

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 7, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM

FIRST MEETING OF THE MONTH

PRESENT: Mayor Spadaccini, Deputy Mayor Peak, Secretary Pelletier, Directors Tweedie, Beckman, Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, and Farina

ALSO: General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Naab

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Spadaccini.

A. Presentation by John Garoppolo of trophy from Lions Club bowling tournament to benefit Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation.

John Garoppolo, on behalf of the Lions Club Thirteenth Annual Fidelco Bowling Tournament, presented a trophy to the Town of Manchester. He said Mayor Spadaccini and Joe Camposeo did a great job representing our Town. The Tournament was a great success and raised over \$10,000.

Mayor Spadaccini thanked Mr. Garoppolo and the Lions Club for the fantastic job that is done each year with this tournament.

Mr. Camposeo commented that the real winner was Fidelco, although it is nice to have the trophy back where it belongs.

B. Proclamation declaring April as National Autism Awareness Month.

Mayor Spadaccini read a proclamation declaring April as National Autism Awareness Month. Autism is the third most common developmental disability and one out of every 100 children are born with autism.

Cathy Drouin said she was pleased to accept the resolution on behalf of the Health Department. She explained that autism is more common than cancer or diabetes and urged people to learn more.

C. Proclamation declaring Town of Manchester – Earth Day 2009.

Mayor Spadaccini read a proclamation declaring April 22, 2009 Earth Day in the Town of Manchester. Addressing issues such as energy use, transportation, waste prevention and sprawl was encouraged. The Hockanum River Linear Park Committee has maintained approximately fifteen miles of hiking trails along the Hockanum River since 1970.

Doug Smith thanked the Board on behalf of the Hockanum River Linear Park Committee. He presented Mayor Spadaccini with a t-shirt, making him the honorary Chairperson of the new Bigelow Brook Committee. Cleanup day is April 18, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

2. OPENING OF MEETING TO ELECTORS OR TAXPAYERS WHO WISH TO BE HEARD ON ANY SUBJECT WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Edward Wilson, 39 Coleman Road, commended the members of the Board of Directors for their dedication. He expressed concerns regarding the process of selecting Chiefs of the Police and Fire Departments. He feels the Town should be recruiting from within and not wasting taxpayer dollars on searches outside of Manchester. Mr. Wilson distributed copies of his comments to Board members.

Sharon Fletcher, 64 Rachel Road, lives in the Robertson School district and expressed concerns about her child's education. She said the proposed education budget will leave more children behind. Reducing staff equals turning our backs on the children. Ms. Fletcher pointed out that Manchester's test scores are not in the top 20 and suggested the Board of Directors reconsider the proposed school cutbacks.

Eileen Sweeney, 86 Hawthorne Street, spoke in support of the SHARE collaborative, which she feels will strengthen each organization and benefit citizens and visitors.

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, said he thought the Directors have done a good job cutting the budget. He suggested that people who work for the Town not be given an automobile if they commute out of Town and holding off on placing a fence in front of Cheney Library (saving \$35,000). He noted that Town employees are foregoing raises and wondered why Board of Education employees are not doing the same. Mr. Ogden suggested closing Northwest Park and combining the Town and the Board of Education maintenance operation as other ways to save money.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, commended Fidelco on the bowling tournament. He also commended the Town on the proclamations concerning Earth Day and Autism Awareness Month. He commented on the school budget and diversity. Mr. Stringfellow was disturbed by some comments made at a block watch meeting and asked that we respect each other.

Bonnie Schuetz, 12 Conway Road, does not think spending \$30,000 on a fence in front of Mary Cheney Library is a good idea. She suggested using the money to keep Whiton Library open longer hours, opening a pool, or giving it to the Fire Department. Ms. Schuetz said the Board of Education does not need a Public Relations person and feels it plans to close Nathan Hale School so it can move its offices there. She thanked the Fire and Police Departments and said she agreed with the first speaker who said the Town should look in-house for a Police Chief.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

1. Social Services Block Grant –
State Administered General Assistance (SAGA) (10/01/08–9/30/09) \$46,998
for regional social services coordination to be financed by a grant from
the State Department of Social Services (DSS) and authorization
for Scott Shanley, General Manager to enter into and amend any and
all related contracts with the State of Connecticut.
2. State Asset Forfeiture Account \$1,000
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be
financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
3. Police Donations Revenue Account - Manchester Police Explorer Post.... \$13,128
from fundraising and dues.
4. Memorial Tree Program \$510
to be financed by donations received in honor of Paul Hublard, Donald
Donovan, Michael Gallacher, Phyllis Boss, Gordon Gott, Gilbert Graham,
Wilfred Dion, Hazel Mize, Ray Fike Sr., Elizabeth Lasher, Sophie "Sue"
Bajoris, and Justin, Gerald, Maurice and Robert Butts which are
gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
5. Youth Service Bureau \$15,000
for summer camp scholarships to Manchester youth to be financed
by donations from the Mayor's Program for Manchester Youth (\$7,500)
and SBM Charitable Foundation (\$7,500) which are gratefully
acknowledged and accepted.
6. Youth Service Bureau \$8,500
for Boyz to Men (\$3,500), Girls Circle (\$2,500) and Boys Council (\$2,500)
programs to be financed by a grant from the Alvord Family Fund through
the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
7. Pride in Manchester Special Grants \$3,450
for Pride in Manchester Week activities to be financed by donations from
Anne Miller Real Estate (\$100), Cummings Insurance Agency (\$100), CDM
Landscaping LLC (\$250) and SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc. (\$3,000)
which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
8. Recreation Department Special Activities Fund \$2,500
to be financed by donation from SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc. to support
the annual children's fishing derby and the senior citizen's fishing derby
which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
9. Recreation Department Special Grants \$5,000
for the Living Well After School program to be financed by a grant from
SBM Charitable Foundation which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, expressed his support for items 1, 3, 5, 6, and 9.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:
1. Washington Media Arts Magnet School After School Program at Verplanck School \$25,000
to be financed by fiscal year 08/09 anticipated revenue.
 2. Washington Media Arts Magnet School After School Program \$50,000
to be financed by fiscal year 08/09 anticipated revenue.
 3. Demonstration School (Nathan Hale) \$80,000
to be financed by a grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the three grant appropriations. He was impressed by the presentation made by Washington Media Arts at a recent Board of Education meeting.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

Director Zingler asked if item 3 was for this school year and if it is the first time Nathan Hale is receiving this grant. He noted recent discussion of closing Nathan Hale School and applauded this grant.

Mayor Spadaccini said that Nathan Hale School is a valuable asset. He has tried to provide for constructive alternatives to closing this school.

- C. Appropriation to Capital Improvement Projects –
1. North Main Street Reconstruction \$292,500
for the development of contract plans, specifications, and estimates for the Reconstruction of North Main Street utilizing Federal funds under the Urban Component of the Surface Transportation Program.
 2. Authorization for the General Manager to enter into and amend related documents.

Mark Carlino, Director of Public Works, explained that this work is scheduled for the summer of 2012. As plans progress, the Board of Directors will be seeing more agreements.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, said he was glad to see the money being appropriated for this project; it is always better to err on the side of safety.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

Director Tweedie asked if the general goal of this project is to improve visibility by the curve.

Mr. Carlino answered that is one improvement being made. The road is in poor condition in general and a traffic light will be installed at the intersection of North Main Street and Union Street.

Director Kissmann said the sight line in that area has been a concern for some time. This is a needed improvement and a good use of money.

Deputy Mayor Peak asked if these improvements will widen the street at all.

Mr. Carlino responded that these improvements will make the road width more consistent, actually narrowing it in some locations. The changes will make the width consistent with the bridge width of 34', except at Union Street, where there will be a turn lane.

Deputy Mayor Peak asked if there would be any need to acquire easements from property owners.

Mr. Carlino is anticipating some need for that and will follow Federal regulations for notifications, appraisals, and mapping. Two property owners may be impacted.

D. Appropriation to 2007 Public Works Bond – Drainage..... \$69,000
for the retrofit of a stormwater outfall at Olcott Street to be funded by
a 319 Nonpoint Source grant under the Federal Clean Water Fund.

Mr. Carlino explained that for the last eighteen months Manchester has been working with the North Central Conservation District to assess outfalls throughout Town. Of the 23 assessed, 17 are in good condition and six need retrofitting. This money will improve one of the six locations.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, commended this program. Having drinkable water is vital.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

Director O'Neill asked if this addressed the silt and oils coming off the roads.

Mr. Carlino explained that it does address the sediment and sand coming off the road with the use of a hydrodynamic separator. It is a project similar to what was done at Center Springs Pond, but on a much smaller scale.

Director Farina asked what the full cost to repair the outfalls that need repair would be and what the ultimate cost would be if they are not repaired.

Mr. Carlino explained that other than the area on North Main, there is no major failure opportunity out there. The outfalls are being addressed as grant money is available.

E. Appropriation to Fire Reserve – Equipment \$12,500
for future purchase of equipment to be funded by the sale of fire apparatus.

General Manager Shanley explained that what had been a reserve truck had been sold and the proceeds are intended to offset the cost of a new piece of equipment in 2011.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- F. Appropriation to Capital Reserve – Youth Services Building \$150,000
for renovations and buildout of Youth Services Bureau, to be financed
by State of Connecticut Bond Commission funding through the
Connecticut Department of Social Services and authorization for Scott
Shanley, General Manager, to enter into and amend any and all related
contracts with the State of Connecticut.

**AMENDED - MOTION TO AMEND ITEM 3.F BY REMOVING THE WORD
“AUTHORIZATION” AND REPLACING IT WITH “RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING.”**

Director Farina moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, commended the Board of Directors for its work in obtaining this new location, which will accommodate staff, students and visitors. He expressed concern with the parking, lighting and security, but overall thinks this is money well spent.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- G. Appropriation to Sewer Reserve - System Studies \$107,000
for final phase of Sewer System Evaluation Study to be financed by
reimbursement from the Eighth Utilities District for evaluation of sewer
lines located in the Eighth District.

**AMENDED - MOTION TO AMEND ITEM 3.G CHANGING THE AMOUNT
FROM \$107,000 TO \$85,000.**

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

Ed Soper, Water and Sewer Administrator, explained what was involved in each phase of this project.

General Manager Shanley added that this is a cooperative project between the Town’s Water and Sewer Department and the Eighth Utilities District.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- H. Appropriation to General Fund – Manchester Regional Academy (MRA) \$125,000 to be financed by additional out of town student tuition payments.

Mayor Spadaccini opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports this appropriation. This is a good program.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

Deputy Mayor Peak said that the general tuition for this program is \$800,000. Throughout the year additional tuition is received. In the past, the tuition money has been appropriated to MRA for capital improvement projects. He asked what other ways the tuition money has been used.

General Manager Shanley said that, yes, in the past the money has been used for capital improvements at MRA. Last year, the Board of Education used the funds for other activities; they do have the flexibility to do that.

4. ADOPTED - CONSENT CALENDAR (Item 16.L removed).

3A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

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for regional social services coordination to be financed by a grant from the State Department of Social Services (DSS) and authorization for Scott Shanley, General Manager to enter into and amend any and all related contracts with the State of Connecticut.
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for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
3. Police Donations Revenue Account - Manchester Police Explorer Post.... \$13,128
from fundraising and dues.
4. Memorial Tree Program \$510
to be financed by donations received in honor of Paul Hublard, Donald Donovan, Michael Gallacher, Phyllis Boss, Gordon Gott, Gilbert Graham, Wilfred Dion, Hazel Mize, Ray Fike Sr., Elizabeth Lasher, Sophie "Sue" Bajoris, and Justin, Gerald, Maurice and Robert Butts which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
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for summer camp scholarships to Manchester youth to be financed by donations from the Mayor's Program for Manchester Youth (\$7,500) and SBM Charitable Foundation (\$7,500) which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
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for Boyz to Men (\$3,500), Girls Circle (\$2,500) and Boys Council (\$2,500) programs to be financed by a grant from the Alvord Family Fund through the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

7. Pride in Manchester Special Grants \$3,450
for Pride in Manchester Week activities to be financed by donations from Anne Miller Real Estate (\$100), Cummings Insurance Agency (\$100), CDM Landscaping LLC (\$250) and SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc. (\$3,000) which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
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to be financed by a grant from the Connecticut State Department of Education.
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for the development of contract plans, specifications, and estimates for the Reconstruction of North Main Street utilizing Federal funds under the Urban Component of the Surface Transportation Program.
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- 3E. Appropriation to Fire Reserve – Equipment \$12,500
for future purchase of equipment to be funded by the sale of fire apparatus.
- 3F. Appropriation to Capital Reserve – Youth Services Building \$150,000
for renovations and buildout of Youth Services Bureau, to be financed by State of Connecticut Bond Commission funding through the Connecticut Department of Social Services and authorization for Scott Shanley, General Manager, to enter into and amend any and all related contracts with the State of Connecticut.
- 3G. Appropriation to Sewer Reserve - System Studies(as amended) \$85,000
for final phase of Sewer System Evaluation Study to be financed by reimbursement from the Eighth Utilities District for evaluation of sewer lines located in the Eighth District.
- 16A. Appropriation to Special Projects (under \$500) as follows:
 1. Hockanum River Linear Park \$50
to be financed by a donation from Joseph and Katherine Camposeo which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.

- 16B. Acceptance of donation of 1989 ambulance from United Technologies Corporation, Pratt & Whitney Group, to be used as a command post for the Office of Emergency Management/Manchester CERT which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
- 16C. Establishment of Town Clerk's salary for the period January 4, 2010-January 6, 2014.
- 16D. Acceptance of resignation of Joel E. Janenda (D) from the Advisory Recreation and Parks Commission, with a term expiring November 2009.
- 16F. Acceptance of resignation of Benjamin Westry (R) from the Commission on Human Relations, with a term expiring November 2010.
- 16N. Approval of Library Union Collective Bargaining Agreement - July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.
- 16O. Approval of Amendment to Municipal Employees' Union (MEU) Collective Bargaining Agreement - July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010.
- 16P. Approval of one year Extension of Public Works Union Collective Bargaining Agreement - July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010.
- 16Q. Approval of Amendment to Supervisory Union Collective Bargaining Agreement – July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010.

General Manager Shanley and members of the Board of Directors took a moment to express their gratitude to Town employees for foregoing raises for the next budget year.

Director Farina moved and Secretary Pelletier seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

ADOPTED - MOTION TO ADD ITEMS 16.R AND 16.S TO THE AGENDA FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION.

Director Farina moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

- 16R. **APPROVED** - Approval of Amendment to Residual Union Collective Bargaining Agreement – July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

- 16S. **APPROVED** - Approval of one year Extension of Police Union Collective Bargaining Unit Agreement - July 1, 2009 - June 30, 2010.

Director Tweedie moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

5. REPORTS.

A. Manager's Report.

1. Presentation by S.H.A.R.E. (South Manchester Historic, Arts, Recreation and Education).

Tana Parseliti, Downtown Special Services District Manager, explained that S.H.A.R.E. is a collaboration between Downtown Manchester Special Services District, Connecticut Firemen's Historical Society, Inc., Little Theater of Manchester, Cheney Hall, Lutz Children's Museum, Manchester Art Association, and Manchester Historical Society. Ms. Parseliti introduced members of the collaboration and described the goals of the group.

Joyce Kristoff explained that strength can come in numbers. Two events S.H.A.R.E. is focusing on are Heritage Day, June 13, 2009, and the Holiday Event, December 5, 2009. S.H.A.R.E. will promote Manchester as a great place for families and businesses and hopefully engage more people. S.H.A.R.E. asked that the Board of Directors help promote what the group is doing.

Mayor Spadaccini believes Manchester is the cultural center east of the river. It has so much to offer and the Board will do anything it can to help make Manchester's assets known. He asked if S.H.A.R.E. has met with the Film Festival group, as it seems the two groups seem to have similar goals.

Director Zingler thanked the group and said that the Heritage group has embraced this collaborative effort wholeheartedly.

Secretary Pelletier said she looks forward to seeing S.H.A.R.E. grow.

Director Farina said the name of the group is brilliant. He wondered if the group had discussed a downtown restaurant program, as the restaurants downtown are phenomenal.

Director Kissmann spends quite a bit of time downtown and knows how special historical Main Street is. S.H.A.R.E. members are leaders in their own right.

2. Discussion: Lighting.

Mr. Carlino addressed several comments received online regarding lighting. One comment relates to lighting on in Town buildings after hours. Most of the buildings' lighting is controlled with occupancy sensors. People might not realize that the custodial crews are in the buildings after hours. Community meetings occur many nights and sometimes staff members work late.

Another common suggestion received was regarding street lights. Mr. Carlino explained that due to the rate structure assigned to Town streetlights, turning lights off will not achieve any savings for the Town.

The lights at the High School track have also generated some comments. The timer associated with the lights malfunctioned, but is now working and lights should be on only at appropriate times.

Secretary Pelletier noted that the Town has recently undergone an energy audit and she thought that should prove beneficial. Allowing for comment online is a healthy process; it challenges Town staff to look at different processes.

Director Tweedie said that we may be wasting energy we don't need to and suggested negotiating with the utility companies.

General Manager Shanley said that great strides have been made in the billing process. The next time he is at a Connecticut Conference of Municipalities meeting he will begin a conversation with DPUC.

Director Beckman said that any resident he has spoken with regarding shutting lights off at certain times in the night was puzzled. He expressed safety concerns.

Deputy Mayor Peak said that no incentive is provided to municipalities to find ways to save with the current billing process. He noted that in Quebec there is a network grid which controls the lighting system and suggested that would be worth watching. Mr. Peak suggested having a policy discussion regarding requirements for new developments; perhaps requiring lighting at greater intervals or not at all.

Director O'Neill asked if solar energy is one of the technologies being developed.

Mr. Carlino is not aware of solar energy technology being developed; he said it seems like LED is the direction technology is taking.

Director Farina concurred with Mr. Peak's idea of looking at the street light policy for new developments.

Mr. Carlino will ask Engineering to look at the current requirements and provide some recommendations.

**B. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS REGARDING
ITEMS ON THE AGENDA THAT MAY NEED ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING.**

Director Farina spoke about the Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant Program and the stipulation that the final proposal be submitted by June 25. He wondered if some Board members should meet to work on a resolution.

General Manager Shanley said that Brian Wolverton has the application and is undertaking the substantial review now. He will make the Board aware of the timeline.

Mayor Spadaccini asked that a representative of the Redevelopment Agency be at the next Board meeting to discuss item 16.J.

6. RECESS TO SECOND WEEK.

The meeting was recessed until the April 21, 2009 second meeting of the month.

Director Tweedie moved and Director Beckman seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

Recess: 9:28 p.m.

gem

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors