



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

February 9, 2011

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Maryann M. Heuston	Chair	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Vice Chair	Absent	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Absent	
Rebekah Gewirtz	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Thomas F. Taylor	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Monica Lamboy	Exec. Director - OSPCD	Present	
Tony Pierantozzi	Superintendent of Schools	Present	
Vincent McKay	Asst. Superintendent of Schools	Present	
Jessie Baker	Director of Personnel	Present	
Sarah Kloos	Asst. Director of Personnel	Present	
Stan Koty	DPW Commissioner	Present	
Steve MacEachern	Supt. of Lines and Lights	Present	
David Salvi	Deputy Fire Chief	Present	
Dave Shapiro	Asst. City Solicitor	Present	
Thomas Pasquarello	Police Chief	Present	
Stephanie Hirsch	SomerPromise	Present	
Ed Bean	Director of Finance	Present	

Alderman Sullivan was appointed to the committee for this meeting only so that a quorum could be maintained.

190075 - That the Director of Finance Provide This Board with Information Regarding Monthly and Quarterly Variance Reports by Department, or the Method by Which Actual Departmental Expenses Are Reconciled to the Budget on a Regular Basis.:

The committee reviewed financial data for departments whose mid-year expenditures have exceeded 50% of their budget. Mr. Bean and various department heads provided explanations for the increased expenditures.

RESULT: WORK COMPLETED

190348 - Requesting approval to establish a Private-Purpose Trust Fund for the activities of the SomerPromise Program.:

Mr. Shapiro explained that a revolving fund allows departments to spend funds without further appropriation and a private purpose trust fund is an arrangement whereby the city holds funds in a trustee capacity as an agent for individuals, private organizations or government units. The committee requested that a member of the Board of Aldermen be appointed as a trustee and Mr. Shapiro stated that in order to effectuate this request, a language change to the Declaration of Trust would be required. Chairman Heuston noted that the Board of Aldermen will have financial oversight as defined in the trust document. Questions were raised regarding the longevity of the Trust and the possibility of the Trust evolving into a non-profit or private organization.

Alderman Gewirtz's motion *that the language of the SomerPromise Declaration of Trust be changed to allow the President of the Board of Aldermen to appoint a member of the Board of Aldermen as a trustee of the city's SomerPromise Trust*, was approved.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

190547 - Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$18,850 from the Dept. of Environmental Protection for the city's recycling program.:

RESULT: APPROVED

190709 - Requesting acceptance of a grant of \$8,400 from the State Office of Public Safety to the Police Dept. for traffic enforcement.:

Funding from this grant will be used for Drunk Driving, Over the limit, Under arrest enforcement.

RESULT: APPROVED

190710 - Requesting the expenditure of a grant of \$7,815 from the State Office of Public Safety and Security for the Fire Dept.'s SAFE Program.:

The funds will be used to provide fire safety education to children in the City of Somerville.

RESULT: APPROVED

190782 - Requesting acceptance of a Sustainable Community Challenge Grant of \$1.8 million from the Dept. of Housing & Urban Development for several SPCD initiatives, including the Comprehensive Plan, Green Line planning, a rewrite of the zoning ordinance, streamlining the permitting process, and a land bank for affordable housing.:

Ms. Lamboy told the members that this grant includes funding for the positions of Area Planner, Zoning Planner and an Operations Manager (in the Inspectional Services Department). The bulk

of the \$1.3 million grant will go towards the city's land bank. It was recommended that the details and programs of this grant be presented to the board at a future meeting.

RESULT: APPROVED

190744 - That the Director of Finance appear before the Committee on Finance with the meals tax receipts (adjusted for the increase in the rate) over the past five years and discuss their impact, especially on the state of the restaurant business in Somerville.:

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

190800 - Requesting acceptance of a donation of \$10,000 from Spectra Energy Transmission to support community-based projects involving the Dept. of Public Works.:

RESULT: APPROVED

190801 - Requesting acceptance of a donation of \$5,000 from Powderhouse Productions to support community events, programs and other municipal initiatives.:

RESULT: APPROVED