

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT

Thursday, May 12, 2011  
Continued, Monday, May 16, 2011  
Continued, Thursday, May 19, 2011

Present: Ald. Albright, Baker, Blazar, Ciccone, Crossley, Danberg, Fischman, Fuller, Freedman, Gentile, Harney, Hess-Mahan, Johnson, Lappin, Linsky, Merrill, Rice, Salvucci, Sangiolo, Schnipper, Shapiro, Swiston, Yates, and Lennon.

Also present: David Wilkinson, Comptroller; Robert Rooney, Chief Administrative Officer, Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer, David Turocy, Interim Public Works Commissioner, and David Olson, Clerk of the Board

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#129-11 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR** submitting in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter the FY12 Municipal/School Operating Budget passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY12-FY16 Capital Improvement Program (#311-10). [04-11-11 @5:59 PM]  
**EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: 04/20/11; LAST DATE TO PASS BUDGET 06/04/11**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE VOTED:**

- A) CITY CLERK/CLERK OF THE BOARD BUDGET AS AMENDED TO \$1,135,304 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**  
**NOTE:** The budget was amended by adding \$11,500 to the original \$1,123,804 to fund a consultant's account which will be used to hire consultants for recodification and archival work.
- B) EXECUTIVE OFFICE BUDGET AT \$963,165 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE WITH 2 ABSENTIONS**
- C) COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE BUDGET AT \$28,971,622 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE WITH 2 ABSENTIONS**
- D) PURCHASING DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$378,161 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- E) ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$1,133,166 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- F) TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$22,680,915 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

- G) CITY SOLICITOR BUDGET AT \$1,165,405 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- H) HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$1,082,116 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE WITH 3 ABSTENTIONS**
- I) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT AT \$1,113,907 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE WITH 9 ABSTENTIONS**
- J) ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$566,205 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- K) LICENSING BOARD BUDGET AT \$1,675 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- L) PLANNING DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$904,159 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- M) PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$3,513,242 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- N) POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$17,594,349 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- O) FIRE DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$16,430,025 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- P) INSPECTIONAL SERVICES BUDGET AT \$1,080,707 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**
- Q) SEALER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES BUDGET AT \$75,586 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE WITH 1 ABSTENTION**

**RESOLUTION #6**

Resolution to his Honor the Mayor requesting the Sealer of Weights & Measures be permitted to take the vehicle and equipment home.

**APPROVED 18 YEAS, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION**

- R) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET AT \$18,611,443 HELD BY VOICE VOTE**

**MOTION TO RECESS MEETING UNTIL 7:45 PM ON MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011 WAS APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE.**

**MEETING RECONVENED ON MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011**

Present: Ald. Albright, Baker, Blazar, Ciccone, Crossley, Danberg, Fischman, Fuller, Freedman, Gentile, Harney, Hess-Mahan, Johnson, Lappin, Linsky, Merrill, Rice, Salvucci, Sangiolo, Schnipper, Shapiro, Swiston, Yates, and Lennon.

Also present: David Wilkinson, Comptroller; Robert Rooney, Chief Administrative Officer, Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer, David Turocy, Interim Public Works Commissioner, and David Olson, Clerk of the Board

**S) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET AT \$18,611,443  
AS AMENDED BY MAYOR'S LETTER OF MAY 13, 2011  
APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**RESOLUTION #1**

Resolution to His Honor the Mayor requesting a full analysis and presentation of the options for a "Pay as You Throw" Program to be presented to the Board of Aldermen by December 2011.

**APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE with 1 opposed, 2 abstentions**

**T) HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET AT \$2,955,715  
APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**U) SENIOR SERVICES BUDGET AT \$569,826 APPROVED BY VOICE  
VOTE**

**V) VETERANS SERVICES BUDGET AT \$292,498 APPROVED BY  
VOICE VOTE**

**W) NEWTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET AT \$5,026,438 APPROVED  
BY VOICE VOTE**

**X) PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE BUDGET AT \$3,887,779  
HELD BY VOICE VOTE**

**Note:** Information on the budgets of the Emerson and Hamilton Community Centers and a copy of a memo detailing revolving accounts were requested before approving.

**Y) NEWTON HISTORY MUSEUM BUDGET AT \$237,014 APPROVED  
BY VOICE VOTE**

**Z) COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ADMINISTRATION BUDGET AT  
\$144,249 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**AA) SCHOOL DEPARTMENT BUDGET AT \$171,620,000 HELD.**

**RESOLUTION #7**

If increased funds are made available for the Schools' budget, consider restoring funds that would allow for the introduction of 60-minutes of art time in the elementary schools, and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade drama program in the Middle Schools.

**APPROVED 8 YEAS, 5 NAYS, 10 ABSTENTIONS**

**RESOLUTION #9**

Resolution to His Honor the Mayor requesting that any new unrestricted state aid or a portion of any new property tax growth beyond that already budgeted be committed to the School Department's budget.

**APPROVED 18 YEAS, 4 ABSTENTIONS**

**MOTION TO RECESS MEETING UNTIL 7:00 PM ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011  
WAS APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**MEETING RECONVENED ON THURSDAY, MAY 19, 2011**

Present: Ald. Albright, Baker, Blazar, Crossley, Fischman, Fuller, Freedman, Gentile, Harney, Hess-Mahan, Johnson, Lappin, Linsky, Merrill, Rice, Salvucci, Sangiolo, Schnipper, Shapiro, Swiston, Yates, and Lennon.

Absent: Ald. Danberg and Ciccone

Also present: David Wilkinson, Comptroller; Robert Rooney, Chief Administrative Officer, Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer, David Turocy, Interim Public Works Commissioner, and David Olson, Clerk of the Board

**X) PARKS & RECREATION COMMITTEE BUDGET AT  
\$3,887,779 APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**RESOLUTION #12**

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Aldermen respectfully requests that the School Committee provide a list of programs and services that have been cut from the FY2012 operating budget which could be restored with additional appropriations to the Newton Public Schools in the FY2012 operating budget, together with the corresponding expenditures required for the restoration of each program and/or service, as well as, to the maximum extent feasible, possible reductions in proposed fee increases.

**APPROVED 13 YEAS, 3 NAYS, 4 ABSTENTIONS**

**RESOLUTION #8**

The Board of Aldermen resolves that any free cash that accrues due to savings in the IT Budget should be returned to the IT budget for use next year. Further the Board encourages the Executive to recruit the most qualified person possible for IT Director (or CIO if that is what the IT Advisory committee recommends), and not be constrained by the lower salary in the budget. The Executive is encouraged to use salary savings in the IT department from either turn over in the IT department, or savings from late hiring, or from budget reserve to hire a fully qualified IT leader for Newton. In addition there is approximately \$18,000 for technology purchases in various departments of the city, (\$2,300 in library; \$1,500 in health and human services; \$4,500 in building; and \$12,000 in DPW). It is further resolved that the IT department should review these expenditures to insure that they are made in the most cost effective manner to serve the needs of the city.

**VOICE VOTE APPROVES**

**RESOLUTION #2**

**CIP Future Projects – Historic Preservation**

The following projects involving Preservation of the Historic Resources of the city would seek funding from the Historic Preservation element of the Community Preservation Fund.

**Veterans Department**

FY13 – Repairs to the Civil War Memorial at the Newton Cemetery. Plan developed with CPA funds

**Veterans Department**

FY14 – Repair and Restore Historic Dioramas in the War Memorial

**Parks & Recreation Department**

FY15 – Restoration of the City Hall grounds to its original Olmsted design as noted on the National Register of Historic Places.

FY16 – Historic Preservation of Braceland Playground in Upper Falls to its original Historic configurations of the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century when baseball games at the site were of intense regional interest. Extensive historic documentation will need to be developed in the interim.

**VOICE VOTE APPROVES**

**RESOLUTION #3**

Withdrawn by Ald. Yates

**REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES**

#311-10 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting the FY'12-FY'16 Capital Improvement Program, totaling \$174,246,135 pursuant to section 5-3 of the Newton City Charter and the FY'11 Supplemental Capital budget which require Board of Aldermen approval to finance new capital projects over the next several years. [10/18/10 @5:24PM]

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE APPROVES BY VOICE VOTE**

**RESOLUTION #4**

The Board of Aldermen respectfully requests that the Mayor develop a ten year strategic plan to improve the deteriorated condition of Newton's underground water and sewer infrastructure to present to the Board of Aldermen with the Capital Improvement Plan in the fall of 2011.

This plan should include a detailed schedule for FY2013 and an outline of the actions and funding sources for FY14 – FY2022.

**APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

**REFERRED PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES**

#129-11(2) HIS HONOR THE MAYOR submitting recommended FY2012 Water and Sewer Rates for implementation on July 1, 2011. [04/11/11 @5:59 PM]

**MOTION TO AMEND RATES TO 5.4% WATER, 11.7% SEWER; OVERALL 9.1% FAILED 9 YEAS (Ald. Albright, Baker, Blazar, Crossley, Fischman, Freedman, Fuller, Linksy, Rice), 12 NAYS, 3 ABSENT (Cicccone, Danberg, Hess-Mahan)**

**ITEM APPROVED AS MAYOR PROPOSED 21 YEAS, 3 ABSENT (Cicccone, Danberg, Hess-Mahan)**

**RESOLUTION #11**

The Board of Aldermen respectfully requests that the Mayor develop a ten year strategic plan to improve the deteriorated condition of Newton's

underground water and sewer infrastructure to present to the Board of Aldermen with the Capital Improvement Plan in the fall of 2011.

This plan should include a detailed schedule for FY2013 and an outline of the actions and funding sources for FY14 – FY2022.

**FAILED 6 YEAS, 7 NAYS, 8 ABSTENTIONS**

**MOTION TO RECESS MEETING UNTIL 7:00 PM ON MONDAY, MAY 23, 2011 WAS APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE**

Resolution #1 - Amended  
Pay As You Throw

**Submitted by Ald. Sangiolo, Fuller, Crossley, Harney, Hess-Mahan & Johnson**

Resolution to His Honor the Mayor requesting a full analysis and presentation of the options for a “Pay as You Throw” Program to be presented to the Board of Aldermen by December 2011.

**Approved by Voice Vote**

Resolution #2  
CIP Amendments – Historic Preservation

**Submitted by Ald. Yates**

Dear Colleagues:

As I brought up in the Committee on Community Preservation, I propose that the following Historic Preservation Projects be added to the CIP. This list is similar to the one that I proposed during the budget process last year that was adopted by Voice Vote.

**CIP Future Projects – Historic Preservation**

The following projects involving Preservation of the Historic Resources of the city would seek funding from the Historic Preservation element of the Community Preservation Fund.

**Veterans Department**

FY13 – Repairs to the Civil War Memorial at the Newton Cemetery. Plan developed with CPA funds

**Veterans Department**

FY14 – Repair and Restore Historic Dioramas in the War Memorial

**Parks & Recreation Department**

FY15 – Restoration of the City Hall grounds to its original Olmsted design as noted on the National Register of Historic Places.

FY16 – Historic Preservation of Braceland Playground in Upper Falls to its original Historic configurations of the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century when baseball games at the site were of intense regional interest. Extensive historic documentation will need to be developed in the interim.

**Approved by Voice Vote**



Resolution #3  
CIP Amendments – Conservation

**Submitted by Ald. Yates**

**Conservation Commission – Solar Array**

Add to the CIP for Fiscal Year 2012 the construction of a Brightfield Solar Array on the Flowed Meadow Conservation Area to provide electricity for city buildings

**Withdrawn by Ald. Yates**

**Conservation Commission - Drainage**

Add to the CIP for Fiscal Year 2013 improve the drainage to the Irwin Road/Laura Road wetland so that nearby homes and yards are not flooded again.

**Withdrawn by Ald. Yates**

Resolution #4  
Water & Sewer

**Submitted by Ald. Crossley, Fuller, Hess Mahan, Danberg, Lappin, Yates, Albright & Linsky**

The Board of Aldermen respectfully requests that the Mayor develop a ten year strategic plan to improve the deteriorated condition of Newton's underground water and sewer infrastructure to present to the Board of Aldermen with the Capital Improvement Plan in the fall of 2011.

This plan should include a detailed schedule for FY2013 and an outline of the actions and funding sources for FY14 – FY2022.

This plan should include, but not be limited to:

- A schedule for a complete assessment of the condition of the pipes,
- A repair and replacement schedule to reduce considerably infiltration and unaccounted water, beginning with the most serious leaks,
- A schedule for ongoing maintenance so the City has a safe and effective system,
- Funding mechanism(s) that take into account the impact on rates, MWRA assessments, loans from the Commonwealth, and return on investment due to reduced infiltration and unaccounted water usage,
- Alternative rate structure analyses (e.g., additional tiering and seasonal rates), and
- A review of in-house management capabilities to implement repairs and maintenance on schedule.

**Approved by Voice Vote**

Resolution #5  
Water & Sewer Rates

**Submitted by Ald. Crossley, Fuller, Hess Mahan, Danberg, Yates,  
Albright & Linsky**

The Board of Aldermen respectfully requests the Mayor increase the water and sewer rates more than the proposed 7.7% overall in FY2012 to insure the City has:

(1) Sufficient funds to assess the condition of pipes in 2011 so that capital improvements can be thoughtfully prioritized and implemented at a higher level starting in the 2012 construction season.

(2) Sufficient reserves so that:

- Capital projects funded by the Water and Sewer operating budget will not be deferred in the event that revenues are lower or costs are higher than expected,
- The likelihood of multiple rate increases next year will be minimized,
- The possibility of General Fund subsidies will be limited, and
- Sufficient funds for emergencies are available.

**Withdrawn by Ald. Fuller**

Resolution #6  
Sealer of Weights & Measures

**Submitted by Ald. Sangiolo & Hess-Mahan**

Resolution to his Honor the Mayor requesting the Sealer of Weights & Measures be permitted to take the vehicle and equipment home.

**APPROVED 18 Yeas, 4 Nays, 1 Abstention**

Resolution #7  
School Budget

**Submitted by Ald. Fischman**

If increased funds are made available for the Schools' budget, consider restoring funds that would allow for the introduction of 60-minutes of art time in the elementary schools, and the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade drama program in the Middle Schools.

*Background: The School Department's Budget Proposal reduces art time in the Elementary Schools from 60 to 45 minutes for FY12 (Page 470 of the Budget Report) and eliminates 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade drama in the Middle Schools (Page 473 of the Budget Report).*

Commentary: Newton's public schools have always been strong in providing opportunities for art and the performing arts. The new high school prides itself on having outstanding performance venues. As we understand from the School Department presentation (see Page 454- Budget Report - top paragraph of the Committees' Report) the Middle School drama teachers were given a "Hobsian" choice of having drama maintained in only one grade and they reportedly selected the 6<sup>th</sup> grade to "spark creativity". What about continuing that creativity through 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grades to prepare these newly developed creative students for their terrific high school opportunities?

**Approved 8 Yeas, 5 Nays, 10 Abstentions**

Resolution #8  
Information Technology

**Submitted by Ald. Albright, Danberg, Fuller, Lappin, Crossley, Linsky, Hess-Mahan, & Johnson**

Whereas, the Administration and the Board recognize the value of efficiencies in government to deliver services with less cost; and

Whereas, technology is a key factor in implementing these efficiencies and the IT Department oversees the City's technology practice and implementation.

Whereas, The Board of Aldermen is concerned that the IT budget is greatly underfunded. This does not recognize the potential that the use of IT could provide for the efficient and effective operations of the city.

Now therefore be it resolved,

Because of this the BOA resolves that any free cash that accrues due to savings in the IT Budget should be returned to the IT budget for use next year. Further the Board encourages the Executive to recruit the most qualified person possible for IT Director (or CIO if that is what the IT Advisory committee recommends), and not be constrained by the lower salary in the budget. The Executive is encouraged to use salary savings in the IT department from either turn over in the IT department, or savings from late hiring, or from budget reserve to hire a fully qualified IT leader for Newton. In addition there is approximately \$18,000 for technology purchases in various departments of the city, (\$2,300 in library; \$1,500 in health and human services; \$4,500 in building; and \$12,000 in DPW). It is further resolved that the IT department should review these expenditures to insure that they are made in the most cost effective manner to serve the needs of the city.

**Approved by Voice Vote**

Resolution #9  
School Department

**Submitted by Ald. Schnipper**

Resolution to His Honor the Mayor requesting that any new unrestricted state aid or a portion of any new property tax growth beyond that already budgeted be committed to the School Department's budget.

**Approved 18 Yeas, 4 Abstentions**

**Resolution #10  
School Budget**

**Submitted by Ald. Swiston, Shapiro**

The Board of Aldermen requests that the Mayor consider making it a standard part of negotiations with Developers who are proposing an increase in residential density in a neighborhood of the City of Newton to include some sort of financial impact concession or mitigation that can directly offset the burden to the schools.

**Withdrawn by Ald. Swiston**



**Resolution #11  
School Budget**

**Submitted by: Ald. Hess-Mahan, Sangiolo, Harney, Crossley**

**BUDGET RESOLUTION TO THE MAYOR REGARDING  
THE NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Newton Public Schools constitutes 56.0% of expenditures in the FY2011 operating budget of the City of Newton; and

WHEREAS, total net revenue for FY2012 is projected to increase by \$10.5 million over FY2011; and

WHEREAS, the Newton Public Schools would require an additional appropriation of \$8.8 million to maintain existing levels of programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the total net allocation of proposed additional appropriations to the Newton Public Schools in the proposed FY2012 operating budget, including \$4.4 million in appropriations and approximately \$412,500 in current school costs assumed by other municipal departments, constitute 45.6%—or less than half—of the projected revenue increase for FY2012, and results in a substantial budget gap; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this budget gap, the Newton Public Schools has proposed cutting programs and services, including, among other things, reductions in classroom teachers and aides resulting in larger class sizes, reduction of librarians, reduction of the art program, and elimination of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade recorder and 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus programs in the elementary schools, reduction of drama programs and elimination of Latin in the middle schools, reductions in regular education teachers resulting in decreased course offerings and increased class sizes in the high schools, and reduction of special education staff at all levels, as well as a \$1.1 million increase in fees for certain programs and services, resulting in an increase in the fee cap from \$1,000 to \$1,800 per family; and

WHEREAS, the proposed cuts in programs and services and increased class sizes would have a substantial negative impact on the quality of education in the Newton Public Schools and the proposed fee increases would place a substantial additional financial burden on families of students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Aldermen respectfully requests that the Mayor allocate an additional \$1.1 million from the total projected revenue increase for FY2012 to the Newton Public Schools in the FY2012 operating budget. A suggested source of funding is any unrestricted reserve account.

**Failed 6 Yeas, 7 Nays, 8 Abstentions**

**Resolution #12  
School Budget**

**Submitted by: Ald, Hess-Mahan, Sangiolo, Harney, Crossley, Albright**

**BUDGET RESOLUTION TO THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGARDING THE  
NEWTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Newton Public Schools constitutes 56.0% of expenditures in the FY2011 operating budget of the City of Newton; and

WHEREAS, total net revenue for FY2012 is projected to increase by \$10.5 million over FY2011; and

WHEREAS, the Newton Public Schools would require an additional appropriation of \$8.8 million to maintain existing levels of programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the total net allocation of proposed additional appropriations to the Newton Public Schools in the proposed FY2012 operating budget, including \$4.4 million in appropriations and approximately \$412,500 in current school costs assumed by other municipal departments, constitute 45.6%—or less than half—of the projected revenue increase for FY2012, and results in a substantial budget gap; and

WHEREAS, as a result of this budget gap, the Newton Public Schools has proposed cutting programs and services, including, among other things, reductions in classroom teachers and aides resulting in larger class sizes, reduction of librarians, reduction of the art program, and elimination of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade recorder and 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus programs in the elementary schools, reduction of drama programs and elimination of Latin in the middle schools, reductions in regular education teachers resulting in decreased course offerings and increased class sizes in the high schools, and reduction of special education staff at all levels, as well as a \$1.1 million increase in fees for certain programs and services, resulting in an increase in the fee cap from \$1,000 to \$1,800 per family; and

WHEREAS, the proposed cuts in programs and services and increased class sizes would have a substantial negative impact on the quality of education in the Newton Public Schools and the proposed fee increases would place a substantial additional financial burden on families of students;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Aldermen respectfully requests that the School Committee provide a list of programs and services that have been cut from the FY2012 operating budget which could be restored with additional appropriations to the Newton Public Schools in the FY2012 operating budget, together with the corresponding expenditures required for the restoration of each program and/or service, as well as, to the maximum extent feasible, possible reductions in proposed fee increases.

**Approved 13 Yeas, 3 Nays, 4 Abstentions**