

CITY OF NEWTON

IN BOARD OF ALDERMEN

POST AUDIT & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT

TUESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2008

Present: Ald. Albright (Chairman), Lennon, Swiston, Mansfield, Schnipper and Freedman

Absent: Ald. Coletti and Harney

Also present: Ald. Baker

City staff: David Wilkinson (Comptroller) and Shawna Sullivan (Committee Clerk)

REFERRED TO PROG&SERVICES & POST AUDIT & OVERSIGHT

#371-06 ALD. COLETTI respectfully docketing under section 2-11 of the Newton City Charter an investigation of the facts surrounding the failure to properly certify the proper number of citizen signatures relative to the site plan referendum question.

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: As there is ongoing litigation associated with this item, the Committee felt that it was not appropriate to discuss the item at this time. Ald. Schnipper moved hold, which carried unanimously.

#178-04(3) ALD. LAPPIN requesting a report from the Commissioner of Public Buildings regarding why no progress has been made on the implementation of the construction project database approved by the Board of Aldermen on April 20, 2004.

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: Ald. Albright stated that Ald. Lappin received a call from the Mayor and he stated that the database would be created. The Committee opted to hold the item until the database is set up and working.

REFERRED TO PUB SAF & TRANS. AND POST AUDIT & OVERSIGHT

26-03 ALD. COLETTI requesting discussion with Executive Department and Fire Department regarding status of fire stations, repairs, and capital improvements in light of cuts in capital improvement plan of necessary health and safety repairs to redirect the emphasis on the fire station repair program.

PS&T NAN on 1/21/04

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: Ald. Lennon provided the Committee with information regarding the fire stations. He stated that the architect has been selected to do the design work on Station 4. In addition, all of the bids for the Tier 1 life/safety repair project for the six fire stations have been sent out and contractors have been selected. As Ald. Coletti was not present to discuss the item, the Committee held the item.

#33-02 ALD. LIPSITT requesting report on status of implementation of speed zone and truck exclusion ordinances adopted by the Board of Aldermen.

ACTION: **HELD 6-0**

NOTE: The Committee reviewed the previous reports that were attached to the agenda and the new traffic regulations (attached), which include the speed zones and truck exclusions. Some of the truck exclusion and speed zone ordinances are still awaiting approval from the State. It was determined that the best course of action would be to invite the Traffic Engineer to the next meeting of the Committee to provide an update on the speed zones and truck exclusions.

Chairman's Note: Ald. Baker spoke regarding the Committee's future work. He sees the Committee as complimentary to the Long Range Planning Committee in the sense that Long Range Planning is going to be looking at where the city is going and Post Audit is looking at where the city has been to see if we can learn from that experience. David Wilkinson has agreed to support both this Committee and the Financial Audi Sub-Committee, as part of the professional staff. He wanted to indicate that there is an enhanced role for the Committee going forward.

The Committee reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by the committee clerk of many of the items that the Board dealt with in the first half of 2007. The list includes financial items, ordinance amendments and other items that could possibly fall under the scope of the Committee. After discussion regarding what is the appropriate role of the Board in investigating what occurs in a City Department, it was determined that the best way to proceed was to begin with the financial items as well as the traffic items. The Post Audit and Oversight Committee may request the comptroller conduct a performance audit of any program of a city agency. The Committee would like to know if money that has been approved by the Board for various projects has been expended and if not determine why it has not been expended. The Comptroller will provide that information and the Committee will review it to determine how to proceed. The traffic engineer will be asked to prepare a report indicating the status of the items passed in 2007.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan S. Albright, Chairman