

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 1, 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 (7:12 p.m.), Topping, and Sheridan

ALSO: General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Naab

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Spadaccini.

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

Mayor Spadaccini reminded speakers of Rule 6.6 of the Board of Directors Rules of Procedure which states, "Members of the public shall observe the same rules of propriety, decorum and good conduct applicable to members of the Board of Directors. No person shall attempt to engage any Board member, the General Manager or Town staff member in debate or line of questioning. No person addressing the Board shall utter profane, derogatory, contemptuous, slanderous or harassing remarks."

Tana Parseliti, 983 Main Street, Suite 10, Manager of Downtown Manchester Special Services District (DMSSD), stated that members of the DMSSD support the proposed amendment regulating newsracks in public rights of way. This was identified as a priority in their strategic planning meetings. The DMSSD welcomes the opportunity to provide input.

David Svalestad, 64 Bette Drive, spoke about the various voting options being discussed with regard to the Highland Park School referendum. He does not think this is the time to experiment with new voting situations. All polling places should be open and voting should take place on a Tuesday. This is an important item for the Town of Manchester and the school system.

Terry Werkhoven, 88 Santina Drive, expressed his opinion that the Town did not need to hire an architect for the situation at Highland Park School and questioned whether the rules were followed in the hiring of the architect. Mr. Werkhoven believes the debt service in this Town is high enough and the Town should forego a bond issue at this time. The Board of Education was given \$100,000 one year ago and should have fixed the roof at that time. Mr. Werkhoven would like to know who selected the architect and how it was done.

Paul Bolduc, 147 Ferguson Road, stated that more than just the leaking roof was brought up during public comments about the problems at Highland Park School. Everybody will have the opportunity to vote. Given the percentage of voters that come out for this type of vote, he is in favor of a traditional voting scenario.

Joe Brooks, 601 Bush Hill Road, reviewed the Manager’s proposed budget for the Police Department and asked how many people are currently being paid as Captains. There is a statement saying that there will be three Captains for an interim period of time. He asked why and how long an interim period is. Mr. Brooks asked why there is an Executive Assistant to the Chief and what rank he is. He also questioned the need for a Deputy Chief when there is an Executive Assistant. He stated that two Captain positions under Administration and one under Patrol is misleading.

Neal Leon, 10 Laurel Terrace, thanked the Board for the referendum on Highland Park School. He supports a referendum in early June on a Tuesday as traditionally done. He is concerned that there won’t be sufficient voter turnout on a Saturday.

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, doesn’t disagree with Mayor Spadaccini’s request for respecting Rule 6.6 but thinks Board members should not be using computers, ignoring speakers, and walking out of the room when the public is speaking. He asked if there are any changes in the agreement with Manchester Country Club that would give the Town any liability whatsoever. He spoke about the three free days at the Country Club and the 501(c)(3) rule. Mr. Ogden would like to see the lease followed to the letter of the law.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

1. Federal Asset Forfeiture Account\$9,277
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
2. Public Safety - Police.....\$21,100
for a highway safety project entitled “Speed Limit Obedience Wave (S.L.O.W.)” to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut.
3. Library Donation Trust Fund Account
 - a. 2008 “One Book, One Town” Reading Program.....\$2,300
to be financed by an additional donation from SBM Charitable Foundation which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
 - b. Purchase of books\$1,625
to be financed by donations from Ann and Steven Hirth (\$100), Margaret Crone (\$500), Nancy McNamara (\$25) and Thelma Woodbridge (\$1,000) which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
4. Senior Center Donations - to be financed by donations from program participants and the public at large which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted:
 - a. Programs and activities\$337
 - b. Senior Circle and AT HOME programs\$104
 - c. Senior Center – computer classes\$967

5. Recreation Department Special Activities Fund.....\$3,000
to be financed by donation from SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc. to support
the annual children’s fishing derby which is gratefully acknowledged and
accepted.

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

Joe Brooks, 601 Bush Hill Road, supports the appropriations and acceptance of grants. Members of the Police Department should have anything they need that will make their jobs easier. Mr. Brooks is only concerned about the actions of certain personnel.

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

Deputy Mayor Peak asked how long the One Book, One Town program has been going on and if it is one of the more successful programs.

Doug McDonough, Library Director, answered that this is only the second time running this program. Last time approximately 2,000 people read the same book.

- B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:
 1. School Security Grant (FY 2007-08).....\$78,043
to be financed by a grant from the Connecticut State Department of
Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

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

- C. Appropriations to General Fund:
 1. Public Safety – Police\$10,657
for reimbursement of overtime expenses related to the Click It or Ticket
enforcement campaign for the period November 12-24, 2007 to be
financed by a grant from the Federal Highway Safety Program.

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 to Whiton Library Fund – Renovations.....\$38,700
for certain capital improvements to be funded by Whiton Library Undesignated
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.

- E. Appropriations to Capital Improvement Reserve - Streetlights in accordance with the streetlight acquisition plan as follows:
1. for installation of two (2) streetlights.....\$2,339
in the Harvest Farms, Section 3 Subdivision, to be financed by a payment from Lawrence F. Fiano Builders & Developers.
 2. for installation of four (4) streetlights.....\$4,677
in the Manchester West Subdivision, Phase 3F to be financed by a payment from J. J. Scelza Company.
 3. for installation of one (1) streetlight\$2,153
in the Bramblebush Farms, Sect. V, Phase II Subdivision to be financed by a payment from Merritt Baldwin Construction Co.

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

Director Tweedie asked if the appropriations are being made because of decorative streetlights the builders want in the neighborhood.

General Manager Shanley explained that Manchester purchased the streetlights from CL&P in 2004. When plans call for lights, the developer pays the Town of Manchester, who then installs them.

Deputy Mayor Peak asked if there has been any progress on LED lights.

General Manager Shanley has not seen anything in the Legislature on LED Lights. Senator Handley has been pressing this issue through a committee. CCM has been asked to join in making this happen.

Secretary Pelletier asked if the Town owns the lights and controls the purchases, is anything being done to ensure light is being cast down.

General Manager Shanley will ask Mr. Carlino to provide a report.

- F. Approval of an ordinance regulating newsracks in public rights of way. (A copy of the proposed ordinance may be seen in the Town Clerk's office during normal business hours.)

Rich Staye, Utility Engineer, explained that several departments collaborated to find and develop a summation of ordinances in communities which have stood the test of time. The Main Street area was identified as a unique area, having many items that would enforce restrictions.

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 stated that he is looking forward to passing this ordinance. With the variety in colors and sizes available, the ordinance is not too limiting, instead it just sets some parameters.

Director Zingler referred to item C in Section 279-45 which states, “No newsrack shall be chained, bolted, or otherwise attached to any tree, traffic pole, light pole or other fixed object located within the public right-of-way.” He is concerned that paper boxes may be stolen if they cannot be affixed to something. He asked for a report or some information from the Police Department regarding theft of newsracks.

Secretary Pelletier has noticed some boxes knocked over and noted there isn't a provision allowing for bolting newsracks into the ground.

Mr. Staye explained that it was discussed but all agreed that it causes degradation of the sidewalk. There were questions regarding the repair of the sidewalk once a newsrack is removed and it was decided this wasn't something the Town would want to do.

Secretary Pelletier asked if any issues can be readdressed as policy through the Public Works Department instead of coming back to the Board in the form of a new ordinance. She asked how much latitude the Public Works Department has in changing, altering, or amending this ordinance.

Mr. Staye stated that he would certainly be willing to modify the ordinance as desired by the Board. He is unsure how modifications would be made within the ordinance without running into legal issues.

Secretary Pelletier asked that Attorney Naab look into that question and get an answer by next week if possible.

Director Topping asked how long the other ordinances this was based on have been in effect and if any were challenged.

Mr. Staye answered that the ordinance before the Board is a compilation of many different ordinances, but some have been in effect for 10-15 years. He did not include any that he knew had been challenged.

Director Topping expressed his reluctance in getting involved in bolting newsracks to the sidewalks as he doesn't think it is in the Town's best interest.

Mayor Spadaccini thinks the community paper boxes are used more in larger communities but thought it may be worth looking into them for the downtown area.

- G. Approval of a resolution appropriating \$8,490,000 to the Capital Accounts of the 2007-2008 Budget for the renovation of Highland Park School, and authorizing the issue of \$8,490,000 bonds of the Town to finance said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose including the scheduling of a referendum therefor.

ADOPTED – MOTION TO READ THE TITLE OF THE PROPOSED RESOLUTION IN ITS ENTIRETY AND TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE REMAINDER OF THIS RESOLUTION, INCORPORATING ITS FULL TEXT INTO THE MINUTES OF THIS MEETING.

Deputy Mayor Peak moved to adopt and Director Topping seconded the motion.

Role Call Vote:

AYES: Tweedie, Beckman, Peak, Pelletier, Spadaccini, Zingler, O’Neill, Topping, and Sheridan

Mayor Spadaccini declared the motion passed and read the title of the proposed resolution as follows:

“Resolution appropriating \$8,490,000 to the Capital Accounts of the 2007/2008 Budget for the renovation of Highland Park School and authorizing the issue of \$8,490,000 bonds of the Town to finance said appropriation and pending the issuance thereof the making of temporary borrowings for such purpose.”

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

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, is opposed to this resolution and believes there has not been enough study. This issue has become a political football. Even if the school is renovated it will still be undersized, have insufficient parking, and will leak again because of where it is built. Mr. Ogden would vote for a new school. He wants to know why Highland Park School is in the condition it is in.

Joe Brooks, 601 Bush Hill Road, suggested it may be better to take the money the Town would be spending on Highland Park School and use it to add to Martin School. Since it is close, Highland Park students could go to Martin instead.

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

General Manager Shanley reviewed the options for voting dates and times which include all polling places on a regular polling day with the regular hours of 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., or changing the number of locations, days or hours. Staff recommends using either all locations or only one location. Anything in between will become too confusing.

Frank Maffe, Registrar of Voters, reviewed costs involved in various aspects of voting. Costs do not include absentee ballots.

Secretary Pelletier questioned Mr. Maffe about costs related to security, custodians, handicap accessibility and Dial-A-Ride vans.

- H. Adoption of a resolution appropriating \$7,950,000 to be added to the capital accounts of the 2007/08 budget for the purpose of paying the costs of certain water treatment system improvements at the Globe Hollow Water Treatment Plant; financing said appropriation by the issuance of Water System Improvement Temporary Notes pursuant to Chapter 102 of the Connecticut General Statutes in an amount not to exceed \$7,950,000; the rescission of a resolution adopted by the Board of Directors on August 7, 2007 authorizing the appropriation of \$5,950,000 for the Globe Hollow Water Treatment Plant Improvements and the issuance of notes to finance said appropriation; and such matters relating to the foregoing as may be properly considered at said hearing.

General Manager Shanley explained that this project was approved in August of last year. This resolution is not changing the cost of the project or the scope, just the way the project is financed.

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

Director O'Neill asked if revenues are down due to the drought and conservation efforts.

Mr. Soper answered that the drought was one aspect of lower revenues. Fewer connections due to a housing slowdown contributed to lower revenues as well.

General Manager Shanley explained that the original goal was to reach the 180-day operating reserve over the course of a few years by drawing down the reserves to get there. Given the reduction in the revenues in the current year and the reduction in projected revenues based on the housing market, we will not have the funds originally projected.

Deputy Mayor Peak asked if this project is required by the EPA.

Mr. Soper explained that the project is for the quality and taste of the water. Putting this process in place will get rid of chlorine gas, which is a safety issue.

Deputy Mayor Peak asked if bonding will raise rates. Mr. Soper believes bonding will probably moderate costs.

General Manager Shanley further explained that this proposal is a function of managing for the long term.

Deputy Mayor Peak asked if it is possible to do this project in different steps since it is not a required project.

Mr. Soper answered that it was considered, however, by packaging the project together, money will be saved in the long run.

Secretary Pelletier noted that we cannot accurately predict when there will be a drought. Nor can we predict when there will be a surplus in revenue. She does not think connections will be a primary source of revenue.

Mr. Soper agreed and stated that the sale of water is the primary source of revenue.

Secretary Pelletier asked when the Globe Hollow project is scheduled for completion.

Mr. Soper stated that ground breaking will be in the summer or early fall and the entire project will take about one and one-half years to complete.

Mayor Spadaccini asked if there is anything in the project that is not related to water quality that could be deferred without compromising the underlying principles of the project.

Mr. Soper thought certain things could be carved out. The project was designed to include economies of scale.

General Manager Shanley reiterated the fact that the project does not come up short; the point is to try to balance fee schedules and rates.

4. ADOPTED - CONSENT CALENDAR (with Item 16.K removed).

3A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

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for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
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for a highway safety project entitled "Speed Limit Obedience Wave (S.L.O.W.)" to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut.
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to be financed by an additional donation from SBM Charitable Foundation which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
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to be financed by donations from Ann and Steven Hirth (\$100), Margaret Crone (\$500), Nancy McNamara (\$25) and Thelma Woodbridge (\$1,000) which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.

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4. Senior Center Donations - to be financed by donations from program participants and the public at large which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted:
 - a. Programs and activities\$337
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 - c. Senior Center – computer classes\$967
 5. Recreation Department Special Activities Fund.....\$3,000
to be financed by donation from SBM Charitable Foundation, Inc. to support the annual children’s fishing derby which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
- 3B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:
1. School Security Grant (FY 2007-08).....\$78,043
to be financed by a grant from the Connecticut State Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.
- 3C. Appropriations to General Fund:
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for reimbursement of overtime expenses related to the Click It or Ticket enforcement campaign for the period November 12-24, 2007 to be financed by a grant from the Federal Highway Safety Program.
- 3D. Appropriation to Whiton Library Fund – Renovations.....\$38,700
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- 3E. Appropriations to Capital Improvement Reserve - Streetlights in accordance with the streetlight acquisition plan as follows:
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in the Bramblebush Farms, Sect. V, Phase II Subdivision to be financed by a payment from Merritt Baldwin Construction Co.
- 16A. Allocation in Water Reserve Fund to be funded by Water Reserve Unallocated:
1. Love Lane Generator\$12,600
 2. Highland Street Pump and Generator\$5,530
- 16B. Acceptance of the public improvements, including the streets known as Miller Pond Road, Fir Grove Road and Quarry Knoll Circle, within the Buckland Pond Subdivision.
- 16D. Approval of a resolution authorizing the General Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to secure funding from the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, Clean Water Fund for the Nutrient Removal and Bio Solids Disposal Plan Study.

16E. Approval of a resolution authorizing the General Manager to execute any and all documents necessary to secure funding from the State of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, Clean Water Fund for the Sanitary Sewer Evaluation Survey, Phase 2: Infiltration and Inflow Analysis Study.

Secretary Pelletier moved to adopt and Director Beckman seconded the motion.
Nine Voted in Favor

5. REPORTS.

A. Manager's Report.

1. Board of Education representative: Report on textbook loan program.

Director O'Neill acknowledged the memorandum received regarding the textbook loan program and reported that the Board of Education is currently undergoing an evaluation process.

General Manager Shanley reported that Manchester Country Club is working with a different bank and are in the process of meeting with attorneys. The current resolution will not make sense if CBT is not the lender.

Secretary Pelletier would like to get feedback from the Board of Education about how the textbook loan program went and if they are interested in implementing it again.

Director Zingler noted that several members of the Zoning Board of Appeals and Planning and Zoning Commission received recognition awards for their years of service and congratulated them.

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

Mayor Spadaccini distributed a copy of the resolution for item 16.G.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:13 p.m. and returned at 9:35 p.m. Present for the matter of Real Estate Negotiations were Mayor Spadaccini, Deputy Mayor Peak, Secretary Pelletier, Directors Tweedie, Beckman, Sheridan, Topping, O'Neill, and Zingler, General Manager Shanley, and Town Attorney Naab. There were no votes taken.

Secretary Pelletier moved to go into Executive Session and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.
Nine Voted in Favor

ADOPTED – MOTION TO RECONVENE.

Deputy Mayor Peak moved to reconvene and Director Beckman seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

ADOPTED – MOTION TO ADD THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS TO THE AGENDA OF APRIL 8, 2008: RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO EXECUTE A TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT/VISION TECHNICAL MOLDING/ADVANCED MOLD – 73 UTOPIA ROAD; RESOLUTION WAIVING PROVISIONS OF THE LIVING WAGE ORDINANCE FOR VISION TECHNICAL MOLDING/ADVANCED MOLD – 73 UTOPIA ROAD.

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

Nine Voted in Favor

RECESS TO SECOND WEEK.

The meeting was recessed until the April 8, 2008 second meeting of the month.

Secretary Pelletier moved to recess and Director Beckman seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

Recess: 9:40 p.m.

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APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors