be returned to Free Cash.

There was some discussion on snow removal from sidewalks on school routes and in front of municipal property. The Committee felt that the Public Works Department has done a great job plowing the streets this winter but the sidewalks needed some work. Sidewalks in front of some municipal lots have not been cleared. Public Works is responsible for plowing approximately sixty miles of sidewalk and they do not have the proper equipment to do the job well. The bombardiers work when there is a large amount of snowfall but do not handle curb cuts well or clear snow to the pavement. The Commissioner is looking into purchasing some snow blowers to handle the clearing of sidewalks. The Public Works Department is also working on updating the list of sidewalks, which should be cleared by Public Works. Ald. Salvucci moved approval of the item, which passed unanimously.

# 97-01      **REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**  
**HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$303,764 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding the environmental cleanup and compliance projects as follows:

| <b>PROJECT</b>   | <b>COST</b>      |
|--|------------------|
| Burr School Environmental Compliance .....             | \$ 40,595        |
| Cabot School Environmental Compliance.....             | \$ 44,016        |
| Elliot St. Garage Environmental Compliance.....        | \$ 72,263        |
| Emerson Community Center Environmental Compliance..... | \$ 26,250        |
| Health Department Fuel Tank Removal .....              | \$ 15,750        |
| Horace Mann School Environmental Compliance.....       | \$ 39,528        |
| Waban Library Fuel Tank Removal.....                   | \$ 15,750        |
| <b>SUBTOTAL.....</b>                                   | <b>\$254,152</b> |

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED 7-0**  
Municipal UST Leak Detection System ..... \$ 33,075 || Municipal UST Testing and Repairs..... | \$ 16,537 |

**ACTION:**      **HELD 7-0**

**NOTE:**      Commissioner Parnell and Sandy Pooler requested that the Committee take up a portion of this item as it is admitting on no delay. The funds are for the next phase of environmental cleanup of oil leaks. This phase has already begun and requires funding to continue the work. The costs include the removal and replacement of the fuel tanks. These items are listed in the C.I.P for this year. Ald. McGrath moved the first seven items, which passed unanimously. The two remaining items were held, as the funding is not required immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chair