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June 6, 2006 through June 21, 2006

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

The Committee on Finance convened as a Committee of the Whole, for the purpose of discussing the FY 2007 Budget.

### **HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **June 6, 2006:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Maryann Heuston, Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Denise Provost, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Janice Delory and Mike Lambert of the Mayor's Office, Chief Financial Officer Edward Bean, Treasurer William Fowler, Rositha Durham of Purchasing, Mark Levy and Diane D'Angeli from Assessing, Gerry Boyle from Capital Planning, Sean Murphy from Constituent Services, Jessie Baker and Tasha Bahal of Somerstat, James Kotzuba and Terry Smith of Traffic and Parking and Brock Parker of the Somerville Journal and members of the public.

**Budget Presentation:** Mayor Curtatone gave an overview of the budget and highlighted the following:

- The School Department budget has increased by \$985,700 to \$45,985,700
- The city side budget is up \$7.5 million over FY-06
- \$2.9 million of the increase is due to collective bargaining settlements
- Health care cost are increasing 13% per year
- Insurance increases each year are equivalent to 2-3% of base wages
- Negotiations are underway with unions to revise health care contributions
- The property tax levy increased by 5.76% making it \$150,000 below the Prop 2 ½ levy limit
- There was \$2,370,666 in new growth
- The net increase in state aid was \$1,868,930

**Capital Projects:** (Alderman O'Donovan recused himself from this portion of the meeting.) Mr. Boyle reviewed his department's performance during the last fiscal year and pointed to the ongoing construction of the new Argenziano School as a major accomplishment.

**311 – Constituent Services:** Mr. Murphy reviewed his department's performance during the last fiscal year and outlined the collection and disbursement of information by the 311 Call Center, including the ability to allow citizens to input and track online requests. He noted that by re-assigning the after hours Police console operators to his department and by having those positions staffed by civilians, the city was able to return one police officer to street duty. Mr. Murphy outlined the customer service training program and some of the FY-06 accomplishments, including the ability for residents to contact 311 via cell phone. The 311 system was first implemented in the DPW and will be expanded to Traffic and Parking, Inspectional Services and the Health Department by the end of 2006. Mr. Murphy stated that his department is

continually assessing the effectiveness of the 311 system and would continue to make improvements where necessary.

**Assessing:** Mark Leyve reviewed the department's performance during the last fiscal year noting that the department successfully completed its second State required interim year property assessment adjustments and has begun work on the FY-07 revaluation. Mr. Leyve informed the members that 65% of all property in the city is receiving residential exemptions, with that number increasing to 85% when just considering condos. Mr. Leyve explained the process and measures taken to ensure that those receiving the residential exemption are actually entitled to them. **Alderman Trane asked for an accounting of the number of people who applied for the residential exemption but were found to be ineligible.**

**Treasury:** Bill Fowler reviewed the department's performance during the last fiscal year noting that the department has been filing foreclosure petitions in land court that have resulted in the collection of additional revenue. Mr. Fowler also spoke about the health care costs of the city and said that all non-union employees have been shifted from the indemnity plan to a PPO plan. Moving Medicare eligible retirees to a supplemental plan would save the city money in the long term without changing the retirees' benefits or placing any additional cost on the retirees. He further stated that the city is expecting a Medicaid reimbursement in the amount of \$350,000 to \$400,000. Measures were taken to consolidate accounts and to move trust funds to increase the city's rate of return. Mr. Fowler told the members that the Treasury Department would explore an electronic check payment system in the collector's office to enable the city to shorten the clearing time and cut down on bad checks.

**Purchasing:** Rositha Durham reviewed the department's performance during the last fiscal year noting that the department has implemented standardized specification forms and an electronic contract tracking system. Ms. Durham informed the members that all vendors are being evaluated through a rating process and also stated that enhancements have been made to the requisition system. **Alderman Sullivan asked for a copy of the rating form sent to vendors.**

**Traffic and Parking:** Jim Kotzuba reviewed the department's performance during the last fiscal year noting that the department has increased revenue by 10%. Because of the high turnover of PCO's, the department has taken the step of interviewing candidates for those positions in advance of a vacancy in order to shorten the hiring process. Mr. Kotzuba told the members that the department is exploring the use of Park Cards, i.e., a pre-paid rechargeable parking meter card that would be available in amounts of \$20 and \$50. The technology would allow unused parking time to be credited back to the card. Efforts to make some ticketing information available to 311 operators is under discussion.

### **June 7, 2006:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Maryann Heuston, Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Denise Provost, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Finance Director Edward Bean, Jessie Baker and Tasha Bahal of Somerstat, DPW Commissioner Stan Koty, Highway Superintendent Michael Buckley, Water Superintendent Carol Antonelli, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds Frank Santangelo, Supervisor of School Facilities Michael Bowler, Director of Administration and Finance (DPW) Ginger Barrett, Director of Engineering Charles O'Brien,

**DPW Administration:** Commissioner Koty reviewed the department's performance during the last fiscal year and summarized some of the initiatives of the various departments within the DPW. Mr. Koty informed the members that he is requesting to add an additional sanitation inspector to the Highway

Department. Alderman Provost requested a list of capital improvements for the West Somerville, Kennedy, Healey and Capuano schools. Alderman Trane requested a breakdown of energy usage by buildings, in hours and therms. Alderman White asked that all new positions come before the Board of Aldermen for funding approval. Alderman Provost objected to adding another sanitation inspector based on the high salary of the position. Alderman Gewirtz suggested that measures, such as using hybrid vehicles, be made a priority for the DPW.

**DPW Electrical:** Mr. Buckley appeared to respond to questions from the members. NSTAR is replacing broken streetlights with energy efficient bulbs.

**DPW Engineering:** Mr. O'Brien appeared to respond to questions from the members.

**DPW Highway:** Mr. Buckley appeared to respond to questions from the members. It is expected that the additional sanitation inspector's position would be filled by mid July of this year.

**DPW Sanitation:** Mr. Buckley Mr. Buckley appeared to respond to questions from the members. This department's budget is being cut approximately \$260,000 from the FY-06 budget. Chairman White requested the tonnage figures for the last 3 years.

**DPW Buildings & Grounds:** Mr. Santangelo appeared to respond to questions from the members. The department has been performing many functions that were normally performed by outside vendors, reducing costs to the city. Alderman Provost requested a report detailing the overtime expenditures involved in setting up special functions, e.g., the Sunsetters, parades, etc. The electricity at the Powderhouse School will be shut off on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Alderman Pero requested that the Administration provide any capital plans to the Board for their review during the budget process.

**DPW Weights & Measures:** Mr. Koty appeared to respond to questions from the members.

**DPW Water:** Ms. Antonelli appeared to respond to questions from the members. Chairman White requested that Ms. Antonelli provide the committee with a list of the Water Department's employees.

**DPW Sewer:** Ms. Antonelli appeared to respond to questions from the members. Chairman White requested that Ms. Antonelli provide the committee with a list of the Sewer Department's employees.

### **June 12, 2006:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Maryann Heuston, Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Denise Provost, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Chief Fire Engineer Kevin Kelleher, City Clerk John Long, Solicitor John Gannon, Director of Communications Tom Champion, Public Information Officer Maeghan Silverberg, Chief Information Officer James Halloran, Internet Coordinator Kevin O'Donovan, Finance Director Edward Bean, Jessie Baker and Tasha Bahal of Somerstat, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office and Brock Parker of the Somerville Journal.

**Fire Department:** (Alderman O'Donovan recused himself from this portion of the meeting.) Chief Kelleher appeared to respond to questions from the members. He told the members that \$68,000 of the FY-05 overtime budget was directly related to the Democratic National Convention. Nicole's Law requires

that, upon the sale of a house, the Fire Department shall inspect the premises for the presence of carbon dioxide detectors. Chief Kelleher noted that the department would inspect for CO2 detectors while in a home for some other type of inspection, as well. **Alderman Trane requested the number of Fire Prevention personnel in the department (6), the amount spent in FY-06 (\$505,552) and the number of inspections performed during FY-06. Chairman White requested a list of all grants received and how they were spent, broken down by department.** Chief Kelleher stated that 160 is an accurate number of personnel to staff all fire houses. The addition of 2 firefighters would allow the Fire Department to lower its overtime costs. There will be 1 mandatory retirement next march (Deputy Chief Grainey). **The committee asked that Chief Grainey provide the Board with a list of new equipment that he would like to purchase.**

**City Clerk:** Mr. Long appeared to respond to questions from the members.

**Law Department:** Mr. Gannon appeared to respond to questions from the members. Mr. Gannon told the members that the hiring of an in-house attorney saved the city \$100,000 in outside legal fees and has enabled the city to settle disputes more quickly. Alderman Provost asked Mr. Gannon how many requests for opinions from the Board of Aldermen were outstanding. Chairman White suggested that it might be helpful for the Law Department to track the amount of time spent on various issues and to explore using the 311 system to track requests.

**Communications:** Mr. Champion appeared to respond to questions from the members. **Chairman White requested Mr. Bean to provide the Board with a breakdown of expenses for each of the revolving funds. Alderman Pero requested a list of the regularly scheduled programs that appear on both of the city's cable channels.** Alderman Pero's motion **that the Director of Communications provide a breakdown of the in-kind costs allocated by the city to support the donation of the Connect-CTY system from the vendor, including hours expended and hourly rates, from the time that the Board of Aldermen denied the request through June 30, 2006,** was unanimously approved. (Note: the information was provided to the committee at the meeting on June 21, 2006.)

**Information Technology:** (Alderman O'Donovan recused himself from this portion of the meeting.) Mr. Halloran and Mr. O'Donovan appeared to respond to questions from the members and gave a summary of the cost savings to the city resulting from the voice over IP (VOIP) phone system. Mr. Halloran also brought the members up to date on bringing Wi-Fi capability to the city. Requests for information will be sent out to several vendors in the very near future.

**Auditing:** Mr. Bean appeared to respond to questions from the members and explained the reasoning for adding the new position of Internal Auditor who would evaluate how cash is handled, how assets are safeguarded, examine payroll systems for irregularities, etc.

General Notes - Chairman White requested that the information packets for the rest of the departments be provided as soon as possible to the committee members.

### **June 13, 2006:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Maryann Heuston, Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Denise Provost, Bruce Desmond and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Mayor Joseph Curtatone, Michael Lambert from the Mayor's Office, Finance Director Ed Bean, SPD Chief Robert Bradley, Personnel Director Richard Tranfaglia, Cindy Hickey from the Council on Aging, Health Director Noreen Burke, Election Commissioner Nicholas Salerno, Gregory Jenkins from the Arts Council, Harry Marchetti from the Recreation Department, Jessie Burke and Tasha Bahal from Somerst.

**Police Department:** (Alderman Roche recused himself from this portion of the meeting.) Chief Bradley appeared before the committee and made a presentation highlighting the accomplishments and initiatives of the Police Department during FY-06. Community policing was reduced as a result of previous budget cuts and the chief stated that he has included it as a citywide task in the department's reorganization plan. Regarding the reorganization, Chief Bradley told the members that negotiations with the unions are ongoing and that progress has been slow. **Alderman Heuston requested that, should the Police Department's budget be approved as submitted, the proposed interim structure of the Police Department be provided to the Board.** Chief Bradley informed the members that although he is requesting funding for an additional 10 patrolmen, the net personnel increase would be 2, as 8 positions were lost through attrition. **Alderman Heuston asked Chief Bradley to inform the Board what would be necessary to strengthen community policing.** **Alderman Sullivan requested a copy of the department's current policies and procedures.**

Aldermen Pero's and Provost's motion ***that the Chief of Police provide a written explanation and/or addendum to the budget, as to why all of the Sergeants names were not included in the FY-07 budget,*** was unanimously approved. **Alderman Provost requested that the chief provide the Board with a report of drug arrests for the past 5 years.** **Alderman Provost requested to know how the \$345,680 in grant funds to Police Department were spent.**

**Animal Control and E-911:** Alderman Taylor requested that the Chief provide the number of total calls responded to by the Animal Control Officer.

**Personnel:** Mr. Tranfaglia appeared before the committee and responded to questions from the members. **Alderman Provost requested that all members receive copies of the new Sexual Harassment Policy.**

**Elections:** Mr. Salerno appeared before the committee and responded to questions from the members.

**Council on Aging:** Ms. Hickey appeared before the committee and responded to questions from the members.

**Health Department:** Ms. Burke presented a summary of the Health Department's FY-06 accomplishments and FY-07 goals and responded to questions from the members. **Chairman White requested a listing of the health code violations cited for FY-06 and the number of complaints resulting in citations.**

**Arts Council:** Mr. Jenkins appeared before the committee and responded to questions from the members.

**Recreation:** Mr. Marchetti appeared before the committee and responded to questions from the members.

### **June 19, 2006:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Maryann Heuston, Walter Pero, William Roche, Thomas Taylor, Denise Provost, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Finance Director Ed Bean, Solicitor John Gannon, James Kostaras, Phil Ercolini, Paul Mackey, George Landers, Arn Franzen, Anne Thomas and Mark Friedman from SPCD, Frank Senesi from Veterans Services, Mayor Joseph Curtatone,

Noreen Burke from the Health Department, Stephanie Hirsch, Jessie Baker and Tasha Bahal from Somerstat and Ellen Rauch from the Library.

**SPCD & ISD:** Mr. Kostaras addressed the committee and reviewed the organization of the department and stated that 77% of SPCD's funding comes from Block Grant funding. He reviewed the accomplishments of the past fiscal year and outlined the goals for FY-07. At the present time, the position of Planning Director is vacant and interviews are scheduled to begin shortly. Mr. Franzen spoke about the parks and open space development. State grants for 6 projects, totaling \$1.2 million was received during FY-06. Mark Friedman addressed the members regarding the finance and administration aspects of SPCD. Over the past 3 fiscal years, SPCD has received \$9.7 million in block grants. Finance and Administration also supports 5 revolving funds and various HUD projects. Mr. Mackey spoke about SPCD's Housing programs. Alderman Roche asked about the turnover rate in SPCD and asked that communication between SPCD and the BOA be increased, relative to personnel changes. **Alderman Taylor requested a timetable for the redevelopment of Union Square. Alderman Heuston requested the following information; the list of Cemusa bus shelter locations, the housing budget detail and a list of traffic improvement projects. Chairman White requested that a copy of the feasibility study for the Orange Line T station be provided to the BOA. Chairman White requested a breakdown of funds expended in the study of Assembly Square and where the funds originated. Chairman White requested a breakdown of the FY-06 Ordinary Maintenance expenditures and where the funds originated as well as a breakdown of the projected FY-07 OM expenditures and sources of funding. Chairman White asked Mr. Bean to determine if BOA approval is required to fund a position that was previously funded through Block Grants.**

Mr. Landers addressed the members and reviewed the accomplishments and goals of the Inspection Services Department. **Alderman Roche requested a breakdown of citations issued by shift. Alderman Gewirtz asked Mr. Landers to find out if Somerville is the only city seeking to expand the duties of the Municipal Hearing Officer and what the compensation would be, should approval be granted.** Alderman Heuston suggested that Inspectional Service might be considered as a stand-alone department in future budgets.

**Veterans Services:** Mr. Senesi addressed the members and reviewed the accomplishments and goals of his department.

**Executive Department:** Mayor Curtatone addressed the members and reviewed the proposed budget for the Executive Department and stressed the importance of funding a new position for an environmental programs manager within a new department to be known as the Office of Sustainability and Environment. **Chairman White requested a detailed discussion of which contracts the Environmental Programs Manager would follow up on. Alderman Provost requested to know what amount of savings is expected to be realized through entering into energy savings contracts. Chairman White requested a copy of the resume for the Administration's selection for the Environmental Programs Manager's position.**

**Somerstat:** Ms. Hirsch presented an overview of the department.

**Library:** Ms. Rauch addressed the members and reviewed the Library Department's accomplishments and goals.

## **June 20, 2006:**

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

Joseph Curtatone, Superintendent of Schools Tony Pierantozzi, Asst. Superintendent Marie Ferrari, School Committee members Maureen Bastardi, Teresa Cardoso, Roberta Bauer, Charlene Harris, Mark Niedergang, Paul Bockelman and Mary Jo Rossetti as well as all department heads throughout the city.

**School Department:** Superintendent Pierantozzi presented the School Department's budget and outlined the department's plans for FY-07. The superintendent informed the members that the FY-07 budget reflects an increase of 2.19% over the FY-06 budget. **Alderman Pero requested that the superintendent provide copies of the School Department's line item budget to the BOA. Alderman Gewirtz requested a copy of the report detailing the computer to student ration.** Aldermen Pero, Roche, Heuston and O'Donovan stressed the importance of having a line item budget for the School Department in the future. **Alderman O'Donovan requested a breakdown of the \$980,000 with respect to collective bargaining vs. non collective bargaining increases.** Superintendent Pierantozzi suggested that the BOA and the School Committee work out the details of providing additional information during the budget process. Ms. Bauer addressed the members saying that the School Committee looks forward to working with the BOA.

**Public Hearing:**

**Speaking in favor:**

- Laurie Siegal and Andrea Ranger commented on the position of environmental programs manager noting that the savings to the city might well offset any associated cost of funding the position.

**Speaking against:**

There were no speakers against the budget.

**General comments:**

By Lawrence Paoella:

- Stated that the budget process gets better each year
- Surprised that so few members of the public get involved in the budget process
- Would like to see more emphasis on revenue income
- Requested that additional information be placed on the city's website

By Jim Thomas:

- Average property tax has increased over \$1,000 in the last 5 years
- There seems to be a less for more problem with some departments

**Revolving Funds:** Mr. Bean informed the members that the Board of Alderman only has the authority to accept or deny the revolving fund expenditure caps, not to add to or cut the amounts. He also explained the need for the establishment of a Capital Projects Stabilization Fund. **Chairman White requested an update on the status of the Cable/Telco Revolving Fund. Alderman Gewirtz requested that SPCD provide a spreadsheet detailing the revenues and expenditures for the First Time Homebuyer Revolving Fund.**

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 18 items:

**181335:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$3,000,000 from the Free Cash Certification dated July 1, 2005 (Unreserved Fund Balance) to Reserve for Special Purposes, to reduce the FY-07 tax levy

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181336:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$700,000 from the Receipts Reserved for Appropriation-Parking Meter Receipts to Reserve for Special Purposes, to reduce the FY-07 tax levy

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181337:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization of the Youth Program Revolving Fund for FY-07 under MGL c44 s53E1/2

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181338:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting the re-authorization of a list of Departmental Revolving Funds for FY-07 under MGL c44 s53E1/2

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181389:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$300,000 from Unreserved Fund Balance (Free Cash) to establish a Capital Projects Stabilization Fund under the provisions of MGL c40 s5B.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181390:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting a transfer of \$125,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Benefits Acct. to the Water Enterprise Water Meters & Parts Acct.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181391:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting a transfer of \$15,000 from the Water Enterprise Fund Benefits Acct. to the Water Enterprise Water Service Replacement Acct.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181392:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting a transfer of \$14,915 from the Sewer Enterprise Fund Benefits Acct. to the Sewer Enterprise Cleaning

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181393:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting a transfer of \$21,700 from Bldgs. Insurance and Rentals-Bldgs. to Highway-Equipment to purchase 30 barrels to complete the first phase of the benches and barrels program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181396:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting a transfer of \$29,637 from the Council on Aging Salaries Acct. to the Libraries Salary Acct. to fund sick leave buyback and accrued vacation leave.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181397:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting a transfer of \$16,361 from the Fire PS Salaries Acct. to the Fire Alarm PS Salaries Acct. to cover benefits paid out during FY06.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181398:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting a transfer of \$12,000 from the Fire PS Salaries Acct. to the Fire OM Repairs-Tools & Equipment Acct. to cover emergency repairs.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181399:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting a transfer of \$15,472 from the Fire PS Salaries Acct. to the Fire OM Supplies for Men/Women Acct. to cover the cost of additional exercise equipment.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181400:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to accept a \$7,500 donation from NStar to help provide fireworks for our Independence Day

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181401:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to accept a \$5,000 grant to the Arts Council by the New England Grassroots Environment Fund to assist in the Mystic River Mural Project.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181403:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization to extend a contract with Camp Dresser & McKee until Dec. 31, 2006, to reduce infiltration and inflow in the wastewater collection system.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181404:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting authorization to extend a contract with Vollmer Associates LLP until Aug. 2008, for the design of the Community Path from Cedar to Central Sts.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

**181426:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting a transfer of \$10,000 from the fire PS Salaries Acct. to the Fire PS Overtime Acct. to cover shifts due to a

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

**VOTE:** Unanimous, 10 - 0 in favor

### **Budget Review:**

Alderman Provost's motion to reduce the Police Department's budget line # 51300 to \$516,000 was not approved on a roll call vote of 4 in favor to 6 against and 1 absent

Alderman Tranes's motion to reduce the Police Department's budget line # 51300 by \$20,000 was approved on a roll call vote of 8 in favor to 2 against and 1 absent.

### **June 21, 2006:**

**List of Attendees:** Chairman William White presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Maryann Heuston, Sean O'Donovan, Walter Pero, William Roche, Dennis Sullivan, Thomas Taylor, Denise Provost, Rebekah Gewirtz, Bruce Desmond and Robert Trane also present and voting. Also present were Mike Lambert of the Mayor's Office and all city Department Heads.

**Budget Review:** (Alderman Pero recused himself from the portion of the meeting dealing with pensions. Alderman O'Donovan recused himself from the portion of the meeting dealing with Fire, Executive – Capital Planning and Information Technology. Alderman Sullivan recused himself from the portion of the meeting dealing with Traffic and Parking. Alderman Roche recused himself from the portion of the meeting dealing with the DPW Highway Department.)

Alderman Pero's motion to reduce the Communication budget line # 53000 by \$44,250 was approved on a roll call vote of 11 in favor to 0 against.

Alderman Trane's motion to reduce the Fire Department's budget line # 51300 by \$50,000 was withdrawn.

Alderman Provost's motion to reduce the Traffic and Parking Department's budget line # 51300 by \$5,000 was withdrawn.

Alderman Provost's motion to reduce the Traffic and Parking Department's budget line # 53000 by \$15,000 was not approved on a roll call vote of 4 in favor, 5 against, 1 absent and 1 recused.

Alderman Provost's motion to reduce the DPW Building and Ground's budget line # 51300 by \$10,000 was not approved on a roll call vote of 4 in favor, 7 against.

Alderman Provost's motion to reduce the DPW Building and Ground's budget line # 51350 by \$20,000 was not approved on a roll call vote of 3 in favor, 8 against.

**Alderman Provost requested that the Commissioner of Public Works provide her with a list of the 33 city buildings referenced during his department's budget review.**

Aldermen Taylor and Trane's resolution that the reimbursement funds from the efforts of the School Department involving Medicaid reimbursement and the Microsoft settlement be channeled back to the School Department budget to support remedial programs, science and technology programs and extra-curricular activities was defeated on a Roll Call vote of 5 in favor to 6 against.

Items cut from FY-07 budget proposal:

<u>By</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Org. #</u>	<u>Acct. #</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
Ald. Trane	Police	4301	51300	Overtime	\$20,000.00
Ald. Heuston	Executive - Constituent Services	1049	51110	Salaries	\$5,405.00
Ald. Pero	Communications	1701	53000	Professional & Technical Services	\$44,250.00
Ald. Roche	Finance - Internal Control	2107	51110	Salaries	\$8,400.00
Ald. Heuston	SPCD	2910	51110	Salaries	\$1,900.00
Ald. Roche	Fire	4201	51110	Salaries	\$13,280.00
Ald. Roche & O'Donovan	Library	6101	51110	Salaries	\$8,251.00
Ald. Roche	Recreation	6301	51110	Salaries	\$1,975.00
Ald. White	DPW Highway	8005	51110	Salaries	\$1,429.00
Ald. White	DPW Highway	8005	51110	Salaries	\$1,966.00

Original Budget Proposal:	<b>\$153,196,202.00</b>
Amount of Reductions:	<b>-\$ 106,856.00</b>
Approved Budget:	<b>\$153,089,346.00</b>

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 3 items:

**181334:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting an appropriation of \$153,196,202 to fund the FY-07 operating budget for the city.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved as amended (as noted within)

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

**181405:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of appropriations totaling \$13,674,502 for the FY07 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

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

**181406:** Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval of appropriations totaling \$11,756,536 for the FY07 Water Enterprise Fund Budget.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Should be approved

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

The following Orders and Resolutions were unanimously passed by the committee, except where noted:

**Resolutions – FY 2007 (6/21/06)**

**Submitted by Alderman: Roche**

**RESOLVED**, That the Administration share with the Board of Aldermen, the information in the exit interviews conducted for SPCD personnel.

**Submitted by Alderman: Roche**

**RESOLVED**, That all members of the Board of Aldermen and School Committee increase their contributions to their health benefit plans to be the same as all other non-represented employees.

**Submitted by Alderman: Sullivan**

**RESOLVED**, That a full-time ADA Coordinator be hired by the City.

**Submitted by Alderman: Sullivan**

**RESOLVED**, That the Disability Commission receive a budget line item in the amount of \$2,500 to cover training expenses of its members.

**Submitted by Alderman: Heuston and the Entire Board**

**RESOLVED**, That the Administration work with the School Committee and School Department to develop a line item budget in preparation for the FY-08 budget process.

**Submitted by Alderman: O'Donovan**

**RESOLVED**, That the Administration include an additional Waste Collection Inspector, in addition to the one already proposed in the FY-07 budget revision, increasing the total to three. (Alderman Roche recused himself from this vote.) Alderman Provost voted against the resolution.

**Submitted by Alderman: O'Donovan**

**RESOLVED**, That the Administration divide any and all budget savings among the Public Safety Departments, after an additional waste management inspector is added to the proposed budget, (thereby increasing the number of Waste Collection Inspectors to one more that requested by the Administration). (Alderman Roche recused himself from this vote.)

**Submitted by Alderman: Trane**

**RESOLVED**, That the Mayor direct any monies received in the settlement with Microsoft to the School Department, to expand science, math, engineering and technology studies. Roll Call vote – 7 in favor, 4 against

**Submitted by Alderman: Taylor**

**RESOLVED**, That the Administration add a half-time Animal Control Officer in anticipation of an increased work load.

**Submitted by Alderman: Pero**

**RESOLVED**, That the Administration restore to the Chief of Police and the Chief Fire Engineer, city owned public safety vehicles, for their use at all times.

**Submitted by Alderman: Pero**

**RESOLVED**, That the Administration move forward in FY-07 with planning to implement resident friendly hours at the City Hall Annex, similar to this implementation at Traffic and Parking in FY-06.

**Submitted by Alderman: Desmond**

**RESOLVED**, That the Administration reinvest any savings realized by the Information Technology Department's better use of technology back into the city's technological infrastructure.

**Submitted by Alderman: Provost**

**RESOLVED**, That the Russell Disposal contract be re-negotiated to have the contractor pick up the full cost of at least one Waste Collection Inspector to enforce Russell's performance of its contractual duties.

**Submitted by Alderman: Provost**

**RESOLVED**, That the city work to establish salary parity between its managerial and professional personnel who have comparable responsibilities and perform comparable duties.

**Submitted by Alderman: Provost and Gewirtz**

**RESOLVED**, That a line be funded in the Board of Aldermen's budget for professional development in the amount of \$2,200.

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William A. White, Jr.

Chairman – Committee on Finance

## **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Report of the Committee on Finance, June 5,  
2006 through June 21, 2006.