

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 10, 2009 – 7:00 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM

SECOND MEETING OF THE MONTH

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

ALSO: General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Naab

7. 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 Brownie Troop 10644.

8. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS.

A. Proclamation honoring Girl Scout Week.

Mayor Spadaccini presented a proclamation to Brownie Troop 10644 declaring the week of March 8, 2009 Girl Scout Week. Girl Scouts are celebrating their 97th anniversary, having been founded in 1912. Girl Scouts help build courage, confidence, and character of members.

9. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- A. **ADOPTED** - Actions, February 3, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- B. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, February 3, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- C. **ADOPTED** - Actions, February 10, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- D. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, February 10, 2009 – Regular Meeting
- E. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, February 24, 2009 – Policy Briefing Meeting

Director Tweedie moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

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

Ken Burkamp, 811 Main Street, said he was glad to see the Manager is cutting spending. For a number of years the taxpayers have been funding paramedic services in Town and have been assured by previous Boards that the taxpayer would not be paying for this service. He related a situation in which his family needed to use paramedic services and received a bill for \$500. Mr. Burkamp asked if taxpayers would soon be billed for Fire and Police services as well.

Tom Deffenbaugh, 150 Summit Street, said he has seen first hand the benefit of the arts to children. The firehouse on Spruce Street is the ideal location for an afterschool music and arts program, which would help at-risk children in this Town. Mr. Deffenbaugh believes it is a big mistake not including an arts program in the plans for this building.

Aldo Enrico, 57 Bissell Street, said he was never in favor of a youth center on Spruce Street. He thinks children should be going home after school. Parents should be more responsible for their children and taxpayers should not open a babysitting service at the firehouse. Mr. Enrico would

like taxpayers to be told what will happen down the road when grants are awarded. He mentioned that several roads and sidewalks are torn up and requested that when repairs are made, they are made correctly. Throwing tar into the hole and running over it with a truck is not the proper way to repair a pothole.

Bonnie Schuetz, 12 Conway Road, agreed with Mr. Enrico's assessment of pothole patching. She expressed concern over some buildings on Broad Street that look like they may be sinking and suggested that be looked into. She is aware that the Parkade is private property, but wondered why there are 12 people working on a committee to develop that area when the Town has not even done soil testing.

Mike Stebe, 36 Clinton Street, thanked the Board of Directors for its efforts relative to the Spruce Street firehouse. Mr. Stebe noted that the Board is stuck between a rock and a hard place with the budget. It will be a balancing act between sidewalks and services. He urged the Board of Directors to televise the budget process so voters can see what is really happening.

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, said he doesn't expect any Board member to give up what little salary they get; they should get paid. He believes the Superintendent's threat to close a school is a political ploy and asked that games not be played. Mr. Ogden asked the Board not to close the swimming pools.

Leslie Frey, 30 Florence Street, said that the future of the firehouse has been contentious and misinformation has been spread. She reviewed the history of the project and said that this project has been used as a political football. Ms. Frey expressed her desire to keep the historic look of the building and thanked the Republican team for its efforts with this building.

Debbie Streeter, 25 Eastfield Street, had several questions about the budget that was released by the General Manager. She wondered how this tax increase would affect the average homeowner. Mr. Shanley said he expects to have a tax calculator available on the Town's website within the week.

Lilliana Polley, 100 Steep Hollow Lane, supports the Superintendent's proposed budget and asked the Board of Directors to make cuts in areas other than the Education budget.

Maria Adabo, Spruce Street, expressed concern about her neighborhood, the use of the firehouse building, and what it will cost to bring the building up to code. She questioned what would happen if the building gets partially renovated and money runs out. Ms. Adabo thinks having a police presence in the neighborhood is important but wondered what happens to the offender once apprehended.

11. COMMUNICATIONS.

Director Farina received an e-mail concerning delivery of the Reminder and thinks it is time for the Town to get aggressive. He received several communications in support of the Board of Education's proposed budget.

Director Zingler also received several communications in support of the Board of Education's budget as well as a communication from a citizen regarding the increase in summer camp fees.

Mayor Spadaccini received the following communications:

- Several comments regarding the Reminder delivery. Mayor Spadaccini hopes the newspaper reconsiders its delivery strategy.
- A communication from CRRA regarding the tipping fee for the upcoming fiscal year; there is a small increase.
- A communication from Congressman Larson's office regarding the economic stimulus package and the challenge of determining what the funds can be used for.
- A communication from CRCOG, which was awarded \$17.5 Million for shovel-ready projects. Manchester received \$3.1 Million for the rehabilitation of the Buckland Hills Drive/Hale Road area.
- A communication from the Historical Society, which included a list of properties with significant historical value and a suggestion to develop a plan to save them rather than have a repeat of the situation with the John Olds House.
- A communication from John Rainaldi with current tax collection rates. Through January of 2009, 96.75% have been collected as compared with the January 2008 rate of 96.27%.
- A communication from a citizen regarding the pension fund, the budget, and expressing gratitude to Department Heads for foregoing raises.
- A communication from Mark Carlino explaining that the Housing Authority is trying to "piggy-back" the Town's refuse collection contract to save money.
- A communication from the CT Siting Council informing him that the cell tower at 640 Hilliard Street will be modified.
- A communication from Susan Barlow asking the Town to take a position on the Case Brothers Historic District hearing scheduled for March 12.
- A communication from a citizen suggesting that the Town look into the opportunity of hydro-electric power using Union Pond dam.
- A communication from a local student regarding the condition of the roads, especially Wetherell Street.

12. **REPORTS.**

A. Mortgage crisis job training.

Mary Roche Cronin, Director of Human Services, explained a recent Public Act passed that creates a one-year program to help people who are behind on their mortgages. It is a partnership between Workplace, Inc. and CHFA that will provide job training, employment services, credit counseling, financial literacy, and job placement assistance. She described the criteria and noted that approximately 15 or 20 Manchester citizens have taken advantage of the program so far.

Deputy Mayor Peak said he had heard about the program at CRCOG and wanted to know more about it. He wanted to make sure Manchester is referring its citizens to this program.

Director Beckman reported on the Town Watch scheduled for March 24. There will be information available on identity theft, internet safety, home security, and a self defense demonstration.

Director Tweedie referred to a report he received in his mail log regarding the property at 444 Center Street (Willie's). The task force has been incredibly patient and the owners have not been very cooperative in the three years they have owned the property. He recommended the property

maintenance task force invoke the nuisance ordinance. This building should either be repaired or demolished.

Deputy Mayor Peak reported on a meeting he attended held by the members of the Manchester Business Park regarding the Energy Improvement District. The next step is for the Mayor to make appointments to a five-person Energy Improvement District Board. He recommended appointing the following: Michael Polo, Ad Chem, 369 Progress Drive; Randy Lynn, Unison, 967 Parker Street; William Overton, 103 Timrod Road; Michael Cyr, Ad Chem, 369 Progress Drive; Stephan Djiounas, Paramount Machine Company, 138 Sanrico Drive; and as an alternate if appropriate, Arthur Pendleton, Pendleton Associates, 85 Sanrico Drive.

Mayor Spadaccini reported that the Redevelopment Agency has been meeting regularly and working hard on a redevelopment plan for the Broad Street area and the Main Street parking lots. Meeting minutes are posted on the Town's website and the meetings themselves are open to the public.

13. PRESENTATION OF BID WAIVER REQUESTS.

There were no bid waiver requests presented at this time.

14. ACTION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING.

There were no items of public hearing requiring action at this time.

15. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

- A. **APPROPRIATED** - Appropriation to Real Property Acquisition Bond
Fund CP 346..... \$4,000
to be financed by rental payments from farming operation.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

- B. Renaming Center Park to Center Memorial Park.

Scott Sprague, Director of Parks and Recreation, explained that at the last meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission, Dr. Spaulding presented the idea of renaming Center Park to Center Memorial Park. The Commission endorses the idea as long as there are no legal restrictions. The Commission would like the opportunity to review the signage if it will be different than the existing sign. Mr. Sprague said the cost to change the sign at the entrance to the park will be approximately \$2,000.

Town Attorney Naab stated that there is no legal restriction in changing the name of the park.

ADOPTED – MOTION TO RECONSIDER VOTE ON ITEM 15.A.

Director Zingler moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

ADOPTED – MOTION TO APPROPRIATE \$2,000 TO REAL PROPERTY ACQUISITION BOND FUND CP 346 TO BE FINANCED BY RENTAL PAYMENTS FROM FARMING OPERATION AND APPROPRIATE \$2,000 TO THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PURCHASE OF NEW SIGNAGE AT CENTER MEMORIAL PARK.

Director Zingler moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

ADOPTED – MOTION TO RENAME CENTER PARK TO CENTER MEMORIAL PARK.

Director Zingler moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

16. NEW BUSINESS.

D. **TABLED** - Approval of settlement of law suit by Scott Ventura.

Director Tweedie moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

**Eight Voted in Favor
Pelletier Abstained**

F. **TABLED** - Creation of a policy board regarding Channel 16.

Director Zingler moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

G. Resolution to televise budget workshops.

Director Zingler reminded Board members that this was proposed last year; however, newer members on the Board were reluctant to agree because they wanted to experience their first budget season without cameras. Mr. Zingler said he thought that with the added opportunity for referendum, televising budget workshops would keep residents informed and enable them to understand the facts behind the decisions.

Director Beckman said he would not be against the workshops being televised; however, his concern was about the cost to the taxpayers and the availability of equipment. He found that the Town of Durham uses volunteers to film its Town meetings and suggested using volunteers for filming budget workshops as a way to keep costs down. After some discussion among Board members, it was decided that filming of the meetings will be allowed as long as volunteers are used.

ADOPTED – MOTION TO TAPE BUDGET WORKSHOPS USING VOLUNTEERS, AIR PRODUCT ON CHANNEL 16 AND MAKE AVAILABLE ON THE TOWN’S WEBSITE.

Mayor Spadaccini moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

H. Authorization for online budget/citizen feedback.

General Manager Shanley explained that there is a location on the Town’s website providing citizens an opportunity to comment on the budget. Feedback will be provided to the Board of Directors. He also noted that a tax calculator will be available on the Town’s website toward the end of the week, allowing citizens to calculate taxes on their home.

Deputy Mayor Peak said he appreciates the citizen feedback opportunities on the website. The online suggestion box has been very successful so far; the online feedback is valuable.

I. **ADOPTED** - Authorization for action plan: Spruce Street Fire House and parameters for request for proposal.

Secretary Pelletier said that it has taken three years for the Board to reach a consensus and asked that her colleagues continue to keep the lines of communication open. She read the following into the record:

Authorization of the East Side Public Safety Youth Center

The Manchester Board of Directors recognizes that young people engaged in their communities and organizations in meaningful ways are more likely to be civically involved throughout their lives. If encouraged to do so, youth also have considerable knowledge and energy they can give to better their communities. However, when society does not value these contributions, it becomes a challenge to find or create opportunities to involve youth in authentic and meaningful community roles. Accordingly, the Board of Directors deems it important for Manchester youth to have access to services that allow them to gain leadership skills and be in a safe and supportive environment.

GOAL: It is the intention of the Board of Directors to authorize the use of the Spruce Street Firehouse as the new **East Side Public Safety Youth Center** to provide many opportunities to impact the lives of the youth in our community.

STRATEGY: The strategy of the East Side Public Safety Youth Center will be to assist Manchester youth to become more successful and productive citizens by providing leadership in a supportive environment aimed at preventing youth from becoming involved in the juvenile justice system, providing community supervision for youth in a safe, secure and central neighborhood location where the town’s police, fire and emergency response support services promote public safety goals and improve the ability of youth to live more productively and responsibly in the community by linking the education, health, personal development and self-sufficiency of Manchester’s youth.

OBJECTIVE: The East Side Public Safety Youth Center will encourage public access of information by the fire and police department's community relations and resource officers and officials, serving as a youth resource center and meeting place. Events held at this center will include public safety and community meetings for the Spruce Street Area BlockWatch, Police Citizen Academy, Manchester Police Explorer's Post 077, Police Activities League (PAL) support staff and homework club, Volunteer Emergency/Fire Department, Manchester Youth Commission, and the CERT Community Emergency Response Team.

TASKS: The renovation of the building and project's scope will utilize federal earmark and state approved bonding and grants as authorized by the Board of Directors and in compliance with the duties and responsibilities of the General Manager. Exterior renovations of the building will consist of general structural repair and trim painting only while maintaining the original building's design and historical character. The layout and interior renovations of this facility will include first floor renovations for use as an open community space adhering to code compliant requirements, the installation of bathroom facilities and internet accessibility. The Center's furnishings will include essential computer equipment for resource and training opportunities.

NEXT STEPS: Funding for the Center's resource training and programming will be determined under the discretion of the Board of Directors with consultation, oversight and facilitation by the General Manager. The Board of Directors will develop meeting procedures and policy development for the Center's usage and staffing in consultation with the General Manager, the Manchester Youth Commission and the Spruce Street Area BlockWatch.

Director Farina thanked Director Pelletier and the Republicans for bringing forward a compromise that all members of the Board can live with.

Director Beckman said he appreciated being a part of this and feels that the community wins with this proposal.

Director Kissmann will support this proposal and thanked Director Pelletier for her expertise. The authorization covers many, if not all, of the concerns that the Board had and the real winners are the youth of our community.

Deputy Mayor Peak said this project demonstrated to him the need to get all stakeholders involved from the beginning of a project. The public safety theme came from residents of the Spruce Street neighborhood. Mr. Peak agreed that the youth of our community are going to win with this proposal, as will the neighborhood.

Director O'Neill said she is glad that the Board can finally agree. She sees this as phase one and looks forward to working with fellow Board members as things proceed.

Director Zingler said he, too, is glad that the Board finally reached an agreement. He asked what the timetable is to get the first floor up and running.

General Manager Shanley explained that the Town does not yet have the funding in hand. As soon as the money is received, he will come forth with a plan.

Director Tweedie said he will be supporting this project and said that the past few months

provide a good example of the way government should work.

Mayor Spadaccini said he is pleased with the compromise. He noted that the project is not delayed and the funding is committed. He likes the commitment to preserve the historic nature of the building. Mayor Spadaccini thanked all Directors who worked toward a consensus and singled out Secretary Pelletier for her ability to bring about compromise and consensus.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Farina seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

- J. **ACCEPTED** - Acceptance of resignation of Waynette Arnum (D) from the Commission on Human Relations, with a term expiring November 2009.

Director Tweedie moved and Director Beckman seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

- K. **APPOINTED** - Appointment of a member (D) to the Commission on Human Relations, with a term expiring November 2009, to fill the vacancy left by Waynette Arnum – Gary R. Tyler, 91 Elm Street, #431-A.

Director Zingler moved and Director Kissmann seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

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

Director Tweedie asked for a revised copy of the budget workshop schedule.

Director Farina asked fellow Board members their thoughts on consolidation efforts between the Board of Education and the Town. He asked about the status of the lawsuit from the Journal Inquirer.

Town Attorney Naab said the lawsuit is still open, but nothing is happening with it.

Director O'Neill asked for a status report on regional projects as well as an update on the snow budget.

Director Zingler asked for an update on the Hilliard Street issue. He noted that he will be unable to attend the budget hearing scheduled for March 17.

Director Beckman mentioned the Town Watch scheduled for March 24.

Director O'Neill mentioned an accident on I-84 that had traffic grid locked throughout Manchester due to drivers looking for alternate routes. She asked if there is a protocol in place to deal with a situation like that.

18. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned until the April 7, 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room.

Director Tweedie moved and Director Beckman seconded the motion.

Nine Voted in Favor

Adjourned: 10:07 p.m.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

gem

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors