

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE BUDGET REPORT

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 2001

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

Absent: Ald. McGrath and Mansfield

City Officials Present: Nick Parnell (Commissioner of Public Buildings), Arthur Cabral (Budget and Projects Specialist; Public Buildings Department), Bob Rooney (Commissioner of Public Works), Brian Connolly (Director of Administration; Public Works Department), Mike Trotta (Deputy Commissioner of Public Works), Jay Fink (Utilities Director), Tom Daley (City Engineer), Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer) and Mike Rourke (Chief Administrative Officer)

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#113-01 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR**, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the Newton City Charter, submitting the FY2002 Municipal/School Operating Budget, including Water/Sewer for a total of \$232,421,103.

**EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: APRIL 17, 2001**

**LAST DAY TO PASS BUDGET: JUNE 1, 2001**

**PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

**ACTION:** **APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:** Nick Parnell and Arthur Cabral presented the Public Buildings Department budget. The budget for this department is pretty much level funded. There is a 2% increase due to the rise in utility fees. The Commissioner feels that this is a very workable budget.

There was a brief discussion on energy conservation, as utility costs are rising steadily. Commissioner Parnell said that David Tannozi, Energy/Electrical Engineer, has worked diligently to decrease energy use within the City resulting in substantial cost savings. The Committee would like to see the Energy Commission choose a Chairperson and begin to meet again.

Committee members felt that the department is underfunded as there is only a 2% increase overall and the inflation rate is at least 3%. Sandy Pooler pointed out that Local 444 has not settled their contract yet, therefore, those figures are not included within the budget. Once those figures are included the total budget should reflect at least a 3% increase. The Committee had no further questions

regarding the departmental budget. Ald. Salvucci moved approval and the budget was approved unanimously.

**ACTION:**      **DPW/UTILITIES/ENGINEERING**  
**APPROVED 6-0**

**NOTE:**      Bob Rooney, Mike Trotta, Brian Connolly, Tom Daley, and Jay Fink presented the Public Works Department's budget. Mr. Rooney handed out a budget brief, which reflect the highlights of the Public Works Department (Attached). The budget is level funded and there are few changes.

The Engineering Division will add a much needed design engineer to the department and the Public Works Department will cut a vacant position from the labor force. The position has been vacant for approximately seven months and the elimination will not cause an impact to the labor force.

The main switchboard for City Hall will be moved from the Purchasing Department to the Customer Service Center in Engineering. This should provide better service to residents calling City Hall for information. An upgrade in computers at various locations is planned in order to allow personnel to use the same software programs and receive the same information.

There was a short review of the Utilities Division's budget. There are few changes within this budget. The division is purchasing a camera for viewing pipe lines. Mr. Fink showed a video of the capabilities of the camera. Both the sewer and water pumping stations will continue to operate by contract.

The Committee had no issues regarding the budget and it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chair