

**REPORTS AND  
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S. VOLUME XVII**

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**THE FINANCE COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BOSTON**

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# THE FINANCE COMMISSION

OF THE

CITY OF BOSTON

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REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

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VOLUME XVII.



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**PART I.**

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**REPORT TO THE GENERAL COURT.**

Boston, January 31, 1922.

*To the Honorable the Senate and House of Representatives  
in General Court Assembled:*

In accordance with section 18 of chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909, the finance commission submits herewith its annual report for the year 1921-22.

#### I. ORGANIZATION OF THE COMMISSION.

There has been no change in the personnel of the commission this year, John F. Moors, whose term expired, having been reappointed by the governor.

Increases in salary have been granted during the year to the staff of the commission as follows:

Consulting engineer . . . . .	\$1,000 a year.
Counsel . . . . .	500 a year.
Investigator . . . . .	300 a year.
Stenographer . . . . .	200 a year.
Stenographer . . . . .	200 a year.

#### II. APPROPRIATIONS AND EXPENDITURES.

The commission petitioned the legislature for an increase in its statutory appropriation from \$30,000 to \$40,000, on account of the increase in prices of materials, in rent, and in charges for service, and was granted the amount requested. As stated in last year's report, an additional appropriation was granted the commission by the city government of Boston in the sum of \$9,000, for the purpose of making a study of pension systems, with the aim of pensioning on a contributory basis all city of Boston and county of Suffolk employees. This additional appropriation did not become available until January 25, 1921, and therefore no account of the same was rendered in last year's report.

The expenditures of the commission during the year were as follows:

Total regular net appropriation . . . . .		\$40,000 00
Expenditures:		
Salaries, permanent employees . . . . .	\$23,305 00	
Salaries, temporary employees . . . . .	1,215 00	
Printing and binding . . . . .	2,362 35	
Postage . . . . .	30 72	
Express charges . . . . .	20 25	
Light . . . . .	72 98	
Rent . . . . .	5,422 08	
Communication . . . . .	310 07	
Cleaning . . . . .	44 00	
Experts' services . . . . .	1,006 20	
Fees, service of venires, etc. . . . .	45 28	
Blueprinting . . . . .	11 25	
General plant . . . . .	48 15	
Furniture and fittings . . . . .	58 05	
Office equipment . . . . .	100 00	
Library equipment . . . . .	110 79	
Office supplies . . . . .	245 02	
Ice . . . . .	24 00	
Special investigations . . . . .	1,426 29	
		<u>35,857 48</u>
Balance . . . . .		<u>\$4,142 52</u>

The expenditures under the special appropriation for pension investigation were as follows:

Total net appropriation . . . . .		\$9,000 00
Expenditures:		
Salaries . . . . .	\$475 31	
Experts' services . . . . .	937 67	
Express charges . . . . .	7 24	
Communication . . . . .	5 39	
Printing . . . . .	114 25	
		<u>1,539 86</u>
Balance . . . . .		<u>\$7,460 14</u>



### III. THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

During the year the commission has held 40 meetings; there have been 79 hearings, and 103 witnesses have been examined in various investigations and matters affecting the interests of the City of Boston.

All the members of the Finance Commission except the chairman serve without pay. The meetings of the commission have been attended by every member, except in cases where sickness or other imperative reasons have prevented some members from attending.

The commission has issued 44 reports and communications, of which 20 were published and 24 unpublished.

The published reports were as follows:

- Feb. 21, 1921. The Mayor. In regard to the action of the School Committee in making increases in salary of its teaching force, in accordance with a different schedule from that used in obtaining legislation for salary increases.
- March 11, 1921. The Mayor. In regard to proposed abolition of Licensing Board by House Bill 807.
- April 18, 1921. The Committee on Metropolitan Affairs. In regard to proposed teaming tunnel between Boston and East Boston.
- April 21, 1921. The Committee on Social Welfare. In regard to proposed pension bill for employees of the City of Boston and County of Suffolk.
- April 25, 1921. The Mayor. In regard to firm of accountants employed to audit the accounts of the Treasury Department of the city.
- April 26, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding payment of bills incurred in excess of appropriations for the fiscal year.
- May 3, 1921. The Mayor. Second report on payment of bills incurred in excess of appropriations for the fiscal year.
- May 27, 1921. The Mayor and City Council. Third report on payment of bills incurred in excess of appropriations for the fiscal year.
- June 3, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding specifications for crushed stone in use by the Supply Department.
- June 4, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding the award of contracts for the hire of teams.
- June 6, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding advertising in newspapers other than the *City Record* by the Schoolhouse Commission, in violation of section 29 of chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909.

- June 8, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding work done under contract of W. A. Snow Iron Works for building iron fence around ball field on Boston Common.
- June 28, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding the opening of streets by public service corporations and the restoration of the same.
- June 29, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding passenger motor service for city departments.
- July 29, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding the annual reports of city departments and the abolition of the Statistics Department.
- Sept. 23, 1921. The City Council. Regarding proposed additional loan of \$200,000 for highways, making of.
- Oct. 7, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding proposed widening of Washington street between Harvard place and Ordway place.
- Dec. 17, 1921. The Mayor and City Council. Regarding the present accounting system of the city.
- Dec. 22, 1921. The Mayor. Second report on the present accounting system of the city.
- Dec. 29, 1921. The Mayor. Opposing passage of new ordinance creating additional position of deputy sealer in Weights and Measures Department.

The unpublished reports were as follows:

- Feb. 21, 1921. The Mayor. In regard to insuring buildings of West Department of the City Hospital, now leased to the Federal Government.
- March 2, 1921. The Committee on Legal Affairs. Favoring passage of House Bill 842, providing for licensing and regulating of animal-drawn vehicles.
- March 2, 1921. The Committee on Cities. Opposing passage of Senate Bill 30, providing for the payment of a sum of money to Olive P. Gately.
- March 5, 1921. The Mayor. Transmitting report of the consulting engineer on specifications for crushed stone in use by the city.
- March 21, 1921. The Mayor. Transmitting report of consulting engineer in regard to specifications for bituminous materials for road construction.
- March 29, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding his acceptance of chapter 109, General Acts of 1916, providing for the appointment of paid interpreters in the Municipal Court of Boston.
- March 31, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding privileges allowed John J. Connorton of the Hospital Department and the inadvisability of granting such privileges to employees.
- April 6, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding payment of a sum of money to Thomas F. Goods.

- April 15, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding proposed payment of a pension to George A. Betters.
- April 15, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding bills of chemical examiners for the Northern District Medical Examiner.
- April 18, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding proposed payment of a pension to William S. Foster.
- May 5, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding the proposition of the Equitable Life Assurance Society of the United States to underwrite the retirement system for city and county employees.
- May 5, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding the occupation, rent free, of rooms at the Dover Street Bath House by a city employee.
- May 20, 1921. The House Committee on Ways and Means. Regarding Senate Bill 331, providing for rebuilding four bridges over the Charles river.
- July 7, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding award of contract for installing electric, gas and air systems in the new Public Latin School.
- July 13, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding the award of the contract for erecting and completing certain portions of an elementary school-house in the Samuel Adams District to other than the lowest bidder.
- July 22, 1921. The Mayor. Regarding the sale of the ferryboats "D. D. Kelly" and "General Hancock."
- July 25, 1921. The Mayor. Second report on the sale of the ferryboats "D. D. Kelly" and "General Hancock."
- Oct. 5, 1921. The Fire Commissioner. Regarding the proposed conversion of a submarine chaser into a fireboat.
- Oct. 7, 1921. The City Council. Regarding loan orders for highways, making of; the methods employed by the Street Commissioners, and the proposed widening of Washington street between Harvard place and Ordway place.
- Oct. 21, 1921. The City Council. Regarding the request of the City Council for a report on unemployment.
- Oct. 27, 1921. The City Council. Regarding the lease of the refectory building at Franklin Park and the headhouse, South Boston, by the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union.
- Dec. 14, 1921. The Mayor. Opposing the acceptance of chapter 414 of the Acts of 1921, providing for the payment of a sum of money to Olive P. Gately.
- Jan. 31, 1922. The General Court. Regarding the present accounting system of the city and proposed improvements therein.

Two subjects absorbed much of the attention of the commission during the present year, viz., the study of a uniform contributory pension system for the employees