



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS CLERK OF COMMITTEES

June 15, 2017
REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Tony Lafuente	Chair	Present	
Maryann M. Heuston	Vice Chair	Present	
Katjana Ballantyne	Ward Seven Alderman	Present	
Matthew McLaughlin	Ward One Alderman	Present	
William A. White Jr.	Alderman At Large	Present	
Robert J. McWatters	Ward Three Alderman	Present	
Mark Niedergang	Ward Five Alderman	Present	
Lance L. Davis	Ward Six Alderman	Present	
John M. Connolly	Alderman At Large	Present	
Mary Jo Rossetti	Alderman at Large	Present	
Dennis M. Sullivan	Alderman At Large	Present	

Others present: Kristen Stelljes - CPC, Rob King - Capital Projects, Stan Koty - DPW, Michael Mastrobuoni - Budget Manager, Ed Bean - Finance, John DeLuca - Water & Sewer, Rich Raiche - Engineering, Tim Snyder - Mayor's Office, Annie Connor - Legislative Liaison, Peter Forcellese - Legislative Clerk.

The meeting took place in the Aldermen's Chamber and was called to order at 6:10 PM by Chairman Lafuente and adjourned at 9:42 PM.

FY-18 Departmental Budget Review and any and all associated departmental financial matters

Alderman Rossetti reported that she spoke to Mr. Desmond, from IT, and it was determined that there is an error on line 437006 (E-Rate Reimbursement) on page 19 of the budget book.

Alderman Heuston recused herself from all discussion and votes on all DPW departments.

The following departments presented their FY-18 budget requests:

DPW – Administration

Mr. Koty reviewed his department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee. Alderman Rossetti asked about street cleaning and if it could be done less often.

She asked what the cost savings would be if the work was brought back in-house. Mr. Koty stated that, due to the cost of equipment, and the frequency of replacing it, it is more cost effective to contract the work out. He also said that if the frequency of cleaning is reduced, the BOA members wouldn't be happy with the results. Alderman White said that in the past, sweeping was done once a month and the streets weren't clean. Asked about snow removal costs, Mr. Koty said that the DPW exceeded its snow budget by \$1.2 million dollars. Alderman Ballantyne asked why the request for line 530000 (Professional & Technical Service) is \$87,000 higher than in FY-17. Mr. Koty explained that the cost for Roca services has gone up. Alderman Davis asked Mr Koty to provide the average wage for a Roca worker, including any benefits. Alderman White asked that some background information on Roca be provided, as well.

Alderman Rossetti said that according to a report provided by Mr. Bean, the DPW has in excess of \$300,000 remaining in Ordinary Maintenance as of June 13, 2017. Mr. Koty replied that purchases have been made and that the balance will be very low at the end of this fiscal year.

DPW - Buildings and Grounds

Mr. Koty reviewed this department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee. Alderman Ballantyne asked why the budget requests for electricity, natural gas and oil has increased by \$700,000 in the past 2 years. Mr. Koty explained that money needs to be spent in order to save money. Alderman Ballantyne asked why the R&M Interior and Exterior Building costs have increased about \$400,000 during the same period. Alderman Ballantyne pointed out several other lines where similar increases have been found. Alderman Rossetti asked that Mr. Bean provide a complete, updated list of figures for Professional & Technical Service for all departments.

DPW - School Custodians

Mr. Koty reviewed this department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee.

DPW - Solid Waste

Mr. Koty reviewed this department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee. Alderman White asked for a breakdown of the Professional & Technical Service cost, including tonage and tipping fees.

DPW – Highway

Mr. Koty reviewed this department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee. Alderman White asked for the number of linear feet of sidewalks repaired, etc.

DPW – Electrical

Mr. Koty reviewed this department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee.

DPW - Fleet Management

Mr. Koty reviewed this department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee. Chairman Lafuente asked for an inventory of all city vehicles, including their condition, and plans to update the fleet. Alderman Ballantyne asked for a written breakdown of the Fleet Management's OM budget, specifically, the amounts transferred from other departments. Mr. Mastrobuoni explained that the Administration's idea is to upgrade the city's fleet of vehicles, so there might not be a one to one transfer of funds from other departments in the fleet budget.

DPW - Snow Removal

DPW - Revolving Funds

The Special Events revolving fund is used to pay employees assigned to work events.

Alderman Heuston chaired the remainder of the meeting.

CPA

Kristen Stelljes reviewed this department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee.

Capital Projects

Rob King reviewed his department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee.

Capital Projects – Engineering

Rich Raiche reviewed his department's FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee. Alderman McWatters ask for a list of streets to be re-paved. Mr. Raiche explained that the increase in the Professional & Technical Service line is a result of becoming proactive.

Water & Sewer

John DeLuca reviewed the departments' FY-17 activities and responded to questions from the committee. Alderman White inquired about retained earnings.

Proposed Water Rate Charges

This item will be discussed during the budget reduction process.

Proposed Sewer Rate Charges

This item will be discussed during the budget reduction process.

Handouts:

- Capital Plan Project List
- Revised Pages 232 - 241
- Revised Page 249
- FY-18 Water and Sewer Budget Changes
- FY-17 to FY-26 CIP Projects
- FY-17 to FY-26 CIP Projects Memo
- CPA FY-17 Annual Report
- Professional & Technical Services Breakdown - 6-15-17
- Proposed Water and Sewer Rates