



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS
CLERK OF COMMITTEES

February 22, 2011

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Maryann M. Heuston	Chair	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Vice Chair	Present	
John M Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
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	
Sarah Kloos	Asst. Director of Personnel	Present	
Dave Shapiro	Asst. City Solicitor	Present	
Doug Willardson	Finance	Present	

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

Mr. Shapiro discussed the drafting of the trust and stated that the mayor could appoint someone to administer it. The committee still has questions regarding the appropriateness of establishing the fund as a trust, termination issues and management of the fund.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

190591 - Requesting an appropriation of \$26,074 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund to purchase a vehicle for the Police Dept.:

Alderman Gewirtz questioned why the Police Chief needs a new vehicle and she asked to know where the vehicle used by the prior chief is.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

190649 - Requesting approval to establish the position of Youth & Volunteer Coordinator.:

This position does not currently exist, prompting questions about the importance of creating and filling it. A suggestion was made to use an intern to staff the position.

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

190831 - Requesting a transfer of \$1,712 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Personnel Salaries Acct. to establish the position of Human Resources Coordinator/Civil Service Manager.:

The committee questioned the necessity of establishing this position, at a base pay of \$43,000, in light of the city's current financial situation. Chairman Heuston reviewed the duties associated with the position and stated that it is better suited as a clerical position, not a managerial position.

The following information was requested:

- An organizational chart of the Personnel Department
- A breakdown of management responsibilities in the Personnel Department
- An explanation of the rationale for the salary increase
- An explanation of the calculation used to arrive at the salary increase
- A list of new hires and terminations during 2010

RESULT: KEPT IN COMMITTEE

190892 - Requesting the acceptance of a grant of \$15,000 from Karl and Hannah Voskuil to the Public Library.:

Mr. Willardson explained that the funds would be used to renovate the West Branch library and asked that the record be amended to reflect that the funds are a gift, not a grant.

RESULT: APPROVED AS AMENDED