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November 19, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on November 19, 2008, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Walter Pero, Dennis Sullivan and John Connolly also present and voting. Also present were Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Administrative Assistant Jesse Baker, Chief Fire Engineer Kevin Kelleher, Police Chief Anthony Holloway, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia, Jerry Boyle from Capital Projects, Assistant City Solicitor David Shapiro and Finance Director Ed Bean.

The committee heard from Mr. Tranfaglia, Chief Kelleher, Chief Holloway and Mr. Bean regarding various requests, (detailed below).

Mr. Boyle addressed the members and asked for approval to extend a contract with Symmes Maini McKee Associates for architectural services at the Lincoln Park Community School and he discussed details of a \$50,000 grant for the installation of solar panels on the roof of the school. Mr. Boyle explained that additional architectural services at the school must be provided in order for the city to qualify for a sustainable energy program. The additional architectural costs would be charged back to the school's general contractor. Alderman Desmond expressed concern that this project had not gone out to bid and Mr. Boyle responded by explaining that awarding the contract to Symmes Maini McKee Associates is more cost effective because of their familiarity with the school building. Chairman Heuston requested that the committee be provided with a final punch list of outstanding items.

Alderman Pero's motion **that the Director of Capital Projects and the Commissioner of Public Works appear before the Finance Committee to update the members on all punch list items pertaining to the Argenziano School at Lincoln Park, the Honeywell energy project and any other projects**, was approved.

Mayor Curtatone addressed the members regarding a staffing change within SomerStat, i.e., Stephanie Hirsch will be leaving her position as Director of SomerStat at the end of this calendar year and will be hired as an independent contractor to assist with the ResiStat program and the transition of a new director into SomerStat.

The members also discussed the idea of having a retreat to develop ways of making the city better. Alderman Sullivan told the members that he has reconsidered his earlier position and now fully supports the idea.

Chairman Heuston's motion *that the City Solicitor provide an opinion as to whether or not an Aldermanic retreat would violate the open meeting law and also provide the Board of Aldermen with guidelines relative to participating in such a retreat*, was approved.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 9 items:

186022: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$50,000 from the MA Technology Collaborative for a renewable energy project at the Argenziano School.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

186407: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$24,029 through the SETB Training grant for the Police Dept. to support Enhanced 911 services.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

186408: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$2,500 from the MA Board of Library Commissioners to the Library for a preservation survey of the Local History Collection.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

186498: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to extend a contract with Symmes Maini McKee Associates for architectural services at the Lincoln Park Community School, to 12/31/09.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

186499: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to transfer \$16,000 from SomerStat Salaries to SomerStat Professional Services to fund contracted services from 1/3/09 to 6/30/09.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

186500: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval for Personnel to pay \$10,790.46 in FY08 invoices with FY09 funds for various health services.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 4 - 0 in favor (Chairman Heuston recused)

186501: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval for a 1978 Fire Dept. vehicle to be declared surplus city property and made available for sale.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

186502: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$4,911 from the MA Dept. of Industrial Accidents Office of Safety to initiate a safety training program with the DPW and the SMEA Safety Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

186503: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$4,676.66 from Federal Realty Investment Trust to pay Police overtime for the celebration of the Assembly on the Mystic event.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Finance

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Finance,
November 19, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk