



Finance Committee Report

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, September 12, 2022

Present: Councilors Grossman (Chair), Gentile, Kalis, Malakie, Oliver, Norton and Humphrey

Absent: Councilor Noel

City staff present: Comptroller Steve Curley, Manager of Financial Planning and Analysis Perry Rosenfield, Kelly Brown Worker's Compensation & Safety Manager, Chief Operating Officer Jonathan Yeo, Nicole Banks Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Culture, Josh Morse Commissioner of Public Buildings, Nicole Freedman Director of Transportation Planning, Jason Sobel Director of Transportation and Lara Kritzer Program Manager

#408-22 Appropriate \$12,000 from Special Permit Fees, Langley Road

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of twelve thousand (\$12,000) from Acct # 5553R401-432017 Special Permit Fees, Langley for the installation of two speed feedback signs on Langley Road, consistent with the intent of Special Permit #285-17, Condition 9

Action: Finance Approved 6-0 (Councilor Oliver not voting)

Note: Jason Sobel, Director of Transportation presented the request to appropriate and expend \$12,000 for the installation of two speed feedback signs on Langley Road, consistent with the intent of Special Permit #285-17, Condition 9. He explained that they would have one sign on the northbound section approaching Newton Centre and one going south bound in the vicinity of Langley Path. These signs are most effective at the places where the speed limit changes which is the case for this project.

Councilor Kalis motioned to approve which passed 6-0 with Councilor Oliver not voting.

#409-22 Appropriate ~~\$25,000~~ 11,926.50 from Special Permit Fees, Langley Road

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of ~~twenty five thousand dollars (\$25,000)~~ eleven thousand nine hundred twenty-six dollars and fifty cents (\$11,926.50) from Acct #5551R401-432017 Special Permit Fees, Langley Streetscape to make repairs to ADA ramps, curbing and sidewalks on Langley Path, consistent with the intent of Special Permit #285-17, Condition 17

Action: Finance Approved as Amended to \$11,926.50 7-0

Note: Jason Sobel, Director of Transportation presented the request for funds to make repairs to ADA ramps, curbing and sidewalks on Langley Path, consistent with the intent of Special Permit #285-17, Condition 17. This project was discussed with the Complete Streets working group and Safe Routes

to School. It was determined that this work would be done in-house and with the decrease in price Mr. Sobel requested the Committee amend the item to \$11,926.50.

It was questioned if the DPW always checks to see if work for a project could be done in-house? Mr. Sobel explained that yes, they check to see if the work can be done in-house. It was also consistent with the sidewalk work they were already doing this summer.

Councilor Kalis motioned to amend the item to \$11,926.50 which passed unanimously.

Councilor Kalis motioned to approve as amended which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#439-22 **Authorization to expend a MassDOT grant in the amount of \$272,000**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to accept and expend a two hundred seventy-two-thousand-dollar (\$272,000) grant from the MassDOT's Community Connections Program for the Bluebikes bike share in Newton, Arlington and Watertown Project
Public Safety & Transportation Approved 5-0 on 09/08/22
Action: **Finance Approved 7-0**

Note: Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation Planning presented the request to accept and expend a \$272,000 MassDOT grant. She explained that this will allow Newton to add 2 to 3 Blue Bike stations. Ms. Freedman explained that they are still discussing where to put these stations.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: Is there a way to see what percentage of riders are low- income as the City does with NewMo?

A: Ms. Freedman explained that the City does not own the system like they do for NewMo and last time a survey was done there were only five responses from Newton riders.

Q: Will these be placed near schools?

A: Ms. Freedman explained that they haven't done many by schools right now because the minimum age is 16. She further explained that they have been thinking of putting them near the high schools since the NewMo ridership is so high in those areas.

Q: Who has control over where the bikes are located?

A: Ms. Freedman explained that the Planning Department goes to look for potential locations, runs the options by the Department of Public Works or Parks, Recreation and Culture and then Planning reaches out to Ward councilors and abutters.

Councilors made the following comments:

There should be clear communication with the Ward councilors when determining a location.

Councilors thanked Ms. Freedman for the work she has done for the City.

Councilor Norton motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#445-22 **Acceptance of a \$60,000 ~~donation~~ contribution from UMASS Amherst-Mount Ida**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the authorization to accept, appropriate and expend the sum of sixty thousand dollars as a ~~donation~~ contribution to the City of Newton for the NewMo program by UMass Amherst-Mount Ida
Action: **Finance Approved as Amended to contribution 7-0**

Note: Nicole Freedman, Director of Transportation Planning presented the request to accept, appropriate and expend \$60,000 from UMASS Amherst- Mount Ida. Ms. Freedman asked the committee to amend the item to say contribution instead of donation.

Councilor Oliver motioned to amend the item to contribution which passed unanimously.

Councilor Oliver motioned to approve as amended to contribution which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committee

#438-22 **Appropriate \$950,000 for simulcast public safety radio infrastructure**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend nine hundred fifty thousand dollars and authorize a general obligation borrowing of an equal amount for the purchase of a simulcast public safety radio infrastructure and authorization to apply any premium received upon the sale of the bonds or notes, less the cost of preparing, issuing, and marketing them, and any accrued interest received upon the delivery of the bonds or notes to the costs of the project and to reduce the amount authorized to be borrowed for the project by like amount.
Public Safety & Transportation Approved 5-0 (Councilor Malakie not voting) on 09/08/22
Action: **Finance Approved 7-0**

Note: Greg Gentile, Fire Chief presented the request to appropriate \$850,000 for simulcast public safety radio infrastructure. Chief Gentile explained that they have been working on improving the radio systems with the Police Department since 2016. The simulcast will improve coverage within buildings throughout the City. This is most important in the schools where coverage needs to be improved. This system is currently used by the City of Boston.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: How long has Boston been using this system?

A: Chief Gentile explained that he believes they have been using it for ten years. Quincy also just switched to this system and has been happy with the results.

Q: Was this in the last budget?

A: Jonathan Yeo, Chief Operating Officer explained that this has been in the capital budget for the past few years. This has been a part of a larger project in which this is the last step.

Q: There have been complaints that various schools have issues with cell phone coverage. Will this system help with that?

A: Chief Gentile explained that this system is only for the radio system but there have been conversations with the School Department about this issue.

Q: When going through the RFP (request for proposal) was there a company that was a close second choice?

A: Chief Gentile explained that the simulcast public safety radio infrastructure was the clear choice and was voted on unanimously.

Q: Is there a life span for this equipment?

A: Chief Gentile explained that it is between 10 and 20 years.

Councilor Kalis motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Referred to Public Safety & Transportation and Finance Committees

#441-22 **Acceptance of a \$635,454.54 grant from the Department of Homeland Security**
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the authorization to accept, appropriate and expend the sum of six hundred thirty-five thousand four hundred fifty-four dollars and fifty-four cents (\$635,454.54) from a reimbursable Assistance to Firefighter Grant through the Department of Homeland Security.
Public Safety & Transportation Approved 5-0 (Councilor Malakie not voting) on 09/08/22
Action: **Finance Approved 7-0**

Note: Greg Gentile, Fire Chief presented the request to accept, appropriate and expend a \$635,454.54 grant from the Department of Homeland Security. Chief Gentile explained that this is the

sixth year in a row they were awarded this grant. This grant is for officer training, a confined space training course, technical rescue equipment, and for heart and cancer screening.
Councilor Oliver motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#434-22 Request for authorization to appropriate \$25,000 to settle workers' compensation claim

HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to appropriate and expend the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) from Acct #67A109A2-572500 Workers' Compensation – Municipal Employee Claims and Settlements to settle a workers' compensation claim against the City.

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

Note: Kelly Brown, Workers' Compensation & Safety Manager presented the request to appropriate \$25,000 to settle a workers' compensation claim. Ms. Brown explained that this is a bilateral carpal tunnel claim by a former employee that was a timekeeper. When the initial claim came in the City denied it and has been in litigation since March 2021. This settlement will ensure that the City is not paying the total retroactive pay for both surgeries. The initial demand was \$50,000 and the parties have come to an agreement at \$25,000. Ms. Brown explained that it is a sound business decision to settle this claim.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: Is the surgery a part of the cost?

A: Ms. Brown explained that this is mostly for lost wages. The first surgery was paid for with health insurance through the City. Ms. Brown noted that the second surgery was done after leaving employment with the City, so she was unsure what health insurance was used.

Q: Does the City have the chance of winning and could they use this case to set a precedent?

A: Ms. Brown explained that in this court it would be the best for the City to settle so that they do not have to pay for the full retroactive pay for 6 months.

Q: Since it is likely to go the plaintiff's way, what is their interest in settling?

A: Ms. Brown believed that the plaintiff wants to get this issue behind her and receive payment now instead of waiting to see what the judge rules.

Councilor Gentile motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Referred to Programs & Services and Finance Committees

#437-22

CPC Recommendation to appropriate \$486,500 in CPA funding

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE recommending appropriation of four hundred eighty-six thousand five hundred dollars (\$486,500) in Community Preservation Act funding from the FY23 Unrestricted Funds to the control of the Planning & Development Department to complete Phase II of the Gath Memorial Renovation Project, including the completion of construction and bidding documents, project permitting, and any other work necessary to make the project “shovel-ready”.

Programs & Services Approved (Councilor Baker not voting) on 09/08/22

Action: **Finance Approved 7-0**

Note: Lara Kritzer, CPA Program Manager, Nicole Banks, Commissioner of Parks & Recreation and Josh Morse, Commissioner of Public Buildings joined the committee to discuss the appropriation of \$486,500 in CPA funding to complete Phase II of the Gath Memorial Renovation Project.

Commissioner Banks explained that they have been working on the Gath Pool project and have finished the feasibility study. The recommendation is to have a full replacement of the pool to include all new deck space, a new filtration system and improvements to the building.

Ms. Kritzer and the Vice Chair of the Community Preservation Committee presented the attached PowerPoint.

Councilors asked the following questions:

Q: What is the best estimate for the total project budget?

A: Commissioner Morse explained that they still need to go through the schematic design and he estimated that the project is at a \$6 million to \$8 million range. The hope is that construction begins at the end of next Summer because the water loss is increasing.

Q: What was the increase in water loss?

A: Commissioner Banks explained that the water loss and chemical use has increased by 50% in approximately 12 months.

Q: How does this project relate to the resilience project happening at Albemarle?

A: Commissioner Morse explained that they will be addressing the issues in that area. They have worked on this through the NECP project with items like impervious pavement. The park project has just begin and they are still researching what can be used for stormwater run-off.

Councilor made the following comment:

There should be broader conversations regarding what funds are being spent out of the CPC and what the plan is for the upcoming years.

Councilor Norton motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

#410-22 Reappointment of Shawn Murphy as a Constable

HER HONOR THE MAYOR reappointing SHAWN MURPHY, 11 Morrill Street, West Newton 02465 as a CONSTABLE for a term of office to expire on September 15, 2025. (60 days: 10/08/2022)

Action: Finance Approved 7-0

Note: With no questions or concerns from the committee, Councilor Gentile motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

The Committee adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Walker Grossman, Chair

Gath Memorial Pool Renovation Project - Phase II Funding Recommendation

Community Preservation Committee
Presentation to Finance Committee
September 12, 2022

Project Overview

- ▶ Previous CPA funding used to hire consultants Bargmann Hendrie + Archetype (BH+A) to complete the Phase I survey of the existing conditions and needs of Newton's only public swimming pool
- ▶ BH+A has spent the last year completing the conditions assessment, meeting with community stakeholders, and attending public hearings to understand the needs and goals for the site
- ▶ Phase I is nearing completion and BH+A has produced draft designs for the new pool facility with improved accessibility and new features to better meet the needs of the community



Current Funding Request

CPA funding is requested to continue working with consultants to complete Phase II of the Gath Memorial Pool Renovation Project including the following:

- ▶ Converting the draft plans into construction documents
- ▶ Completing the bidding documents and bidding process necessary to begin construction
- ▶ Completing all of the permitting documentation and requirements for construction
- ▶ Any other work necessary to take the project to “Shovel Ready” status

Recommended CPA Project Funding

CPA Funding Accounts	Amount
FY23 Unrestricted Funds	\$486,500
TOTAL CPA PROJECT FUNDS:	\$486,500

CPA Funding is recommended to be Recreation category funding.

CPA funding was also approved in 2021 for the Phase I Feasibility Study (\$60,000)

Phase II Project Funding Sources

Funding Source	Amount
CPA Funds from FY23 Unrestricted Funds	\$486,500
City Staff Time for Oversight and Management of Phase II Design	\$39,200
TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$525,700

The current CPA funding request is only for Phase II of the Gath Memorial Pool Renovation Project. The CPC anticipates that additional funding will be requested for construction in the future.

Timeline

Phase I - Existing Facilities Study - Complete

Phase II - Completion of Construction Documents

- ▶ Schematic Design Phase/Site Plan Approval (3 months)
- ▶ Design Development (3 months)
- ▶ Construction Documents (3 months)
- ▶ Bidding Process (1 month)

Phase III - Construction (Fall 2023)

Questions & Discussion

► Thank you!

