Appropriations Committee

Chairman Brodeur, Boisselle, Mortimer, Infurna, Tramontozzi, Forbes, Wright, McAteer-Margolis, Seaboyer, Medeiros, Conn
In attendance: Fire Chief John O'Brien

Appropriations called to order by Chairman Brodeur at 7:44 p.m.

Order No. 09-053, APPOINTMENT Of: Nyal Fuentes, 2 Allen Place, Melrose, MA
To: Human Rights Commission Expiration: last day of February, 2011

Mr. Fuentes says his desire to join the Human Rights Commission stems from working with youth for many years. He is an Educational Specialist with the Massachusetts Department of Education and has worked on high school reform. He is particularly focused on access to education. He has lived in Melrose for six years.

Alderman Mortimer moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle. All in favor.

Order No. 09-056, APPROPRIATION Amount: $31,000.00 From: Acct. #84052-590000, Capital Stabilization Fund, Transfer Out To: Acct. #019313-551069, Capital Outlay, Fire Dept. Vehicles This money will be used to purchase two vehicles for the Fire Department.

Chief O'Brien says he enclosed a letter to the Capital Improvement Program committee that he wrote in 2005. Some of his requests have been addressed. On the second page he talks about the need for command vehicles. The CIP committee rated this request #1 on the B list this year and told him it would make it to the A list next year. In 2005 he requested $65,000 for the vehicles; he won't need that money if this order passes. He says he left his car, a 1993 Crown Vic, at the City Yard while on vacation. When he returned he was told that the frame is rotted and couldn't be driven any more. He says it was taken from him. The brakes are gone on the Captain's vehicle and it too was taken away. The one remaining car in his department has been patched together. A few weeks ago he was in Springfield and he learned about an auction place that allows access to municipalities. He expressed a need for vehicles and later received a phone call saying he could get two vehicles for $31,000. In addition, Cataldo Ambulance bought a new vehicle for its shift commander and he asked if he could have the old one. There will be an order coming down soon to accept that vehicle as a gift to the City. In sum, he'll be getting three cars for $31,000 and he won't need the $65,000 previously requested.

Alderman Mortimer moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle.

Alderman Forbes asks if the communications system described in the letter to the CIP committee will be incorporated into the vehicle. Chief O'Brien says the radios will be mounted in the Cataldo vehicle. Alderman Forbes asks if being OSHA certified will bring in grant money. Chief O'Brien says he has received notice of $90,000 for gas masks.

Alderman Seaboyer asks the age and mileage of the vehicles. Chief O'Brien says the shift commander vehicle being donated by Cataldo is a 2002 with 90,000 miles. G&T

Auto Body is painting it. They're donating their services; he only has to pay for the paint. The vehicles from the auction are both repos. One is a 2008 Ford Explorer with 15,000 miles and the other is a 2008 6 cylinder Ford Escape with 19,000 miles. Both vehicles are under warranty.

President Conn compliments Chief O'Brien on a good job getting two vehicles for this amount of money. He says he has never thought about the use of shift commander's vehicle and asks how it is used. Chief O'Brien says it is loaded with gear: masks, spare lights, spare radios, etc. President Conn asks if it stays at the station. Chief O'Brien says yes; it's used by the on-duty captain. Chief O'Brien says the Ford Escape will be for Fire Prevention. Alderman Conn asks if that vehicle will go home with Captain Collina. Chief O'Brien says yes; he is on call 24/7.

Alderman Medeiros asks if Chief O'Brien got a quote on insurance for the vehicles and if he compared it with what he currently pays. Chief O'Brien says he did not look at that. President Conn asks if the vehicles are insured under the fleet policy with the City. Chief O'Brien says yes.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Order No. 09-052, APPOINTMENT Of: Robert Chase, 333 Main St. Melrose, MA
To: Human Rights Commission Expiration: last day of February, 2011

Chairman Brodeur says Mr. Chase is not in attendance.

Alderman Mortimer motions to send the order to the full board without recommendation, 2nd by Alderman Boisselle.

Alderman Infurna says Mr. Chase is delayed; he teaches a class on Mondays and is expected to be here by 8:15.

Alderman Infurna motions to recess, 2nd by Alderman Forbes. Motion fails.

On the motion to send the order to the full board without recommendation, All in favor.

Alderman Mortimer motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Medeiros. All in favor.

Appropriations adjourns at 8:00 p.m.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees