



Finance Committee Agenda

City of Newton In City Council

Monday, February 23, 2026

7:00 PM

Chair's note: Due to inclement weather, this meeting will now be VIRTUAL ONLY.

The Finance Committee will hold this meeting as a virtual meeting on Monday, February 23, 2026 at 7:00 PM. To view this meeting using Zoom use this link: <https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/j/87951268761> or call 1-646-558-8656 and use the following Meeting ID: 879 5126 8761.

You may also:

1. Watch a live broadcast of the meeting on NewTV's government channel (Comcast 9, RCN 13, 614 (HD), Verizon 33).
2. View a live stream on NewTV's YouTube channel at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQvNeCJkA3PftuLLvfAh3cQ>

Items Scheduled for Discussion:

#82-26 **Appointment of Ruthanne Fuller to the Horace Cousens Industrial Fund**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR appointing Ruthanne Fuller, 163 Suffolk Road, Newton, as a member of the Horace Cousens Industrial Fund for a term set to expire on March 2, 2029 (60 days: 04/18/2026).

Referred to the Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#97-26 **Transfer of \$1,500,000 for snow removal**
HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) from Acct# 0110498-579400, FY2026 Budget Reserve - Snow Removal, with three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) to Acct# 0140123-513010, Regular Overtime, and one million one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,150,000) to Acct# 0140123-529100, Contractors, to cover costs for snow removal hauling.
Public Facilities Approved 7-0 on 02/18/2026

The location of this meeting is accessible, and reasonable accommodation will be provided to persons with disabilities who require assistance. If you need a reasonable accommodation, please contact the city of Newton's ADA Coordinator at least two business days in advance of the meeting: ADACoordinator@newtonma.gov or (617) 796-1253. The city's TTY/TDD direct line is: 617-796-1089. For the Telecommunications Relay Service (TRS), please dial 711.

Referred to the Public Facilities and Finance Committees

#89-26

Transfer of \$150,000 for Cooper Center project closeout costs

HIS HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from the Cooper Center Owners' Project Contingency Acct# 7836B115-58SB40-NEWC to Acct# 783B115-582500-NEWC to be used for project closeout costs.

Public Facilities Approved 7-0 on 02/18/2026

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Walker Grossman, Chair of Finance Committee



Marc C. Laredo
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#82-26

Telephone
(617) 796-1100
Fax
(617) 796-1113
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
Email
mayor@newtonma.gov

February 9, 2026

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton, MA 02459

To the Honorable City Councilors:

I am pleased to appoint Ruthanne Fuller of 163 Suffolk Road, Newton as a trustee of the Horace Cousens Industrial Fund. Ruthanne Fuller's term of office shall expire on June 1, 2029 and the appointment is subject to your confirmation.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Marc Laredo
Mayor

Application Form

Profile

Ruthanne

First Name

Fuller

Last Name

Middle Initial

[Redacted]

Email Address

163 Suffolk Road

Home Address

Suite or Apt

Newton

City

MA

State

02467

Postal Code

What Ward do you live in?

Ward 7

[Redacted]

Primary Phone

[Redacted]

Alternate Phone

Employer

Job Title

Which Boards would you like to apply for?

Horace Cousens Industrial Fund Trustees: Submitted

Ethnicity

Caucasian/Non-Hispanic

Gender

Female

Interests & Experiences

Please tell us about yourself and why you want to serve.

Why are you interested in serving on a board or commission?

I have seen firsthand the vital role the Horace Cousens Industrial Fund plays in supporting Newton residents experiencing temporary but severe financial hardship. By providing one-time grants to address urgent, specific needs—such as job loss, unexpected car repairs, medical expenses, or burial costs—the Fund fills a critical gap for individuals and families facing sudden financial crises. I have great respect for the Fund's Director, Crista Padua, and Trustees, Rajeev Parlikar and Meghan Kennedy, and I would be honored to contribute as a Trustee by helping ensure that Newtonians receive timely and compassionate assistance when they need it most.

Ruthanne Fuller

Ruthanne Fuller

163 Suffolk Road • Newton, MA 02467 • [REDACTED] • [REDACTED]

EXPERIENCE

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| 2018-2025
MA | CITY OF NEWTON | Newton, |
| | <i>Mayor</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First female Mayor of the City of Newton. • Created more opportunities to live in Newton by building more affordable, diverse housing and updated zoning. • Expanded access to public transit, worked with the Commonwealth to invest in Newtonville Commuter Rail Station. • Established Newton as a leader in tackling the climate crisis. Preserved Webster Woods, Newton's largest green space. • Supported marginalized, stigmatized or financially insecure Newtonians. Increased access to essential services, including healthcare, temporary housing, and social support for vulnerable populations. Supported actively the opening of the Family Navigation Center for temporary housing. Prioritized safety with excellent police, fire and ambulance services. Created Newton Thrive to support economic mobility. • Prioritized funding for Newton Public Schools and implemented full-day Kindergarten for the first time in Newton's history. • Established partnerships with government agencies, nonprofit organizations, businesses and community leaders to drive change. • Led efforts to engage with the public through transparent communication and active listening. | |
| 2010-2017
MA | CITY OF NEWTON | Newton, |
| | <i>City Councilor</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elected citywide as a City Councilor for four two-year terms. • Vice Chair of the Finance Committee for eight years and co-led budget allocation strategies that balanced fiscal responsibility with community development priorities. • Chair of the Financial Audit Advisory Committee. • Championed policies that aligned with the city's mission to provide greater access to services and support for vulnerable populations. | |
| 1998-2010
MA | COMMUNITY ACTIVIST | Newton, |
| | <i>Board Member</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vice-Chair, City of Newton Citizen Advisory Group, May 2008-April 2009, defining choices about municipal and educational service levels, operational efficiency and effectiveness, and new or enhanced sources of funding • President, Chestnut Hill Association, 2004-2010 • Director, Boys & Girls Club of Boston Board of Directors, 2005-2013 • Director & Trustee, Facing History and Ourselves, National Board of Directors 2000-2006, National Board of Trustees 1998-2010, Boston Regional Advisory Board 1999-2005 • Board Member, City Year, Boston Advisory Board 1999-2001 | |
| 1989-1997
MA | WGBH | Boston, |
| | <i>Manager of Strategic Planning</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed WGBH's first ever strategic plan (part time position) | |
| 1983-1987
MA | TEMPLE, BARKER, & SLOANE | Lexington, |
| | <i>Associate</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specialist in strategic planning, industry and market analysis, and organizational design | |
| 1979-1981
MA | DATA RESOURCES, INC. | Lexington, |
| | <i>Manager of Education</i> | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Client Education Coordinator. Special Projects Coordinator | |

EDUCATION

- | | | |
|-----------------|---|------------|
| 1981-1983
MA | HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION | Cambridge, |
|-----------------|---|------------|

Masters in Business Administration with distinction.

1975-1979
RI

BROWN UNIVERSITY

Providence,

Bachelors of Arts, Magna Cum Laude. History Honors Program. Elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

About the Horace Cousens Industrial Fund

The Horace Cousens Industrial Fund is a charitable trust dedicated to providing financial aid to residents in Newton who are experiencing temporary and severe financial hardship. The Fund offers one-time grants to address specific needs, rather than covering ongoing expenses, usually in the form of rent payments, utility bills, and other bills that the Fund's Trustees deem appropriate. The Fund also covers the Director's salary.

To apply for assistance, applicants must complete an application and submit it to the Director of the Cousens Fund along with proof of Newton residency and income verification. Following the submission, the Director will arrange an interview with the applicant. Decisions regarding the approval or denial of requests are made by the Fund's Trustees during their monthly meetings.

In recent years, there has been between \$130,000 to \$190,000 in expenses annually across about 250 individual payments. In Fiscal Year 2026, there has been \$112,000 in expenses thus far.

For more information, please find the Horace Cousens Industrial Fund's website page here: <https://www.newtonma.gov/residents/cousens-fund>.

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That in accordance with the recommendation of His Honor the Mayor and with the confirmation of the City Council, be it known that Ruthanne Fuller, 163 Suffolk Road, Newton, is hereby appointed as a trustee of the Horace Cousens Industrial Fund for a term to expire on March 2, 2029.

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) Drew Willison
City Clerk



Marc C. Laredo
Mayor

City of Newton, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor

#97-26

Telephone
(617) 796-1100
Fax
(617) 796-1113
TDD/TTY
(617) 796-1089
Email
mayor@newtonma.gov

February 9, 2026

Honorable City Council
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Honorable City Councilors:

I respectfully submit a docket item to your Honorable Council requesting authorization to transfer the sum of \$1,500,000 from Acct # 0110498-579400 FY2026 Budget Reserve – Snow Removal to the following accounts:

\$ 350,000	Acct # 0140123-513010	Regular Overtime
\$1,150,000	Acct # 0140123-529100	Contractors

The City of Newton has received more than 40 inches of snow as of February 7, with the January 25/26 storm dropping approximately 24 inches on the City. Consequently, we have incurred significant costs for hauling.

Members of the DPW staff will be happy to answer questions regarding snowfall and snow operations at the appropriate committee meetings.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Mayor Marc C. Laredo

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities Committee through its Chair David Kalis and the Finance Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman, authorization to transfer the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) from Acct# 0110498-579400, FY2026 Budget Reserve - Snow Removal, with three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) to Acct# 0140123-513010, Regular Overtime, and one million one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$1,150,000) to Acct# 0140123-529100, Contractors, to cover costs for snow removal hauling, be and is hereby approved.

FROM:	FY26 Snow & Ice Budgeted Reserves (0110498-579400)	\$1,500,000.00
TO:	DPW Snow and Ice - Regular OT (0140123-513010)	\$350,000.00
	DPW Snow and Ice - Contractors (0140123-529100)	\$1,150,000.00

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) DREW WILLISON
City Clerk

(SGD) MARC LAREDO
Mayor

Date: _____



CITY OF NEWTON, MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT
52 ELLIOT STREET, NEWTON HIGHLANDS, MA 02461

Marc Laredo, Mayor
Alejandro M. Valcarce, Building Commissioner

Telephone (617) 796-1600
Facsimile (617) 796-1601
TDD/tty # (617) 796-1608

January 27, 2026

Marc Laredo, Mayor
Newton City Hall
1000 Commonwealth Avenue
Newton Centre, MA 02459

Re: Cooper Center Contingency

Dear Mayor Laredo:

The Public Buildings Department requests that the \$150,000 held in the Owners Project Contingency line item in the Cooper Center accounts be released to Public Buildings for project use. The funds are currently held in 7836B115-58SB40-NEWC and we request they be moved to 7836B115-582500-NEWC.

The Contingency funds will be used for project close out. As is the case with all our projects, while the design teams work very hard to solve thousands of details and needs, once the buildings open, adjustments are needed as the buildings are used. These may include FF&E and technology needs, building systems adjustments, and modifications to or around the project site. In this fashion the city is able to respond and provide the community with top-quality facilities.

Typically, we have managed these adjustments through the Mayor's construction contingency. In the case of the Cooper Center, at the time of bidding we managed the cost change for the Miscellaneous Metals bid of \$298,000 allowing the project to move forward into construction.

We respectfully request that the Owner's contingency be released to address close out issues as they come up.

Sincerely,

Alejandro M. Valcarce
Public Buildings Commissioner

cc: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer
Josh Morse, Chief Operations Officer
Tom Rooney, Deputy Buildings Commissioner

NEWCAL

#89-26

2/13/2026

ACOUNT NUMBER	CATEGORIES OF THE BUDGET	#282-18	#102-19	#345-22	ARPA	#375-23	Total Budget	Total Available
58SB02	ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES	\$ 58,000.00	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 1,780,000.00	\$ 333,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,391,000.00	
58SB01	OWNER'S PROJECT MANAGER	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 1,090,000.00	\$ 292,000.00	\$ 63,400.00	\$ 1,565,400.00	
58SB03	SITE/ENVIRONMENTAL	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 115,000.00	(125,000.00)	\$ 41,600.00	\$ 91,600.00	
58SB04	OTHER	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 55,000.00		\$ 193,000.00	\$ 290,000.00	
58SB40	PROJECT CONTINGENCY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00			\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
582500	CONSTRUCTION	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000,000.00		\$ 9,207,000.00	\$ 24,207,000.00	\$ 90,641.00
58SB39	CONSTRUCTION CONTINGENCY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 860,000.00		\$ 140,000.00	\$ 1,000,000.00	
58SITE	TECHNOLOGY	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150,000.00		\$ 220,000.00	\$ 370,000.00	
585FFE	FF&E	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 300,000.00		\$ 135,000.00	\$ 435,000.00	
	TOTAL PROJECT EXPENDITURE BUDGET	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 19,500,000.00	\$ 500,000.00	\$ 10,000,000.00	\$ 30,500,000.00	\$ 240,641.00

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

DRAFT

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the recommendation of the Public Facilities Committee through its Chair David Kalis and the Finance Committee through its Chair Rebecca Walker Grossman, authorization to transfer the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) from the Cooper Center Owners' Project Contingency Acct# 7836B115-58SB40-NEWC to Acct# 7836B115-582500-NEWC to be used for project closeout costs, be and is hereby approved.

FROM:	NewCal Construction - Project Contingency (7836B115-58SB40-NEWC).....	\$150,000.00
TO:	NewCal Construction - Building Improvements (7836B115-582500-NEWC).....	\$150,000.00

Under Suspension of Rules
Readings Waived and Approved
DRAFT

(SGD) DREW WILLISON
City Clerk

(SGD) MARC LAREDO
Mayor

Date: _____