

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2001

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

Absent: Ald. Yates and M. Lipof

City Officials present: John Dahglan (Associate City Engineer) and Sandy Pooler (Chief Budget Officer)

PUBLIC HEARING

#293-01 NSTAR requesting a grant of location to install 200' ± of conduit @ pole 447/20 westerly then turning northwesterly in WASHINGTON STREET at St. James Circle.

ACTION: **APPROVED WITH CONDITION 5-0**

NOTE: Maureen Carroll, NStar Representative, presented the petition to the Committee. The Public Works Department has no conflicts with this petition but would like an explanation as to why the conduit cannot come off an electric bank installed in Washington Street. Ms. Carroll explained that NStar did not have an electric bank in that area, therefore, it was necessary to install the conduit as shown on the plan. The Public Works Department also recommended the road be repaved curb to curb with Type 1A bituminous concrete.

The public hearing was opened and no one spoke for or against the petition. Ald. Gerst moved approval of the item with the condition recommended by the Department of Public Works. The item was approved unanimously

PUBLIC HEARING

#294-01 VERIZON requesting a grant of location to place one controlled environmental manhole in CENTRAL STREET and place UG vent conduits 125' easterly to existing pole 20 from proposed controlled environmental manhole place 36' ± of conduit northerly to existing pole 21.

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 WITH CONDITION**

NOTE: Gary Savignano, Verizon Representative, presented the petition to the Committee. The environmental manhole will upgrade service in area. The environmental manhole is underground and the hatch is flush to the grade of the roadway. The Public Works Department has no conflict with this petition but would like a condition that the conduit shall have a depth of no less than 30" from roadway grade.

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

PUBLIC HEARING

#458-00 BOSTON EDISON requesting a grant of location to install one pole (186/51A) on WARD STREET on the northerly side, approximately 150' east of Woodchester Drive.

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0 WITH CONDITION**

NOTE: Maureen Carroll of NStar presented the petition to the Committee. The customer at 7 Woodchester Road has requested underground service to the home. Currently, there are two poles located on the property. One pole will be relocated to Ward Street by the driveway to 7 Woodchester Drive and the other will be moved further back on the property. Ald. Salvucci would like NStar to do the work as soon as possible.

The public hearing was opened and George Krup, 7 Woodchester Drive, stated that he would like the electric service underground in order to landscape the yard.

Mr. Robert Oppenheimer, 121 Ward Street, wanted to be sure that the pole would not be moved in front of his house. Ms. Carroll explained that the pole would be placed in front of Mr. Krup's property.

The Public Works Department had no conflict with this petition. Ald. Salvucci moved approval of the item, which passed unanimously.

#246-01 ALD. R. LIPOF requesting discussion with NStar regarding frequent power outages in the Ward 3 area.

ACTION: **HELD 5-0**

NOTE: Mr. Amin Jessa, NStar's Engineer, joined the Committee for discussion of this item. Mr. Jessa provided the Committee with an action plan for West Newton (attached). There are several circuits, which feed into the West Newton area from various areas in the city. There have been 116 outages in the area in the past year. Eighty Five percent of the outages occurred in the overhead system. The overhead outages are due to the elements, trees and animals. Twelve percent occurred in the underground service. Problems in the underground system are very hard to locate and are generally the cause of prolonged outages.

There have been improvements to the West Newton electric service. A complete overhead inspection has been performed and repairs have been made. An infrared scan to capture imminent failures in the overhead system was done in 2000, which included equipment, connections and transformers. NStar has also done tree trimming in West Newton in 2000. One of the circuits has been converted to 14,000 volts.

More walk-downs of the overhead wires are planned for 2001, as well as infrared scans and tree trimming. Another circuit will be converted from 4,000 volts to 14,000 volts by December 31, 2001. NStar will also be rerouting some the lines, which feed into stations providing power to West Newton and several other areas within the city.

Ald. Salvucci questioned the reliability of the transformers in West Newton. Mr. Jessa explained that the transformers are in good condition but can become overloaded. Several transformers were overloaded this summer due to increased air conditioning use during the heat waves.

NStar is committed to completing repair work by the end of the year. The repairs should result in improvements in electrical service. The Committee held the item for a future update on NStar's progress.

Mr. Connolly joined the Committee and gave a brief update on the removal of double poles. Ald. Salvucci asked Mr. Connolly to look at a severely leaning double pole on Walnut Street. Mr. Connolly said that if the pole is leaning it will be removed by the weekend.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#253-01 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** requesting that the sum of \$130,000 be appropriated from the Parking Meter Receipts fund and expended for the purpose of supplementing the street light budget.

ACTION: **APPROVED 5-0**

NOTE: Mr. Pooler presented the item to the Committee. The funds need to be appropriated from Parking Meter Receipts to supplement the streetlight budget. Money was shifted from the street light budget to finance the Nexus. The Committee questioned why the parking meter receipts were not used for the Nexus. State law requires that parking meter receipts be used for certain things such as streetlights. Therefore, the money from parking meters cannot be used to fund Nexus. Ald. Gerst moved approval of the item, which was approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chair