

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 6, 2008

CONTACTS: Alderman Ken Parker, (617) 965-3723

Alderman Ken Parker Saves Newton Ratepayers \$1 Million

Monday's Board of Aldermen meeting began with the Mayor's annual budget address in which he talked about the City's difficult financial situation, but it was the next item on the Board's agenda that relieved the burden on Newton taxpayers to the tune of \$1 million. Shortly after the Mayor's speech concluded, Alderman Ken Parker moved to reduce the expenditure on new water meters by a million dollars. Alderman Parker's motion quietly passed the Board unanimously, without debate.

But while the motion itself took little time to pass, a great deal of work went into achieving this million dollar cost reduction.

When the Newton Board of Aldermen approved an expenditure of \$12.5 million for new water meters on April 9, Alderman Ken Parker expressed his doubts about the expense, questioning why the Town of Brookline recently paid considerably less for the purchase and installation of similar meters.

Alderman Parker met with Public Works Commissioner Tom Daley the next day to review the numbers and found, as reported in last week's TAB that Newton would be paying 46 percent more for the meters and 74 percent more for installation than Brookline had less than three years ago.

Not satisfied with that level of price inflation, Alderman Parker filed a motion to reconsider the \$12.5 million bond authorization and continued to work with Commissioner Daley to examine the component costs of the project, examining the number of meters of each size being purchased and the costs of purchasing and installing those meters.

They poured over the numbers late Friday afternoon and into the evening before agreeing to the \$11.5 million figure.

"It was a pleasure working with Commissioner Daley," Alderman Parker said. "I'm delighted that our efforts were able to reduce the water meter bond authorization by a million dollars. I want to thank the Commissioner for all his work on this effort, as well as my colleagues on the Board of Aldermen for their speedy approval of my motion."

Colleagues expressed their appreciation for Alderman Parker's work.

"This is an example of how Ken takes the initiative to work with City officials to control costs and to make the most of our limited resources," said Alderman George Mansfield, a member of the Public Facilities Committee.

“I congratulate Alderman Parker on his efforts. This is an excellent result,” said Alderman Mitch Fischman, who has professional experience working on infrastructure and land use matters as a member of Tetra Tech Rizzo.