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April 23, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on April 23, 2008, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Walter Pero and Dennis Sullivan also present and voting. Also present were Mayor Joe Curtatone, Chief of Staff Michael Lambert, Environmental Programs Manager Peter Mills, Ginger Barrett and Frank Santangelo from the DPW, Mark Friedman from SPCD and Finance Director Edward Bean.

185378 – security cameras:

Mr. Santangelo addressed the members regarding a request for \$250,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund for security cameras at a number of City schools, as requested by the Superintendent of Schools. Alderman Pero asked that the School Committee be notified of this request.

Chairman Heuston's motion *that a communication be sent to Mr. Gerald Boyle, in Capital Projects, informing him that additional lighting and security cameras remain to be installed at the rear of the Argenziano School,* was approved.

Alderman Desmond's motion *that the committee be provided with information regarding the backup schedule of the security cameras and how long the data is kept,* was approved.

Alderman Pero's motion *that the president of the Board of Aldermen and the Clerk of Committees send a communication to the Superintendent of Schools and the School Committee asking them to review item #185378, a request for \$250,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund for security cameras at a number of City schools,* was approved.

185381 – smart cars:

Mayor Curtatone spoke about the Administration's goals to reduce the city's carbon footprint by embracing a "clean green" approach to transportation and he reviewed information regarding "smart cars" noting that Somerville would be the first city in New England to use them. The Mayor stated that a pilot program would begin with the Assessor's Office and that the department would no longer have gas cards assigned to it. Chairman Heuston inquired if Herb Chambers would donate a vehicle to the city and Mayor Curtatone

stated that there is a long line of people waiting to obtain these vehicles. Chairman Heuston also requested that Mr. Bean provide the committee with information detailing the cost savings to the city resulting from the elimination of gas cards in the Assessor's Office.

185369 - Memorial Day Parade:

Alderman Pero stated that the parade should be included in the city's fiscal budget and Mayor Curtatone told the members that it would be a budgeted line item from this point forward.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 13 items:

185369: Order - By Ald. Sullivan, That this Board requests that the Administration provide the Committee on Veterans Services and the Committee on Finance with an update on the budget for the Memorial Day Parade.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be placed on file

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185377: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to appropriate \$1,000,000 from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Insurance Losses to the East Somerville School Fire School Dept. & DPW Accts., resulting from the first insurance reimbursement.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185378: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to appropriate \$250,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to the DPW Highway Capital Outlay Equipment / Communications Acct. for security cameras at a number of City schools.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved as amended (change from DPW Highway Capital Outlay Equipment / Communications Acct. to DPW Buildings and Grounds Acct.)

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185379: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to appropriate \$175,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to the DPW Building & Grounds Capital Outlay Buildings Improvements Acct. to paint the hallways

in

the High School.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185380: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to appropriate \$70,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to the DPW Buildings & Grounds Capital Outlay Buildings Improvements Acct. for building improvements in the Central Library.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185381: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to appropriate \$65,305 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to the DPW Highway Capital Outlay Vehicles Acct. to purchase four "Smart Cars."

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185382: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to appropriate \$20,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance to the DPW Interior Building Maintenance Acct. to install bulletproof glass and heavy duty doors at the East Somerville Police Substation.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185383: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to appropriate \$15,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to the DPW Buildings & Grounds Capital Equipment Acct. to purchase wall mats for the Winter Hill School

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185385: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to transfer \$44,271 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Police Holidays Acct., for new hires and currently funded patrolmen.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185386: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to transfer \$40,000 from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation-Parking Meter Receipts to the Traffic and Parking Repairs to Highway Acct. to fund the continuation of thermoplastic line painting citywide.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185387: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to transfer \$7,000 from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation-Parking Meter Receipts to the Traffic & Parking Office Equipment Acct. to purchase an automated coin counting machine.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185388: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to authorize a Shape-Up Somerville Consolidated Gift Acct. under MGL Ch.44 Sec.53A, in order to receive donations.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

185389: Communication from Mayor - Requesting the approval to extend Contract #05-157 for an additional 3 years for Reed Hilderbrand Associates Inc. for the landscape design of the Kemp Nut Community Park.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Finance

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Finance, April
23, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk