

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AUGUST 12, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM

ONE MEETING

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 – 6:15 P.M.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. and returned at 6:55 p.m. Present for Personnel Matters were Mayor Spadaccini, Deputy Mayor Peak, Secretary Pelletier, Directors Tweedie, Beckman, Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, and Farina, General Manager Shanley, Town Attorney Naab, Director of Administrative Services Moore, and Attorney Murray. Present for the matter of Pending Litigation were Mayor Spadaccini, Deputy Mayor Peak, Secretary Pelletier, Directors Tweedie, Beckman, Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, and Farina, General Manager Shanley, and Town Attorney Naab. There were no votes taken.

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Spadaccini.

2. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS.

There were no awards or presentations.

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

Arthur Steele, 683 Vernon Street, explained that Vernon Street was repaved approximately four years ago and at that time the foreman said someone would be back in a couple of weeks to install a driveway apron. He stated he still does not have a driveway apron. Mr. Steele expressed concern about the material put on the road during the winter season. He is afraid it is poisonous to his animals because he has noticed the trees and grass along the side of the road have died. He has contacted the Health Department regarding this and has received no response.

Joe Bernard, 28 Theresa Road, stated that the portable toilets located in the parks are filthy and need to be cleaned up or removed. He noted that the clothing donation boxes at the parks are overflowing and also should be cleaned up or removed.

Michael Pohl, 157 Brookfield Street, spoke in support of the Living Wage Ordinance. He believes it has not adversely affected the community, does not cost the Town a large amount of money, and is smart economic policy. Mr. Pohl applauded the Charter Revision Commission for its great bipartisan effort. He thinks the Youth Commission is a great idea but is concerned about the timing in light of the recent decision to develop a strategic plan.

June Pinkin, 22 Santina Drive, spoke in favor of the Living Wage Ordinance and would like to see her tax dollars spent on it. Cigna's CEO is the highest paid in the insurance industry and the twenty-eighth highest paid in all industry. She does not understand why Cigna was even considered if it does not pay a living wage.

Jamshid Marvasti, 357 East Center Street, supports the Living Wage Ordinance. He has witnessed the effects of poverty in his occupation as a Psychiatrist. To children, poor equals different and this has negative effects on their mental image. Dr. Marvasti stated that our economy makes the poor poorer and the rich richer.

Nancy Parker, 193 Homestead Street, Secretary of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity and Justice, pays taxes on a small condominium and an old car, but in doing so assures herself of a place to stay and transportation; her basic needs are met. She was very pleased when the Living Wage Ordinance was passed two years ago because it meant others would have their basic needs met because of it. Ms. Parker noted that a living wage is equal to the bare minimum. She is ashamed to be part of a Town that is considering rescinding the Living Wage Ordinance.

Anne Carr, 67 Cambridge Street, expressed her pride in living in a town that balances business and its citizens. She was proud when the Living Wage Ordinance was enacted. Ms. Carr understands there are issues with the Living Wage and urged the Board of Directors to "fix it, not nix it."

Milt Perlman, 3 Sanford Road, spoke about the school budget, comparing the Board of Education budgets for Manchester, East Hartford, and Glastonbury with the number of students beings served in each Town. Manchester's budget is \$14 million more than the other Towns and is serving fewer students; this should be investigated. Mr. Perlman noted the recent change from an "F" rating to a "G" rating, which indicates the level of poverty in Town has increased. Mr. Perlman asked for the history on the designated fund balance and how much money is in the fund.

Bonnie Schuetz, 12 Conway Road, asked that the Living Wage Ordinance be left alone. She spoke about the need for road repairs and mentioned several in her area that need attention. Ms. Schuetz asked when the kids would be able to use the Spruce Street Firehouse and the Linden Street building. She thanked the Police and Fire Departments. Something needs to be done about the Parkade. She has seen people climbing on the roofs of the buildings there.

David Dumaine, 86 Tracy Drive, a member of the Catholic community of Manchester and affiliated with the Interfaith Coalition of Equity and Justice, spoke in support of the Living Wage Ordinance. He believes people have the right to fair wages and that the economy exists to serve

people, not the other way around. He stated that people who earn a living wage are able to support themselves. He would like to see the ordinance tweaked, not abolished.

Aldo Enrico, 57 Bissell Street, thanked the Board and the public for their participation in the ice cream social at the Spruce Street Firehouse. He thought the turnout was great and thanked the local businesses that donated items for the occasion. Mr. Enrico encouraged participation and solicited ideas for future gatherings.

Eileen Sweeney, 86 Hawthorne Street, expressed ongoing concerns about decisions concerning demolition of residential, commercial, and government buildings. She believes the plan to demolish the Hollister Street School is shortsighted. Ms. Sweeney noted the availability of funds for planning and feasibility studies and urged Town leaders to take advantage of grants to find alternatives to demolition. Finally, Ms. Sweeney asked the Board to schedule a public forum allowing Manchester citizens to voice their opinions.

Dot Brindamour, 6 Morse Road, asked Board members why they haven't learned from the experiences of the City of Hartford or the University of Connecticut in tearing down old buildings to build new. Building new costs taxpayers quite a bit more than fixing up what is already there. Ms. Brindamour asked the Board members how they could even consider repealing the Living Wage Ordinance considering the increase costs of food and gas. She is disappointed that the Board is opposing the Journal Inquirer newspaper boxes. This newspaper is our newspaper, run by local people.

John Dormer, 58 Patriot Lane, was recently told that the demolition of the Hollister Street School has been in the works for about five years, but he doesn't remember it being a topic of conversation that long. Mr. Dormer suggested that in the future the Town do a better job of publicizing plans so there is no misunderstanding. Mr. Dormer questioned whether the cost of renovating Hollister Street School was ever investigated. He noted that the plans have been changed at the last minute and there is a difference of opinion in the cost savings to the Town. Mr. Dormer believes that the need for a recent referendum for Highland Park School for modifications and improvements stems from the lack of maintenance of the building over the years and would like to be assured that a maintenance plan is in place. He stressed that the Town cannot wait until something is broken. Preventative maintenance prevents problems from occurring. He suggested that the budget for building maintenance be increased by the same percentage as the Board of Education budget each year to provide for preventative maintenance.

Vivian Ferguson, 78 Forest Street, Town Historian, expressed that she is saddened by the proposed demolition of the Hollister Street School and would prefer that the interior be remodeled and additional space added if needed. She pointed out several restored structures currently in use by the Town. Ms. Ferguson is concerned about two buildings being considered for demolition, the former home of John Olds and a home in the Cheney District. Ms. Ferguson suggested the Board of Directors form a study committee to study properties in jeopardy long before a demolition notice is issued. The first step would be to meet with the Circuit Rider from the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation and Ms. Ferguson would be happy to arrange that meeting for sometime in early September.

John Ryan, 42 Hollister Street, believes the Living Wage Ordinance is bigger than just Manchester. The economy is a national problem. He reported that 37 million people live below the poverty level and 100 million people are making less than a living wage. Mr. Ryan said many municipalities “stuck their necks out” during the civil rights movement and a couple of years ago Manchester became a beacon for economic rights. He believes it would be sad if Manchester “turned the light off.”

Nancy Pappas, 338 Spring Street, works for the Community Renewal Team, which processes 26,000 applications for heating assistance per year. Approximately 3,500 of those are from Manchester citizens. She was very proud when Manchester passed the Living Wage Ordinance. Ms. Pappas compared the Living Wage Ordinance with the standards set by the United States for children’s toys and the recent lead problems.

Nancy Lister, 68 McKinley Street, spoke in support of the Living Wage Ordinance. She was pleased when the Town passed the ordinance and is dismayed now at the discussion of rescinding it. In these difficult economic times, it is important to strengthen the safety net of vulnerable families, not dismantle it. Ms. Lister reported the widening gap between rich and poor, with the top 1% of earners making over \$3 million and the bottom 10% of earners making less than \$8 per hour.

Jacki Campion, 248 Woodbridge Street, was proud two years ago when Manchester adopted the Living Wage Ordinance and is still a proponent of it. She works for MACC and has seen a large increase over the last year in the number of people needing to use the food pantry service. For people who are struggling, a living wage can help them maintain their dignity.

Director Zingler moved, and Director Farina seconded the motion, to exceed the one-hour time limit available for public comments.

Nine Voted in Favor

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, thinks if a Board member runs for office and does not complete their term, they should not receive a rocking chair. Mr. Ogden recently had trouble with his tax bill and needed to avail himself of the services of the Tax Department. He found the personnel in that department to be accommodating and very nice. Mr. Ogden thinks the Living Wage Ordinance is a “sham.” If people are going to be paid a living wage, nobody should be excluded.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, attended the Supportive Housing Forum and thought it went well. We need to deal with the poor in a different way; we can do better in a country as rich as ours. Mr. Stringfellow mentioned the book, The Spirit of Democratic Capitalism by Michael Novak. As a proud union member, Mr. Stringfellow asked the Board of Directors to modify the Living Wage Ordinance rather than repeal it.

Rita McParland, 63 Nutmeg Road, remembers when the north end of Manchester was totally razed years ago and fears that the anchors of Manchester’s history are quickly disappearing. She believes the Hollister Street School building can be preserved and reused. The Board only needs to look at Bennet School to see how successful preservation can be.

Joe Brooks, Bush Hill Road, said Manchester should be proud of Officer Don Poist for his actions in Coventry. He thanked Director Tweedie for the time he took to review Mr. Brooks' dispute with the Police Department. He hopes something positive will come from that meeting. Mr. Brooks contacted his State Representative requesting a citation six to eight months ago and has yet to receive it. He hopes nobody within the Town interfered with his receipt of the citation as he earned it fourteen years ago.

Geoff Luxenberg, 249 New State Road, stated that times are tough financially right now and many are wondering how they will pay for heat, tuition, and food. There is a threat that the \$11 per hour some are making will now be reduced to \$7.65 per hour. Mr. Luxenberg cited a long-range university study of 83 businesses covered by the Living Wage Ordinance. The companies involved reported a substantial decrease in turnover, a substantial rise in productivity, a decrease in training costs, a greater sense of corporate stability, and a more competitive business climate. The Living Wage Ordinance actually helped the bottom line of the companies involved in the study. Mr. Luxenberg urged the Board to vote no on the repeal of the Living Wage Ordinance.

Monica Katkavich, 91 Elm Street, Unit 301D, related her belief in the importance of keeping buildings standing, especially the Hollister Street school. Europe is very good at preserving buildings and old homes; they are considered treasures. Manchester is a beautiful city and has character.

Sue O'Connor, 7 Joan Circle, President of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce, spoke in favor of the repeal of the Living Wage Ordinance on behalf of the Chamber's membership. The concern that the Living Wage Ordinance would have a negative effect on the Town's economy and business environment seems to have been borne out. Ms. O'Connor highlighted other programs created by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce's Living Wage Alternative Committee, such as the LIFE program, the LIFE Scholarship, and the EITC efforts.

Tom Green, 32 Pearl Street, applauds efforts made to help the poorer members of our community. He urged the Board to continue to support the Living Wage Ordinance. Minimum wage is not enough to support a family.

Jerry O'Connor, 7 Joan Circle, took objection to the demonstrating that took place outside of the Mayor's place of business. He does not want to see the Living Wage Ordinance used as a political football. It was a bad idea when it was created, was a bad idea two years ago when it was pushed through and is still a bad idea. It is not a program, just lip service.

Secretary Pelletier moved to suspend the rules to address Item 8.0, Approval of the Rescission of Chapter 212, Living Wage, of the Code of Ordinances. Deputy Mayor Peak seconded the motion.

Director Zingler questioned the purpose of moving this item and expressed his opinion that this may set a precedent.

Mayor Spadaccini explained that a number of people have spoken regarding this item and would like to hear the outcome.

Five Voted in Favor
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman
Four Voted in Opposition
Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina

Item 8.O. Public Hearing: Approval of the rescission of Chapter 212, Living Wage, of the Code of Ordinances.

Director Farina moved to table this item and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Four Voted in Favor
Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina
Five Voted in Opposition
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman

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

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, believes the LIFE Scholarship, the LIFE and EITC Programs only work to a certain extent. He wants people to be able to help themselves. Capitalism needs to change. The United States owes money to foreign countries and they want to collect. Mr. Stringfellow urged the Board to modify the Living Wage Ordinance, not repeal it.

Joe Bernard, 28 Theresa Road, asked the Board of Directors why it is considering rescinding the Living Wage ordinance and urged them to leave it alone.

June Pinkin, 22 Santina Drive, pointed out that the Living Wage Ordinance has not harmed the Town in any way and that the programs mentioned by Ms. O'Connor are provided for by tax money through the State. She suggested continuing both programs. Ms. Pinkin believes people should be willing to pay more for what is right.

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Road, reiterated his belief that the Living Wage Ordinance is a "sham." He suggested instead of contracting work out, put people to work.

General Manager Shanley stated that all Town employees are paid a living wage. Contract employees may or may not be, but when a contract comes up for renewal, that will be part of the new contract.

David Dumaine, 86 Tracy Drive, works for the Department of Social Services and stated that food stamp applications are up 15-20%. As a union member, he is paid a decent wage and has health insurance. The Living Wage Ordinance is for people that don't have that security where they are employed. Mr. Dumaine wants to be sure that his tax dollars are going toward paying a living wage.

Nancy Parker, 193 Homestead Drive, was upset by the comments made by the President of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. She is not an outsider and truly believes the Living Wage Ordinance is the right thing to do. She would like to see evidence that the Living Wage Ordinance is not working. Ms. Parker pointed out that if a person is making \$11 per hour and is told they must go back to \$8 per hour, that will be a huge difference for that employee.

Anne Carr, 67 Cambridge Street, was not encouraged to be at the meeting by any outside interests. She applauds the programs developed and publicized by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. She does not suggest ending the other programs but that the Living Wage Ordinance is another way to attack the problem. She would like to see the Board change the ordinance as it affects the insurer.

Milt Perlman, 3 Sanford Road, believes an atmosphere where workers are in demand must be created. He gave an example of a student that recently graduated from Howell Cheney Technical High School and is making \$27 per hour. People need training and skills.

Richard Demarse, 480 Dennison Ridge, does not know how many people benefited from the Living Wage Ordinance. At times communities are called upon to make a statement and show where they stand. The decision made tonight will make a symbolic statement.

Jacki Champion, 248 Woodbridge Street, believes that how we treat the most vulnerable population affects how we are looked at as a community. She stated Manchester already has a 12% poverty rate and asked if we want to increase that percentage.

Martha Digiovanni, 215 Kennedy Road, is a teacher at Bowers Elementary School and is privy to stories. She was present at Board meetings two years ago speaking in favor of the Living Wage Ordinance. She does not want to see the Board rescind the Living Wage Ordinance.

John Ryan, 42 Hollister Street, read that it would cost the Town about \$800,000 to go with the next higher insurance bid. He questioned whether Cigna would really throw away such a large contract.

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

Deputy Mayor Peak thanked the members of the public for their comments and said he has received the message that it is the Board's moral obligation to help its neighbors. Although Mr. Peak agrees, he is not sure if that means supporting this specific policy. The reason this is on the agenda is because of taxpayer costs, relationship costs, and opportunity costs. Mr. Peak stated that the Living Wage Ordinance has largely and almost completely been ineffective in accomplishing its stated aims. The direction we should move government in needs to fill a higher moral obligation rather than just saying we "want to help poor people." This Board has been quietly doing the right moral things over the last couple of years, including implementing a number of policies which improved the lives of real Manchester residents more than the Living Wage Ordinance without dividing our community.

Mr. Peak explained that when the Town re-bid for an insurance provider, Cigna came in \$800,000 below the next highest bidder. Come to find out, Cigna is not in compliance with the Living Wage Ordinance. Cigna employees in Manchester and in Connecticut are well paid, but there are a minimal number of Cigna employees who do not earn \$11 per hour. No Manchester families would be helped whether we pull out of the contract or not, but it would cost the Town of Manchester \$800,000 more for insurance this year. Mr. Peak spoke about expansion of business in Manchester and the redevelopment of the Parkade. It is likely that any business that goes into the Parkade will be a retail business, which will employ entry-level workers. Proponents of the Living Wage Ordinance say it's morally wrong to do business with a company that does not pay the Living Wage. Business owners are furious about the Living Wage Ordinance; it does not allow the market to set wages, but instead says the market is not allowing for enough pay.

Mr. Peak stated that people who get an education are able to earn higher wages and pointed out several programs that achieve that, including the Manchester LIFE Scholarship, the Pharmacy Tech training program, Capital Workforce Partners, and the EITC. Mr. Peak concluded by stating that the exemptions to the ordinance prove that this is an unworkable ordinance.

Director O'Neill explained that Cigna requested a change in the reporting procedure and suggested revising the Living Wage Ordinance by changing the reporting requirements for businesses with over 1,000 employees. If the Board received the amended language in time for its first meeting in September, it could vote in September, allowing enough time for Cigna to comply within the required ninety days.

Director O'Neill moved to strike the rescission and ask the Town Attorney to draft language allowing for amended reporting requirements for companies with over 1,000 employees. Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Director Farina said he thought that tweaking the Living Wage Ordinance is a reasonable request.

Director Zingler also expressed his opinion that amending the ordinance is a reasonable request that will solve future problems. The Living Wage Ordinance has had no financial impact to the Town and is beneficial to the community. The argument against the Living Wage Ordinance two years ago was that it would push costs through the roof. Manchester just went through a huge amount of school renovations, yet the Living Wage Ordinance did not have a financial impact.

Director Kissmann supports the amendment suggested by Director O'Neill. The Board members have heard many people speak during public comment about why the Living Wage Ordinance should not be rescinded. For that reason, it seems to be reasonable to look at an amendment.

Secretary Pelletier stated she does not support the suggested amendment. She pointed out that the building projects use a prevailing wage, which is well above the living wage. This ordinance has been fraught with exceptions. Ms. Pelletier does not believe it is the Board's responsibility to legislate morals or wages.

Mayor Spadaccini stated that he finds the amendment difficult because it only deals with part of the problem. He does not think it's fair to make an exception for larger employees. The best way to set a minimum wage is at the state and national levels.

Four Voted in Favor
Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina
Five Voted in Opposition
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman

Director Zingler received several communications regarding the Living Wage Ordinance, including an e-mail relaying numerous voicemail messages received in the General Manager's office. The majority of those who left messages were in favor of keeping the Living Wage Ordinance.

Director Beckman supports the rescission of the Living Wage Ordinance. Businesses employ more people by allowing them the opportunity to grow. Business owners know what is good for their businesses and they do not support the Living Wage Ordinance. The Living Wage Ordinance does not support economic growth; in fact, it cuts out the opportunity for growth. Rescission of this ordinance will send a message that Manchester supports its businesses.

Director Farina reviewed several statements made during this discussion and asked the General Manager if evidence shows that the Living Wage Ordinance is not working.

General Manager Shanley stated that he did not want to get into the middle of this debate. He has provided significant detail to the Board members and will leave the decision to them.

Director Farina reminded the Board that waivers were initially seen as part of this ordinance and were to be expected. He thinks it is foolish to get rid of an ordinance because an occasional waiver is needed. Mr. Farina pointed out Section 15.50 of the ordinance, First Source Hiring of Town Residents, and said the Board should have held on to that portion of the ordinance when it waived it for Vision Technical Molding. He believes the Living Wage Ordinance is a beacon of hope for everyone and does not want to see it extinguished.

Director Tweedie pointed out that out of 169 municipalities in Connecticut, only four have added a Living Wage Ordinance and Manchester's version has many exemptions. The Town will save \$800,000 by contracting with Cigna and we saved 190 jobs with Vision Technical Molding. Mr. Tweedie asserted that the ordinance is full of holes and is not fair or useful. Higher wages result from higher skills. Efforts and tax dollars should be used to develop skills.

Secretary Pelletier explained that the Republican caucus is not looking for a chance to "kill the ordinance." It has become increasingly apparent that the Living Wage Ordinance is dead on

arrival. Ms. Pelletier listed every wage earner exempted from the Living Wage Ordinance and pointed out that out of 210 companies that Manchester has done business with, 160 were exempt. The majority were excused by the Connecticut General Statutes. Advocates for the Living Wage Ordinance insist that the lowest paid workers are victims, but in fact, they suffer from a lack of skill or education. Ms. Pelletier believes that rescinding the Living Wage Ordinance offers the opportunity for entry-level jobs to come to Manchester.

Director O'Neill offered a friendly amendment as a way to keep the Board from being divisive. The paraprofessionals employed by the Board of Education are paid a living wage. The only waiver she has heard is the tax abatement recently given to Vision Technical Molding. That makes one waiver in two years. This is basically a difference in philosophy between the two parties.

Director Farina agreed that waivers to the Living Wage Ordinance have not been numerous. In fact this would only be the second waiver and the first waiver was done hastily. Part-time employees often have different needs than full-time employees. The Board of Directors cannot apply this ordinance to the Board of Education, but Mr. Farina wishes the Board of Education would come up with its own ordinance. In the report provided to the Board, the Living Wage Ordinance covered 3,071 employees. Mr. Farina understands that this is not to say the Living Wage Ordinance caused higher wages, but rather, protected wages.

Director Farina moved to amend Chapter 212, Living Wage, of the Code of Ordinances to include part-time employees. Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

**Three Voted in Favor
Zingler, Kissmann, Farina**

**Six Voted in Opposition
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman, O'Neill**

Mayor Spadaccini stated that canceling the contract with Cigna will cost the Town \$800,000 and he cannot risk costing the Town that much money. The Town benefits from Manchester LIFE, Workforce Partners, the CNA Program, and the Pharmacy Tech training program. He would like to increase participation in employment training and target it toward Manchester residents. Mr. Spadaccini has been hearing that the Living Wage Ordinance will have no cost impact to the Town. If the contract with Cigna gets cancelled, it will cost the Town a fortune to find another insurance carrier and may jeopardize the Town's ability to provide health insurance. He asked how fair it is to have one set of rules for the largest contract holder and another set for the rest of the Town's contract holders.

Mr. Spadaccini noted that the Board waived the Living Wage Ordinance a few months ago and by doing so saved 190 jobs. The Majority made a responsible decision to waive the ordinance and helped a Manchester business make a decision to expand locally. He has heard of only three other municipalities that do have a Living Wage Ordinance, Hartford, New Haven, and New Britain, and he does not find evidence that this type of ordinance has improved things in those municipalities.

Deputy Mayor Peak moved to approve the rescission of Chapter 212, Living Wage, of the Code of Ordinances. Director Beckman seconded the motion.

**Five Voted in Favor
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman
Four Voted in Opposition
Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina**

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- A. Actions, July 1, 2008 – Regular Meeting
- B. Minutes, July 1, 2008 – Regular Meeting
- C. Actions, July 8, 2008 – Regular Meeting
- D. Minutes, July 8, 2008 – Regular Meeting
- E. Minutes, June 19, 2008 – Special Meeting of Board of Directors and Charter Revision Commission.

Director Zingler asked that the discussion concerning the Cheney Hall Building on page four of the July 8, 2008 minutes be expanded.

Secretary Pelletier reminded the Board that minutes are not to be verbatim.

A motion was made, and seconded, to adopt the minutes as amended.

Nine Voted in Favor

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

Director Zingler received a communication from Pat Brooks of the Board of Education, apologizing for the appearance of the grass at Nathan Hale School. Directors Zingler and Kissmann had been at a clean up day in the area and were amazed at the appearance of the school. Mr. Zingler contacted Ms. Brooks about his concerns and the lawn was cleaned up promptly. He expressed his appreciation for a quick response.

Director O'Neill mentioned a copy of an e-mail to Director Zingler that all Board members received from Director Pelletier with what she considered disrespectful language and reminded Board members of Section 9.1 of the Rules of Procedure that asks Board members to avoid personalities in debate. She suggested the rules be in force for all types of communication, including correspondence. Ms. O'Neill received a communication from Eileen Sweeney regarding the re-use of existing buildings. Director Pelletier apologized to Director Zingler for her communication.

Mayor Spadaccini reminded all Board members to be diplomatic in their correspondence.

RECESS.

The Board took a brief recess at 10:40 p.m. and returned at 10:45 p.m.

Director Tweedie moved and Director Beckman seconded the motion to recess.

Nine Voted in Favor

6. REPORTS.

A. Manager's Report.

General Manager Shanley reported that the Town is currently working on the application for \$196,000 of Federal grant money for the Spruce Street Firehouse. The State Bond Commission approved \$500,000. There is no timeframe at this point. The Board of Directors has decided there will be a neighborhood process to determine what will be done in the building. Planning needs to be done concurrently to be sure improvements taking place in the building are consistent with the plans for activities that will take place there.

On Linden Street, there is a total of \$475,000 available, \$200,000 from CDBG, \$150,000 approved by the State Bond Commission, and \$125,000 in the current budget. The work has been assigned to a point person, the asbestos review has been completed, and we are currently working to get rid of asbestos in preparation of working on the heating system.

Mr. Shanley thanked Senator Handley for her assistance with the State Bond Commission funding.

1. Bennet School Update.

General Manager Shanley reported that a temporary Certificate of Occupancy has been granted for Bennet School and a permanent Certificate should be awarded any day now. Any outstanding issues are relatively minor and the project is in good shape overall. The Bennet building will open for the beginning of school and a formal dedication will be held on September 3, 2008. The project as a whole has proceeded well, despite the steel beams not being where drawings indicated they would be. The project will be completed on time and there is a plan in place to cover additional costs.

2. Asset Naming Subcommittee.

General Manager Shanley asked for the name of a Democrat and a Republican Board member for an unofficial subcommittee. The group could meet and decide if they want to work this through.

3. Update: Sterling Place/private property drainage.

General Manager Shanley explained that Sterling Place is a private road and that the Town does not make repairs on private property. A water main repair is scheduled in the area however, which will result in drainage improvements. The Public Works Department continues to have discussions with the property owner to see if it can advise in the situation.

General Manager Shanley reported to the Board he received five pieces of correspondence opposing the demolition of the Head Start building. Ordinance requires that opposition provide for a reasonable alternative. He noted that this is not a Town project, but a school project. The issue here is timing. Mr. Shanley explained that the Board began discussions about this project in 2004. On March 1, 2006, Mr. Shanley met with Mary Dunn and Eileen Sweeney and explained the plan. He does not think this project took anybody by surprise. Any delay to the project will be costly with an estimated \$60,000 to \$80,000 in additional costs. Mr. Shanley held a meeting to speak with the five citizens, but they were unwilling to attend. He would like the opportunity to speak with this group to explain the issues involved. The likelihood is that there would be little change except a 90-day delay and additional costs.

Secretary Pelletier requested that a Board of Education member be present at any meeting held with the concerned citizens. The implications involved go beyond the financial realm.

Mr. Shanley stated that both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent of Schools were at the meeting, along with several other staff members.

7. PRESENTATION OF BID WAIVER REQUESTS.

A. IOH Pool Heating Unit

General Manager Shanley explained that since the air handling system was replaced, it has been extremely difficult to maintain a comfortable temperature in the IOH Pool. Many solutions have been tried to no avail. The pool needs a booster heater and the same vendor who installed the air handling system can install the heater and integrate it with the current system. This will avoid the additional costs of hiring someone to develop the highly technical specifications.

The Board of Directors approved the Bid Waiver for the IOH Pool Heating Unit.

B. Sewer Plant Digester Building Ceiling Repair – Emergency Request

General Manager Shanley explained that the Digester Building is an old building scheduled for demolition. Currently pieces of the ceiling are falling down in chunks, causing a safety hazard for the employees and the need for quick and immediate action. Currently employees are going into the building with hard hats. A & W Maintenance can apply an epoxy to hold the ceiling together.

The Board of Directors approved the Bid Waiver for the Sewer Plant Digester Building Ceiling Repair.

Director Zingler moved, and Director Kissmann seconded the motion, to suspend the rules to go beyond eleven o'clock.

Nine Voted in Favor

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

- A. 1. Approval of an amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 279, Newsracks in public rights of way, Sections 279-41, 279-43, and 279-45. (A copy of the proposed amendment may be seen in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours.)
2. Approval of the fee schedule for the newsrack ordinance.

Town Attorney Naab reviewed each amendment to the Newsrack Ordinance for the Board members.

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

Mayor Spadaccini would like to make one final effort with the Journal Inquirer to resolve the issues it has with the Newsrack Ordinance and suggested tabling the item to allow time for this.

Director Zingler noted a memorandum from Attorney Naab, dated July 28, 2008, which mentioned considerable time and effort spent by Town staff taking inventory of newspaper boxes. He asked what this meant in terms of manpower.

Mark Carlino, Director of Public Works, said employees attended at least two meetings on this subject, Town staff walked Main Street, and met with Tana Parsileti. There were several internal meetings as well.

Director Zingler asked for information, start to finish, on time spent on this ordinance.

Attorney Naab will do his best to provide this information, but asked Director Zingler to keep in mind that all information would be estimated.

Director Tweedie asked if any of the time spent on this was paid overtime. Mr. Carlino answered in the negative.

Mayor Spadaccini moved to table this item and Director Farina seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

- B. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:
1. State Asset Forfeiture Account\$11,401
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be
financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
 2. Federal Asset Forfeiture Account\$1,746
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be
financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
 3. Manchester Dog Pound.....\$657
to be financed by a donation from Luv My Pet, Inc. which is gratefully
acknowledged and accepted.
 4. Memorial Tree Program.....\$100
to be financed by donations received in honor of Phyllis McQuade and
Phyllis Cushman Derrick which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
 5. Family History Day..... \$1,100
to be financed by donations from Bob’s Discount Furniture, Highland Park
Market, Holmes-Watkins Funeral Homes, John F. Tierney Funeral Home, Lynch-
Toyota-Pontiac-Buick, Rockville Bank, SBM Charitable Foundation, Shady Glen
Dairy Stores, and ShopRite of Manchester which are gratefully acknowledged and
accepted.
 6. Hockanum River Linear Park Committee.....\$150
to be financed by donations from Daniel Holmes (\$100) and the Manchester
Land Conservation Trust (\$50) which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
 7. Recreation Department – Special Activities\$942
for donation to Alex’s Lemonade Stand to be financed by funds raised by
the Center for Service Learning Program which are gratefully acknowledged
and accepted.
 8. Recreation Department – Special Activities\$623
for donation to Manchester Dog Owners Group (MDOG) to be financed by
proceeds of the second annual K-9 Kerplunck event which are gratefully
acknowledged and accepted.
 9. Department of Health Bioterrorism Grant (8/10/08 to 8/09/09).....\$63,699
to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut, Department
of Public Health and authorization for Scott Shanley, General Manager,
to enter into and amend any and all related contracts with the State of
Connecticut, Department of Public Health.
 10. Special Grants - Obesity Reduction Programs (7/1/08 to 06/30/09)\$9,705
to be financed by a grant received from the Connecticut Department of
Public Health and authorization for the General Manager, Scott Shanley,
to enter into and amend all related contracts or amendments with the State of
Connecticut Department of Public Health or its successor agency.
 11. Historic Document Preservation\$50,000
to be funded by a State Library Historic Document Preservation
Competitive Grant.

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

- C. Appropriation to Fire Reserve – Paramedic Fund\$463
to be funded by donations from local businesses, citizens and visitors which
are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.

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

- D. Appropriation in Education Special Projects - Adult Education Grant (FY 07/08) ...\$6,695
to be financed by additional funds from the State of Connecticut.

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

- E. Appropriation to General Fund - MRA Out of Town Students (FY07/08)\$31,000
to be financed by student tuition payments.

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 – Hop River Trail Parking Lot.....\$30,308
for enhancements to the Hop River Linear Trail State Park parking area
to be funded by a grant through the Connecticut Department of
Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Grants Program.

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

- G. Appropriation to Cemetery Trust Fund (FY07/08).....\$12,000
to be funded from rental income on Hillstown Road property.

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 Special Grants - GASB 45 Implementation\$50,000
to fund start up costs related to the creation of an Other Post Employment
Benefits trust, with the unexpended funds contributed to the Trust for
funding purposes, to be funded by Designated General Fund Balance.

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

- I. Appropriation to Special Grants - Industrial Guidelines Reimbursements\$50,000
for reimbursements to developers under the Industrial Guidelines program
to be funded by Designated Fund Balance.

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

- J. Appropriation to Capital Reserve – Revaluation\$420,000
for the first of three contributions to provide funding for the 2011 Real
Property Revaluation to be funded by Designated General Fund Balance.

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

- K. Appropriation to MSIP\$1,080,960
for additional funding to be funded by Designated General Fund Balance.

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

Director Zingler asked how this was funded in the past. General Manager Shanley answered that this account has not been properly funded in years past. Director Zingler expressed concerns about raiding fund balances to cover items such as this. General Manager Shanley explained that there is a deficit in the MSIP fund and this action will essentially transfer funds from one reserve account to another.

- L. Appropriation to CP 347 Bennet Academy Renovations\$1,050,000
to reduce future borrowing on referendum project to be funded by
Designated General Fund balance.

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

- M. Appropriation to Capital Reserve - Regional Dog Pound\$8,931
to fund Town incurred initial planning costs related to the new regional
dog pound to be funded by Designated General Fund balance.

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

- N. Adoption of an ordinance creating the Manchester Youth Commission. (A copy of the proposed ordinance may be seen in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours.)

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

9. CONSENT CALENDAR (Items 8.H, 8.I, 8.J, 8.L, and 12.R-revised were added.)

8B. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

1. State Asset Forfeiture Account\$11,401
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
2. Federal Asset Forfeiture Account\$1,746
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
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Public Health and authorization for the General Manager, Scott Shanley,
to enter into and amend all related contracts or amendments with the State of
Connecticut Department of Public Health or its successor agency.
 - 11. Historic Document Preservation\$50,000
to be funded by a State Library Historic Document Preservation
Competitive Grant.
 - 8C. Appropriation to Fire Reserve – Paramedic Fund\$463
to be funded by donations from local businesses, citizens and visitors which
are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
 - 8D. Appropriation in Education Special Projects - Adult Education Grant (FY 07/08) ...\$6,695
to be financed by additional funds from the State of Connecticut.
 - 8E. Appropriation to General Fund - MRA Out of Town Students (FY07/08)\$31,000
to be financed by student tuition payments.
 - 8F. Appropriation to Capital Reserve – Hop River Trail Parking Lot.....\$30,308
for enhancements to the Hop River Linear Trail State Park parking area
to be funded by a grant through the Connecticut Department of
Environmental Protection Recreational Trails Grants Program.
 - 8G. Appropriation to Cemetery Trust Fund (FY07/08).....\$12,000
to be funded from rental income on Hillstown Road property.
 - 8H. Appropriation to Special Grants - GASB 45 Implementation\$50,000
to fund start up costs related to the creation of an Other Post Employment
Benefits trust, with the unexpended funds contributed to the Trust for
funding purposes, to be funded by Designated General Fund Balance.
 - 8I. Appropriation to Special Grants - Industrial Guidelines Reimbursements\$50,000
for reimbursements to developers under the Industrial Guidelines program
to be funded by Designated Fund Balance.
 - 8J. Appropriation to Capital Reserve – Revaluation\$420,000
for the first of three contributions to provide funding for the 2011 Real
Property Revaluation to be funded by Designated General Fund Balance.
 - 8K. Appropriation to MSIP\$1,080,960
for additional funding to be funded by Designated General Fund Balance.
 - 8L. Appropriation to CP 347 Bennet Academy Renovations\$1,050,000
to reduce future borrowing on referendum project to be funded by
Designated General Fund balance.
 - 8M. Appropriation to Capital Reserve - Regional Dog Pound\$8,931
to fund Town incurred initial planning costs related to the new regional
dog pound to be funded by Designated General Fund balance.
 - 12C. Resolution regarding adoption of the Capital Region Council of Governments’ multi-
hazard mitigation plan.
 - 12D. Donation of wooden book shelves from Mary Cheney Library to Manchester
Historical Society.
 - 12G. Approval of Supervisory Collective Bargaining Agreement – July 1, 2008–June 30, 2011.
 - 12H. Approval of Residual Collective Bargaining Agreement – July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.

- 12I. Approval of Municipal Employees' Union (MEU) Collective Bargaining Agreement – July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2011.
- 12J. Approval of early retirement for Deborah Johnson Pettit, Board of Education.
- 12K. Acceptance of resignation of Anthony Bonetti as a non-profit member of the Housing Commission, with a term expiring November 2010.
- 12M. Authorization for the General Manager to approve the demolition of buildings at 362 Adams Street and the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$25,000 from the Sanitation Reserve – Problem Property Remediation Fund for expenses in connection with this demolition.
- 12.R. Adoption of Head Start Authorizing Resolution

Secretary Pelletier moved, and Director Beckman seconded the motion, to adopt the consent calendar with the addition of items 8.H, 8.I, 8.J, 8.L, and 12.R-revised.

Nine Voted in Favor

10. ACTION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING.

- 8N. Adoption of an ordinance creating the Manchester Youth Commission. (A copy of the proposed ordinance may be seen in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours.)

Secretary Pelletier moved to adopt the ordinance creating the Manchester Youth Commission. Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

Director Zingler commended Secretary Pelletier for bringing this item to the Board; however, he would like to give due respect to the consultant and let him fully implement his program. Mr. Goll indicated a youth commission would be a goal of a strategic plan. Mr. Zingler expressed concerns about the make up of the commission.

Director Zingler moved, and Director Kissmann seconded the motion, to table item 8.N.

Four Voted in Favor

Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina

Five Voted in Opposition

Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman

Director O'Neill remembers a youth commission in Manchester in the late 1970s and suggested it may be helpful to research that commission to see why it no longer exists. She is interested in hearing staff recommendations and the recommendations of the consultant.

General Manager Shanley explained that Secretary Pelletier worked with the consultant on the language of this ordinance and he was happy with the language included. He was not quite as happy about the timing of it. Mr. Shanley asked if the effective date could be extended to allow time for staff training.

Director O'Neill was willing to delay voting on this ordinance, allowing staff time to clarify time and cost needs.

Secretary Pelletier stated that Mr. Goll has reviewed this ordinance and made suggestions, 90% of which were incorporated. A youth commission will take quite a bit of time to get up and running and she does not want to delay any more. The time to act is today, not tomorrow. The rules allow for the first meetings to be for training.

General Manager Shanley respectfully requested a little more time to organize staff. He wants the people undertaking this project to be successful.

Mayor Spadaccini suggested sixty days for an effective date.

Director Farina “tipped his hat” to Secretary Pelletier for the job she did. The time for youth is always right now. He believes sixty days will allow Town staff to get this commission up and running correctly.

Deputy Mayor Peak is excited to support the creation of a youth commission. Mr. Goll explained to him that there are currently eight youth commissions in the entire country that are working well and the information he received from Secretary Pelletier is consistent with the successful model. Mr. Peak thinks the Board needs to be action oriented.

Director Kissmann was involved in setting up a juvenile intervention program for fire setters and believes Town staff needs ninety days to fully organize for this commission.

Director Kissmann moved, and Director Zingler seconded the motion, to amend the ordinance to take effect ninety days after the date of publication of the ordinance.

Director Zingler agreed with Director Kissmann. This is something that should be set up properly and it is no small undertaking.

Director Farina was torn because he would like this commission to begin right now, but he also would like it to be set up properly.

**Three Voted in Favor
Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann
Six Voted in Opposition
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman, Farina**

Secretary Pelletier moved, and Director Tweedie seconded the motion, to amend the ordinance to take effect sixty days after the date of publication of the ordinance.

Nine Voted in Favor

Mayor Spadaccini has met with Mr. Goll and is impressed with the attention given to youth initiatives in the past few months. These are exciting times for Manchester.

Mayor Spadaccini called for a vote on the main motion, as amended.

Nine Voted in Favor

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

A. Discussion of water main assessments on Tolland Turnpike.

Secretary Pelletier moved, and Deputy Mayor Peak seconded the motion, to table Item 11.A.

Nine Voted in Favor

B. Adoption of Naming of Public Assets and Dedication Policy.

Secretary Pelletier stated she has read the policy and believes it needs work. She did ask for information on policies from surrounding towns and has not received it. She does not see that a policy will cover all the areas for every nuance that comes up. She would like to handle this on a case-by-case basis and not adopt a policy at this time.

Director Zingler would like to move forward with a subcommittee because he thinks there should be a policy in writing.

Director Zingler moved, and Director Farina seconded the motion, to establish a subcommittee to address the Naming of Public Assets and Dedication Policy.

Deputy Mayor Peak agrees with Secretary Pelletier. He is comfortable with naming of public assets on a case-by-case basis.

Director Tweedie believes that there is a big difference between naming a baseball field and a large building or bridge. Decisions will need to be made on a case-by-case basis.

Mayor Spadaccini stated that he has no objection to using the current guidelines, but wants to maintain an option for discretion, rather than commit to a hard-line policy. He also mentioned all of the work ahead of the Board of Directors and questioned whether a subcommittee to discuss the naming policy would be the best use of the Board's time.

Four Voted in Favor

Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann, Farina

Five Voted in Opposition

Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Becker

Secretary Pelletier moved, and Director Farina seconded the motion, to remove item 11.B from the agenda.

**Six Voted in Favor
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman, Farina
Three Voted in Opposition
Zingler, O'Neill, Kissmann**

C. Discussion of cameras for Manchester Room.

Director Zingler moved, and Secretary Pelletier seconded the motion, to table the discussion of cameras for the Manchester Room.

Nine Voted in Favor

D. Appointment of a member to the Planning and Zoning Commission, with a term expiring November 2009, to fill the vacancy left by Rudy C. Kissmann, Jr.

Secretary Pelletier moved, and Director Beckman seconded the motion, to appoint Salvatore Mancini, 138 Pearl Street.

Nine Voted in Favor

12. NEW BUSINESS.

A. Approval of the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission.

Julian Freund, Budget and Research Officer, explained that items 12.A. and 12.B are the final stages needed in order to place the proposed Charter revisions on the ballot this November.

Director O'Neill moved, and Director Tweedie seconded the motion, to approve Item 12.A.

Director O'Neill thanked the Charter Revision Commission for the nice job they did in a bipartisan manner. She thanked Mr. Freund for his time and effort, and assistance with compromises.

Director Tweedie said that this was his first experience with a Charter revision and was impressed by the display of cooperation and professionalism of the Commission. Town staff was tremendous and the end result impressive.

Director Beckman thanked Town staff and the members of the Charter Revision Commission. He expressed his disappointment in the decision to recommend a referendum without a trigger mechanism, but believes that what has been put forward is an improvement over what currently exists.

Director Kissmann thanked the Commission members and Town staff for the excellent job they did working together. He believes the Town's forefathers did not mean for the Charter to be changed with every political thought, but realized that an adjustment is occasionally needed. He

agrees with the recommendations made and now the citizens of Manchester have the final decision to make.

Deputy Mayor Peak commended Town staff and Commission members for the great job they did. For the first time, Manchester citizens may have the right to petition for a referendum. Although the Commission did not recommend a referendum with a trigger mechanism, what it did recommend is a great improvement.

Director Zingler thanked Town staff and the Charter Revision Commission for their work. It has been a long process with good compromises. He commended the good working relationship of the Commission and the great efforts made by the co-chairs to come together for the good of the entire community.

Secretary Pelletier said a special thank you to the residents and former elected officials who spoke during the public hearing. She suggested that with the elimination of the Treasurer's position, an elected official should be appointed to sit on the Pension Board in his place.

Mayor Spadaccini thanked the volunteers on the Charter Revision Commission for their dedication and tremendous service. This Commission has made significant recommendations, the most significant being the budget referendum.

Nine Voted in Favor

- B. Resolution authorizing the wording and placement of referendum questions for certain Town Charter amendments, as outlined in the attached Schedule A, on the ballot for the regular election to be held November 4, 2008.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-10(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester has appointed a nine member Charter Revision Commission consisting of nine electors of the Town of Manchester; and,

WHEREAS, on July 30, 2008 pursuant to Section 7-191(c) of the Connecticut General Statutes the Charter Revision Commission has submitted its Final Report; and,

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2008 pursuant to Section 7-191(d) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester voted to approve the Final Report of the Charter Revision Commission; and,

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 7-191(e) of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Board of Directors must determine whether the Charter amendments shall be submitted to the electors of the Town of Manchester for approval or rejection at a regular election or a special election warned and held for that purpose;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester that the proposed charter amendments be placed on the ballot in the form of the following questions at the next regular election scheduled for the Fourth day of November Two Thousand Eight (November 4, 2008) and that pursuant to Section 9-369b(a) of the Connecticut General Statutes the Town Clerk is authorized to prepare explanatory text for the following ballot questions.

Question No. 1: Shall the Town of Manchester amend section 3-4 of the Town Charter to provide that the top vote-getter be elected Chairman of the Board of Directors?

Question No. 2: Shall the Town of Manchester amend section 2-4 of the Town Charter to remove the Standards of Official Conduct from the Charter and enable a supermajority of the Board of Directors to adopt Standards of Official Conduct by ordinance, and thereafter amend them as may be required?

Question No. 3: Shall the Town of Manchester amend chapter 5 of the Town Charter to provide for a petition for budget referendum?

Question No. 4: Shall the Town of Manchester amend sections 5-13 and 5-14 of the Town Charter to eliminate the positions of Town Treasurer and Assistant Town Treasurer?

Question No. 5: Shall the Town of Manchester amend section 3-3 of the Town Charter to increase compensation of the members of the Board of Directors to \$4,500 annually for the Chairman, \$3,500 annually for the Deputy Chairman and Secretary, and \$3,000 annually for the other board members?

Question No. 6: Shall the Town of Manchester amend the Town Charter to make certain technical and administrative changes?

**Secretary Pelletier moved, and Director Zingler seconded the motion, to adopt Item 12.B.
Nine Voted in Favor**

- E. Allocation in Sewer Reserve of \$302,267 for Love Lane & JC Penney Pump Station Rehabilitation to be funded by Unallocated Sewer Reserve.

General Manager Shanley explained that these two items already exist in the capital plan, but the allocation of these additional funds will expand the scope.

Ed Soper, Water and Sewer Administrator, explained that this request represents a change in philosophy, which is to preserve the integrity and infrastructure for the long haul. Between the two projects, \$225,000 has been allocated. Mr. Soper is requesting the additional allocation due to inflation and the change of scope. He explained that both facilities are 31 years old and the typical life span is about 20 years. Both are in need of extensive, comprehensive improvements.

Deputy Mayor Peak clarified that this will not affect the rate schedules. Mr. Soper said this allocation will not affect the rates.

Director O'Neill moved, and Director Kissmann seconded the motion, to adopt Item 12.E.
Nine Voted in Favor

F. Waiver of Living Wage provisions - CIGNA HealthCare.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Beckman seconded the motion to remove item 12.F.
Nine Voted in Favor

L. Appointment of a non-profit member of the Housing Commission to replace Anthony Bonetti, with a term expiring November 2010.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion to table item 12.L.
Nine Voted in Favor

N. Discussion: Reverse auction bidding.

Director Zingler was notified by our State delegation that Public Act 08-141 allows reverse auction bidding and gave a brief explanation of what it is. He thinks this is a good concept and would like the General Manager and Town staff to look into this.

General Manager Shanley agreed that this is a good piece of legislation and Town staff has chosen one product to use as a test for reverse auction bidding.

Alan Desmarais, Director of Finance, explained that the Town is using a third party to test this type of bidding.

General Manager Shanley added that he will provide the Board with a report once the bidding is complete.

Director Farina asked if the Town has considered developing or purchasing the software needed for this.

General Manager Shanley said that this is the first try with this type of bidding and would like to see how it works for Manchester before researching software.

Secretary Pelletier asked how the third party was identified.

Mr. Desmarais explained that he had researched this a couple years ago when the industry was first starting out and had found this vendor. It is a vendor he felt comfortable working with for the first try.

Secretary Pelletier asked that the Board receive a report on cost outlay involved with this bidding.

O. Discussion: Ordinance prohibiting smoking at the Public Library.

Director O'Neill reminded the Board that this was on the January 2008 agenda as a resolution and at that time, there were some issues with the language. Thanks to our Senators and State Representatives, the wording was revised so that the Town Attorney can go forward with a resolution. She reminded Board members that the resolution requested the Town Attorney to draft an ordinance suitable for adoption by the Board of Directors to prohibit smoking of any kind within fifty feet of the entrances and exists of the Mary Cheney and Whiton Libraries.

Town Attorney Naab is aware of two actions by the General Assembly with respect to smoking, but he is unaware of any other amendment or statute and asked Director O'Neill if Senator Handley gave her a reference to a specific Statute or Public Act.

Director O'Neill will contact Senator Handley's office for the exact wording and come back to the Board with a resolution on a future agenda.

P. Discussion: Public Works bond projects.

General Manager Shanley made clear to Board members that Town staff is not recommending a referendum.

Mayor Spadaccini reminded the Board members of a workshop on this subject scheduled for September and suggested picking up this discussion at that time.

Director Zingler asked what the timeframe would look like if the Board decided to go forward with a referendum. General Manager Shanley answered that the question needs to be with the Secretary of State in mid-September. Director Zingler explained his concern over the costs of raw materials and that the Town may miss a window of opportunity as costs rise.

Secretary Pelletier suggested the General Manager be prepared with documentation should the Board decide to go forward.

Director O'Neill reminded the Board that deadlines are involved and suggested the Manager provide a listing of needed roadwork for the September 2 meeting, similar to what was provided during the budget season. It may be wise to repair some streets that are in dire straights.

Deputy Mayor Peak stated that the whole purpose for a workshop on bonded indebtedness was to have a plan in place. He understands the pressing importance of road repairs, but wants to make sure the Board is informed about the big picture. He suggested changing the date of the bonded indebtedness workshop.

General Manager Shanley will structure a timeline and distribute to Board members via e-mail.

Q. Discussion: Reconvene joint subcommittee regarding elementary school improvements.

Director Farina explained that the Board of Education is currently going forward with this and thinks the Board of Directors should match their efforts and reconvene this subcommittee.

13. COMMENT AND DISCUSSION BY BOARD MEMBERS ON ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA OR OF GENERAL CONCERN.

Director Kissmann asked the General Manager to talk to Town staff regarding the curve by Buckley School to make drivers more aware of it, possibly putting up more signs to allow for more warning. He also noticed brush starting to grow over the travel lane by that curve, heading north. Brush is overgrown on the sidewalk on the east side of Vernon Street near where Cook's Garage used to be. Mr. Kissmann related a violent incident that occurred on Spruce Street and thinks there may be more of a problem than we realize in that area. He wondered if maybe there is more the Town can do in that area.

Director Zingler asked for a status report on the LIFE Program and on the LIFE Scholarship.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned until the September 2, 2008 Regular Meeting of the Manchester Board of Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion to adjourn.

**Eight Voted in Favor
(Beckman out of the room)**

Adjourn: 1:23 a.m.

gem

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors