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January 13, 2009

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on January 13, 2009, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond and Walter Pero also present and voting. Also present were Administrative Assistant Jessie Baker, Deputy Police Chief Paul Upton, Phil Ercolini from SPCD, Project Manager Jerry Boyle and Finance Director Ed Bean.

186626: Health Kids Healthy Communities grant

Ms. Baker told the members that Somerville was one of 9 communities to receive this grant and that the funds would be used to promote healthy living. The amount of the grant is \$400,000, from which \$55,000 will be used to fund a new director's position and \$45,000 will be expended for other associated fees. Ms. Baker noted that none of the city's general funds would be used to run this program.

186627: MA Office of Public Safety grant

Deputy Chief Upton told the members that public safety grant funding is down 23% from last year and, as a result, the school program and the Cops and Kids program would be minimally reduced to offset the decrease. With respect to Community Policing, Deputy Chief Upton assured the members of Chief Holloway's commitment to the program and said that police visibility would not be decreased and that officers would be walking the neighborhoods to identify problem areas and to resolve issues.

186628: MA Technology Collaborative grant

This grant would assist the city in its efforts to go green with its energy consumption by providing for the tracking of the city's electrical use and by providing some of the energy used at Somerville High School and the Central Library.

186711: Extending J&J contract

Mr. Boyle told the members that the city would like to extend this contract until June 30, 2009 to resolve the remaining issues at the Argenziano School, particularly, the HVAC system. Extending the contract would have no financial impact on the city.

Chairman Heuston directed Mr. Bean to provide the committee with the figure for the initial amount borrowed by the city for the Argenziano School project.

Alderman Pero's motion *that the Administration arrange for J and J Contractors to appear before the Finance Committee to discuss outstanding unfinished business at the Argenziano School and the timeline for extending the contract to June 30, 2009*, was approved.

Chairman Heuston's motion *that, when all documents pertaining to the Argenziano School project are completed, the Director of Finance appear before the Finance Committee to discuss the final payout of the contract for the project,* was approved.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 7 items:

186626: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$400,000 Active Living By Design Healthy Kids, Healthy Communities Grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to the Health Dept. for the Shape Up Somerville Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

186627: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$263,408.16 from the MA Office of Public Safety, for the Police's Community Policing programs, purchases or construction.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

186628: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$114,000 from the MA Technology Collaborative for the Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Environment, to install a 10kw photovoltaic solar panel array at the Central Library and High School.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved and a copy sent to Environment & Energy Committee

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

186711: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to extend a contract with J&J General Contractors Inc. for construction of the Argenziano School, to

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

186715: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$136,435 from the MA 911 Dept. Support and Incentive Grant Program to the Police Dept. for compensation issued to employees.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

186716: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$21,000 from the MA Office of Public Safety for the Police Dept.'s Click it or Ticket and You Drink & Drive, You Lose programs.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

186717: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$15,787 from the MA Office of Public Safety for the Fire Dept. to purchase firefighter equipment.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Finance

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Finance,
January 13, 2009

In Board of Aldermen

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 Clerk