



**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
CLERK OF COMMITTEES**

October 14, 2015  
REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tony Lafuente	Chair	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Vice Chair	Absent	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Absent	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	

Others present: Peter Forcellese, Jr. - Treasurer, Nicholas Salerno - Elections, Omar Boukili - Mayor's Office, Rositha Durham - Clerk of Committees

The meeting took place in the Committee Room and was called to order at 6:00 PM by Alderman Lafuente and adjourned at 6:37 PM.

Document List:  
None

**1. Approval of the October 7, 2015 Minutes**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>ACCEPTED</b>
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**198160: Requesting an appropriation of \$500,000 and authorization to borrow that amount in a bond for a comprehensive planning effort for Assembly Square.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>PLACED ON FILE</b>
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**198399: Requesting to appear before this Board to discuss the City's economic outlook and planning.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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**199247: That the Director of SPCD provide this Board with written responses to certain requests for residential and commercial data since 2010.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**199250:** Requesting an appropriation of \$445,000 and authorization to borrow that amount in a bond for a comprehensive planning effort for Assembly Square.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**199255:** Director of Housing conveying an outline of the "100 Homes" initiative and requesting the opportunity to present it to this Board at its earliest opportunity.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**199297:** That the Administration implement a PILOT program to promote partnerships with major local non-profit institutions for fair-value voluntary PILOTs.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**199305:** That the Director of SPCD provide this Board with a comprehensive financial plan to develop Union Square, including expenditures to date and future costs, by early September.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**199414:** That the Administration, with the Fire and Police Departments, compile a report, by July 31, 2015, of "needed assistance" calls made by each tax-exempt facility over the past 2 years. (2nd request)

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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**199527:** Requesting an appropriation and authorization to borrow \$550,000 in a bond for betterments and improvements to the East Broadway streetscape.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**199572:** That any department that deviates from the expenditures provided as part of the Professional and Technical Services FY16 budget presentation notify this Board of that deviation.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**199750:** Chief Fire Engineer responding to #199414 re: needed-assistance calls to tax-exempt facilities.

The Mayor's Office has already provided the requested information.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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**199863:** That the Administration consider the development of a Tree and Bench donation program to supplement the City's investments in these areas.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**199897:** Director of Personnel responding to #199656 re: employee vacancies.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>WORK COMPLETED</b>
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**200000:** Conveying the recommendation of the Powder House School Disposition Technical Advisory Committee and my selection for the Preferred Developer.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**200064:** That the Director of SPCD consult with the new management team at North Point and report back to this Board on their plans.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**200065:** That the City Engineer provide this Board with the storm water policy and a discussion of the 4 to 1 plan.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**200066:** That the City Treasurer provide this Board with Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund balance sheets and a report of water and sewer rates in the 15 largest MA communities.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**200076:** Requesting approval to pay FY15 invoices from FY16 appropriations totaling \$53,666.71 in the Department of Public Works.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**200077:** Requesting the payment of an FY15 collection invoice totalling \$10,602.40 with FY16 funds in the Traffic and Parking Department.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**200078: Requesting approval for the Inspectional Services Department to use FY16 funds to pay a FY15 invoice of \$122.**

The invoice for this charge was received during or at the end of the fiscal year.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
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**200079: Requesting the acceptance of a \$59,791 grant from the MA Office of Public Safety for 911 training and emergency medical dispatch services.**

This is a recurring grant that does not require any matching funds by the city.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
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**200080: Requesting the acceptance of a grant totaling \$39,446.00 from FEMA, For the Fire Dept's Fire Prevention and Safety Program.**

This is a recurring grant that does not require any matching funds by the city.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
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**200081: Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$13,050 from Mass Cultural Council, for the Arts Council's Union Square cultural economic development work--ArtsUnion.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
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**200082: Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$6,100 from the Mass Cultural Council, for the Arts Council's operational support.**

Members asked if the Mass Cultural Council was a state entity.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
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**200083: Requesting the acceptance of a gift of \$3,922.61 from Federal Realty Investment Trust for Fire Department overtime expenses incurred for the Riverfest Fireworks.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
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**200107: That the Director of SPCD explain to this Board, in writing, the comments discussed in the State SIP Report on the Green Line Extension.**

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>KEPT IN COMMITTEE</b>
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**200109: Request an appropriation of \$188,344 from the Capital Stabilization Fund for the purchase of new DS 200 Voting Machines, and authorization to use those machines effective March, 2016.**

Mr. Salerno explained the need for purchasing new election machines, noting that parts for the city's current machines are no longer available. The request for 25 machines was bid out to two pre-qualified bidders, with only one responding. The new machines are quicker and have a 12 1/2 inch screen. The machine is capable of displaying an on-screen message if someone has over or under voted. Alderman Ballantyne asked about on-site support for the new machines and whether it was included in the requested amount. Mr. Salerno replied that the warranty would be for 2 years and include total support. Alderman White asked about an individual's privacy when voting.

Clerks will receive training to assist voters on how to complete ballots. A suggestion was made that perhaps there could be a "none of the above" box added to allow voters to not have to complete every line. The city's Information Technology Department will be testing the wireless operation of the machines on Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**RESULT:**

**APPROVED**

**200117: Police Department responding to #199414 re: needed-assistance calls to tax-exempt properties.**

The Mayor's Office has already provided the requested information.

**RESULT:**

**WORK COMPLETED**