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June 22, 2009 through June 29, 2009

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

The Committee on Finance convened as a Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of discussing the FY 2010 Budget, as follows:

### **June 22, 2009:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, William White, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond, John Connolly and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Administrative Assistants Jessie Baker and Janice Delorey, Chief Financial Officer Edward Bean, Director of SomerStat Sean Murphy, Director of Communications Thomas Champion, Treasurer Elizabeth Craveiro, Purchasing Director Rositha Durham, Mark Levy from Assessing, Internal Auditor Coleen Tam, Grant Administrator Kate Ashton, all Department Heads, School Committee Chair Maureen Bastardi and members of the School Committee and interested members of the public.

### **Budget Presentation:**

Mayor Curtatone presented the city's FY-2010 budget, totaling \$160,272,078, (\$4.8M or 3% less than FY-09). Several months ago, for the first time since 2002, the city's promised state aid was cut by \$2.9 million. This reduction of funding, coupled with other emergency cuts made by the governor, left Somerville facing an estimated FY-2010 deficit in excess of \$12 million, as follows:

Original Projected Expenditures	\$178,618,677
Original Projected Revenues	\$166,537,447
FY-2010 Projected Deficit	-\$ 12,081,230

The FY-2010 budget process was the most open and transparent in the city's history and was marked by unprecedented collaboration between the Board of Aldermen, the School Committee, the Administration and the city's employees. Additionally, taxpayers were solicited for feedback and kept informed through ResiStat meetings, online budget surveys and numerous Aldermanic presentations and in an effort to bring new ideas and opportunities for cost control and revenue enhancement, the Administration convened the Financial Advisory Committee, comprised primarily of public, private and academic leaders.

The mayor said the building of the budget was guided by the city's core principles of fiscal responsibility, upholding commitments and shared sacrifice. Services will be maintained by using a more efficient organizational structure and workforce and by continuing to depend on our employees to do more with less,

while paying the utmost respect to the taxpayer dollar. Where possible, federal stimulus funding would be utilized.

The city's property tax levy is \$96,363,571, up from \$3,829.107 or 4.14% from FY-09 and is at the Proposition 2 ½ levy limit. New Growth in for fiscal 2010 is projected at approximately \$1,548,312. Due to the current economic climate, sensitive local receipts such as motor vehicle excise taxes, hotel taxes, investment incomes, building permits and construction related fees are stagnant or declining. To offset some of these reductions, the city has raised fees and fines in several areas. The mayor noted that no police officers or firefighters will be taken off of our streets.

Some of the steps taken to bring the city's budget in line include:

- Controlling wages and compensation through furloughs, collaboration with some unions and eliminating or leaving vacant positions unfunded,
- Controlling health care costs through increases to non-union and retiree premiums and through the bargaining process.

The city's last Free Cash Certification was \$10.2 million, the highest in the city's history.

- An annual appropriation of \$3.5 million from free cash will be sought to help balance the FY-2010 budget
- A \$3 million appropriation from free cash will be sought to create a "Rainy Day" Stabilization Fund to help navigate through tough economic times, including impending "9c" cuts
- An appropriation of \$1 million from free cash will be sought for the Capital Stabilization Fund for the FY-2010 Capital Investment Plan

Following the Mayor's presentation, Chairman Heuston thanked the mayor, school committee and department heads for identifying and preserving the things that are important to residents and stated that the City of Somerville handles things in a conservative way and found innovative ways to trim the budget while preserving services. Chairman Heuston acknowledged that sacrifices are being made but that, ultimately, they would aid the city's future and growth.

Mayor Curtatone told the members that, as of now, the state budget has not been approved, therefore, the cherry sheet figures are not yet available. In order to prepare the city's budget, the more conservative figure from the state senate was used. The governor may veto budget if his ethics package does not pass or the city could get an additional \$2.2 million in state aid, but whatever follows with the budget, the mayor assured the members that the city's approach won't change, i.e., the city will look at what is important and what is needed and that some positions, but probably not all, might be put back into the budget.

That mayor explained that the "rainy day" fund would be used to protect the city against 9c cuts, etc., ensuring that city serviced would not be cut. Mr. Bean informed the members that audit information explaining the various funds would be posted on the city's website tomorrow (June 23<sup>rd</sup>). Mr. Bean also stated that

The mayor stated that increased permit parking fees have not been factored into the budget, but as those figures change, the Board of Aldermen would be updated.

Alderman Trane asked why positions within the Recreation Department were being cut and the mayor explained that although positions are being eliminated, services not being cut and noted that this is the

process used for every department. Recreation services will continue to grow, but there is no plan to put positions back if they're not needed to deliver the required services.

The following departments presented their budget requests to the committee:

- **Executive Office Administration:** 14% decrease from FY-09 budget
- **SomerStat:** 10% increase over FY-09 budget
- **Constituent Services:** 6% decrease from FY-09 budget

(Alderman Pero recused from 311 discussions)

Alderman Trane stated that he has been waiting for three years for specific 311 data and he asked when it might be accessible. Mr. Murphy replied that weekly reports are sent to the Board of Aldermen and further stated that he would provide training to the members so that the data can be accessed. Alderman Trane said that its not the accessing of the data, but rather it's content that's at issue. Alderman Gewirtz commented on the number of employees in the department and Mr. Murphy pointed out that the department is staffed 24/7. Chairman Heuston requested that an FTE analysis be done on "KEY OUTPUT" data (listed on page 63 of budget book) and also asked to know how many customer service representatives speak another language. Mr. Murphy will provide the requested information.

- **Communications:** 0.15% increase over FY-09 budget

Alderman Trane requested a breakdown of the funds that come into and go out of the department, detailing which employees get paid from which accounts. Mr. Champion will provide the requested information.

- **Finance Department**
- **Treasury:** 8% decrease from FY-09 budget
- **Auditing and Payroll:** 1% decrease from FY-09 budget
- **Purchasing:** 2% increase over FY-09 budget
- **Assessors:** Level funded

There was a discussion regarding letters being received by residents asking for information in order to obtain or keep a residential exemption. Mr. Levy explained that the submission of a state tax return when filing for residential exemption is used to verify the homeowner's address and he noted that this is the method recommended by the state for verification. Alderman White suggested that the Assessor's Office explore ways to secure this information from the Elections Department.

- **Internal Control:** 2% decrease from FY-09 budget

Ms. Tam spoke about the establishment of a Fraud Hotline and informed the members that it is being used in Springfield. Alderman Gewirtz questioned why the proposed hotline could not be handled by Constituent Services 311 personnel.

- **Grants Management:** 3% decrease from FY-09 budget

## **June 23, 2009:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, William White, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Administrative Assistant Jessie Baker, Chief Financial Officer Edward Bean, Budget Analyst Matt Dias, City Clerk John Long, Council on Aging Director Cindy Hickey, Gregory Jenkins from the Arts Council, Gerald Boyle from Capital Projects, Karthik Viswanathan from Information Technology, City Solicitor John Gannon, Director of Veterans Services Frank Senesi, David Lutes from OSE, Election

Commissioner Nicholas Salerno, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia, Health Director Paulette Renault-Caragianes, Executive Director of SPCD Monica Lamboy, DPW Commissioner Stan Koty and interested members of the public.

The following departments presented their budget requests to the committee:

- **City Clerk:** 16% decrease from FY-09 budget
- **Council on Aging:** 2% decrease from FY-09 budget
- **Arts:** 2% decrease over FY-09 budget
- **Capital Projects:** 18% decrease from FY-09 budget (Alderman O’Donovan recused from this portion of the meeting)
- **Information Technology:** 8% decrease from FY-09 budget
- **Law:** 2.1% decrease from FY-09 budget
- **Veterans Services:** 10% increase from FY-09 budget
- **Office of Sustainability and Environment:** 2% decrease from FY-09 budget

Mr. Lutes spoke about plans to increase recycling and told the members that the city is expecting the first report at the end of next May on how well Honeywell and the city met its ESCO goals. Mr. Lutes also stated that he would like to expand the environmental curriculum program, that was piloted at the Capuano School.

- **Elections:** 6% decrease from FY-09 budget
- **Personnel:** 2% increase over FY-09 budget

Mr. Tranfaglia spoke about the plan, put forth as a result of ResiStat meetings, to hire a part time Volunteer Coordinator to capitalize on the spirit of civic engagement throughout the city and Chairman Heuston stated that the position would have to provide a return on the city’s investment. Chairman Heuston also said that she would be asking for a detailed plan for the position and, at end of the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter, would also be requesting what real value was received by having this position.

- **Health:** 2% decrease over FY-09 budget
- **Strategic Planning and Community Development:**

<u>Department</u>	<u>% Change</u>
SPCD - Administration	8% increase over FY-09 budget
SPCD - Economic Development & Historic Preservation	9% decrease from FY-09 budget
SPCD - Redevelopment Authority	1% decrease from FY-09 budget
SPCD - Transportation & Infrastructure	26% decrease from FY-09 budget
SPCD - Housing	58% decrease from FY-09 budget
SPCD - Planning & Zoning	1% decrease from FY-09 budget
SPCD - Inspectional Services	1% increase FY-09 budget

Ms. Lamboy told the members that the department’s funds were allocated from CDBG where applicable, rather than from City funds and that the city received Federal Stimulus funding, as follows:

- \$772K of CDBG-R for 1 year
- \$1.18M of Homeless Prevention & Rapid Re-housing funding over 3 years

Alderman White inquired about SPCD’s involvement in next year’s census and Ms. Lamboy said that it is important to grant funding and that personnel will be allocated to work on obtaining the census

information. Alderman White asked that someone from SPCD be assigned to play a coordinating role in the census effort. Alderman White also inquired about the analysis undertaken of the Kiley Barrel site and asked that a copy of the report be sent to the Board of Aldermen. Chairman Heuston stated that ISD is understaffed and that the city needs increased inspectional capabilities and she expressed her desire to have ISD work with the Law Department to crack down on problem property owners. There was a brief discussion regarding the sharing of data among the Inspectional Services, Fire, Police and Health Departments and Mr. Bean noted that the MUNIS system, which could have aided this effort, was put on hold for the FY-2010 fiscal year.

- **DPW** (Alderman Heuston recused from the Administrative portion of the meeting)  
(Alderman Roche recused from the Highway portion of the meeting)

<u>Department</u>	<u>% Change</u>
DPW - Administration	3% decrease from FY-09 budget
DPW - Buildings & Grounds	7% decrease from FY-09 budget
DPW - School Custodians	2% increase over FY-09 budget
DPW - Lights & Lines	12% decrease from FY-09 budget
DPW - Engineering	15% decrease from FY-09 budget
DPW - Highways	11% decrease from FY-09 budget
DPW - Sanitation	13% increase over FY-09 budget
DPW - Snow Removal	0% Level funded
DPW - Water Enterprise Fund	2% increase over FY-09 budget
DPW - Sewer Enterprise Fund	7% increase over FY-09 budget
DPW - Weights and Measures	0% Level funded

Mr. Koty and Mr. Deshpande spoke about removal costs for hazardous waste stating that it is difficult to estimate, as much is dependent on what hazardous materials are discarded by residents. Last year, the city was paid about \$250,000 to get rid of paper, but now due to the lowered value of recycling materials, the city is paying to have it removed. The projected cost for recycling is \$43 per ton and would be higher if a single stream system is used. Ms. Barrett told the members that the city has secured fixed price contracts for the 14 largest accounts to save on utility costs. Mr. MacEchern discussed fire control boxes and told the members that all new construction will have wireless fire boxes and that replacement units would also be wireless. Somerville's underground fire alarm lines will remain in place and are utilized by the City of Cambridge and the Town of Arlington, as well.

Alderman White requested that a summary of electricity and natural gas prices be provided to the committee and also asked that a copy of the city's trash contract be emailed to all BOA members when it is released as a public document. Alderman Gewirtz asked that the DPW provide the committee with expenditures to date and Chairman Heuston suggested that expenditure information should be provided for the larger city departments through at least the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the fiscal year. Mr. Bean noted that, by law, the city must provide financial data through October 31<sup>st</sup>, but said that future budgets could include more current data. Alderman Taylor asked about the privatizing of school custodians and Mr. Koty replied that negotiations are now being held.

- **Water & Sewer Departments**

**June 24, 2009:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, William White, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond, John Connolly and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Administrative Assistants Jessie Baker and Janice Delory, Chief Financial Officer Edward Bean, Budget Analyst Matt Dias, Library Director Nancy Milnor, Recreation Superintendent James Halloran, Chief Fire Engineer Kevin Kelleher, Police Chief Anthony Holloway, Traffic and Parking Director James Kotzuba and interested members of the public.

The following departments presented their budget requests to the committee:

- **Library:** 15% decrease from FY-09 budget
- **Fire:**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Change</u>
Fire	1% increase over FY-09 budget
Fire Alarm	.1% decrease from FY-09 budget
Emergency Management	1% decrease from FY-09 budget

Chief Kelleher told the members that there are 14 individuals out on long term disability and that this adds to the overtime costs. The Chief also said that he hopes to have Engine 4 back in service shortly.

Alderman Desmond asked how many people would be needed to reduce overtime costs and Chief Kelleher replied that an analysis was performed with SomerStat about 2-3 years ago and it was pretty much a wash. Alderman O'Donovan requested that the data be provided to the committee. Chief Kelleher noted that there is strength in numbers, i.e., more available personnel equals less injuries. There are 152 individuals in the Fire department with about half of them being over age 50 by the end of 2009. The mean age is 47, making this an old department.

Alderman Connolly asked about chapter 304 inspections and requested information regarding how many would be conducted in 2010. Chief Kelleher stated that fire inspections are performed daily and Alderman Connolly requested information on that, as well.

The Chief spoke about the value of a rescue unit to community and told the members that such a unit would have assigned personnel who would be EMT's and have additional training beyond the normal fire fighter, e.g., enhanced training in WMD, confined space incidents and technical rescues. Having a rescue unit would help in positioning the city for additional funding.

- **Police:**

<u>Department</u>	<u>Change</u>
Police	1% decrease from FY-09 budget
Police - E911	5% decrease from FY-09 budget
Police - Animal Control	8% increase over FY-09 budget

Aldermen Trane, O'Donovan and White asked that Chief Holloway provide the committee with information regarding vacancies, ASAP. Chief Holloway told the members that there are no long term disabilities in the department at the present time. Alderman Gewirtz inquired about the line item for the surveillance cameras that were recently installed and the Chief stated that the city hasn't taken control of them yet, so they probably won't appear in a budget until FY-11. Asked about dealing with rabid animals, the Chief said that there have been only a few such calls and that information would be posted on the city's website to inform the public what can be done. The Chief will supply the committee with the figures for getting animal control personnel trained and certified to deal with such animals.

- **Traffic and Parking:** 6% increase over FY-09 budget

(Alderman Sullivan recused from this portion of the meeting)

Mr. Kotzuba informed the members that the department's increased revenue projection from its various initiatives is \$2 million and stated that adding additional permit parking places would mean increased revenue from violations and extending parking meter hours would mean increased meter violation revenue. Alderman Gewirtz requested that those revenue figures be provided to the committee (tomorrow).

Alderman Taylor asked about interaction with the Parking Solutions Task Force and stated that he would like to advocate for certain streets in his ward to allow non-permit parking. Ms. Baker told the members that the task force has 15 members, including Aldermen Gewirtz, Sullivan and Trane and is comprised of mostly business people. Ms. Baker will provide the committee with the name of the task force members.

Alderman O'Donovan reviewed the procedures for having items included on the Traffic Commission's meeting agenda and expressed concern that information regarding an additional item discussed at a recent meeting of the commission was not provided to the ward alderman. Mr. Kotzuba stated that he would not make any recommendation relative to Magoun Square until input is received from residents and that traffic enforcement would be relaxed in Magoun Square for duration of the renovation project there. Alderman O'Donovan requested information showing what revenue from Magoun Square would be included in the increased revenue figures.

Alderman Desmond asked about the department's software use and requested that a copy of the SLA be provided.

Alderman Connolly asked that Mr. Kotzuba bring the concerns of the Board of Aldermen regarding increased fines to the Traffic Commission and to the task force. Chairman Heuston asked that he also bring back the message that Ward 2 wants permit parking.

Mr. Kotzuba told the members that he has been presented with a petition from 50 registered voters and that the Elections Department is verifying that those who signed are registered voters. Alderman White asked that an email be sent to all members of the Board of Aldermen if a public hearing is going to be held.

- **Recreation and Youth:** 21% decrease from FY-09 budget

Alderman Gewirtz spoke about 2 salary increases and the fact that 2 positions were being eliminated and she asked how services would be retained. Mr. Halloran explained that the salary increases were per the union contract and he explained that the description of the eliminated positions has changed over the years, making them expendable. Mayor Curtatone told the members that youth services is a top priority and noted that the budget went down and programs went up. The city has a responsibility to its citizens to have a balanced budget. Alderman Trane stated that he would try to redirect funds to the Youth Department to re-hire those 2 individuals.

### **June 25, 2009:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, William White, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond, John Connolly and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were

Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Administrative Assistant Jessie Baker, Chief Financial Officer Edward Bean, Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi, School Committee Members Maureen Bastardi, M. Teresa Cardoso, Adam Sweeting, James Norton, Mark Niedergang, Paul Bockelman and Mary Jo Rossetti and interested members of the public.

- **School Department:** 2.2% decrease from FY-09 budget

Superintendent Pierantozzi presented the School Department's FY-2010 budget of \$47,704,034 and reviewed the district and long range goals of the department. The budget, which is 2.22% less than FY-09's, was prepared in a manner that allowed the department to protect core programs and class size while maintaining program support and professional development. Superintendent Pierantozzi told the members that the FY-09 Special Education Circuit Breaker reimbursement rate is 72% or \$1,072,600 but that the estimated rate for FY-2010 is between 30% and 50%, noting that this will impact the FY-2011 budget. Cost savings were achieved, in part, through wage freezes, furloughs and increases in employee health care contributions. The equivalent of 27.3 FTE staff reductions was achieved mainly through attrition, although there were 12 layoffs.

There was a discussion about the Brown School and Alderman Roche requested information of the savings that might be achieved by closing the school. Alderman Desmond questioned the tuition and transportation costs for students attending vocational schools outside of Somerville. Alderman White requested a breakdown of minority students and those with subsidized meals.

### **June 29, 2000:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, William White, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond, John Connolly and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Administrative Assistant Jessie Baker, Chief Financial Officer Edward Bean, all Department Heads and interested members of the public.

### **Public Hearing:**

Speaking in favor:

Kristen Gunst - spoke in support of the Brown School

Sarah Fishman - spoke in support of the Brown School

Speaking against:

Jennifer Leone spoke against the cuts in the Recreation Department

Patricia Wild spoke against cuts in the Public Library

Kaylee Kavanaugh spoke against the cuts in the Recreation Department

Kevin O'Kelley spoke against cuts in the Public Library

Maida Tillhen presented a petition and spoke against cuts in the Public Library

Olivia Thorpe spoke against the cuts in the Recreation Department

Bob Gover - spoke against city-wide parking

Public Hearing closed.

### **Budget Review:**

Alderman Pero informed those present that the Board of Alderman has taken furloughs similar to those of other city employees and also made cuts to its Ordinary Maintenance account.

Chairman Heuston stated that the appropriate department personnel inform the committee of any implications of budget cuts, as they are proposed.

The following Aldermen were recused from the discussions and votes taken, as noted:

Alderman Heuston:	DPW Administration
Alderman Sullivan:	Traffic and Parking
Alderman Roche:	DPW Highway; Police
Alderman O'Donovan:	Project Management; Fire
Alderman Desmond:	School Department
Alderman Trane:	School Department
Alderman Pero:	Constituent Services

- Alderman Roche's motion to reduce line 51110 in Personnel Org 1901 by \$11,129.00 was approved on a Roll Call vote of 9 in favor to 0 against and 2 absent. #A
- Alderman White's motion to reduce line 51110 in SPCD Org 2910 by \$600.00 was approved on a Roll Call vote of 10 in favor to 0 against and 1 absent. #1
- Alderman Pero's motion to reduce line 51110 in SPCD Org 2910 by \$1,200.00 was approved on a Roll Call vote of 10 in favor to 0 against and 1 absent. #2
- Alderman White's motion to reduce line 51110 in SPCD Org 2901 by \$3,319.00 was approved on a Roll Call vote of 11 in favor to 0 against and 0 absent. #3
- Alderman Gewirtz's motion to reduce line 51110 in Fire Org 4201 by \$108,738.00 was NOT approved on a Roll Call vote of 2 in favor to 8 against and 1 recused. #4
- Alderman Roche's motion accept the School Department's budget, as presented, was approved on a Roll Call vote of 8 in favor to 0 against, 2 absent and 1 recused. #5
- Alderman Desmond's motion to reduce line 51110 in Police Org 4301 by \$4095.00 was approved on a Roll Call vote of 8 in favor to 0 against and 2 absent and 1 recused. #6
- Alderman White's motion to reduce line 54810 in DPW Org 8001 by \$75,000.00 was approved on a Roll Call vote of 9 in favor to 0 against and 1 absent and 1 recused. #7
- Alderman Trane's motion to reduce line 52110 in DPW Org 8007 by \$175,000.00 was NOT approved on a Roll Call vote of 3 in favor to 8 against and 0 absent. #8
- Alderman Trane's motion to reduce line 52120 in DPW Org 8007 by \$28,750.00 was NOT approved on a Roll Call vote of 4 in favor to 7 against and 0 absent. #9
- Alderman Trane's motion to reduce line 52130 in DPW Org 8007 by \$29,100.00 was NOT approved on a Roll Call vote of 3 in favor to 8 against and 1 absent. #10
- Alderman White's motion to reduce line 52120 in DPW Org 8007 by \$57,500.00 was NOT approved on a Roll Call vote of 5 in favor to 6 against and 0 absent. #11 (reconsideration moved by Ald. Pero - see #14)
- Alderman Connolly's motion to reduce line 57401 in Building Insurance Org 3401 by \$87,295.00 was NOT approved on a Roll Call vote of 11 in favor to 0 against and 0 absent. #12
- Alderman Heuston's motion to reduce line 51110 in Treasurer/Collector Org 2201 by \$1,967.00 was NOT approved on a Roll Call vote of 5 in favor to 6 against and 0 absent. #13

\*\* Alderman Pero's motion for reconsideration of Alderman White's motion to reduce line 52120 in DPW Org 8007 by \$57,500.00 (vote #11 above), was approved. \*\*



The following Orders and Resolutions were unanimously passed by the committee:

**Orders and Resolutions – FY-10 (6/29/09)**

A Resolution by Alderman White that the Director of Strategic Planning and Community Development work with the Board of Aldermen to develop a strategy for taking aggressive legal action against problem property owners, was approved.

A Resolution by Alderman Desmond that the Chief Fire Engineer and the Administration perform a cost benefit analysis of overtime pay against the possibility of hiring additional fire fighters, was approved.

A Resolution by Alderman Desmond that the Administration and the Traffic and Parking Commission amend parking regulations to consider the non-Sunday worship hours of churches and synagogues and the streets around them, was approved.

A Resolution by Alderman Taylor that the Administration restore the FY-2010 Library staff reductions and further consider taking the staffing increase amount from the cash reserve fund, was approved.

A Resolution by Chairman Heuston that the Administration restore and fund 2 positions (2 librarians) to the FY-2010 Library budget, was approved.

A Resolution by Alderman Trane and the Entire Board that the Administration restore the funding cuts made in the Recreation Department budget and keep staffing at the previous levels, was approved.

A Resolution by Alderman Trane and the Entire Board that the Administration restore the funding cuts made in the Library Department budget and fund all open positions, was approved.

A Resolution by Alderman White that the Administration consider including a provision in the next collective bargaining agreement to permit the use of “swing personnel” to fill vacancies caused by sick time, in the Fire Department, was approved.

\*\* Alderman White’s motion to recess to go into Executive Session was approved on a roll call vote of 9 in favor, 0 against and 2 absent. \*\*

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 28 items:

**187695:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of an appropriation of \$1,793,020 to Fund 88 Org. 8803 to establish the Algonquin Gas Loop Project Stabilization Fund, to fund the construction of the streets, sidewalks and related work in the Algonquin gas loop project area.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187696:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of an appropriation of \$219,615 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation Insurance Losses Acct. to the East Somerville School Fire-School Acct. (\$155,567) and the East Somerville School Fire-DPW Acct. (\$64,048).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187698:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of an appropriation of \$140,199 from the Capital Stabilization Fund 85 to the ESCO Capital Project Fund 36, to finance transformer replacements (\$76,098), asbestos allowance (\$35,000), and repair pipe insulation (\$29,101).

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187699:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting the transfer of \$870,000 from the following DPW Accts: Electricity (\$450,000), Oil (\$140,000), Gasoline (\$85,000), Rubbish Removal (\$85,000), Floor Covering (\$80,000) and Professional Services (\$30,000), all to the DPW Snow Removal Acct.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187700:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting the transfer of \$18,000 from the Fire Salaries Acct. to the Fire Alarm Overtime Acct. to remediate a long-term sick-leave matter.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187706:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$5,000 from the Somerville Housing Authority for the Arts Council's Mystic Mural project.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187744:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a transfer of \$112,500 from the Debt Service Interest on Notes BANS Acct. to the Damage to Persons and Property Judgments/Settlements of Claims Acct., to fund the second and last payment in Romelus v. City of Somerville.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187745:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a transfer \$58,881 from the Debt Service Interest on Notes BANS Acct. to the Law Legal Services Acct. to supplement outside counsel handling the Logan Airport noise issue.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187746:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a transfer of \$50,000 from the Debt Service Interest on Notes BANS Acct. to the Damage to Persons and Property Judgments/Settlements of Claims Acct., to fund a settlement in Petitfort v. City of Somerville.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved  
**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187747:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a transfer of \$35,000 from the Debt Service Interest on Notes BANS Acct. to the DPW Hwy. Signs and Cones Acct. to procure signage for citywide residential parking.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved  
**VOTE:** 10 in favor, 1 against

**187748:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a transfer of \$13,500 from the Unemployment Compensation Insurance Acct. to the Board of Health Salaries Acct. to remediate an end of year deficit.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved  
**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187749:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a transfer of \$1,939 from various Board of Health OM Accts. to the Board of Health Salaries Acct. to remediate an end of year deficit.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved  
**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187754:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$160,272,078 to fund the Fiscal Year 2010 Operating Budget for the City.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved as amended (reduced to \$160,032,473)  
**VOTE:** 8 in favor , 2 against, 1 absent by Roll Call Vote

**187755:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$15,726,040 to fund the Fiscal Year 2010 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved  
**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187756:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$10,873,954 to fund the Fiscal Year 2010 Water Enterprise Fund Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved  
**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187757:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$3,500,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance (Free Cash) to reduce the FY10 tax levy.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved  
**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187758:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$3,000,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance (Free Cash) to establish a Rainy-Day Stabilization Fund, to stabilize the city's budget during periods of economic

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** 10 in favor, 1 against

**187759:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$1,000,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance (Free Cash) to the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund, to fund necessary capital improvements in FY10 and

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187760:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization of the School

Building

Use Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187761:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization of the All America City Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187762:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization of the Dedication

Sign

Fund for Fiscal Year 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187763:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization of the Traffic and Parking Sign Fund for Fiscal Year 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187764:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization of the Parks Revolving Fund for Fiscal Year 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187765:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting re-authorization of the attached Revolving Funds for Fiscal Year 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187800:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of a new contract with Deutsch, Williams, for legal services in the event of extraordinary legal need.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187801:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting extension of an existing contract with Blackboard Connect for Connect CTY mass notification services, through Aug. 31, 2009.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved as amended (for 90 days)

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187802:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$19,000 from the Capital Stabilization Fund to initiate a study of the Foley St. connector, linking Assembly Sq. with East Somerville.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

**187806:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting acceptance of a grant of \$6,000 from SSG Development LLC to help fund a study of the Foley St. connector, linking Assembly Sq. with East Somerville.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 11 - 0 in favor

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Maryann Heuston  
Chairman – Committee on Finance