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November 16, 2006

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on November 16, 2006, with Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Maryann Heuston, Dennis Sullivan and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Alderman Rebekah Gewirtz, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, Finance Director Ed Bean, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia, Police Chief Robert Bradley, Gerry Boyle from Capital Projects, Purchasing Director Roistha Durham, Steve Winslow and Chris Daveta from SPCD, Solicitor John Gannon and Labor Counsel Robert Collins.

Mr. Tranfaglia distributed information regarding the consulting company the city wishes to hire to assist in the selection of a new Police Chief. Ms. Durham explained that this was the only reputable company that responded to the bid. Chairman White expressed concern over the lack of response from other companies.

Mr. Collins outlined the collective bargaining agreement between the city and the Police Superior Officers Association, covering the period from 7/1/04 through 6/30/06.

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

The committee returned from Executive Session and reported that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

There was a discussion regarding a grant from the MA Office of Environmental Affairs for the Community Path Extension and Park Project, however, because of concerns about future parking rights on the site by Cambridge Health Alliance, Chairman White decided to keep the matter in committee until a copy of the agreement could be examined. Alderman Sullivan also requested that a plot plan be presented to the committee. Mr. Winslow said that the city might be able to be reimbursed for expenses after it takes title to the parcel, provided that a contract is signed prior to expending any funds.

Mr. Boyle and Mr. Daveta informed the committee that the company that owns the building that houses the Buena Vista garage is only responsible for minor maintenance and that the city is responsible for repairs to the garage itself. The current owner amenable to talking to the city about allowing the city to use the garage. The facility is in need of repairs, as the useful life expectancy of the garage materials has passed. The city hired a structural engineering company to inspect the facility and to make recommendations for repair. Mr. Boyle presented an outline of the repairs needed and stated that this would not be a permanent fix. He also noted that the 2004 estimate for a complete repair job was \$600,000. The structure is not in imminent danger of collapsing but the repairs should be performed as soon as possible. The city receives approximately \$2,500 per month from the garage lease.

The committee requested that a report of the parking receipts from the Davis Sq. area be forwarded to the committee.

Mr. Tranfaglia explained the process used in setting the adjusted salary amounts for various non-union positions and distributed the wage adjustment report to the committee.

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

182220: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$54,866 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to various Board of Aldermen Accts. to fund Ordinance 2006-13.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

182221: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$19,845 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Executive Admin. Salaries Acct. to fund Ordinance 2006-13.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

182222: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$579,909 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to various departmental Salaries Accts. to fund Ordinance 2006-13.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be discharged without a recommendation

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182223: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval for a Supplemental Appropriation of \$150,000 to the Capital Project Management Prof. & Tech. Services Acct. to fund repairs to the Buena Vista Garage.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor

182224: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval for a Supplemental Appropriation of \$21,000 to the Personnel Prof. & Tech. Services Acct. to hire a consultant to assist in the selection of a new Police Chief.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

182225: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$5,000 from the Police Salary Acct. to the Animal Control Overtime Acct.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

182264: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$99,013 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Police Salaries Acct. to fund the collective bargaining agreement with the Police Superior Officers Association from 7/1/2004 to 6/30/06.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 3 - 0 in favor

Alderman William A. White, Jr., Chairman
Committee on Finance

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Finance,
November 16, 2006

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk