



Finance Committee Report

City of Newton **In City Council**

Tuesday, May 19, 2020

Present: Councilors Grossman (Chair), Malakie, Humphrey, Kalis, Norton, and Noel

Absent: Councilors Gentile and Ciccone

City staff present: Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux, Comptroller Sue Dzikowski, Director of Assessment Administration Jim Shaughnessy, Chief Information Officer Joe Mulvey, Chief Procurement Officer Nick Read, Director of Planning, Project Management and Sustainability for Newton Public Schools Stephanie Gilman and Codirectors of Sustainability Ann Berwick and Bill Ferguson

#254-20 Transfer \$880,124.98 from the 2018 Winter Storm FEMA reimbursement
HER HONOR THE MAYOR requesting authorization to transfer the sum of eight hundred eighty thousand one hundred twenty-four dollars and ninety-eight cents (\$880,124.98) from the FEMA reimbursement for a 2018 winter storm to the Inclement Weather Reserve Fund.

Action: **Finance Approved 6-0**

Note: Maureen Lemieux, Chief Financial Officer, presented the request to transfer \$880,124.98 from the 2018 Winter Storm FEMA reimbursement to the Inclement Weather Reserve Fund. Ms. Lemieux explained that by moving these funds the City is able to use the funds for inclement weather. Additionally, Ms. Lemieux explained that these funds were received 4 to 5 months ago, and the storms were in March 2018. This was a 75% reimbursement, with the City spending approximately \$1.1 million on the storm.

Councilor Noel motioned to approve which passed unanimously.

Chairs Note: *Chief Financial Officer Maureen Lemieux will provide an update on the expenditure of funds for COVID-19 as related to item #239-20.*

Note: Ms. Lemieux explained that she was notified that the funds that were approved by the City Council have been put in the non-lapsing account. Additionally, Ms. Lemieux explained that she is in the process of defining accounts and moving what each department has spent into these accounts. This is to figure out what the City has spent on the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Lemieux estimated that the City has spent approximately \$400,000, and the City will continue to seek ways for these funds to be reimbursed. The different categories for reimbursement include the CARES Act, FEMA reimbursements, Massachusetts Department of Health, Newton CARES Fund, Community Development Block Grant funds and Community Preservation Act funds as needed. Ms. Lemieux explained that the City has also applied for an Assistance to Firefighters Grant and that the Newton

Schools Foundation has also donated funds to the City. Additionally, there may be a reimbursement for unemployment. Ms. Lemieux explained that the administration is still looking at which costs will be able to be reimbursed and she is working on having a document prepared to explain this to the City Council.

The Committee adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Walker Grossman, Chair