

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

POST AUDIT & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AGENDA

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2011

7:45 pm
Room 222

ITEMS SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

#375-08 ALD. PARKER, JOHNSON, LINSKY AND SWISTON requesting follow-up discussion on the Payments-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) budget resolution passed by the Board of Aldermen as part of the Fiscal year 2009 operating budget discussion. [10/14/08 @ 3:35 PM]
HELD 5-0 on 03/23/10

REFERRED TO POST AUDIT by ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE on 04/25/11

#114-10 ALD. YATES AND RICE requesting reports from the Conservation Commission and Board of Survey on compliance with condition of permits given to allow the development of the Laura Road subdivision. [04/07/10 @ 10:59 PM]
ZONING & PLANNING REFERRED 6-0 (Baker not voting) on 04/25/11

REFERRED TO POST AUDIT by ZONING & PLANNING COMMITTEE on 04/25/11

#30-10(2) POST AUDIT & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE requesting a discussion with the Planning & Development Department relative to the governance process of the Newton Community Development Authority (NCDA), including recommendations and potential changes to the NCDA. [01/26/09 @ 9:00 PM]
ZONING & PLANNING REFERRED 6-0 (Baker not voting) on 04/25/11

ITEMS NOT SCHEDULED FOR DISCUSSION:

#323-10 ALD. YATES requesting a report from the Newton Housing Authority (NHA) on the posting of names and contact information of members of the Board of the NHA on bulletin boards in the community centers of NHA developments and on the website of the NHA. [11/01/10 @ 9:44 PM]
HELD 4-0 on 01/25/11

The location of this meeting is handicap accessible, and reasonable accommodations will be provided to persons requiring assistance. If you have a special accommodation need, please contact the Newton ADA Coordinator Kathleen Cahill, 617-796-1125, via email at KCahill@newtonma.gov or via TDD/TTY at (617) 796-1089 at least two days in advance of the meeting date.

#377-09 ALD. JOHNSON requesting discussion with the Executive Secretary of the Elections Commission on the access to and quality of the Newton Voter Files.
[10/26/09 @ 9:02 PM]

RECOMMEND TO HOLD 3-0 on 03/29/11

#300-08(2) ALD. JOHNSON, SWISTON AND SHAPIRO requesting discussion with the Executive Department and School Department as to the procedures that are in place to ensure accountability of their staff in respect to adherence to the authorization of purchasing and expenditures policy and procedures. [03/23/10]

Respectfully submitted,

Greer Tan Swiston, Chairman

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

POST AUDIT & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010

Present: Ald. Swiston (Chairman), Shapiro, Rice, Lennon and Johnson

Absent: Ald. Freedman, Sangiolo and Schnipper

Also Present: City Staff: Craig Manseau (Executive Secretary Election Commission) and Robert Rooney (Chief Operating Officer)

#375-08 ALD. PARKER, JOHNSON, LINSKY AND SWISTON requesting follow-up discussion on the Payments-In-Lieu-of-Taxes (PILOT) budget resolution passed by the Board of Aldermen as part of the Fiscal year 2009 operating budget discussion. [10/14/08 @3:35 PM]

ACTION: **HELD 5-0**

NOTE: Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer joined the Committee for discussion on this item.

Mr. Rooney said Mayor Warren supports the use and is seeking Service in Lieu of Tax payments (SILOT) and Payment in Lieu of Tax payments (PILOT) as a viable way to establish relationships with non-profit organizations in the City. Mr. Rooney and Mayor Warren have visited the larger non-profit organizations in the City to discuss the possibility of making their relationship move forward, without jeopardizing negotiations. Mr. Rooney said it is Mayor Warren's intention to revisit those organizations to formalize relationships made. Mr. Rooney said in the next few months the Board will hear more about the formal relationships that were made.

Ald. Johnson said about 1 ½ years ago, the Committee had a lengthy discussion with the Executive Department. At that time, it was requested to have another conversation after the following action items had been addressed:

1. Information on PILOT programs in other cities and towns from the Blue Ribbon Report and the CAG Draft Benchmarking Report.
2. Quantification of the value of services the City provides versus services the tax-exempt institutions provide.
3. A strategy on how to approach the institutions regarding PILOTs and SILOTs.

Ald. Johnson requested Mr. Rooney have available during the budget time an understanding of the services the City receives. Mr. Rooney said Department Heads have been asked to provide the Executive Department with a list of not only the services the organizations are providing to the City but what the City is providing them. Mr. Rooney believes this information should be shared and the City should be proud.

Ald. Shapiro suggested this information be added to the City's website in order to motivate other organizations as well as to promote how generous they are to the community as a source of pride. Mr. Rooney said Mt. Ida recently hosted a City event. Ald. Shapiro said he would like to see Mt. Ida receive a public credit.

Ald. Lennon said he has always been concerned over his former colleagues who wanted to place a blanket pilot program in place. Ald. Lennon said he thinks it would be difficult to accomplish because there are many non profit organizations in the City that are struggling. He was happy to hear the larger non profit organizations were visited, perhaps the larger organizations could absorb a little more than the smaller non profit organizations. He is hoping the Executive Department will be able to elaborate on their accomplishments and is hopeful it will not be a blanket policy. Mr. Rooney said the Executive Department is matching organizations to City needs.

Chairman Swiston said she is hoping the Mayor is taking into consideration not only sharing what these institutions are giving but hopes we can negotiate for somewhat of a balance of what the direct benefits are to the City.

Ald. Johnson said it would be important to have development plans that are real and able to be implemented.

Chairman Swiston said her expectation is to hold this item because she would like to see some form of this item reflected in the budget and therefore probably revisit this item again in May to see if all questions are being answered.

Ald. Rice said there had been a previous meeting with many non-profit social service providers. One of the points discussed was if all the non-profits were doing the same thing. It certainly would be helpful to track and have services tied together.

Ald. Johnson asked if appropriate commissions were going to bring all non-profits together to start looking at how to better serve youth. In her opinion, that is the most under-served population in the City at this point in time. Another question asked by Ald. Johnson concerned money received from grants and it was her suggestion that at budget time, this information would be available.

Ald. Shapiro made the motion to hold this item until May pending more information. The Committee voted in favor 5-0.

PILOTs

Budget Resolution #16

Offered by Ald. Parker

WHEREAS, there is more that \$2 billion of tax-exempt property in Newton that benefits from City services, including use of City streets and police and fire protection;

AND WHEREAS, many Massachusetts cities and towns ask their tax exempt institutions to make voluntary payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) to fund some of the services they receive;

AND WHEREAS, the proposed Fiscal Year 2009 operating budget contains numerous programmatic reductions that would negatively impact the quality of live in Newton, including cuts to services that benefit the most vulnerable Newton residents, including the elimination of senior citizen transit services to locations that include Newton tax-exempt institutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Aldermen respectfully requests that HIS HONOR THE MAYOR request PILOTs from the tax exempt institutions in Newton of an amount equal to one-quarter of what they would pay were they not tax exempt;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a portion of these funds be used to restore the \$28,000 in senior ride services proposed to be cut in the Mayor's proposed allocation budget with the remainder of the revenue from this program going to restore cuts to street maintenance and public safety.

**Voice Vote Approves with Amendment
3 nays, 1 abstention**

City of Newton



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459-1449Setti D. Warren
Mayor

May 12, 2011

To: Alderman Brian Yates

From: David F. Turocy, Interim Commissioner of Public Works

Subject: Irwin Road/Laura Road wetland drainage

During the period of mid-March through mid-April 2011, the Public Works Department completed a drainage improvement project for the Quinobequin Road area that was designed to reduce flooding from the wetlands area between Rokeby Road and Irwin Road/Laura Lane.

The City of Newton has a drain easement from Rokeby Road to the Charles River that was found to be blocked. Flushing from the top of Rokeby Road proved unsuccessful and we were unable to access the drain manhole in the backyards. As a result, the Utilities Division installed a new manhole on the river side of Quinobequin Road in order to better flush the line. We were then able to completely clear the line from the Rokeby Road cul-de-sac to the outlet at the Charles River.

In addition, while flushing this line, a previously unknown drain line was discovered that led from the drain easement into the wetlands area of concern. The inlet of this pipe was found to be covered over with several feet of silt and therefore non-operational. Upon clearing this "new" drain pipe and inlet, the water that had ponded in the wetlands area drained over the course of 24 hours and has remained controlled. The Utilities Division cleared the area around the inlet and installed a new grated cover on the pipe in order to maintain it in the future.

In addition, the Highway Division re-set the granite curbing on Rokeby Road to close off openings in the curb area and prevent water from the wetlands from easily spilling out onto the cul-de-sac. The Utilities Division is also working with the most affected abutter to best direct groundwater in her yard into the drainage easement areas. We believe these steps will provide a significant improvement in the stormwater management of this neighborhood.

Respectfully,

David F. Turocy
Interim DPW CommissionerCC: Robert R. Rooney, Chief Operating Officer
Fred Russell, Director of Utilities