

Protection and License Committee

Chairman Conn, Tramontozzi,
Seaboyer, Buonopane
Absent: Forbes
Attending: Boisselle, Mortimer
In attendance: Police Chief Rick
Morrissey; Building Commissioner
John Luther

Protection and License called to order by Chairman Conn at 7:32 p.m. He says he will entertain a motion to open Public Participation so that any person present may speak on any order in any committee that is on the agenda. Alderman Buonopane motions to open Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Tramontozzi. All in favor.

Tom Middleton, 16 Cass Street, is a proponent of the Pay-to-Throw program and thanks the Aldermen and the Mayor for looking at ways to effectively manage the City's solid waste. He thinks the program will benefit the City both economically and environmentally.

Robin Snyder-Drummond, 366 Grove Street, supports the Pay-to-Throw program because it is simple, easy to implement and is proven to work. In discussions with neighbors and associates several issues have been raised. The first is that the consumer has to pay to discard solid waste. She says the Pay-to-Throw program gives the consumer control over what they pay in fees. She has heard that having to purchase bags could be inconvenient or that the 35 gallon bags would be too heavy to carry or could rip or the consumer would run out of them. She feels that if the bags are too heavy for the elderly to carry or too difficult for them to obtain, that a community service program could be initiated to take care of those needs. She feels that the Pay-to-Throw builds on what Melrose already has, and she knows it will work. The program has tangible benefits and would be a positive way for Melrose to leave its mark on the environment.

Mary Delahanty, 219 Lynn Fells Parkway, supports the Pay-to-Throw program because it is a fairness issue. Her neighbors discard much more solid waste than she does and the state has bans in place regarding solid waste disposal by which the municipality is penalized for improper disposal. Additionally the City can harvest revenue by recycling.

Kristin Lemaster, 19 Hunnewell Street, says that when she first moved to Melrose she was impressed with the organization of the recycling program. She is an environmental engineer and she speaks of an article released by the Massachusetts DEP. Disposal companies are being fined when banned items are found in the trash they collect. She says there is a connection between Pay-to-Throw programs and an incentive to commit to recycle more. She says that these days, people's interest in environmental stewardship is right up there with any economic incentive they may have to recycle.

Alderman Buonopane motions to close Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Chairman Conn reads Order No. 07-101, GRANT Amount: \$98,723.00 From: The Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs To: Fund #2455, BJA Congressional

Award 2006 These funds will support the School Resource Officer, enabling the police to continue to have a visible presence in the schools.

Alderman Buonopane motions to suspend the rules to have Police Chief Morrissey address the committee, 2nd by Alderman Tramontozzi.

Chief Morrissey says the grant is from the US Department of Justice. The grant was written to guarantee that there would be a school officer in place through next year. There is no matching funds attached to it, which is very fortunate. Chairman Conn asks if the funds are allotted to salary only. Chief Morrissey says the package maintains the officer and includes funding for after-school programs and activities that are held off of school grounds.

Alderman Tramontozzi asks if this is a first-time grant or a continuation of a grant that was previously awarded. Chief Morrissey says it is a one-time grant to be used exclusively for this purpose. As a result of receiving this grant he is able to use state funds in other areas. Alderman Tramontozzi asks if he can apply for this again next year, and Chief Morrissey says he is not sure. Alderman Tramontozzi asks without the grant next year, what position that will place his department in. Chief Morrissey says he hopes to be in a slightly stronger position next year as far as improving the strength of the force with hiring new officers.

Alderman Tramontozzi motions to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Order No. 07-084, Requesting that the Building Inspector appear before the Board of Aldermen to report on the status of the vacant lot on Green Street and to explain why construction equipment appears to be stored on the property. (AL-2) Chairman Conn says they are still under suspension of the rules and asks the Building Commissioner to address the committee.

Chairman Conn says the day after filing this order the construction equipment disappeared and asks Mr. Luther what is happening with the property. Mr. Luther says the contractor thought he was too difficult to work with, and it is his understanding that the property is either up for sale or the contractor is looking to have someone else develop it. Chairman Conn asks when the approvals to build will lapse. Mr. Luther says the work must be completed within two years, and that almost a year has passed already.

Alderman Tramontozzi asks if the property in its current state poses a hazard to the City. Mr. Luther says there is no significant hazard. Alderman Tramontozzi says that esthetically it is not pleasing. Mr. Luther says it looks terrible, but the City cannot force him to do anything with it. Alderman Tramontozzi asks when the building permits will expire. Mr. Luther says the Planning Board approvals will expire two years after the date of issue, but the contractor may apply for an extension. Alderman Tramontozzi says he does not like to see a vacant lot. Mr. Luther agrees, saying the City is losing tax revenue.

Alderman Seaboyer asks if damage occurred to abutters' property during the course of demolition. Mr. Luther says the demolition went well, but the contractor began to build a retaining wall which created some problems with the neighbors regarding property lines.

He believes there may be some legal action in place but that the City has nothing to do with it. It is between the contractor and the abutters.

Alderman Buonopane asks if utilities have been brought to the site. Mr. Luther says no, not yet. He suggested it be done but the contractor has not obliged. Alderman Buonopane says with all the work being done and the street scheduled for repaving that now would be the time to do it. Mr. Luther agrees.

Alderman Buonopane motions to Place the matter on File, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Alderman Tramontozzi motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Buonopane. All in favor.

Protection and License adjourns at 7:56 p.m.

Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Chairman Seaboyer, Tramontozzi,
Buonopane, Conn
Absent: Forbes
Attending: Boisselle, Mortimer
In attendance: Health Director Ruth
Clay; Library Director Dennis Kelley

Health, Education and Welfare called to order by Chairman Seaboyer at 7:58 p.m.
Order No. 07-093, TRANSFER Amount: \$2,851.00 From: A/C #013012-547100 -
Regional School Assessment To: A/C #015112-529000 - Health, Professional Services
These funds are necessary to pay for the indoor air testing of the Hoover School.

Alderman Tramontozzi motions to suspend the rules to allow Ms. Clay to address the committee, 2nd by Alderman Buonopane. All in favor.

Ms. Clay says that during a meeting with the Hickory Street area neighborhood, one resident recalled that there were drums buried on the Hoover School site. Being proactive the Health Department did some air quality testing and this is the bill for it.

Alderman Conn says he does not expect Ms. Clay to know the answer to the question but he wonders why the source of funding is the Regional School Assessment when that is always a difficult line-item to fund. He asks the Chairman to inquire with the Auditor as to why this account was chosen to pay the bill.

Alderman Boisselle asks if CDM performed the air sample. Ms. Clay says no. Alderman Boisselle asks what the results were. Ms. Clay says there were very low levels of VOCs detected, and were far below the accepted standard.

Alderman Conn moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Tramontozzi.

Order No. 07-094, GRANT Amount: \$7,500.00 From: Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners To: Fund #2587 – On the Same Page (a community read program) as set forth herein

Mr. Kelley tells the committee that this will fund the effort by the Library to support a reading program that encourages as many people as possible to read and discuss the same book. He says the program has proven to be successful in other communities.

Alderman Conn asks how he obtained the grant. Mr. Kelley says it is from the Board of Library Commissioners. It was a competitive process in which only 10 grants were awarded. Alderman Conn asks when the program will be launched. Mr. Kelley expects it will happen in May. Alderman Conn asks if any funds are required from the General Fund and Mr. Kelley says no.

Alderman Boisselle asks if this is similar to a book club. Mr. Kelley says no, that the idea is to have families read the same book and discuss it over dinner, or have a social event dealing with the book at which everyone that has read the book can gather to discuss it. He says he is in the process of bringing people together to choose the book.

Alderman Conn moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Buonopane. All in favor.

Alderman Conn motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Tramontozzi. All in favor.

Health, Education and Welfare adjourns at 8:08 p.m.

Public Works Committee

Chairman Buonopane, Seaboyer,
Conn, Tramontozzi
Absent: Forbes
In attendance: City Engineer and
Superintendent of Public Works Bob
Beshara; Building Commissioner
John Luther; Solid Waste Committee
members Bill Beardsley and George
Stubbs

Public Works called to order by Chairman Buonopane at 8:08 p.m. Order No. 07-046, Petition of Verizon New England Inc. and National Grid to relocate on Swains Pond Avenue: existing jointly owned Pole No. 1051 on westerly side approximately 35 feet in a northerly direction, in accordance plan marked - Verizon New England Inc., No. P2006-028, Dated June 22, 2006.

Alderman Tramontozzi asks if a representative from Verizon is in attendance. Chairman Buonopane says no, and that the maker of the order is not present. He will accept a motion to hold the order in committee. So moved by Alderman Seaboyer, 2nd by Alderman Tramontozzi. All in favor.

Order No. 07-047, Petition of Verizon New England Inc. and National Grid to place on Swains Pond Avenue: one (l) jointly-owned Pole No. 1051-1 on westerly side approximately 109 feet northerly from existing Pole No. 1052, in accordance with the plan filed herewith marked - Verizon N.E. Inc., No. P2006-029, Dated June 22, 2006.

Alderman Tramontozzi motions to place the order on hold, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Order No. 07-064, Be it ordered that the spending cap on Revolving Account #26572-520000 Waste Collection and Recycling be reduced by \$30,000. (AL-1) Chairman Buonopane says the maker of the order is unable to attend the meeting and this should also be placed on hold. So moved by Alderman Seaboyer, 2nd by Alderman Conn. All in favor.

Order No. 07-071, Requesting that the Mayor or other appropriate City official(s) appear before the Board of Aldermen to discuss the prospective benefits of entering into an energy performance contract with an energy service company to purchase energy saving improvements in city buildings where the basis for payments is the performance level guaranteed in the contract in accordance with General Laws Chapter 25A, Section 11C and 225 Code of Massachusetts Regulations 10.00. (A-3) Chairman Buonopane says it is his understanding that the Energy Committee is working on this with Alderman Wright and will contact the committee when it is ready to present its findings. Alderman Seaboyer motions to place the matter on hold, 2nd by Alderman Tramontozzi. All in favor.

Order No. 07-085, Requesting that the Director of Public Works appear before the Board of Aldermen to report on: (a) when utility poles will be removed from the road surface of Green Street and Willow Street (b) whether there are any other locations in the City at which utility poles are within the road surface (c) what impact the presence of said poles will have on snow plowing if they are not removed. (AL-2), (A-3) Alderman Conn motions to suspend the rules to allow Mr. Beshara to address the Committee, 2nd by Alderman Tramontozzi. All in favor. Mr. Beshara says the poles on Willow Street have been removed and the permanent repairs to the street will be done in the spring. National Grid is working on the Green Street poles. They have encountered a problem with a transformer, and it turns out that an office building they thought was not connected in fact is. The pole will be removed next week. The Mayor's office is meeting monthly with the utility companies to keep updated. Alderman Conn asks when it is anticipated that the pole and the work of the transmitter will be complete. Mr. Beshara says it will be done next week. Alderman Conn asks if there will be a significant time lag between removing the transformer and when the other companies can transfer their wires and cables. Mr. Beshara says he does not foresee that.

Alderman Conn motions to place the order on file, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Order 07-086, Be it Ordered that the City Clerk notify the appropriate representatives of National Grid and Verizon that the Board of Aldermen will conduct a hearing in accordance with General Laws Chapter 166, Sec. 22, relative to directing an alteration in the location of utility poles presently located in Willow Street (poles# 1648, 2286, and 2287 tagged MECO n/k/a National Grid) and in Green Street (poles #176 tagged Verizon, pole #170, 172 & 2137 tagged for both Verizon and MECO (A-3), (AL-2), (AL-4) Alderman Conn motions to place the order on file, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Order No. 07-089, Be it ordered that the appropriate people from the Office of the Building Inspector appear before the Board of Aldermen to provide an update on wire and fire alarm service transfers related to removal of double poles within the city.

(AL-1), (A-2) Chairman Buonopane asks if the City is holding up the removal of any of the poles. Mr. Luther says yes, that if there are 50 double poles, the City is on 18 of them, but the City is not holding up the process on the majority of them. He says that he and Mike Hughes are meeting with the utilities to set up a transfer schedule to take care of the existing double poles, but new poles are coming in every day with all the road work being done. He says that right now there is only one full-time employee, and that next year will be a different ball game with even more poles being placed. Alderman Seaboyer asks if the work will be outsourced. Mr. Luther says he has to hire a contractor to assist with the job, and there is a maintenance issue as well. The City is still in the process of re-feeding the fire alarm wires on Main Street, which Verizon has been more than helpful. Alderman Seaboyer motions to place the order on file, 2nd by Alderman Tramontozzi.

Order No. 07-095, Be it requested that the Solid Waste Committee appear before the Board of Aldermen to present their findings on the up-dated Massachusetts State Department of Environmental Protection recycling requirements, up-dating Chapter 198 Ordinance and research on Pay Per Throw Systems as asked by the Board of Aldermen and the Mayor of Melrose. (AL-4) Mr. Stubbs reads the presentation to the Committee. Mr. Beardsley says that under this proposal, the City's senior citizens will not be impacted by having to buy extra bags since they produce far less solid waste than one 35-gallon barrel per week. Alderman Conn asks the estimated number of bags per year the average family will use. Mr. Beardsley says the amount of solid waste produced just among the committee's families varies greatly, so he doesn't really know the answer. Alderman Conn asks if the committee has gotten data from other Pay Per Throw communities regarding the number of bags purchased. Mr. Beardsley says they are trying to get that information. Alderman Conn says he believes there is a large number of people that are interested in the cost of Pay Per Throw. Mr. Beardsley says they are willing to go ahead with an educational program but before they do, they would like to get an idea how this board feels about it. Alderman Conn says the Aldermen will be getting many calls from constituents about the cost and asks what other things can be done to reduce the cost of solid waste disposal that are not happening now. Mr. Beardsley says it is a matter of education. The City is doing a very good job getting information out. Alderman Conn says recycling education is doing well in the schools, but the need is to educate the adults. Mr. Stubbs says the opportunity to recycle has become easier. It is no longer necessary to remove paper from cans, and cardboard may be left curbside for pick up. Alderman Conn says there is a large number of people that still think only newsprint is recyclable. Mr. Beardsley says there is no universal way to get the word out quickly.

Alderman Seaboyer thanks the committee for it work on this. He says the information in the packet should not be taken lightly. The state is imposing tighter laws with tough fines and the tipping fees to the City are going up.

President Mortimer asks which plastics are recyclable. Mr. Beardsley says that all plastics labeled #1 through #7 are recyclable. President Mortimer asks which bulky waste items are eligible to be left curbside. Mr. Beardsley says any item not considers as a white good, such as a broken chair or lamp. President Mortimer asks what it costs the City now to recycle. Mr. Beardsley says that recycling paper is profitable, and that there is no tipping fee to recycle the commingled goods. President Mortimer asks if it is

fair to say that the City is making a profit recycling. Mr. Beardsley says it costs the City due to the overhead of the equipment and employees.

Alderman Boisselle asks where in Massachusetts has Pay Per Throw not worked. Mr. Beardsley says he does not know off the top of his head. Alderman Boisselle says it would be good to know how many communities reverted from Pay Per Throw to a flat fee.

Alderman Tramontozzi says he agrees with Alderman Conn that the cost of the program to the taxpayer will determine if this is approved. He asks if any studies have been done to see if the average household would pay more than an additional \$40 if the trash fee decreases from \$200 to \$160. Mr. Beardsley says that at \$1.50 per bag, most families would not. Alderman Tramontozzi asks if he can tell people this will cost less. Mr. Beardsley says it depends on how much is recycled. The goals with Pay Per Throw are to boost recycling, reduce the amount of solid waste going to landfills, and to lower the City's solid waste disposal costs. Alderman Tramontozzi asks if revenues to the City would increase if it went with Pay Per Throw. Mr. Stubbs says that with increased recycling, the tipping fees would be reduced and the recycling profits would increase.

Alderman Seaboyer motions to place the order on file, 2nd by Alderman Conn. All in favor.

Alderman Tramontozzi motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Public Works Committee adjourns at 9:06 p.m.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees