



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

June 19, 2018
REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
William A. White Jr.	Chair	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Vice Chair	Present	
Ben Ewen-Campen	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Absent	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
Stephanie Hirsch	Alderman At Large	Present	
Wilfred N. Mbah	Alderman at Large	Present	

Others present: John DeLuca - Water/Sewer, Mark Lawhorne - Water/Sewer, Rob King - Capital Projects, Rich Raiche -Engineering, Jim Halloran - DPW, Steve McEachern - DPW, Stan Koty - DPW, Michael Mastrobuoni - Budget Manager, Ed Bean - Finance, Peter Forcellese - Legislative Clerk.

The meeting took place in the Aldermen's Chamber and was called to order at 6:11 PM by Chairman White and adjourned at 11:45 PM.

The following department heads presented their FY-19 departmental budgets.

Sewer - John DeLuca

The committee was told that the proposed fire suppression charge will not be imposed at this time and Mr. DeLuca will do a mailing to advise the public that the charge has been withdrawn. Mr. Bean explained that the withdrawal will leave an unbalanced budget, so that amount should be cut from the proposed budget.

Positions in the Water/Sewer Departments are funded 68% from sewer budget and 32% from water budget.

Chairman White asked for breakdown of all new positions in the Water and Sewer Engineering Departments over the last 4 years.

Alderman Scott asked if it's the normal practice to over budget line items.

The retained earnings for the Water Department are \$1.7 million and over \$2 million in the Sewer Department.

Mr. DeLuca will provide information on the expenditures for line 580010.
Alderman Scott asked what the purpose of that line is for and Mr. Bean replied that he would have to find out and get back to the committee.
Alderman Scott asked why line 588007 has been consistently over-funded at \$1.75 million and Mr. DeLuca said it's for repairs to sewer lines/catch basins.
Alderman Scott asked for the amount of principal on long term debt payments over the past several years.
Alderman Rossetti said she's not comfortable charging residents the 5% increase when there's saving that could be made in this budget.
Alderman Scott asked that the Administration provide the history of line 596010, and when the amounts are reset, from 2010. Mr. Bean will look for the information and put it online.

Water

Chairman White asked for the amount of revenue received to date.
Alderman Rossetti expressed her concern that the committee isn't getting any answers to their questions this evening. Alderman Scott commented that he was unable to find any revenue figures for 2017 or earlier and Mr. Mastrobuoni explained that prior to last year, revenue was not included in the budget book.
Chairman White asked Mr. DeLuca to review hid department's line items with Mr. Bean, to determine which may be eliminated.
Mr. DeLuca told the committee that line 534008 was overspent due to MUNIS. Mr. Lawhorne explained that there were changes made to the city's website on behalf of the Water Department and the payment was made to the IT Department.
Mr. DeLuca said that line 588505 is for emergency repairs and Alderman Scott questioned why line 588506 isn't being used for repairs instead of line 588505. Mr. DeLuca explained that line 588506 is being used for cut-ins to residences. Alderman Rossetti commented that line 588506 deserves a night of its own and Chairman White asked Mr. DeLuca to take a hard look at this line.

Capital Projects - Rob King

Data for all city assets has been collected data and work is being done to develop an asset management system for maintenance of those assets.
Mr. King will provide historical data for the expenditures of line 530000.

Engineering - Rich Raiche

DPW - Stan Koty, Jim Halloran

Alderman Rossetti requested a breakdown of the current amounts spent by line item.

Buildings & Grounds

Alderman Rossetti pointed out that there is a discrepancy of 1 employee in the listing. Mr. Koty will look into this and provide an explanation.
Alderman Rossetti asked for account balances and spoke of discrepancies in what was told to the committee last year vs. what's in the FY-19 budget book.
Mr. Halloran said that line 543011 is used for purchases at Home Depot and Alderman Scott noted this line has been consistently over-spent.

School Custodians

Mr. Koty discussed recycling efforts. Alderman Rossetti again pointed out a 1 employee discrepancy. Mr. Koty stated that the employee is out on workmen's compensation and both Alderman Rossetti said that the position should still be listed in the budget book. Mr. Halloran agreed and will look into the matter. This discrepancy would also change the budget.

Solid Waste**Highway**

Alderman Scott commented about the increasing number of potholes each year and asked about a plan to deal with them. Mr. McEachern responded by saying that they are dependent on weather conditions and addressed as calls are received by 311.

Mr. Koty spoke about a new street sweeping contract and Chairman White, referencing line 529003, asked for the tonnage amounts and rates for the past several years.

Lights & Lines**Fleet Management****Snow Removal****Handouts:**

- 6-19-18 FY19 Water & Sewer Combined Budgets
- 6-19-18 Prof & Tech Services Breakdown