

MINUTES
CONTINUATION OF REGULAR MEETING
OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 26, 2008 – 7:00 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM

CONTINUATION OF
SECOND MEETING OF THE MONTH

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

ALSO: General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Naab

ABSENT: Director Sheridan

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Mayor Spadaccini.

16. NEW BUSINESS.

E. **ADOPTED** - Requested approval of sublease – Manchester Country Club/Restaurant.

Mayor Spadaccini stated that there was a rather extensive discussion regarding this item at the last meeting. Board members received a new resolution for consideration and the Mayor asked Attorney Naab to give an explanation of the changes.

Attorney Naab explained that the resolution is meant to do two things that the previous version did not do. First, it states the Board's reasons for doing what is proposed. Second, it approves the assignment by the Country Club of its interest under the lease as collateral for a loan from CBT. It is Attorney Naab's understanding that the Board supports the idea of giving the Country Club the opportunity to carry out the business plan that it developed by subleasing the restaurant and banquet facilities and also by obtaining a loan from CBT. A requirement of that loan is that the leasehold interest of the Country Club be put up as collateral for that loan.

Mayor Spadaccini asked Attorney Naab for an overview of a scenario in which the Country Club defaults on its loan.

Attorney Naab explained that the very last clause addresses that issue. If the Country Club defaults under the lease, the Town then indicates its intention to terminate the lease because of the default. The Bank would then have the right under the loan agreement and under this Resolution to come in and take over the Country Club's leasehold. This means the Bank would

assume the Country Club's duties and obligations, as well as the Country Club's rights under the lease. In that circumstance, the Bank presumably would not want to operate the golf course and other facilities itself, but would transfer the operation to somebody who is skilled in this area. The Town would have the right to approve, in a reasonable manner, anybody hired by the Bank to run the Country Club's operations.

Deputy Mayor Peak stated that he is pleased with the strengthening of the language in the Resolution. The Country Club has put together a good business plan. This Board is the steward of the Town's resources and we want to make sure we do everything possible to make sure the business agreements entered into also safeguard taxpayers.

Mayor Spadaccini commented that the extra week allowed the opportunity for all parties involved to go back to the drawing board and put together a resolution that met expressed concerns. He still has concerns with encumbering the leasehold, but is satisfied that the best possible agreement has been negotiated while ensuring that the Club will open on time.

Director Topping stated that it is clear that the new language strengthens the areas he felt were weak. He asked for an explanation of the term "concessionaire".

Attorney Naab explained that the term "concessionaire" is used in the lease to describe persons who might be contracted by the Country Club to operate concessions, such as the ninth hole stand. Concessionaire fees are part of the annual rent calculation. Money paid to them is not part of the annual rent calculation. The condition the Board is imposing on the Country Club tonight with regard to subleasing the banquet and restaurant facilities includes the requirement that the income received by the sublessee be included in the calculation of the rent. Income from those people considered to be concessionaires is not included as part of the rent.

Director Topping wanted to be sure he understood that the revised Resolution addressed his concerns. The Town is not subsidizing the Country Club in any way, shape, or form and Mr. Topping will be able to vote with a clear conscience on this.

Director Zingler asked last week if the pro shop revenue is included on the balance sheet, but is now hearing that it is not included.

Attorney Naab stated that the pro shop revenue is included on the balance sheet and calculates to our rent calculation.

Secretary Pelletier stated that she received two letters since the last meeting regarding the Country Club. One was titled "Eight Reasons Why We Should Not Support the Country Club." The other was from a consultant who sees favorable growth for golf in 2008. She will pass that letter along to members of the Country Club should they want to take him up on the offer he made in his letter. She noted that the Country Club has always paid its end of the bargain to the Town of Manchester and hopes that it will continue to do so.

Mayor Spadaccini clarified that the sublessee of the restaurant and banquet facilities would have to report its gross receipts for the purpose of calculating the percentage rent that the Club pays to the Town of Manchester. Effectively, it would be the same as if the Country Club continued to run the restaurant and banquet facilities and reported its gross receipts. Mayor Spadaccini thanked Attorney Naab and Town staff for their work on this and strengthening the language of the Resolution.

**RESOLUTION
CONCERNING MANCHESTER COUNTRY CLUB LEASE**

WHEREAS, the Town of Manchester, as Lessor, (the Town) and The Manchester Country Club, Inc., as Lessee, (the Club) entered into a Lease, dated September 24, 1992, which, as amended, expires October 31, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Club has incurred substantial debt; and

WHEREAS, the recently-elected Board of Governors of the Club has adopted a long-range business plan to refinance the Club's debt and to operate more efficiently; and

WHEREAS, an element of that plan is to sublease the restaurant and banquet facilities of the Club to an experienced, professional restaurant operator; and

WHEREAS, the Club has obtained a commitment from The Connecticut Bank and Trust Company (CBT) for a seven-year term loan of \$500,000 and a revolving line of credit of \$50,000, both as evidenced in letters from CBT to the Club, dated January 23, 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Town cannot assume liability for any debt or obligation of the Club to CBT; and

WHEREAS, a condition of said commitment is assignment of the Club's leasehold under the Lease as collateral for repayment of said loans; and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of the Manchester Board of Directors that approval of the proposed sublease and borrowing is in the Town's interest as Lessor and owner of the golf course and the golf, restaurant and banquet facilities;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester, that consistent with Paragraph 7 of the Lease, the Town consents

(a) to a sublease of the restaurant and banquet facilities for a term ending not later than December 21, 2009; provided, however, that the sublessee's gross receipts from operation of the restaurant and banquet facilities shall be included in the calculation of "annual gross receipts," as defined in paragraph 2(b)(i) of the Lease, as if received directly by the Lessee, Manchester Country Club, Inc., and that the sublessee shall not be deemed to be a "concessionaire," as that term is used in the Lease.

(b) to assignment by the Manchester Country Club, Inc. of its interest under the Lease to CBT as collateral for a \$500,000 term loan and \$50,000 revolving line of credit, subject to the following condition: In the event of a default by the Club, which, under the terms of either of the proposed loans, results in exercise by CBT or its successor of a right to enter and take possession of the Lease by CBT or its successor, selection by CBT or its successor of a person or entity to operate the golf course for the remaining term of the lease shall be subject to the Town's prior approval, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

Secretary Pelletier moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

Eight Voted in Favor

- P. **ADOPTED AS AMENDED** - Resolution regarding Bennet Leisure Center program concept plan.

Director O'Neill stated that this Resolution has been brought forward after hearing the Bennet Leisure Center proposal. Today with the pressures to meet student achievement, it is really important to have an enriching environment during the out of school hours. This is important to help youths build skills and competency so they can enter the workforce and be successful in their lives. Also, it helps prevent our youth from engaging in risky behavior. She feels it is important that the Board supports the Bennet Leisure program and really "put our money where our mouth is" when it comes to keeping crime down and backing our youth. Ms. O'Neill spoke to members of the Board of Education and they support this initiative. They are interested in keeping youth in these programs so they have a supportive environment in which to do their homework and engage in other productive activities after school.

Director Tweedie thanked the members of the Recreation Department who gave an informative presentation to the Board in January. He can't wait for East Side Rec to reopen; his children thoroughly enjoy the time they spend there. Right now there is a big void in that neighborhood and the Board needs to make sure that East Side Rec reopens in a timely manner. Mr. Tweedie stated that the Resolution concerns him because he doesn't want to give the impression to anyone that the Board of Directors generated the ideas; credit belongs entirely to the Recreation Department. By pushing this plan in its entirety as a resolution, this Board would be circumventing its duties to the budget process. The Board's duty is to look at all of the proposals from the Town and after all the information is gathered, start the process of setting priorities and dealing with our financial realities.

Secretary Pelletier stated that she watched the Board of Education's meeting and it was interesting to see that the Board of Education members loved the concept, but just can't fund it. The Board of Directors looks forward to funding the majority of this, if not in its entirety, during the budget process.

Director Zingler commended the staff at the Recreation Department. He is excited about this program and thinks it is an opportunity to engage the youth in Town, get them involved at a young age in after school opportunities, mentoring opportunities, and giving back to the community. Mr. Zingler stated that although this will be part of the Board's decision package

during the budget season, he thinks it is important to send a message to the Recreation Department that this is something that the Board is seriously considering supporting during the budget process.

MOTION TO AMEND RESOLUTION.

Strike the first four paragraphs of the Resolution Regarding the Bennet Leisure Center. Change the language in the last paragraph to read:

“NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Manchester Board of Directors supports the timely opening of the newly renovated East Side Recreation Center and Cone Gymnasium and will address the programming needs and funding of the Center in the course of the budget adoption process.”

Director Zingler verified that the amendment drops any reference to the document produced by Town staff.

Deputy Mayor Peak believes the value of taking those paragraphs out at this time is to make a statement that all of those paragraphs reference specific programming activities. The one statement that needs to remain is that the timely opening of the Bennet Leisure Center should happen and will happen. Mr. Peak stated that the Board needs to make sure that the program opens up on time, but there have been many programs proposed and at this time we should not commit to every program presented in that document.

Director Topping respectfully disagreed with Mr. Peak’s view of this resolution. This Resolution is a greatly watered down concept. It doesn’t say what type of programming will be offered or address the needs of the professional staff. He agrees that the fine details are worth discussing in a budget hearing. Mr. Topping stated that the Board needs to send a message to the Town. Here is an opportunity to take a proposal from our staff, the professionals we rely on to run the day to day business of the Town of Manchester. He stated this has become a hollow resolution that has absolutely no meaning and makes no commitment to the youth of this town.

Secretary Pelletier stated that the amended Resolution very clearly shows that the need for enhanced recreation is recognized. It is clear that we are interested in the best interests of the Town of Manchester and that includes upgrading these facilities. Most importantly, Bennet will be timely opened and the Board will address the programming needs during its budget process.

Director Zingler shares Mr. Topping’s sentiments. We have a great proposal with great components that deserve consideration and implementation during the budget process. The amended Resolution just does not go far enough for the youth in this town. Mr. Zingler sees it as a waste of taxpayer dollars to have Town staff come up with an idea like this, present it to the Board of Directors and the Board of Education, and then, basically, disregard the proposal until budget time. Mr. Zingler believes the reason this proposal was introduced back in January was

to get a temperature check of this Board. Mr. Zingler will vote against the amendment because he supports the original proposal made by the Democratic caucus.

Director Topping asked for a definition of timely so he knows what to tell the public when asked.

Mayor Spadaccini stated that it is unfortunate that the political rhetoric occurs. This plan was developed by the Recreation Department staff. In the past, a good idea was put forward and then the funding was addressed in the course of the budget adoption process. The budget adoption process will occur in April, long before the opening of the Bennet building. The Bennet Leisure Center concept was very well received at the policy breakfast. There is a unanimous commitment across the board to open the East Side Recreation Center and the Cone Gymnasium on time. Mr. Spadaccini doesn't think the Board needs to commit to every single program tonight when the budget process is coming. This is a significant expenditure and Mr. Spadaccini doesn't think the Board should commit to it without knowing what the proposed budget or taxpayer resources will be. Nobody is against the Bennet Leisure Center.

Director Tweedie stated that Bennet is on time to be finished. He would consider timely to mean when Bennet is finished.

Director Tweedie moved and Secretary Pelletier seconded the motion.

**Five Voted in Favor
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman
Three Voted in Opposition
Zingler, O'Neill, Topping**

**RESOLUTION
REGARDING BENNET LEISURE CENTER**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors recognizes a need for enhanced recreation, wellness and citizenship-building activities for Manchester's youth, and a need for enhanced wellness and recreation activities for Manchester's adults; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has determined it to be in the best interests of the Town of Manchester to fully utilize the Bennet Sixth Grade Academy during after-school hours so as to allow the entire community to enjoy the benefits of the enormous investment made in renovating and upgrading those facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Manchester Board of Directors supports the timely opening of the newly renovated East Side Recreation Center and Cone Gymnasium and will address the programming needs and funding of the Center in the course of the budget adoption process.

MOTION TO ADOPT RESOLUTION AS AMENDED.

Director O'Neill moved and Director Zingler seconded the motion.

Eight Voted in Favor

Q. **ADOPTED** - Resolution authorizing private property graffiti remediation program.

Deputy Mayor Peak explained that this resolution will affirm the Board's belief that the quick clean up of graffiti is in the public interest and if not cleaned up quickly tends to lead to more graffiti and other crimes. It also authorizes the General Manager to coordinate volunteer cleanup efforts on private property in public right-of-ways. Mr. Peak stated that the Town currently has a very successful program cleaning up graffiti on Town property. Between October and December 2007, more than 50 instances of graffiti were cleaned up. Mr. Peak stated there is a gap in town in that some graffiti appears on private buildings in very public areas. It makes sense for the Town to assist in these instances. This resolution does not require the property owner to act, but authorizes the General Manager to assist property owners in acquiring resources and volunteer labor.

Director Topping asked why the Board needs a resolution authorizing Town staff to do what it is already doing. After the Board discussed this in July and September 2007, General Manager Shanley proposed a three-step program that the Board agreed to. He is not against graffiti remediation, just does not think a resolution is needed.

Secretary Pelletier stated that there was never an official resolution authorizing the General Manager to get consent of the property owner and this is an opportunity to pass a resolution concerning this item.

Director Zingler asked if there is an issue in Town with graffiti on private property. He remembers hearing at a Policy Breakfast that there is no issue with graffiti on private property. Mr. Zingler asked about the status of the six properties identified in July.

General Manager Shanley explained that the first step he takes is to make a phone call to the property owner. The people he has spoken with have responded quickly to the request to clean up the graffiti. He has not yet needed to go beyond a telephone call.

Director Zingler stated his concern with graffiti removal on "for-profit" business locations. He initially thought this was for residential properties, specifically for people on a fixed income or who are disabled. Dealing with graffiti is one of the costs of doing business.

Director Beckman reminded the Board that graffiti is a crime and anyone hit with it is a victim. He believes it is great that Manchester is going to step up and stand behind a victim. Mr. Beckman thinks this is a great resolution and fully supports it.

Director O'Neill asked who is liable if a volunteer were to be injured while cleaning up graffiti on private property.

Attorney Naab stated he would be unable to give a clear answer because it would depend upon the circumstances.

Director O'Neill asked if this program would leave the Town open to lawsuits.

Attorney Naab responded by saying if several people are injured, it is likely that one of them would sue the Town of Manchester. It is not likely, however, that Manchester would end up paying.

Mayor Spadaccini thinks this resolution is a reasonable proposal and that it is being overanalyzed. It is clear in the body of the resolution that this is only for individuals of limited financial means. The remediation of graffiti benefits more than just the individual property owner, it benefits the neighborhood as a whole.

**RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING TOWN STAFF TO DEVELOP A VOLUNTARY
GRAFFITI REMEDIATION PROGRAM FOR PRIVATE PROPERTIES**

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors believes that the quick remediation of graffiti is imperative in the goal of preserving the character and quality of life of Manchester;

WHEREAS, allowing graffiti to remain unabated in view of public right of ways will lead to more graffiti and create an environment that encourages crime and blight;

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services recommends cleanup of graffiti within 48 hours to be effective in the prevention of future incidences of graffiti;

WHEREAS, private property owners who are victims of graffiti may not have the materials and resources necessary for the swift cleanup of graffiti;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Board of Directors authorizes the General Manager to develop a voluntary graffiti remediation program for private properties. This program shall empower Town staff to:

- 1. Make reasonable efforts to notify private property owners of the presence of graffiti on buildings, structures, or signs that are marked or defaced with spray paint, dye, or like substance or other inscribed material in a manner commonly described as graffiti that can be viewed by a person utilizing any public right of way in Manchester and request in writing the removal of the graffiti by the property owner.**

2. **Provide advice to private property owners on ways to remove graffiti and deter future incidences of graffiti.**
3. **Coordinate donations of paint or other graffiti remediation supplies to private property owners of limited financial means or hardship.**
4. **Assist in obtaining written consent of property owner granting permission for third party to assist with graffiti remediation of the area where the graffiti or other inscribed material is located, using volunteer labor, as available, to private property owners of limited financial means. At a minimum, every effort should be made to encourage the obliteration of graffiti by primer paint and matching building paint or other suitable removal system appropriate to the surface within a timely manner.**

Deputy Mayor Peak moved and Secretary Pelletier seconded the motion.

**Six Voted in Favor
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman, Topping
Two Voted in Opposition
Zingler, O'Neill**

R. **ADOPTED** - Resolution regarding space needs for the Mary Cheney Library.

Director Zingler stated that Mary Cheney Library is in need of additional space. It is one of the most widely used libraries in the State. In 2003, the Board of Directors and the Library Board hired a consultant to look at the 26,000 square foot area. The consultant found that the space falls short in the borrowing and usage needs of the library. The study did not look at the architectural standpoints of the building, more of the programming and service logistics. There have been numerous discussions in the community about the location of the library. There are people for and against relocating the library off Main Street. Mr. Zingler suggested that the expansion and modification of the existing building has not been adequately ruled out as a realistic possibility. This resolution calls for beginning an RFP process to hire an architect to look at the structural needs of the library and investigate what can be done within the guidelines and restrictions on the deeded park property. The architect will look into expanding the footprint of the library without infringing on the park area.

Deputy Mayor Peak stated that the Board had a realization in its goal setting session that there are opportunities for expanding the library without expanding into the park area. People have been operating under a false assumption that expanding the Mary Cheney Library is not an option. General Manager Shanley made a good point during the goal setting session by saying expansion in the current location may be possible.

Secretary Pelletier asked if the intention of the resolution is to look at the deed to get a real understanding of deed restrictions. She also asked if it is the intent to seek matching or grant opportunities with architects.

General Manager Shanley stated that this resolution was not generated by Town staff so this has not yet been thoroughly investigated. Staff has discussed opportunities for preservation funding. The amount of money needed would depend upon the level of analysis. According to the resolution, this is just in the concept phase.

Director Tweedie stated that he finds it hard to picture the library anywhere else in Town. He thinks this suggestion is worth exploring.

Mayor Spadaccini will support this resolution. It doesn't commit a budget amount but takes a step forward in finding a solution.

**Resolution
Regarding Space Needs for the Mary Cheney Library**

WHEREAS, the Mary Cheney Library building was constructed in 1937 as a gift from the Cheney family to the Town of Manchester; and for seventy years the Mary Cheney Library has operated at its current location, enriching the lives of generations of Manchester residents; and

WHEREAS, today, the Mary Cheney Library is one of the busiest library facilities in the state, with an estimated 375,000 visitors every year and loans of over 700,000 items and a wide range of programming providing close to 800 different programs over the course of the year that are attended by nearly 20,000 people; and

WHEREAS, a 2003 study commissioned by the BOD determined that the current Mary Cheney building, at about 26,000 square feet in area, falls far short of what would be considered adequate size for its needs – based on existing and projected library usage a building of approximately 65,000 square feet is required to adequately house the library's activities; and

WHEREAS, in 2003, the Library Board determined that the existing Mary Cheney Library location was not suitable for continued use as a library and suggested the former Cheney Finishing Plant at Hall Court as the preferred location for a new Mary Cheney Library facility; and in 2005, the Library Board re-affirmed its determination that the former Cheney Finishing Plant at Hall Court should be the location for a new library facility.

WHEREAS, despite the recommendations of the Library Board, many Manchester residents believe strongly that the Mary Cheney Library should remain in its current location, and that expansion or modification of the existing building has not been adequately ruled out as a realistic possibility; and

WHEREAS, the residents of Manchester need to build a consensus for action and a strategy for how to address the inadequacies of the current Mary Cheney Library; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors is uncertain as to the feasibility and practicability of expanding the current Mary Cheney Library building, given the limitations of the site and the existing structure; and

WHEREAS, technical assistance from professionals with experience in the field of library construction, renovation and expansion is required to make reliable findings as to the feasibility and practicability of expanding the current Mary Cheney Library building.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors requests that the Town staff draft a Request for Proposal, Request for Quotation, or other means of soliciting professional assistance, to be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors, for the hiring of a library architect or other competent professional to study, analyze and report on the question of whether it is feasible or practicable to modify the existing Mary Cheney Library facility to meet existing and projected library needs.

Director Zingler moved and Director O'Neill seconded the motion.

Eight Voted in Favor

S. **ADOPTED** - Resolution authorizing increased strength/Police Department.

Deputy Mayor Peak explained that the current strength of the Police Department stands at 116 sworn officers and is funded for 124 officers. As explained during a policy breakfast, there are many obstacles that stand between the desire and the reality of Manchester having 124 sworn officers.

Director Topping supports this concept and thanked the Republicans for bringing it forward. He compared this to a similar practice in the Fire Department which has already reduced training and overtime expenses. Mr. Topping asked if allowing additional funding is in violation of the Town Charter.

General Manager Shanley pointed out the last sentence which ends "...as budget allows." If funds have not been appropriated, he would need to ask the Board of Directors for an appropriation before any funds are spent.

Attorney Naab agreed with the General Manager's interpretation. The Manager cannot spend more money than has been appropriated. The hiring process can begin earlier than it has in past practice so that when there are openings, personnel will be ready to fill them.

Director O'Neill suggested a friendly amendment, removing the words “and funded” from the title and the last paragraph.

**RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE GENERAL MANAGER TO HIRE PATROL OFFICERS
BEYOND THE AUTHORIZED STRENGTH OF THE
MANCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, it is a goal of the Manchester Board of Directors to have a fully staffed patrol division where vacancies are kept to an absolute minimum;

WHEREAS, to maintain continuity and a high level of service to the community it is important to fill vacancies in the patrol division as quickly as possible;

WHEREAS, it is important to fill vacancies as they occur to avoid stretching the resources of the patrol division;

WHEREAS, it takes several months to hire and properly train a new patrol officer for duty in Manchester;

WHEREAS, it benefits the Manchester Police Department to hire patrol officers in advance of a known future vacancy so that a new officer is trained and ready to assume the duties of a departing officer in a timely manner;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Manchester Board of Directors empowers the General Manager to hire patrol officers beyond the authorized strength of the Manchester Police Department in anticipation of future vacancies that are known at the time as budget allows.

Deputy Mayor Peak moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

Eight Voted in Favor

T. **TABLED** - Resolution regarding televised budget workshops.

Director Zingler explained that televising the budget workshops would help families in Manchester benefit from observation of the discussions that the Directors go through. Budget workshops are not heavily attended by the public, most likely because of the many things going on in the community. Televising the workshops would allow families to record and watch them at their convenience, allowing the public to see the government at work. This is a natural extension of airing the Board meetings, as has been practiced for the past fifteen years.

Director O'Neill stated that there was discussion of airing the budget workshops two years ago, but because the General Manager was new at the time, it was decided that the Board would wait. She asked if staff would be available for taping.

General Manager Shanley stated that Town staff did not bring this resolution forward and as such does not know if staff is available. He expressed his concerns about the quality of the televised budget workshops. Workshops are intended to be less formal and a time to generate ideas and discuss issues. Mr. Shanley suggested foregoing filming the workshops, and instead provide a video tape presentation to the public or online question and answer sessions. Another option is to have Department Heads develop PowerPoint presentations and make those available online.

Secretary Pelletier stated that she is not opposed to televising government and was the one that pushed for the Planning and Zoning Commission meetings to be televised. Currently, meetings are televised when there is a public hearing or when votes are taken. Ms. Pelletier shares the same concerns as Mr. Shanley about televising the workshops. She would like to see the Board's time spent strengthening the budget process. At no point do all nine Board members sit together and discuss goals and priorities. She would like to see more consensus building and the citizens empowered through referendum.

Director Topping has heard it said many times that this is going to be a tough budget year. The information that forms the tough decisions should be brought out in the budget workshops. Having the meetings open to the public is not enough. People have the right to see the government at work. If the Board truly wants to commit to open government, this is the way.

Director Tweedie expressed his concerns for Town staff and their comfort level. He also noted a comment made by a Board member that mannerisms and political grandstanding change when the cameras are on. Mr. Tweedie is interested to hear what Town staff has to say.

Director Beckman shares Mr. Tweedie's concerns. He did some quick research and found only one other town that televises their budget workshops. Mr. Beckman suggested it may be too strenuous to accomplish for this year and suggested perhaps next year would be better.

Director Zingler shared Director Sheridan's thoughts on this subject with fellow Board members. Director Sheridan thinks employees and officials have been encouraged to appear in the community in live formats, at various Town meetings, on public access television shows, and endure abuse and take praise for decisions they make and positions they take. Transparency is critical to an effective government. Openness will not slow the government process, it will make it better. Director Zingler does believe some members of the Board grandstand, but that is outweighed by the public's ability to see the decisions being discussed and made. People need to know the decisions of the Board in advance of the public hearing. Mr. Zingler sees this as an extension of the Government Academy.

Deputy Mayor Peak is an advocate of trying to find ways to make the budget process better understood. He would like to see a momentum toward the development of performance

measurements and wants to make sure that Town staff feels it can be open. Mr. Peak sees the workshops as information gathering sessions. He is interested in Mr. Shanley's suggestions of taping the Manager's and Department Heads' presentations. Mr. Peak suggested tabling this item to get information on specific costs, as well as feedback from Department Heads about taping a presentation following a specific format.

Director Zingler does not want to see this item tabled. The General Manager needs to set a schedule for the workshops. If the workshops are to be televised, he will need to reserve the appropriate meeting room.

Mayor Spadaccini suggested the General Manager reserve a back up room with television capabilities. He wants the government to be as open as possible; however, he is struggling with the distinction of when to televise meetings and when not to. The line has always been drawn that a meeting will be televised if votes and decisions are made. He believes this distinction has been drawn because workshops facilitate an atmosphere of frank discussion. Mr. Spadaccini is concerned that televising the budget workshops may make staff members less likely to speak their mind.

Director Beckman moved and Director Tweedie seconded the motion.

Five Voted in Favor
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman
Three Voted in Opposition
Zingler, O'Neill, Topping

U. **DEFEATED** - Resolution regarding Town-wide full-day kindergarten.

Director O'Neill believes it is important that the Board support all-day kindergarten because it is a quality of life issue. She would like to see money spent on children early on so we don't have to spend the money in later years. Ms. O'Neill received a note from the Board of Education that says full-day kindergarten is critical in eliminating the achievement gap. Not offering full-day kindergarten to all schools puts those that don't have it at a disadvantage.

Director Tweedie doesn't think anybody will argue the importance of education. He doesn't believe the Board of Directors should be meddling in the business of the Board of Education. The Board of Directors should not be making decisions about kindergarten any more than the Board of Education should be making decisions about the Police Department or Public Works.

Director Zingler received an e-mail from Peg Hackett urging the Board to support all-day kindergarten. He also received a letter from a family in Town whose daughter is going to kindergarten this year and they are appalled that only a select few schools offer full-day kindergarten. Mr. Zingler noted that at the Board of Education's January 28, 2008 meeting, Dr. Reisman reported the cost benefit of early education. The Board's job is to make this a possibility and he intends to support this resolution. Racial imbalance has been an issue that has caused division in Manchester. Mr. Zingler predicts full-day kindergarten is another issue that will cause division.

Secretary Pelletier said that the Town Charter is very clear about the Board of Education's responsibilities and agrees with Mr. Tweedie that this is not the Board of Directors' role. She supports the Board of Education's right to make this decision, but noted that their budget only asks for funding for two schools to add full-day kindergarten.

Deputy Mayor Peak thinks this is a Board of Education issue. The Board of Education has implemented full-day kindergarten in all Title I schools; they obviously believe they will get a better return on investment in these schools.

Director O'Neill stated that this is just a resolution and the Board is not setting education policy. The resolution is saying that the Board of Directors supports the Board of Education in full-day kindergarten.

Mayor Spadaccini stated that it is unusual for the Board of Directors to take a position on Board of Education curriculum issues. He is not taking a stand either way on full-day kindergarten, but is relying on the Board of Education's expertise. The cost of all-day kindergarten has not been incorporated into the resolution. He has heard estimates of \$300,000 per year and is concerned what the resolution will commit the Board of Directors to financially. Mr. Spadaccini thinks this resolution has been proposed with the best of intentions; however, he believes ramifications have not been thought out.

Director O'Neill moved and Director Topping seconded the motion.

Three Voted in Favor
Zingler, O'Neill, Topping
Five Voted in Opposition
Spadaccini, Peak, Pelletier, Tweedie, Beckman

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

Director O'Neill asked for a status report on the no smoking signs at the library and a report on the textbook loan program. She asked Attorney Naab to e-mail his opinion about a no smoking ordinance to her so she can forward it to Legislators.

Director Topping expressed his concern with lack of communications with the General Manager.

Director Beckman reminded the Board about the neighborhood meeting on March 27, 2008.

Director Zingler asked for a report regarding speeding on Vernon Street and the report from the accident there in December. He asked for some feedback from the Police Department about breaking up Vernon Street. Mr. Zingler asked if public notices could be placed on the website. Mr. Shanley explained that it is required by law that they be published in the newspaper. Mr. Zingler asked for more information regarding this issue. He recommended putting together a citizen's guide to the Board of Directors. Mr. Zingler asked for an update on the solar RFP and

that any communications received by Board members regarding taxes be forwarded to fellow members of the Board. Mr. Zingler requested he receive his mail log electronically about a month and a half ago and is stilling waiting for that to begin.

Secretary Pelletier expressed concern about a lobbying effort by Mr. Zingler that continues to be made on behalf of his employer's private interests through the performance of his official duties as a Director for the Town of Manchester. In February of 2007, it was determined after a community breakfast that Mr. Zingler will abstain from further involvement in discussions of Town land being donated to his employer. Ms. Pelletier cited other instances of questionable ethical behavior. Recently, Mr. Zingler asked our Legislative Representatives and State Senator to introduce Bill #5424, which would authorize \$5 million in bonding by the State of Connecticut to build a new facility for his employer. A letter from the Finance Director states that this bill, as currently proposed, will require the Town of Manchester to be the grantee of the funding and will create contractual relationships for the construction of that facility with Mr. Zingler's employer. She asked that this Board request that State Representatives amend Bill #5424's language to eliminate any reference to the Town of Manchester.

Mayor Spadaccini stated he is willing to invite the facilitator back to improve relations between the two parties. He requested that during future discussions, Board members keep their comments brief if they are speaking on a subject for the second time.

Director Beckman noted a speeding concern at the intersection of Hamilton Drive and Fern Street.

18. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned until the March 4, 2008 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.

Eight Voted in Favor

Recess: 10:48 p.m.

gem

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors