



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

June 25, 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	Present	
Jefferson Thomas ("J.T.") Scott	Ward Two Alderman	Present	
Jesse Clingan	Ward Four Alderman	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six Alderman	Absent	
Stephanie Hirsch	Alderman At Large	Present	
Wilfred N. Mbah	Alderman at Large	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	

Others present: Doug Kress - HHS, Bryan Bishop - Veterans Services, Cindy Hickey - Council on Aging, Anna Doherty - SomerPromise, Michael Mastrobuoni - Budget Manager, Peter Forcellese - Legislative Clerk.

The meeting took place in the Aldermen's Chamber and was called to order at 6:15 PM by Chairman White and adjourned at 8:23 PM.

FY-19 Departmental Budget Review and any associated departmental financial matters.

Health and Human Services

Alderman McLaughlin was recused from all discussion regarding Teen Empowerment. Mr. Kress spoke about several programs administered by this department and proceeded to review his budget request. Committee members asked questions about the Community Cabinet, the agricultural program, sources of assistance and early childhood services. Alderman Rossetti asked for verification of the funding source for the Grants Analyst position. Alderman McLaughlin inquired why the position dealing with rodents was eliminated and Mr. Kress replied that he will be coming to the BOA in the future, after examining the needs of the position, to request that it be reinstated. Alderman Hirsch asked for a revised job description for the rodent control position.

Alderman Clingan noted that there are no department goals regarding opioids. Alderman Ballantyne asked for an update on the nurses situation and Mr. Kress replied that one position has been filled (will begin on the first day of school in the fall) and five positions are still vacant.

Alderman Rossetti asked for clarification of nurses' salaries.

Mr. Mastrobuoni spoke about the grey area of Professional and Technical Services carryovers, i.e., items encumbered in one fiscal year and carried over to the next fiscal year. He said that approximately 1% of the budget gets carried forward. He is working on determining what was carried forward and what was liquidated.

Veterans Services

Mr. Bishop presented his budget request.

Alderman Niedergang requested detailed breakdowns, by tomorrow night, of the Professional and Technical Services expenditures for the Veterans Memorial Parade and the Memorial on the Mystic. He said there are too many cars in the parade and that they add to the carbon footprint. He asked about the plans for the Memorial on the Mystic and Mr. Bishop replied that he is negotiating with the Army band from West Point to be featured at the concert.

Council on Aging

Ms. Hickey presented her budget request and received accolades from several members for the work performed by this department. Alderman Rossetti commented that after seeing the salaries of some department heads, she feels that Ms. Hickey is underpaid, and she will submit a resolution to have Ms. Hickey's salary increased.

SomerPromise

Ms. Doherty presented her budget request.

Alderman Ballantyne asked for copies of minutes from the Out of School Time Taskforce.

General Comments

Alderman Rossetti asked when the committee would be receiving the requested list of unexpended funds. Mr. Mastrobuoni replied that he is working with all departments to get responses to all of the questions that have been asked by the committee. Alderman Rossetti also asked for the amount of money the Food Services Department has returned to the city, noting that the information has not yet been received.

Handouts:

- 6-25-18 Prof & Tech Services Breakdown