

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 5, 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 (7:35 p.m.), Topping, and Sheridan

ALSO: General Manager Shanley and Assistant Town Attorney O’Neil

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 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.

Mr. John Garapolo, representing the Manchester Lion’s Club, invited the Board of Directors and interested members of the public to bowl in the annual Lion’s Club Bowling Tournament to benefit Fidelco. The competition will be held March 1, 2008 at Spare Time in Vernon. The Mayor’s competition will be at 1:00 p.m. and the Chief’s competition will be at 4:30 p.m. The merchants of Manchester and Vernon have been very supportive and are providing free pizza, door prizes and a UCONN Women’s game ball as a raffle prize.

Mr. Joseph Conroy, 70 Still Field Road, is concerned about the number of tag sales allowed in Manchester per year. Right now, the number allowed is five and Mr. Conroy believes this is an excessive number. He distributed a letter regarding this subject to Board members.

Mr. Arthur Steele, 683 Vernon Street, stated that he heard from the Police Department about a week after he spoke at the last meeting. Mr. Steele gave several examples of traffic traveling at very fast speeds on Vernon Street. He thinks Town staff should have more consideration for people who have paid taxes over the years. Mr. Steele is of the opinion that Manchester has not been the “City of Village Charm” for at least 50 years.

Mr. Michael Stebe, 36 Clinton Street, urged the Board to fully fund full day kindergarten and implement it in every school by the 2009-2010 school year. Mr. Stebe stated that the job is not complete once a child starts kindergarten; Manchester needs to improve the Youth Services Bureau as well. He supports a spring bond referendum for repairs at Highland Park School and the full Youth Services program. In December, 2006, the Board of Directors voted unanimously to locate the youth center at the Spruce Street firehouse. He reminded the Board that a vote is a promise.

Ms. Bonnie Schuetz, 12 Conway Road, expressed her concern for the owner of Papa Joe's restaurant. The Town messed up the road in front of the restaurant by taking away parking spaces and sidewalk. Ms. Schuetz requested that a member of the Board of Directors go see Kathy at Papa Joe's to discuss this matter. She noted that the Police Department has been busy and she would like to see the Chief of Police at a future Board meeting. She is hearing about crime in Manchester and doesn't want it "put under a snow bank." There are problems in Town (crime, foreclosures, taxes, and water bills) and we need to talk about them.

Mr. Joseph Brooks, 601 Bush Hill Road, was recently asked if he knew what the Garrity Rule is. As a member of the original Police Union in Town, as well as an Internal Affairs Investigator, he is extremely familiar with the Garrity Rule. He explained the Brady Rule, which requires evidence be given to the defense. Mr. Brooks explained that due to a history between the two, Lieutenant Morrissey has a reason to dislike Mr. Brooks.

Mr. Terry Werkhoven, 88 Santina Drive, stated that we do not need more new resolutions proposed by the minority group of Directors. He supports the landlord registration ordinance and the establishment of a blight task force. Mr. Werkhoven named five properties that are in serious condition and stated that all of these building are an eyesore and blight to the Town. Mr. Werkhoven explained that the roof on the K-wing at the High School is not leaking and never did leak. After he told the Board of Directors about the problem 10 or 15 years ago, no repair was made. Mr. Werkhoven does not think solar panels are the right way to go for electric power and suggested looking into windmills.

Mr. Edgar Weaver, 195 Ferguson Road, believes the Landlord Registration ordinance is unnecessary and asked why residential landlords were singled out. Commercial and industrial landlords should be included as well. He noted the budget deliberations process is beginning with a new Board of Directors and a new political majority. He listed many needs the Town has including roads and sidewalks, schools and municipal buildings, safety from crimes, responsive police force, trash pickup, and teachers. He would like the Board to run the Town more like a business and use a cost benefit analysis, eliminating ineffective programs. Mr. Weaver stated there is no such thing as a surplus, just the result of over estimating and over taxation.

Mr. Sam Norman, 139 Maple Street, works in public education and has been a Recreation employee for 21 years. The Spruce Street area is hurting and the kids miss the East Side Recreation center. Right now the program at Nathan Hale is overcrowded. Mr. Norman has been hearing that there are plans to reduce the recreation available for children. He urged the Board to keep the current plan in place. Rolling the Spruce Street recreation area into a program with the East Side Recreation program would not be a good idea. Spruce Street is one of the most poverty stricken areas in Town. Most children have working parents. The Fire House is in the perfect spot to aid the kids who need it the most.

Mr. Jim Kurlowicz, Columbus Street, has heard bits and pieces of the plans at Manchester Country Club and highly endorses the person who is currently being considered to run the restaurant at the Country Club. He is curious to see what the golf side of the Club has in store. Mr. Kurlowicz sees no reason to open the lease between the Town and the Country Club.

Mr. Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, spoke about Manchester Country Club and suggested that if the lease is opened for renegotiation, it should be fair to everybody, including the citizens of Manchester and the Country Club. Mr. Ogden clarified that he does not want to see the Club close, but he doesn't want to see taxpayer money supporting the Country Club.

Mr. David Dumaine, 86 Tracy Drive, explained that as an employee of the State's Social Services agency, he is concerned about the children. He is disappointed about the decision made against the trailer being placed behind YSB as a temporary measure. It seemed like a safe alternative that provided continuity. Mr. Dumaine spoke in support of full-day kindergarten. It will allow working poor parents to get day jobs rather than taking second shift jobs. Mr. Dumaine supports the Bennet Leisure Plan and would like to see Manchester Country Club increase its parking.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

1. Public Safety - Police Department \$175
for C.I.T.E. Program to be financed by donations from Jan and Art LaMontagne (\$25) and Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union (\$150) which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
2. Manchester Dog Pound.....\$50
to be financed by a donation from Stanley Sowa which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
3. Public Safety – Police Department\$10
for continuing investigations, equipment or training to be financed by a donation from Eleanor S. Rubinow which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
4. Youth Advisory Board/Manchester Council of Substance Abuse Concerns (MCSAC).....\$5,675
to support substance abuse prevention activities to be financed by a grant from East of the River Action for Substance Abuse Elimination Inc. (ERASE).

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

B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:

1. Student incentives at Verplanck Elementary School\$500
to be financed by a grant from Exxon Mobil Educational Alliance Grant.
2. Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Entitlements -
(Includes Titles I-V funding) (2007-08).\$1,713,251
to be financed by a U. S. Department of Education grant passed through the Connecticut State Department of Education.

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\$2,260
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 to Public Works – Field Services Division\$1,186
to be financed by a payment from the Connecticut Forest and Park Association
for work performed and administered by the Parks Division at Case Mountain.

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 Community Development Block Grant –
Housing Rehabilitation\$76,409
to be funded by Lead Action Project 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.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (with the addition of Item 16.O).

3A.Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

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for C.I.T.E. Program to be financed by donations from Jan and Art
LaMontagne (\$25) and Nutmeg State Federal Credit Union (\$150) which
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- 2. Manchester Dog Pound.....\$50
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3B.Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:

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- 2. Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Entitlements -
(Includes Titles I-V funding) (2007-08).\$1,713,251
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- 3C. Appropriation to Fire Reserve – Paramedic Fund\$2,260
to be funded by donations from local businesses, citizens and visitors which
are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
- 3D. Appropriation to Public Works – Field Services Division\$1,186
to be financed by a payment from the Connecticut Forest and Park Association
for work performed and administered by the Parks Division at Case Mountain.
- 3E. Appropriation to Community Development Block Grant –
Housing Rehabilitation\$76,409
to be funded by Lead Action Project Undesignated Fund Balance.
- 16C. Approval of a Resolution authorizing the General Manager to enter into or amend
contractual agreements with the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services
for a Child Day Care program if such agreement is offered.
- 16D. Authorization for Scott Shanley, General Manager to enter into, execute and amend
any and all agreements on behalf of the Town of Manchester with the State of
Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT), for a grant toward the
purchase of a wheelchair accessible motor vehicle for services to elderly and/or
disabled persons through Section 5310 of the Federal Transit Act, as amended.
- 16O. Appointment of a regular member and an alternate member to the Capitol Region
Council of Governments (CRCOG) Regional Planning Commission – Rudolph
Kissmann, regular member and Salvatore Mancini, alternate member.

Mayor Spadaccini moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion to adopt.

Nine Voted in Favor

5. REPORTS.

A. Manager’s Report

General Manager Shanley noted several items under the report section for tonight’s meeting. This was done, in part, to balance a heavy agenda between the two meetings for the month.

B. Discussion of 2008 Recreation Summer Camp plans.

Mr. Scott Sprague, Director of Parks and Recreation, introduced Calvin Harris who oversees the summer camp program. Mr. Sprague explained that the summer camp program needs to be approved in advance of the budget process because registration for summer camp takes place in March. Flyers are sent out at the end of February through the schools. Mail-in registration has been found to be the most effective way to do registration for this program due to the amount of information required from parents. When registration was done first come, first served, between 60 and 70% of registration forms were incomplete. Now, the registration forms are accepted through the mail and then are randomly selected and processed.

Mr. Sprague stated that the proposed summer camp program for this year provides the same level of service as provided last year. Last year the Waddell site was unavailable. It is a popular site because there is a swimming pool on the property and it is one of the summer feeding sites where both breakfast and lunch are provided. If Waddell were to be used this year, it would need to be reinstated into the plan. That would add an expense of \$25,102 to be offset by \$11,685 in revenue from registration fees.

Secretary Pelletier noted that in February of 2006, Mr. Sprague introduced a proposal to increase fees that was not approved by the Board of Directors at that time. She asked why an increase was not requested at this time.

Mr. Sprague stated that the history of the fees and discussions at the Board meetings indicated that the Board was reluctant to raise fees so he included the same fees in his proposal this year.

Secretary Pelletier endorsed spending money to reopen Waddell at this time. She noted that last year the Camp Kennedy program was closed down and asked what the status of that funding is.

Mr. Sprague explained that last year the Camp Kennedy funding was redirected to the summer Center for Service Learning program which ran a program in place of Camp Kennedy. Some of the special needs students were referred to the regular camp program, but the majority of the children were part of an extended summer school program which was why Camp Kennedy did not run last year. Summer school ended at 2:00 p.m. and camp would have ended at 3:00 p.m. It didn't make programming sense to run Camp Kennedy and it still doesn't because they will be having extended summer school again this year.

Director Sheridan and Director Tweedie recused themselves from this discussion.

Mayor Spadaccini supports re-opening the Waddell site and the allocation of the additional funds to do so.

Mr. Sprague added that Buckley and Keeney are not available as camps this year due to Board of Education projects. Next year he will probably be back to ask that those sites be reinstated as well.

C. Presentation by Manchester Country Club.

General Manager Shanley noted the correspondence distributed to Board members regarding the Manchester Country Club's desire to lease their banquet and restaurant facilities. According to the current lease, the Board of Directors must give their consent, which shall not be unreasonably withheld (according to the lease), if the restaurant is to be sub-leased.

Mr. Wallace Irish, liaison to Manchester Country Club, introduced Gordon Daring, President of Manchester Country Club, and Len Horvath, Vice-President of Manchester Country Club.

Mr. Daring explained Manchester Country Club's current financial position and the difficult decisions that have recently been made regarding the closing of Waterview Café for the winter and eliminating the position of General Manager. The Club has developed a plan that includes subleasing the restaurant and banquet facilities and refinancing some debt. An interim management plan has also been developed.

Board members Tweedie, Pelletier, Topping, Sheridan, Peak, Zingler, O'Neill, and Spadaccini took the opportunity to ask questions regarding the Club's benefits for Town residents, competitive bidding, revenue from restaurant sales, golf operations vs. restaurant operations, hiring of a consultant, the amount of debt, and fee structure changes.

RECESS.

The Board took a recess at 9:40 p.m. and returned at 9:55 p.m.

D. Presentation/Discussion: WiMAX Town/Business Partnership Case.

Mr. Jack McCoy, Chief Information Officer, explained the difference between WiFi and WiMax to the Board. WiMax has the capability of providing wireless access town-wide. He explained that Manchester has a community asset consisting of forty-four buildings which it can lease to a business partner, potentially generating revenue for Manchester. WiMax could be used for communications during emergency conditions such as the 100 year storm, infrastructure emergencies or a pandemic outbreak.

Manchester is in a unique position. The community has a huge asset with the buildings, Manchester would be the anchor tenant, there would be revenue sharing with the business partner, and it involves a standards-based technology, which means the Town wouldn't be locked into a specific vendor with a specific product.

Secretary Pelletier is unsure how Manchester will make money on this project. She believes the biggest limitation is the chosen location of the east side area. When she thinks of what WiMax can do for businesses, she doesn't think of that area of town. She thinks of the industrial park, the mall area, or even the Parkade area.

Mr. McCoy explained that this would be a commercial partnership. The Town provides the site, the business partner provides the management, maintenance, billing, and so forth.

Secretary Pelletier noted the \$176,000 spent to put up a single cell phone tower and suggested a company willing to pay that much for a tower may also be willing to pay to prevent competition. She agrees a partnership is needed and suggested regionalization. She fears the legalities involved in this proposal. Ms. Pelletier also noted that many of the residents of the east side of town may not even have computers to connect to the WiMax system. She asked if WiMax would interfere with police radios.

Deputy Mayor Peak believes we need to ask ourselves what our goals are and why we should choose WiMax. He heard several things mentioned, including a public safety network, economic development, and bridging the digital divide. If public safety is the primary goal, the Spruce Street neighborhood does not make much sense. Mr. Peak believes that the digital divide is really just a new description of an existing older problem, which is that some people are poor. He sees challenges including the lack of subscription and the need for existing computers to have WiMax capabilities.

Director Zingler commended Mr. McCoy and his staff for looking ahead 5 or 10 years. He is excited about the possibilities and recommended putting together a citizen's committee that includes residents who are interested in technology.

Secretary Pelletier appreciates Mr. McCoy's enthusiasm, but doesn't get a sense that this is the top need in our community. She would like to see what is happening in Brownsville.

Mayor Spadaccini also appreciates Mr. McCoy's enthusiasm and said that Manchester is fortunate to have a visionary in Mr. McCoy. Mr. Spadaccini thinks that a regional approach would be the right approach, especially if a legal battle is involved.

E. Building Reuse Committee.

Mr. Mark Pellegrini, Director of Neighborhood Services and Economic Development, reviewed the Committee's findings and recommendations on the Grange building, the Cheney Complex, the Cheney Building, and Case Mountain Lodge and Carriage Shed.

Director Sheridan asked what is known about the history of the Grange building. Mr. Pellegrini will look into the structure and activity history.

Deputy Mayor Peak believes there is a lot of potential for the Cheney Building. He sees the next step as generating ideas for uses and believes the Board of Directors needs to take action.

Mayor Spadaccini thinks the Cheney Building should become a top priority, especially after the amount of money put into renovating the Bennet building next door. He asked that the Committee put their recommendations into a final report.

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

Director Topping asked for a report on taxes paid by the Country Club, broken down by property of all types, as well as property of others doing business with the Country Club. He suggested a term limit be placed on subleasing of the restaurant and banquet facilities of the country club.

Director Zingler asked for an update in writing on whether or not the Town of Bolton passed the resolution regarding the Greenway. He also asked for a list of properties which currently have graffiti (Item 16.Q) so he can see how widespread the problem is on private property.

Secretary Pelletier noted that the resolution for Item 16.B states that the Town is responsible for 10% of the cost of that project, but doesn't specify percentages per Town. According to the Charter the Board of Directors has the right to investigate Town departments. She asked that she be provided information on what that process would entail.

Mayor Spadaccini noted the Economic Summit on February 20 at 7:00 p.m. at Manchester Memorial Hospital.

6. RECESS TO SECOND WEEK.

The meeting was recessed until the February 19, 2008 second meeting of the month.

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

**Eight Voted in Favor
(O'Neill Absent)**

Recess: 11:35 p.m.

gem

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors