

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE REPORT

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2001

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

Absent: Ald. Antonellis; 1 vacancy

Officials present: Robert Rooney (Commissioner of Public Works) and Jay Fink (Director of Utilities)

#265-01 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the Commissioner of Public Works on the capacity of city storm drains and sanitary sewer to accommodate heavy rainfalls without letting sewage or storm drainage damage private homes in the Quinebequin Road area.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: This item was held on September 5, 2001 for further information. Commissioner Rooney and Jay Fink were present for the discussion of this item. Mr. Fink provided the Committee with a report on the Quinebequin Road area, which is attached. Mr. Fink reviewed the measures taken to solve the sewerage discharge problem. A two-foot metal plate was removed from the Watertown Street sewer line. The sanitary sewer/underdrain at Watertown and Eddy Street failed. The repair is ready to go out for bid this month and the repair should last four to six weeks. The Longfellow Road sewer line has been televised and remedial construction should begin this spring. These repairs should improve the surcharging problem at the Quinebequin Road area and Lyons Field.

There was some discussion regarding possible future measurements that may be taken, if funding is available. There is a sewer line at Elliot Street, which crosses the Charles River twice and feeds into the Quinebequin Road area. It is thought that extra flow during storm events originates from this line. If funding is available, work will begin on this line in the spring.

Mr. Fink, also, researched a holding tank, where sewerage could be stored during storm events. Unfortunately, the cost of such a tank is exorbitant and unlikely to be funded. There was also discussion about an amendment to the ordinances to prohibit clean water discharges from pumps into the sewer line. A program needs to be established to fund or provide funding to residents to divert the flow of their sump pumps to the City's drainage system.

Ald. Yates moved no action necessary on his item but would like to see the residents of the Quinebequin Road area notified of the progress made on this problem. Ald. Schnipper also suggested notifying the Horace Mann School and the F.A. Day Middle School when construction begins at Eddy Street so parents are aware of detours when dropping and picking up students. Mr. Rooney and Mr. Fink agreed to notify the residents and schools. The item was voted unanimously.

#264-01 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the Commissioner of Public Works on the condition of the storm and sewer drainage system in the Glen Avenue area.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: This item was held on September 5, 2001 for further information. Commissioner Rooney and Jay Fink were present for the discussion of this item. Mr. Fink provided the Committee with a report on the Glen Avenue sewer and drainage systems, which is attached. The sewer lines in Glen Avenue were cleaned and lined and watertight inserts have been placed in manholes, which stops extra water from entering the sewer lines. A manhole on Glen Avenue has been raised to grade to prevent further flooding. The drain lines and culvert have been televised and look to be in great shape.

Glen Avenue is a low point and some flooding is expected there in major storm events. The Public Works Department will keep Glen Avenue under surveillance during storms.

The lagoons located at City Hall need to be cleaned. There is a plan in place to dredge these lagoons, which should alleviate some of the flooding. Ald. Yates moved no action necessary, which was voted unanimously.

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#395-01 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY03-FY07 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 \$164,339,428 over the next several years:

SUMMARY

PUBLIC WORKS (GRANT/FEE FUNDED).....	\$ 51,675,171
PUBLIC WORKS (CITY FUNDED).....	\$ 7,215,000
PUBLIC SAFETY.....	\$ 2,296,000
PUBLIC BUILDINGS.....	\$ 2,260,650
PUBLIC EDUCATION.....	\$ 92,243,907
PARKS & RECREATION.....	\$ 3,951,900
OTHER.....	\$ 4,696,800
TOTAL.....	\$164,339,428

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

#386-01 Petition received from SALLY MARUCCI, 203 Lexington Street, requesting Construction of a Common Sewer in LEXINGTON STREET, from manhole in Burr School playground 735' ± to Lexington Street and then 325' ± southerly and 600' ± northerly within Lexington Street.

ACTION: APPROVED 6-0

NOTE: This was a reaffirmation of a vote taken on December 3, 2001. There was some confusion regarding whether or not the item needed to be voted by the Finance Committee as well. However, this item does not need to be referred to the Finance Committee.

REFERRED TO FINANCE, PROG & SERV. AND PUB. FAC. COMMITTEE

#309-01 ALD. PARKER requesting increase in the income eligibility level of the 30% water/sewer discount for low-income senior citizens.

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

REFERRED TO PROG. & SERV., PUB. FAC. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#113-01(6) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting that the FY02 DPW Operating Budget be decreased by the sum of \$150,000 and that said funds be appropriated to the FY02 School Department Operating Budget. It is anticipated that the reduction in the DPW budget will be more than made up by increases in Chapter 90 payments from the State for road and sidewalk work.

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

#387-01 ALD. ANTONELLIS requesting discussion with NStar regarding frequent power outages in the Highland Avenue area.

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

#401-01 ALD. BRYSON requesting a discussion regarding the naming/dedication as a Veterans' Memorial of one of the two traffic islands located at the intersection of Lexington Street and Commonwealth Avenue.

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

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

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: This item was discussed previously. NStar has continued to make improvements in the West Newton area and there have been no outages recently. Therefore, the Committee voted the item no action necessary.

80-01 ALD. LIPSITT requesting discussion of planning and decision-making process for renovations and decoration of City Hall and War Memorial buildings.

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

71-01 ALD. LIPSITT & YATES requesting discussion about the city's process for selecting energy suppliers and possibility of including renewable source in selection criteria.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: The Public Buildings Department has hired an energy engineer, who is working on the process of selecting energy suppliers. It was felt that at this time there was no need to go forward with this item. The item was voted no action necessary.

48-01 PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMITTEE requesting discussion with relevant Department Heads to clarify the city's policy on snow removal from sidewalk.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: The Committee quickly reviewed this item with Commissioner Rooney. This item has been discussed twice previously. The Commissioner explained that the City has purchased new equipment, which should help with the sidewalk clearing effort. The Committee felt that the issue had been addressed and voted the item no action necessary.

APPOINTMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

24-01 DON FISHMAN, 68 Littlefield Road, Newton Centre, appointed as the community representative pursuant to Sec. 5-56(i) on January 10, 2001 as a member of the DESIGN REVIEW COMMITTEE for the duration of the Newton South High School renovations.

ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: Mr. Fishman has been notified several times regarding his appointment and has failed to show up to be confirmed. The item was voted no action necessary.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#408-00 BRADFORD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION petition for reconstruction of the intersection at Florence Street at Route 9 by adding a triangular island.

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

#383-00 ALD SALVUCCI requesting discussion with Boston Edison regarding double poles located throughout the City.

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

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

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

75-00 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR proposing ordinance amendments related to right of way petitions, plans and permits as provided for in sections 23 and 26 of the Revised Ordinance of the City of Newton.
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

#529-99 ALD. YATES & LIPSITT requesting His Honor the Mayor to submit an ordinance enabling the city to minimize the disruption of city streets by telecommunication providers, require the restoration of streets to prior condition at provider expense promote co-location, and otherwise manage the city right of way in accordance with city rights under the Telecommunication Act.
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#478-99 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend \$5,400,000, which funding will be long term debt as authorized by MGL Chapter 44, Section 8(7)(a), for the purpose of replacing water meters throughout the City.
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

STREET ACCEPTANCE

#146-99 GRACE J. VIGORITO, 33 Bencliffe Circle, Petition for Laying out, Grading, and Acceptance of BENCLIFFE CIRCLE from Chaske Avenue to 730'to be the width of 45 feet.
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

Petition for Laying Out, Grading and Acceptance of Street

#523-98 MICHAEL & BARBARA WOLFE, 29 Hampden Terrace, Newton petition for Laying Out, Grading, and Acceptance of HAMPDEN TERRACE.
(Planning Board Approval Required)
ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: There has been no contact between the City and the Wolfe's regarding this petition for two years. Therefore, the item was voted no action necessary.

#341-98 ALD. CICCONE requesting establishment of an ordinance to require that all street design/redesign projects be submitted to the Board of Aldermen for approval.
ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND PUBLIC SAFETY & TRANS.

#340-98 ALD. M. LIPOF requesting ordinance change to require contractors/utility companies to hire police details when construction projects block 50% of traffic lanes on any street.
ACTION: NO ACTION NECESSARY 6-0

NOTE: It was the belief of the Committee that police details are already required if 50% of the roadway is blocked during construction, therefore, the item was voted no action necessary.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#128-98 ALD. PARKER, SANGIOLO, MERRILL, MANSFIELD requesting an adjustment to the water and sewer rate structure to allow rate relief for low-volume water and sewer users.

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

RECOMMITTED BY FULL BOARD ON APRIL 5, 1999

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

20-96 ALD. CICCONE requesting discussion with the Director of Utilities regarding the re-implementation of the use of sprinkler/garden meters to measure outside water use for all residences city-wide.

ACTION: REFERRED TO 2002-2003 BOARD 6-0

Respectfully submitted,

Sydra Schnipper, Chair