

**MINUTES**  
**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**NOVEMBER 12, 2008 – 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

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 P.M.**

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss Collective Bargaining and concluded at 6:30 p.m. Present were Mayor Spadaccini, Deputy Mayor Peak, Secretary Pelletier, Directors Tweedie, Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, and Farina, General Manager Shanley, Town Attorney Naab, and Director of Administrative Services Moore. No votes were taken.

**1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:25 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Spadaccini. Mayor Spadaccini apologized for the late start, explaining that the delay was due to a meeting with Board of Education representatives that ran later than expected.

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

**Eileen Sweeney**, 86 Hawthorne Street, has heard other speakers mention the exhaust pipes of our school buses and agreed that this is a very important issue. She also thinks seatbelts are needed on school buses. Ms. Sweeney noticed comments in the newspaper about how children learn. She has been involved in her children's education and believes it is a matter of economics. Children cannot get into and remain in classes if they do not have the home life and financial resources to support the outside assignments given. Ms. Sweeney spoke to the Board about the economic crisis and stated that an unstable fiscal climate calls for a responsible use of resources. Manchester must show responsibility by exhibiting financial restraint and a sound environmental approach in its plans for the Bentley School at 57 Hollister Street. She believes Town leaders and citizens should set a positive example for its youth by conserving and appreciating this fortress-like public building. This school is a grand reminder of Manchester's history and can be used with pride to serve Manchester's residents. Visitors are not interested in traveling to areas stripped of character. Ms. Sweeney asked the Board not to tear down Hollister Street School.

**Aldo Enrico**, 57 Bissell Street, thanked the Board of Education for coming to the earlier meeting and wanted to let the Superintendent know that the Spruce Street Block Watch makes every effort to pick up garbage from school grounds that the Building and Grounds Division doesn't get to. He will speak with other block watch groups to encourage them to do the same at schools in their neighborhoods. Mr. Enrico reported that at the last Spruce Street Block Watch meeting, K-9 Night was held. There was a presentation by the K-9 Unit of the Manchester Police Department. The twelve children who attended enjoyed the presentation and had many questions to ask. Also at that meeting was Reverend Robert Frederickson, of the Church of the Ascension, who informed the Block Watch that he holds a movie event for children on the first Saturday of each month. The Spruce Street Block Watch will hold its annual holiday celebration on December 4 in the Nathan Hale Cafeteria. There will be a collection of food, hats, mittens, and scarves for distribution to the needy in the area. Elections will be held at that meeting as well. Mr. Enrico wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

**Bonnie Schuetz**, 12 Conway Road, thanked the Democrats for attending the meeting at the Senior Center, the Manchester Police Department, and the Block Watch participants. She asked that people keep an eye on their elderly neighbors in this bad economy. Ms. Schuetz said there are things going on in town that nobody talks about. She suggested the Board of Directors thank the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the EMT's more often. She asked why the Board didn't ask the Board of Education about spending \$85,000 on a "P.R. man" when they were here.

**Milt Perlman**, 3 Sanford Road, was happy to see that the Board of Education was here. He stated that the money doesn't belong to the Board of Education or the Board of Directors, but to the taxpayers. It would have been nice to have had that meeting televised as well as the meeting held on November 6. He suggested whenever meetings are held, televise them. This will relieve the perception that the Board wants to keep things under wraps. Mr. Perlman saw an article in the newspaper regarding Board of Education spending. Hartford spends much more per student than Manchester, which indicates that money isn't always the problem. He spoke from his experience as a teacher and said that teachers need to do something to get the students interested in learning. Mr. Perlman is aware of the controversy over tearing down Bentley School and one of the arguments is that it is in horrible condition. He asked who made it that way. He would like to see the building remain and be renovated, representing Manchester's past. Once the past is forgotten, the future "goes haywire."

**Bill Ogden**, 137 Branford Street, said he has brought up the stacks on the schools buses many times. Director O'Neill recently asked the General Manager to look into retrofitting the buses and he hasn't heard anything yet. He is in possession of a government publication that proves what he has been saying all along. Mr. Ogden questioned how the Town can allow children to ride a school bus that will give them asthma and cancer. At the last Board of Education meeting, it was said that we need black teachers to teach black children and nothing was said. If a white person made that statement, he would be fired.

**Mayor Spadaccini** stated that the Board of Directors will be holding four more meetings to discuss the budget and service levels. They will be held during December and January and will be televised.

**Secretary Pelletier** agreed that the Board of Education issues are not Democratic or Republican issues, but stated that they are also not Board of Directors' issues. The Board of Directors sets a budget for the Board of Education and that is where its responsibilities begin and end. The Board of Directors does not have any say over transportation issues. She suggested citizens concerned with these subjects attend Board of Education meetings and state their concerns.

**3. PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

1. Youth Service Bureau ..... \$55,773  
for Urban Youth Violence Prevention Program (Year 2) to be financed by a Grant from the Office of Policy and Management.
2. Youth Service Bureau ..... \$250  
for youth programming, food and needed supplies to be financed by a donation from Manchester Memorial Hospital which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
3. Children's Garden at Northwest Park ..... \$50  
for the Children's Butterfly Garden to be financed by a donation in memory of Robert Krasinski which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
4. Expanded DUI Enforcement Grant (2008/2009)..... \$99,900  
to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation.
5. Police Donations Revenue Account - Manchester Police Explorer Post..... \$403  
from dues (\$60), from retrieval of brass collected at the firearms range (\$231) and from Shred Fest event (\$112).
6. Federal Asset Forfeiture Account ..... \$1,619  
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
7. State Asset Forfeiture Account ..... \$2,929  
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
8. Public Safety – East Central Narcotics Task Force (FY 08/09) ..... \$5,000  
to support task force operational needs for equipment, training or to facilitate continuing narcotics investigations to be financed by the annual contribution from South Windsor and Glastonbury.
9. Hockanum River Linear Park ..... \$50  
to be financed by a donation from Cowen Tax Advisory Group which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
10. Recreation Department – Special Activities..... \$563  
for donation to Alex's Lemonade Stand (\$66.17), MADD (\$325) and MACC (\$171.30) to be financed by funds raised by the Center for Service Learning Program which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.

11. Department of Health Supplemental Bioterrorism Grant (8/10/08 to 8/09/09)....\$1,600 to be financed by the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health.

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

**Deputy Mayor Peak** asked if the Town is already in receipt of the appropriation from the Office of Policy and Management.

**General Manger Shanley** stated that his understanding is that this is a three-year commitment.

**Mary Roche Cronin** added that she has received no information from the State saying they will be withdrawing funds as of this point.

**Deputy Mayor Peak** explained that he recently saw a column criticizing this exact allocation and is concerned that this may be one of the first areas where funds will be cut.

**General Manager Shanley** stated that if funding were to be eliminated, the program would be eliminated as well.

B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:

1. Out-of-Town Magnet School Transportation (FY 08/09)..... \$54,000 to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Education.
2. Washington Media Arts Magnet School Early Bird Program (FY 08/09)... \$13,000 to be financed by parent tuition fees.
3. Manchester Head Start Federal Day Care Program (FY08/09)..... \$35,000 to be financed by parent fees and State day care grants.
4. Manchester Head Start State Day Care Program (FY08/09) ..... \$40,000 to be financed by parent fees and State day care grants.
5. Increase to Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Grant (FY 08/09) ..... \$7,534 to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Education.
6. Early Reading Success Grant (FY 08/09) ..... \$100,000 to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut Department of Education.
7. Manchester Head Start – Free and Reduced Lunch program (FY 08/09)..... \$85,825 to be financed by a grant through the State of Connecticut Department of Education.
8. Cedar Street Station and Washington Media Arts Magnet School ..... \$173,623 for after school care at Washington Media Arts Magnet School and Verplanck Elementary School to be financed by the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Grant.

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

**Milt Perlman**, 3 Sanford Road, noted two items financed by parent fees and wondered why fees are collected if they are already paying taxes. It seems like taxing people twice. He would like to see a report that indicates where program fees end up.

**General Manager Shanley** stated that the fees are all program specific and the programs are supported by a combination of grants and fees.

**Bill Ogden**, 137 Branford Street, noted item 7 and asked what qualifies a child to get free lunch.

**General Manager Shanley** explained that a grant is received from the Federal government to cover 100% of the costs of breakfast, lunch, and snacks. He believes if one qualifies for the Head Start program, he or she would also qualify for the food program. He will look into specifics.

**Tom Stringfellow**, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Head Start program. He has heard Dr. Reisman speak and likes what he is doing. Mr. Stringfellow also supports Washington Media Arts and the schools.

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

**Secretary Pelletier** explained that the money appropriated for Head Start only covers the Head Start children. The Board of Education just informed the Board of Directors that the school lunch program is close to \$70,000 short. The Cedar Street Magnet School program is funded through State funds as well as parent fees.

C. Appropriation to Fire District Reserve Fund - Paramedics..... \$4,995  
to be funded by memorial donations in honor of Fire Chief John C. Rivoso  
which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.

**General Manager Shanley** explained that these funds were donated in honor of Fire Chief Rivoso and will be used to purchase two defibrillators.

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

**Tom Stringfellow**, 183 Hillstown Road, met Chief Rivoso and stated that he was a fine gentleman. He thinks the defibrillators are a good investment. He commends the Town for putting the donations toward purchasing them.

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

**Director Kissmann** explained that Chief Rivoso's family asked that donations be made to the Paramedics Fund in lieu of flowers. Mr. Kissmann thanked those that donated.

- D. Appropriation to Capital Improvement Reserve – Public Works Equipment.... \$13,071 to be used toward the funding of two hybrid vehicles (partially funded by the 2008 Connecticut Clean Fuel grant) to be funded by the proceeds from the sale of surplus vehicles.

**General Manager Shanley** noted that the description should say three hybrid vehicles. The Town has applied for two hybrid grants. The first one, 2007, is in the process of being fulfilled now. This is to set aside money for the 2008 grant, which we have received, from the sale of surplus vehicles.

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

**Bill Ogden**, 137 Branford Street, asked what vehicles will be auctioned off.

**Mark Carlino**, Director of Public Works, answered that a variety of vehicles have already been sold. He can get that information if desired.

**Mr. Ogden** noted that gasoline costs have taken a tremendous drop and hybrids are not that efficient yet. He asked how much the three vehicles will cost the Town.

**Mr. Shanley** explained the grant is for \$4,500 per vehicle, which is the difference in the cost of a regular internal combustion vehicle and a hybrid.

**Mr. Ogden** suggested if the Town needs to tighten its belt, maybe it should make do.

**Mr. Shanley** further explained that the Town has had a net loss of two vehicles and that the Crown Victorias are being replaced with vehicles that will get better gas mileage.

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

**Director Tweedie** expressed his opinion that it is a good idea to replace the Crown Victorias with hybrids. He owns a Prius and has been getting 52 mpg.

- E. Approval of an amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 6, Article II, Section 6-5 to provide for an increase in the membership of the Redevelopment Agency. (A copy of the proposed amendment may be seen in the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours.)

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

**Tom Stringfellow**, 183 Hillstown Road, is hoping the Board will work it out so there will be an odd number of members on this committee. He is also hopeful that the members will work well together in a bipartisan way. He hopes the committee is up to the task and reports regularly on what is going on.

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

**Director Zingler** asked if there has been any change in the number of members.

**Mayor Spadaccini** believes the feeling of members of the Board of Directors is that they are comfortable with twelve.

**4. CONSENT CALENDAR (Item 16.E removed).**

**3A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:**

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for Urban Youth Violence Prevention Program (Year 2) to be financed by a Grant from the Office of Policy and Management.
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- 3C. Appropriation to Fire District Reserve Fund - Paramedics..... \$4,995  
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- 3D. Appropriation to Capital Improvement Reserve – Public Works Equipment.... \$13,071  
to be used toward the funding of two hybrid vehicles (partially funded by  
the 2008 Connecticut Clean Fuel grant) to be funded by the proceeds from  
the sale of surplus vehicles.
- 16A. Acceptance of resignation of Eleanor Russell (D) as Tenant Commissioner of the  
Housing Authority, with a term expiring November 2008.
- 16B. Acceptance of resignation of Joseph J. Reardon (R) from the Commission for Elderly  
Services and People with Disabilities, with a term expiring November 2010.
- 16C. Acceptance of donation of Acer Notebook Laptop to Manchester Police  
Department from Staples, Inc. which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
- 16D. Acceptance of donations of gift cards (\$155) from the public to the Recreation  
Department to purchase supplies to support the Nike Tykes Preschool which are  
gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
- 16F. Approval of job description for Assistant Facilities Project Manager.

**Director Tweedie moved and Director Beckman seconded the motion.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**5. REPORTS.**

**A. Manager’s Report.**

**General Manager Shanley** noted the memorandum to the Board of Directors from Julian Freund outlining some of the items affected by the amendments to the Town Charter. In order to allow for the process of a budget referendum, the budget process will need to be moved back about one month.

**General Manager Shanley** reminded the Board of the joint meeting between the Board of Education and the Board of Directors on November 19. The meeting will be held in the Presentation Room of the Manchester High School and is not scheduled to be televised. Other meetings concerning service levels will be televised.

**General Manager Shanley** noted a recent article in the Journal Inquirer regarding budget discussions that was inaccurate and has contacted the newspaper regarding the error.

**Secretary Pelletier** received a phone call from Vivian Ferguson who thanked the entire Board of Directors and the General Manager for their efforts in the situation with the Olds House. She stated that Board members have received a report from the Building Reuse Committee and asked Board members to review it and consider how this committee should progress with decisions having to do with certain buildings.

**Director Zingler** said that Vivian Ferguson is planning to attend the next meeting to report on the Building Reuse Committee. He reminded the public to put leaves for collection on the snow shelf or behind the sidewalk, not in the street and that the Town parking ban begins on December 1. Mr. Zingler commended the Budget and Research Department for receiving an award on its budget presentation for the third consecutive year in a row. He also commended the Fire Department on its recent open house. Over 500 adults attended, not to mention all of the children who had a wonderful time. Mr. Zingler wondered if the Police Department would consider holding an open house.

**Deputy Mayor Peak** mentioned a letter from Mr. Carlino to the Department of Transportation explaining that Manchester will be installing LED lights in its traffic signals. With installation of these lights, payback will be realized within about eight months. He is excited that Manchester will be involved in this and thanked Mr. Carlino for his efforts.

**Director Tweedie** received a call from an acquaintance at Connecticut Natural Gas who commended the General Manager and the Director of Public Works for their prompt response to a request made regarding installation of transmitters for meter reading.

**Director Zingler** asked that citizens keep catch basins clear of leaves and snow. He announced that the Manchester grocery tote bags are now available for purchase at a cost of \$2 per bag in the Customer Service Center at the Town Hall.

**Mayor Spadaccini** said he was glad that Mr. Zingler mentioned the leaves. He received an e-mail from a constituent saying that leaves are being raked into the streets. Mr. Spadaccini asked that leaves be kept behind the sidewalk. He mentioned the great ceremony held in honor of Veteran's Day and the dedication of the Veteran's Memorial Bridge. Mr. Spadaccini announced a fundraiser for Paramedic Scott Porter to be held November 15 at 5:00 p.m. at Shea's, cost is \$20 per person. An Energy Forum will take place on November 13 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. Information about programs to help with heating costs will be available. Mr. Spadaccini stated that the preliminary proposal for Federal funds to alleviate the foreclosure crisis has the funds directed to only seven municipalities and Manchester is not one of the seven. He is

concerned with this distribution and will make his opinion known. He stated that the proposed dates for the service level planning meetings are December 3, December 16, January 8, and January 20 and asked for a consensus from other Directors on these dates.

The Directors agreed that the first three dates were fine and that they would change the last meeting from January 20 to January 21 provided the room is available.

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

**Director Tweedie** asked for updates on the following: the RFP for the Architect for the Mary Cheney Library expansion, the demolition of the Adams Street house, and the renovations of the Youth Services building. Mr. Tweedie asked General Manager Shanley to arrange for taping of the joint Board of Education/Board of Directors meeting to be held on November 19.

**Director Zingler** asked for a report on out of state travel expenses over the last two years in preparation for discussion of item 16.O. He would like a ballpark figure, not a report by member. Item 16.K concerns the subcommittee regarding the content of messages and while reading minutes of a recent Human Relations Committee meeting noticed that lengthy comments made by Attorney Naab were referred to. He asked Attorney Naab if he would provide a paragraph or two about the comments he made during that meeting since they were not included in the minutes.

**Director Farina** asked for a legal opinion on the result of a tie vote in a committee with an even number of members, specifically in reference to the Redevelopment Agency. Attorney Naab answered that typically the vote fails.

**6. RECESS TO SECOND WEEK.**

The meeting was recessed until the November 18, 2008 second meeting of the month.

**Director Beckman moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**Recess: 8:55 p.m.**

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**APPROVED:**

**ATTEST:**

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**Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors**