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November 13, 2007

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on November 13, 2007, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen John Connolly, Bruce Desmond and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Aldermen Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, Thomas Taylor and William White as well as Mayor Joe Curtatone, DPW Commissioner Stan Koty, Director of Finance Ed Bean, Jerry Boyle from Capital Projects, Chief of Staff Michael Lambert, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia, John Gannon and Matt Buckley from the Law Department, Monica Lamboy from SPCD, Noreen Burke from the Health Department, Supt. of Schools Tony Pierantozzi, School Committee members Mark Niedergang, Mary Joe Rossetti, Theresa Cardoso, Mark Friedman, Paul Bockleman, and James McCallum.

Superintendent Pierantozzi and members of the School Committee addressed the Finance Committee regarding the failure of the homework club to proceed at the Kennedy School. Mr. Niedergang stated that he was not aware of the issue and Supt. Pierantozzi stated that after school programs have increased and that his office was not notified of the situation. He further stated that there were some homework clubs functioning recently, but there is a comprehensive after school program planned for the near future and he explained that teachers must be willing to give their time. There will be 8 academic support groups servicing various grade levels and there will also be funding from a 21st century grant.

On other matters:

- Health Director Noreen Burke discussed the challenges and salary structure of the city's school nurses
- DPW Commissioner Stan Koty spoke about needed repairs to a crushed pipe at Trum Field
- Police Captain O'Connor spoke about a grant from the MA Exec. Office of Public Safety to the Police for Community Policing
- Mr. Boyle and Mayor Curtatone spoke about a request for an appropriation and bond of \$475,000 for the construction of the Trum Field Fieldhouse. The request was approved on a roll call vote of 4 in favor, 0 against and 1 absent.

Ms. Lamboy addressed the committee regarding a request for funds to increase the pay for a vacant planner position, and to authorize an increase in the pay for a vacant senior planner and another planning position. Mayor Curtatone also spoke on the issue, telling the members why several of the city's planners have moved on to other opportunities. The committee requested additional information on this matter.

The Committee requested that representatives of the Police Department provide regular updates on how the grant of \$345,680 from the MA Exec. Office of Public Safety is being expended.

The committee voted to go into Executive Session on a roll call vote of 3 in favor, 0 against and 2 absent.

No votes were taken in Executive Session.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 8 items:

184303: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$345,680 from the MA Exec. Office of Public Safety to the Police for Community Policing.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184325: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of an appropriation and bond of \$475,000 for the construction of the Trum Field Fieldhouse.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184387: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to appropriate \$1,000,000 from Receipts Reserved for Appropriation – Parking Meter Receipts, to reduce the FY08 tax levy.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184389: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$51,509 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Police Detail Revolving Acct. to fund an obligation to the Police Patrolmen's Association to pay for work details where vendors are delinquent.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184391: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$33,924 from the Metro Mayors Shannon Grant to the Police, for overtime associated with anti-gang and anti-violence activities.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184483: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$103,938 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Fire Alarm Salaries Acct. to fund retroactive benefits from the Agreement with the Fire Assoc. of Somerville/Fire Alarm for 7/1/04-6/30/07.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184485: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$93,334 from the MA Dept. of Public Health for the Health Dept.'s Shape Up Somerville Program.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

184506: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$30,000 from the Sewer Catch Basin Disposals Acct. to the Sewer Capital Cleaning and Repairs Acct. to repair a crushed pipe at Trum Field.

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,
November 13, 2007

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk