



## CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

August 9, 2012

### 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	
Robert C. Trane	Ward Seven Alderman	Absent	
Thomas F. Taylor	Ward Three Alderman	Absent	
Omar Boukili	Administrative Assistant	Present	
Ed Bean	Finance Director	Present	
Kevin Kelleher	Chief Fire Engineer	Present	
Dave Shapiro	Asst. City Solicitor	Present	
Doug Willardson	Budget Analyst	Present	
Steve MacEachern	Supt. of Lines and Lights	Present	
Steve Hadley	Director, SomerStat	Present	

#### **192694 - Requesting approval of a Purchase and Sales Agreement with NStar Electric, for the purchase of NStar-owned street lights.:**

Mr. Hedley stated that Somerville is able to purchase the street lights under a provision of Mass General Law. Presently, the city's annual streetlight electricity use is 2.9 million kWh, billed at the current NSTAR rate of \$.30/kWh. Once the city purchases these lights, the rate would drop to \$.19/kWh. After budgeting for a contracted maintenance program and factoring in major repairs and lost tax revenue, it is estimated that the city would save \$311,000 by purchasing the streetlights from NSTAR. The purchase would encompass 4,006 streetlights on 3,134 wood poles with other utilities, 84 wood poles no other utilities and 788 concrete or metal poles. The city would own the concrete poles while NSTAR would still own the double wooden poles, thereby not affecting the city's current double pole issues. Since all of the 4,006 lights are fully depreciated, NSTAR would sell its streetlights and related equipment to the City in "as-is" condition for \$1.00. The City would have the right to use, alter or replace the streetlight facilities as it deems appropriate and agrees to handle all routine maintenance through its vendor, and all major repairs either through the regular vendor or through a bid process. The one year renewable maintenance contract will provide for faster repairs and includes replacement of failed lamps (bulbs) and photocells, ballasts, starters, igniters, standard lenses and reflectors; general cleaning; trimming of branches; and quarterly night checks of all lights. This program has been successfully implemented in other cities and returned the following savings: Lynn: \$561K/yr, New Bedford: \$250K/yr, Woburn: \$500K/yr and Chelsea: \$48K/yr.

The committee reviewed the proposed contract and requested additional information regarding NSTAR's obligation to maintain the light poles to which the streetlights are attached, relocation of poles, the city's option to purchase and restrictions on the placement of apparatus, etc., by NSTAR that might interfere with the city's uses. The committee also requested figures for the average costs of replacing cement and wood poles.

**RESULT:****KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**193216 - Requesting an appropriation of \$1,125,000 and authorization to borrow that amount in a bond for a replacement Ladder Truck in the Fire Dept.:**

Chief Kelleher informed the members that the city's present tower ladder truck is a vintage 1994 and needs to be replaced due to corrosion on its undercarriage. The truck has been in service for 18 years, which is 3 years beyond the recommended service life. Mr. Bean stated that the funds for this purchase have been built into FY-12 capital plan. Alderman White requested that copy of the plan be emailed to him.

**RESULT:****APPROVED**

**193281 - Requesting authorization to establish a Consolidated Gift Account for the Libraries.:**

Mr. Bean explained that the account would be used to accept gifts from the citizenry. The City Treasurer would accept the funds and place them in a consolidated gift account. The Library Director would then have discretion for the use of the funds and the Auditing Department would ensure sure that funds are used for allowed purposes.

**RESULT:****APPROVED**

**193282 - Requesting authorization to establish a Consolidated Gift Account for the Library Teen Services programming.:**

Mr. Bean explained that the account would be used to accept gifts from the citizenry. The City Treasurer would accept the funds and place them in a consolidated gift account. The Library Director would then have discretion for the use of the funds and the Auditing Department would ensure sure that funds are used for allowed purposes.

**RESULT:****APPROVED**

**193426 - Requesting the acceptance of a \$272,327 FEMA Assistance to Firefighter Grant to install Opticom Pre-emption systems at 22 intersections citywide.:**

Chief Kelleher explained that the city would like to expand this system to east - west corridor runs on the city's main roads. The city would need to put up a 20% match of approximately \$54,000. Mr. Bean stated that the matching fund portion has been built into FY-12 capital plan.

**RESULT:****APPROVED**

**193480 - Requesting an appropriation of \$15,000 from the Capital Projects Stabilization Fund for the Somerville STEAM Academy.:**

**RESULT:****KEPT IN COMMITTEE**

**193481 - Requesting acceptance of a \$22,000 grant from the MA Emergency Management Agency for Fire Dept. Emergency Management Preparedness.:**

**RESULT:****APPROVED**