

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2006

Present: Ald. Coletti (Chair), Lennon, Linsky, Salvucci, Gentile, Parker, Schnipper and Lipof

Also Present: Ald. Merrill, Weisbuch, Albright, Johnson, Harney, Yates, Baker and Lappin; Ann Cornaro (IT Director), Bob DeRubeis (Acting Chief Budget Officer), Nunzio Piselli (Retirement Board member), David Wilkinson (Comptroller), Elizabeth Dromey (Director of Assessment Administration), Sandy Pooler (Chief Administrative Officer), Ed Spellman (Treasurer/Collector), Chief J. LaCroix (Fire), Bob Rooney (DPW Commissioner), Angie Clark (DPW), Karen Griffey (DPW), Dave Turocy (DPW), Maria Palagruto (DPW), Gayle Smalley (Associate City Solicitor)

REFERRED TO FINANCE AND APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES

#165-06 **HIS HONOR THE MAYOR**, in accordance with Section 5-1 of the City of Newton Charter, submitting the FY07 Municipal/School Operating Budget totaling \$295,437,277, passage of which shall be concurrent with the FY07-FY11 Capital Improvement Program.
EFFECTIVE DATE OF SUBMISSION: 4/18/06

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY:

BUDGET APPROVED AS PRESENTED 8-0

COMPTROLLER/RETIREMENT BOARD:

BUDGET APPROVED AS PRESENTED 8-0

ASSESSMENT ADMINISTRATION:

BUDGET APPROVED AS PRESENTED 8-0

TREASURE/COLLECTOR/PARKING CLERK:

BUDGET APPROVED AS PRESENTED 8-0

NOTE: All of these budgets were approved as submitted by a vote of 8-0

#207-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting the following transfers of funds to cover FY06 Health Insurance Costs:
FROM: Human Resources; Severance Benefits
 (0110901-5158002).....\$31,151
 Retirement Board; Non-contributory Retirement Benefits
 (0110491-5708).....\$39,325
TO: Health Insurance Benefits
 (0110491-57HLTH).....\$70,476

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

#208-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting establishment of a revolving fund in the Fire Department with an annual expenditure limit of \$10,000. Said fund would be collected from the sale of surplus Fire Department equipment and vehicles. The Department would be authorized to expend such funds for the purchase of new and used equipment or vehicles as well as for the repair of existing vehicles.

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

#209-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$1,800 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of replacing the condenser in the refrigerator in the City Hall cafeteria.

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

#210-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting acceptance of and authorization to expend the sum of \$2,541, received as grant funds from the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief fund for the purpose of defraying the costs of the Hillside Road sewer extension project.

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

#211-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to expend the sum of \$5,500 from Library E-rate Receipts for the purpose of purchasing printers for the Library's public access computers.

ACTION: **APPROVED 8-0**

NOTE: The Committee reviewed all backup information submitted for these items and, without debate, voted to approve each of these items as recommended in the First Call Item Report submitted by Comptroller David Wilkinson (see attached).

REFERRED TO PUB. SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#212-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$175,000 from Free Cash for the purpose of supplementing the Police Department overtime account.

PS&T APPROVED AS AMENDED @ \$194,876 7-0-1 (Linsky abstaining) ON 5/3/06

ACTION: APPROVED AS AMENDED @ \$194,876 8-0

NOTE: The Committee heard a presentation by Sandy Pooler who indicated that the amount of overtime spent in this Department is lower than the spending over previous years (please refer to attached bar graph). The Committee reviewed all backup information presented, including the request from the Mayor to amend this item to \$194,876, and understood and supported the need for this appropriation at this time. Without debate, the Committee voted 8-0 to approve this item as amended.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#213-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$23,310 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of supplementing the energy accounts in the Fire Department in addition to inter-departmental transfers totaling \$353,590 to supplement energy accounts in various other City departments.

PUB. FACILITIES APPROVED 7-0 (Gentile not voting) ON 5/3/06

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

NOTE: During the months of May and June, it has been practice to approve transfers in order to cover shortcomings in certain accounts, and, given that the cost of energy has been on the increase, this need for appropriation (for the Fire Department) and transfers in other departments (as listed on the backup information which was attached to this evening's agenda), the Committee was in full support of this item. Therefore, the Committee voted 8-0 to approve this request.

REFERRED TO ZONING & PLANNING AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#195-06 ALD. HESS-MAHAN, MERRILL, BAKER offering a RESOLUTION to Congress to provide FY2007 funding level of no less than \$4.35 billion in formula funding for the Community Development Block Grant Program.

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

NOTE: The Committee reviewed the resolution (which was attached to this evening's agenda) and, without debate, voted 8-0 to approve this item.

REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY/TRANS. AND FINANCE COMMITTEES

#187-06 HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting an appropriation in the amount of \$20,307 from Budget Reserve for the purpose of purchasing equipment for seven new recruits in the Fire Department.

PS&T APPROVED 6-0 (Linsky, Fischman not voting) ON 5/3/06

ACTION: APPROVED 8-0

NOTE: Fire Chief LaCroix was present this evening. He explained that the Department has 8 new recruits in the Firefighting academy, and this gear needs to be purchased for their use (please refer to specific information in the note on the 5/3/06 Public Safety/Transportation Committee Report).

The Committee understood the need for this appropriation at this time and voted 8-0 to approve this request.

All other items were held. The Committee adjourned at approximately 9 p.m. in order to hear the presentation being given to the Public Facilities Committee regarding the proposed stormwater drain fees (please refer to report under separate cover).

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul E. Coletti, Chairman