

**MINUTES  
OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
BUDGET ADOPTION  
MAY 11, 1999  
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM  
7:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Cassano, Vice-Chairman Howroyd, Secretary Negri, Directors Morancey, Hachadourian, McMahon, Thompson, Crockett and Becker.

**ALSO:** General Manager Sartor and Deputy Manager Werbner.

The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Chairman Cassano. Chairman Cassano read the Notice of the Meeting.

**BUDGET RESOLUTION  
GENERAL FUND**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester, Connecticut that the following be and hereby is adopted as the General Fund Budget of the Town of Manchester for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000.

**EXPENDITURES**

**Director Hachadourian moved and Vice-Chairman Howroyd seconded a motion to adopt:**

**General Government..... \$4,283,574**

Director Hachadourian stated that the General Government section of the budget includes the administrative functions of the Town including the Board of Directors, the General Manager, Human Resources, Finances, Planning, Customer Services, elected and appointed officials and some other sections. Highlights in this section are \$5,000 included to support promotional endeavors to the Cheney Brothers National Historic District Commission, maintain strong support for the Citizen's Services Information Center, support for the Human Resources Department which consists primarily of two main functions, one of which is processing the thousands of applicants, and the other, support for the Deputy Manager in his work for Human Resources negotiating contracts with the labor unions, support for the Finance Department responsible for the collection of our taxes, and the Department of Planning & Economic Development which supports the open-space plan and development of our industrial parks. This particular section contains a tremendous amount of expertise presided over by the General Manager.

Because of budgetary constraints last year the General Manager did not receive a pay increase and this year for his good job a 3% raise is incorporated into this budget.

**Director Becker moved and Director Crockett seconded a motion to amend:**

**General Government..... \$3,834,521**

Director Becker made no further comment at this time. Chairman Cassano asked for some background information on this budget item as this would reduce the amount by \$600,000. Director Becker stated that the Minority have made clear over the past few weeks a number of areas that was thought that could be cut back. It was thought especially General Government could be trimmed probably more than other areas.

Director Hachadourian called the question.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor  
Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Secretary Negri moved and Director Morancey seconded a motion to adopt:**

**Public Works..... \$8,934,891**

Secretary Negri stated that the Public Works section of the budget includes the Administrative, Engineering and Building Inspection divisions, as well as, the Field Services section of Public Works which include the cemeteries, fleet maintenance, highway, building maintenance and park divisions. This budget provides for the day-to-day operation of each of these divisions including the ongoing annual sidewalk replacement and the ongoing roadway resurfacing projects, as well as, for projects now underway or planned for in the near future. The Democratic Majority approves a transfer of an employee from the Building Maintenance Division to become Clerk of the Works for these projects. In the Building Inspection Department Division, the Democratic Majority approves the Administrations' recommended budget for this division. In the Engineering Division, the Democratic Majority approves to continue to hold vacant the position of Construction Inspector. The Majority also approves the amounts needed to repair older staff vehicles. The Highway Division has the responsibility of managing the

street system. Management includes the construction of streets and road surface, as well as, their continued maintenance. It is obligated to ensure safe travel throughout the entire year in all but the most exceptional weather conditions. The Majority approves of using a portion of this division's budget, \$34,388, for recommended adjustments to contractor's fees as follows:

- 1) To provide a 10% increase in the hourly fees for plowing services; and
- 2) \$27,500 to provide a guaranteed minimum base retainer to plowing contractors to ensure their availability when needed.

These practices are used by the State of Connecticut and is recommended for Town use given the increased difficulty in recent years to ensure that contractor plowing services are available when needed. In the Cemetery Division, the development and maintenance of municipal cemeteries are the responsibility of the Cemetery Division of the Public Works Department. Maintenance operations such as mowing grass areas, cutting and trimming edges and providing services necessary to funerals are the primary activities of this division. The Majority approves the division's portion of the Public Works budget for the fiscal year 1999-2000. The Majority also desires to retain present cemetery fees. In Fleet Maintenance, the Equipment and Supply Division is responsible for repairing and maintaining the Highway Division's vehicles. It also services and repairs most of the Town Hall and Lincoln Center vehicles, as well as, some from the Water Division, Sewer Division and the Senior Citizens Center. It is intended that this division will eventually become the central maintenance garage for most Town functions. With the rising costs in equipment, supplies and repairs, the Majority approves the 2% increase from the present budget for next year. The Building Maintenance Division is responsible for approximately 30 Town office buildings and various related outlying buildings. This responsibility includes the preventative maintenance of mechanical repairs of buildings, plant equipment and related maintenance. Additionally, the administration and supervision of custodial services is administered through this division. Division staff is used both as a construction force for the improvement of Town properties and for the implementation of the preventative maintenance to buildings, programs and for routine service and cleaning of all these properties. The Majority approves the 6.1% decrease in next year's recommended budget from this year's budget. The Parks Division contains the five functions of park administration: tree care, maintenance of park and facilities, maintenance of motor vehicles and park equipment, maintenance of recreational buildings and grounds. The division is responsible for the development and maintenance of parks, playfields and recreational areas other than those maintained by the Board of Education and for tree care and ground maintenance along public rights of way. With the expansion of Center Springs Park and the development of Northwest Park, the Majority approves the administrations recommended budget for this division. The Public Works Department will retain the present work force. No new positions are provided in the Majority's recommended budget for this department.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend:**

**Public Works .....\$8,371,656**

Chairman Cassano asked for a description. Director Becker had no further comment. Chairman Cassano stated that there is a \$600,000 difference and asked if there were positions or equipment identified. Director Becker stated that it is the Republican Minority’s position that we adopt a total number and the General Manager within each department budget has full freedom and authority to use these funds as he sees fit. Chairman Cassano asked if they had a process for picking that general number. Director Becker stated that they are on record for some time that they would attempt to reduce the current year’s budget by about 5% and that is how we came to this figure.

Director Hachadourian asked if they made that number up without considering consequences. Director Becker stated that he had no further comment.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor  
Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Vice-Chairman Howroyd moved and Director Morancey seconded a motion to adopt:**

**Public Safety .....\$11,801,219**

Vice-Chairman Howroyd stated that the Public Safety section of the budget includes the Police Department, the Youth Service Bureau and Emergency Management. The increase over the current year’s budget is approximately 2.1%. The current year’s adopted budget represents the completion of the staffing improvement plan which was initiated back in 1993 and during that period the total authorized staffing for the Police Department has increased by 19 sworn positions and 6 civilian police service aides. This budget maintains the improvements to sworn office strength, consistent with that plan in 1993 with one exception, and that would be the sworn position which was filled by a traffic analyst remains unfilled consistent with this Board’s action last August to cover the cost associated with the retirement incentive last year. There also is a decrease of \$116,691 in this which represents the transfer of 2 civilian employees to the Department of Information Systems. Other major areas include an increase of over \$20,000 which is the matching share of 3 patrol officers hired under the first Universal Hiring Grant in 1996, an increase of \$12,000 which is an increase in our local matching share for 3 patrol officers hired in 1997, an increase of over \$5,000 which is the matching share of 3 additional patrol officers hired with the Universal Hiring Grant in 1998, and finally, an increase of over \$33,000 for 4 police service aides which also were supported by a federal grant. A couple of

areas within the Police Department. There is an increase of \$15,000 for traffic consultant services to provide the essential functions formally provided by the traffic analyst, a net increase of \$38,880 for contracted traffic signal repairs and an increase of over \$39,000 in training. This recognizes that there has been considerable turn over within the Police Department and a lot of upward mobility which is being supported with additional training dollars. One major objective that this budget will also support is the movement toward community oriented policing in the next fiscal year. In the area of Youth Service. The Youth Service Bureau provides the opportunity for positive youth development including community service, life skills, programs and special events. The bureau also works with other Town departments who have service contacts with youth or their families to provide those opportunities. The increase in this budget is an increase of \$36,100 which represents 80% of the salary and fringe benefits of the existing program coordinator which is currently funded at 20% in the General Fund and 80% in the Special Grants Account. This year it's being put in the General Fund but is offset entirely by an addition of a \$36,500 grant from the State Department of Education. Finally, in the area of Emergency Management which is also know as civil defense. Although this budget is small, we spend a lot of time in terms of staff resources to plan for the inevitable. There is a 1% increase of \$524.

**Director Crockett moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend:**

**Public Safety .....\$11,852,819**

Director Crockett stated that the Republicans supported the General Manager's recommended budget. It was recommended that the Town get proactive on getting another policeman in the high school and start with a policeman in each of the junior high schools. It is understood that there is a COPS for Schools federal program that might be coming out in the near future, but prefer not to wait. We recommend taking the funds out of the Unallocated Fund Balance.

Director Morancey stated that Director Crockett would be happy to know that the police received a \$384,000 grant just to do that. Director Crockett was happy to hear that, but stated that they would stay with their original amendment to fully fund.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor  
Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Director Hachadourian moved and Vice-Chairman Howroyd seconded a motion to adopt:**

**Human Services.....\$2,142,433**

Director Hachadourian stated that the Human Services section of the budget includes the administrative functions including human service delivery, needs assessment, grant application preparation and management, as well as, the social services unit and the family support divisions. The Human Services budget is a place which funds are provided to several community agencies in partnership to provide services to our town. To have these agencies that are nonprofits providing these services and that we partner with them is a positive asset to the Town. The Community Child Guidance Clinic will be receiving \$81,429, the Visiting Nurse & Health Services will be receiving \$118,840, and the Manchester Area Conference of Churches Human Needs Fund. This fully supports and extends services at the Senior Citizen Center and allows some staffing of off-site services. The Family Support Services Division provides case management functions, provides outreach advocacy, short term counseling, information referral and other social work services to community residents in need.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend:**

**Human Services.....\$1,955,006**

No further comment was made from Director Becker.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor  
Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Director Morancey moved and Vice-Chairman Howroyd seconded a motion to adopt:**

**Leisure Services.....\$3,727,202**

Director Morancey stated that Leisure Services is made up of two Town services, recreation and the library. The Recreation Department provides to all ages organized sports, aquatics, summer programs and Camp Kennedy while maintaining and enhancing all recreation facilities. The proposed budget extends the summer camp and Camp Truepoint programs to serve an additional 190 participants and extends the day services for approximately 900 children. This funding also includes monies for the increased cost of utilities for the expansion of the I.O.H. locker room and direct mailing of recreation program brochures. For the Library, the Manchester library provides services at Mary Cheney and Whiton Memorial Libraries along with a weekly book mobile service. The proposed allocation provides for the extended opening of the Mary Cheney Library for a full day Saturday through the summer, funds for the increased utilities costs for the

Howroyd Memorial Community Room and the purchasing of new lendable materials and services. In addition to the recommended budget, we are adding additional funds of \$10,000 for furnishings such as folding chairs and tables to be used for children’s programs and the community for use in the Howroyd Memorial Community Room and \$10,000 for additional or replacement furnishings for libraries. Libraries continue to be one of the best services provided in Manchester and we are pleased to provide this additional support.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend:**

**Leisure Services.....\$3,329,792**

Director Becker had no further comment. Chairman Cassano stated that this is a \$400,000 difference and thought that all added services were unanimously approved by the Board over the past year as the Board focused on children. The cut of \$400,000 would dramatically deny the people of Manchester major library services and most importantly in providing programs for children. Director Hachadourian stated that we spent out of this budget dollars to provide and expand the youth summer program that provides protected recreation, education and health programming for children in almost all of the elementary schools. The amendment would ask the General Manager to select among which schools he would shut that program down and to select which days of the week to close the libraries. Director Thompson stated that if people didn’t like the proposal to vote against it.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor  
Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Director Morancey moved and Vice-Chairman Howroyd seconded a motion to adopt:**

Education:	
Board of Education .....	\$61,911,237
Manchester Regional Academy .....	663,811
Health-Welfare Private Schools.....	308,705
Transitional Living .....	73,438
Total Education.....	\$62,957,191

Director Morancey stated that the Board of Education budget of \$1,762,885 was adjusted by \$172,000 to \$1,590,885 due to a decrease in the contribution to the Pension Fund. This adjustment did not affect the program-related expenditures requested. The proposed budget provides for programs and staff improvements requested such as maintaining the focus on teaching and learning, addressing the student dropout rate, funding alternate education programs,

increasing the number of social workers and high school counselors, and increasing parental involvement. It has been this Board’s policy to fund and support the educational system in Manchester. This has been demonstrated over the last years and in this year by funding the school budget by \$5,310,417 in spite of reducing the mill rate over the same period. This year it is the position of the Democratic Board to fully fund all educational requests and in addition offer \$100,000 for the increase of the graduation rate from the high school. The Democratic Majority have identified \$100,000 to be provided as a grant to the Board of Education for this specific purpose. As an ongoing process, the Board of Education applies for and receives grants from a variety of governmental and non-governmental sources. We are adding to this list of resources ourselves. We invite the Board of Education to submit a grant proposal to the Board to address the dropout prevention in our school systems and to provide us with a written request that outlines specifically how these funds will be used, what measures of success will be, and how they will periodically report to us on the status of the dropout prevention activities specified in the grant proposal. The timing of this grant matches nicely with the selection of a new superintendent of schools and provides him with additional tools to address this serious community issue. It will be a pleasure to meet with him in a few months to hear his proposal and to address any larger themes he may wish to share with us. In addition, the Democrat Majority fully funds the Manchester Regional Academy, the Health-Welfare of Private Schools and the Transitional Living Center.

Director Becker stated that it is ironic that this year there is a classic let’s throw money at the problem, but a year ago today, Democrats chose to slash over \$700,000 from the Board of Education’s request. He wondered if that hadn’t been done, if we wouldn’t be in the same position as we are in today trying to catch up. He stated that the Republican Minority has expressed publicly that there is a number of areas that will not affect the classroom or the teaching that could be trimmed.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend:**

Education:

Board of Education.....	\$60,320,352
Manchester Regional Academy.....	663,811
Health-Welfare Private Schools .....	308,705
Transitional Living .....	73,438
Total Education .....	\$61,366,306

Director Hachadourian stated that it is a known fact that the education budget is primarily one of staffing, so presumed that the Republican proposal is to reduce teachers, social workers, speech pathologists, reading experts, etc., and stated that he wouldn’t support that type of approach to our educational enterprise here in Manchester.



Director Morancey stated that the Democratic Majority was specific in this \$100,000 grant not to throw money at the problem, but to offer a resource of a program as defined by the Board of Education.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor  
Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Director Hachadourian moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to adopt:  
Employee and Pension Benefits..... \$715,783**

**No amendment was offered by the Republican caucus.**

**Nine voted in favor.**

**Director Hachadourian moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to adopt:  
Debt Service..... \$2,988,175**

**No amendment was offered by the Republican caucus.**

**Nine voted in favor.**

**Director Hachadourian moved and Vice-Chairman Howroyd seconded a motion to adopt:  
Miscellaneous ..... \$362,554**

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend:  
Miscellaneous ..... \$343,723**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor**

**Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Director Hachadourian moved and Director Morancey seconded a motion to adopt:**

**Interfund Transfers..... \$3,088,033**

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend:**

**Interfund Transfers..... \$2,710,701**

Director Hachadourian wanted to point out items that are used in the Interfund Transfers. There are \$22,000 to continue the swimming pool painting and crack sealing program at the rate of one pool each year to maintain the pools' conditions following the \$400,000 major restoration of the Town's four outdoor pools that were completed in fiscal year 1992 and 1993. Salters Pool is scheduled for maintenance in fiscal year for this budget. In addition, \$12,000 are to continue the hard court resurfacing program initiated in fiscal year 1995-1996 with work scheduled at the West Side Recreation Center and the Nathan Hale courts in fiscal year 1999/2000.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor**

**Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**GENERAL FUND - REVENUES**

**Vice-Chairman Howroyd moved and Director Morancey seconded a motion to adopt:**

**Revenues - General Related**

Property Taxes, Interest and Lien Fees .....	\$66,499,035
Permits, Licenses and Fees .....	\$1,288,000
Charges for Services.....	\$387,650
State and Federal Grants.....	\$5,666,996

Income from Assets .....	\$1,357,000
Interfund Transfers .....	\$621,483
Miscellaneous Income .....	\$85,000
Appropriation of Prior Year Balance.....	\$525,000

**Education Related**

Charges for Services.....	\$684,311
State and Federal Grants.....	\$23,896,580

**TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES ..... \$101,011,055**

Vice-Chairman Howroyd reviewed some of the changes from the General Manager’s proposed budget stating that the amount for property tax revenues includes the adjustments made by the Board of Assessment Appeals. In the area of permits, license and fees the revenues have been adjusted to reflect current revenue collection trends recommended by the administration. He also pointed out that it does include a proposal to increase the building permit fees from the current \$12 per \$1,000 of construction cost to \$14 per \$1000 of construction cost. This will be the first increase in this area since 1991. Governor Rowland in February had proposed a major new category of state revenue to be funded by tobacco fund monies. The Town of Manchester would have received over \$801,000, but at this time, it does not appear that the General Assembly will go forward with that. Yet other adjustments have been made in state revenues to offset some of this loss. This includes an additional \$460,000 for payment in lieu of taxes for state owned property in colleges and hospitals, a modest increase of \$137,915 in education cost sharing, an addition of \$70,000 for subsidized housing abatement grant, and a proposal in the Appropriations Committee approved for \$297,542 in property tax relief. This represents the major changes in revenue from the General Manager’s proposed budget.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend:**

**Revenues - General Related**

Property Taxes, Interest and Lien Fees .....	\$63,041,462
Permits, Licenses and Fees.....	\$1,188,000
Appropriation of Prior Year Balance.....	\$550,000
Total.....	\$97,478,482

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor**

**Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**SANITATION FUND**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be and hereby is adopted as the budget for the **SANITATION FUND** for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000.

**Secretary Negri moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to adopt:**

**EXPENDITURES**

Operating Expenses .....	\$3,612,275
Debt Service .....	0
Transfer to Capital Improvement Reserve Fund ...	<u>240,000</u>
Total Sanitation Fund Expenditures .....	\$3,852,275

**REVENUES**

Tipping Fees .....	\$2,739,780
Interest on Investments .....	200,000
Appropriation from Prior Year Fund Balance .....	25,745
Other Revenue .....	<u>886,750</u>
Total Sanitation Fund Revenue	
and Use of Fund Balance .....	\$3,852,275

**No amendment was offered by the Republican caucus.**

**Nine voted in favor.**

**WATER FUND**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be and hereby is adopted as the budget for the **WATER FUND** for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000:

**Secretary Negri moved and Director McMahon seconded a motion to adopt:**

**EXPENDITURES**

Operating Expenses .....	\$4,139,148
--------------------------	-------------

Debt Service .....	311,400
Transfer to Capital Improvement Reserve Fund .....	<u>1,734,000</u>
Total Water Fund Expenditures.....	\$6,184,548

**REVENUES**

Operating Revenue .....	\$5,504,000
Interest on Investments.....	75,000
Appropriation from Prior Year Fund Balance.....	0
Other Revenue .....	<u>612,460</u>
Total Water Fund Revenues	
and Use of Fund Balance.....	\$6,191,460

Secretary Negri stated that the Water Division fund’s budget provides for a 2% water rate decrease and yet this fund remains in a stable financial position. The reduction is the Majority’s effort to reduce the water rate without affecting the Water Department’s effort to improve the delivery lines to the customers and also the quality of water received. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> rate reduction since 1993 under the Democratic Majority’s budget.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend the Water Fund:**

Operating Expenses to \$3,994,293, Transfer to Capital Improvement Reserve Fund to \$867,000 for Total Water Fund Expenditure of \$5,172,693.  
 Operating Revenues to \$4,054,037, Interest on Investments to \$65,000, Appropriation from Prior Year Fund Balance to \$431,196, Other Revenue to \$622,460 for Total Water Fund Revenues and Use of Fund Balance of \$5,172,693.

Director Becker stated that the Majority is adopting a 2% decrease which is good but it wasn’t that long ago that water rates tripled. In light of that and that it has been a long standing position of the Republican party that our water rates are too high, we offer a 20% cut by also utilizing some Fund Balance.

Chairman Cassano stated that Director Becker is correct that water rates have tripled but have tripled as a result of the vote of the people of Manchester who did not want to get tied into the regional water system. The rate of the regional water system is beginning to reach our rates and it won’t be long before it surpasses our rates. In the meantime, we continue to do improvements to the system, particularly to the old neighborhoods. That is the purpose of the Reserve Funds, and we do a magnificent job regarding ongoing construction of water and sewer.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor  
Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**SEWER FUND**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be and hereby is adopted as the budget for the **SEWER FUND** for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000:

**Secretary Negri moved and Vice-Chairman Howroyd seconded a motion to adopt:**

**EXPENDITURES**

Operating Expenses .....	\$3,326,871
Debt Service .....	941,460
Transfer to Capital Improvement Reserve Fund ...	<u>674,000</u>
Total Sewer Fund Expenditures .....	\$4,942,331

**REVENUES**

Operating Revenue .....	\$4,409,680
Interest on Investments .....	23,000
Appropriation from Prior Year Fund Balance .....	208,651
Other Revenue .....	<u>301,000</u>
Total Sewer Fund Revenues	
and Use of Fund Balance.....	\$4,942,331

Secretary Negri stated that this budget is based on a continuation of all current sewer rates. No increase in sewer rates for fiscal year 1999 through 2000. This budget also provides infrastructure improvements necessary for the waste water plant. These projects will cause no reduction in programs or service to property owners.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend the Sewer Fund:**

Transfer to Capital Improvement Reserve Fund to \$337,000 for Total Sewer Fund Expenditures of \$4,605,331. Operating Revenue to \$3,968,712,

Interest on Investments to \$25,000, Appropriation from Prior Year Fund Balance to \$287,619, Other Revenue to \$324,000 for Total Sewer Fund Revenues and Use of Fund Balance of \$4,605,331.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor  
Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**FIRE DISTRICT SPECIAL FUND**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be and hereby is adopted as the budget of the **FIRE DISTRICT SPECIAL FUND** for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000:

**Vice-Chairman Howroyd moved and Director Morancey seconded a motion to adopt:**

**EXPENDITURES**

Operating Expenses .....	\$7,409,256
Debt Service .....	87,000
Transfer to Capital Improvement Reserve Fund .....	<u>0</u>
Total Fire District Special Fund Expenditures .....	\$7,496,256

**REVENUES**

Property Taxes, Interest and Lien Fees .....	\$6,276,656
State Revenue .....	115,600
Other Revenue .....	904,000
Appropriation of Prior Year Fund Balance .....	<u>200,000</u>
Total Fire District Special Fund Revenues and Use of Fund Balance.....	\$7,496,256

Vice-Chairman Howroyd stated that the mill rate to support the Fire District Special Fund is presently at 3.28 mills and this proposal would maintain that current mill rate. Despite the fact in the past year we've done a lot to support our fire rescue EMS services including the establishment of the rank of lieutenant, the authorization to lease/purchase

four major pieces of apparatus, the inclusion of fire rescue EMS services in the new regional computer aided dispatch records management system and the approval of a bond issue to renovate all five fire stations. There was a proposal in the General Manager's budget to include new revenues of \$144,000 for user fee for insurance covered advance life support paramedics services. This budget does not include that revenue source. As the Mayor will explain in his budget message, it is our intention to have interested parties continue to work on that issue during the course of this fiscal year but want to make it clear that they will not be assuming any revenue at all from that proposal. The Majority is pleased with the efforts made by Chief Weber and his staff and that we have the ability in this budget to authorize two additional fire fighter paramedic positions to be partial year funded during the course of this coming fiscal year.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend the Fire District Special Fund:**

Operating Expenses to \$7,449,256 for Total Fire District Special Fund Expenditures of \$7,536,256. Revenue - Property Taxes, Interest and Lien Fees to \$6,460,656, Other Revenue to \$760,000 for Total Fire District Special Fund Revenues and Use of Fund Balance \$7,536,256.

Director Becker stated that the Republican Minority have included in their budget about \$40,000 for partial year funding of an additional fire fighter which they feel should be the first step in a phase in of several additional fire fighter positions over the course of several years. That department has not received, despite the build up of our Town over a period of twenty years, additional fire fighter positions in many years. He also noted that the Majority's budget has kept \$144,000 in Other Revenue. The Minority's choice was to use the mill rate and increase it as needed and not hope for something that would in effect charge people for their EMS service.

Vice-Chairman Howroyd wanted to point out that the Majority budget does not have any user fee presented in it, and in fact, maintains the current mill rate and authorizes partial year funding of two additional fire fighter positions.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor**



**Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**DATA PROCESSING SERVICES FUND**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following be and hereby is adopted as the budget of the **DATA PROCESSING SERVICES FUND** for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000:

**Director McMahon moved and Vice-Chairman Howroyd seconded a motion to adopt:**

**EXPENDITURES**

Operating Expenses .....	\$1,127,345
Transfer to Capital Improvement Reserve Fund .....	<u>216,984</u>
Total Data Processing Services Expenditures .....	\$1,344,329

**REVENUES**

Town Services (Town, Board of Education, Water & Sewer, Sanitation & Fire) .....	\$1,329,019
Services to Other Users and Other Revenue .....	15,310
Appropriation from Prior Year Fund Balance ..	<u>0</u>
Total Data Processing Services Revenues and Use of Fund Balance.....	\$1,344,329

Director McMahon stated that the Information Systems budget presented reflects no changes from the General Manager's proposed budget. The Information Systems Department provides automated information services for all Town departments through a separate fund with costs proportionately shared by the Town, the Board of Education and other users. Major changes in this budget from the current year include an increase of \$116,691 representing the transfer of the salary and fringe benefits of two staff positions currently assigned to the Police Department. This will allow deployment of the necessary support staff in a manner consistent with services provided to the Board of Education and other Town departments. There is also the addition of an online technical support specialist included in this budget to be assigned primarily to maintain the 60 p.c.s, local area networks, and specialized water and sewer treatment control systems within the Water and Sewer Department. This budget continues the Board of Directors strong support of our Information Systems Department allowing the Town to operate efficiently through the use of superior technology.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend the Data Processing Services Fund:**

Operating Expenses to \$827,345 for Total Data Processing Services Equipment of \$1,044,329. Revenues - Town Services (Town, Board of Education, Water & Sewer, Sanitation & Fire) to \$1,029,019 for Total Data Processing Services Revenues and Use of Fund Balance of \$1,044,329.

Director Becker stated that it is the position of the Minority that this department be privatized.

Vice-Chairman Howroyd stated that the Minority budget proposal is going down a dangerous path. He would not comment on the pros and cons, but stated that just the merits of whether or not it is going to bear any fruit. To just pull a \$300,000 savings out of the air assuming that the Town of Manchester can get a 20-30% savings that is alleged to be arrived at from the State of Connecticut's computer privatization efforts, is not founded in fact. He urged everyone to look at the status of the State's computer privatization efforts and stated that we can not afford a \$300,000 reduction in this essential service with any delays assuming that we will have this up and running in 6 weeks. Privatization has to be done according to a plan. During the budget workshop we did address this issue with the Director of Information Systems who comes from the private sector and he told us that he looks at ways to achieve economies every day of the week. He looks at the efficiency and assesses whether it could be done more efficiently by people on the outside. To compare our Information Systems with that of the State of Connecticut is completely off base.

Director Hachadourian was taken aback by the Minority's general approach. Last year the Minority party did not propose a budget. This year they are proposing cuts with no consequences. Establishing a budget is one of the most important things we do, establishing priorities, direction, costs and the value of government to our citizens.

Chairman Cassano stated that one of the assets of having employees who work for you, is that trust and loyalty is developed. He felt it would be a tremendous step backwards if we were to privatize this department and strongly opposed even the suggestion of the motion.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker  
Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor**

**Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Vice-Chairman Howroyd moved and Director Morancey seconded a motion to adopt the resolution in its entirety:**

### **BUDGET RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED, that in accordance with the applicable provisions of State Statutes, 1958 Revision, and amendments thereto, the Town Charter as amended, and the Town Ordinances establishing a Fire Department Taxing District and a Special Services District, a tax rate of **23.59 mills on the dollar** is hereby levied on the **ratable estate of the Town of Manchester** as of October 1, 1998, according to the respective assessments thereon last made and completed; for maintenance and support of school, principal and interest on outstanding indebtedness and current expenses of the Town, excluding those for the two Special Districts, for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000; an additional tax rate of **3.28 mills on the dollar** is hereby levied on the ratable estate of the **Fire Department Taxing District** of the Town of Manchester as of October 1, 1998, according to the respective assessments thereon last made and completed, for payment of current expenses of the Town Fire Department for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000; and an additional tax rate of **4.95 mills on the dollar** is hereby levied on the ratable estate of the **Special Services District** of the Town of Manchester as of October 1, 1998, according to the respective assessments thereon last made and completed, for payment of current expenses of the District for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 1999, and ending June 30, 2000; each of such taxes to be due and payable, one-half on the first day of July 1999, and one-half on the first day of January 2000, provided, however, that any tax on real estate amounting to not more than four hundred dollars (\$400.00) shall be due and payable in one (1) installment on July 1, 1999; further provided that any personal property tax amounting to not more than four hundred dollars (\$400.00) and any motor vehicle tax of any amount shall also be due and payable in one (1) installment on July 1, 1999.

**Director Becker moved and Director Thompson seconded a motion to amend:**

General Fund mill rate to 22.32 and Fire District mill rate to 3.38 mill rate.

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the amendment.**

**Three Voted in Favor - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

**Six Voted Against.**

**Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the main motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor**

**Three Voted Against - Thompson, Crockett, Becker**

Schedule of Capital Reserve Allocations:

<b>Fund</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Amount</b>	
a. Capital Improvement	New - Town Beautification Projects	40,000	Re
	GR1217 Cheney Library Improvements	90,000	
	GR1336 Pool-Paint & Crack Seals	34,000	
	GR1366 Lease Purchase Equipment 96	135,810	
	GR1366 Lease Purchase Equipment 96	135,810	
b. Fire Reserve Fund 321	None		
c. Information Systems Reserve Fund 361	DPR615	228,984	
d. Water Reserve Fund 352	WR337 Clean and Line	525,000	
	WR349 Relocate Water Mains	270,000	
	New - GHWTP Improvements	215,000	
	WR378 Town Mapping Project	330,000	
	WR329 Replace Motor Vehicles	119,000	

	WR354 Data Processing Improvements	30,000
	WR388 Water Storage Tank Painting	100,000
	WR389 Charter Oak Acquifer	250,000
	WR291 Purchase Water Meters	24,000
<b>Fund</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Amount</b>
	WR386 Heavy Equipment	30,000
e. Sewer Reserve Fund 353	SR386 Relocate Sewer Lines	100,000
	SR413 Town Mapping	220,000
	SR416 WWTP Equipment	215,000
	SR374 Motor Vehicles	122,000
	New - Aeration/Denitrification	60,000
	SR387 Microprocessor System	17,000
f. Parks Reserve Fund 363	PR004 Community 'Y' Improvements	25,000
g. Sanitation Reserve Fund 332	LR716 Landfill Closure	240,000

Schedule of Capital Reserve Allocations adopted in its entirety.

**Chairman Cassano read the Mayor's Budget Message from May 11, 1999, attached to these minutes and incorporated herein.**

Director Becker stated that there is a reason why today there aren't nine members from the same party on this Board. Unlike the way it was in 1947 when his Dad first ran for this Board and nine Republicans were elected. Philosophically the parties disagree dramatically on taxes and spending issues. He stressed, however, that the parties respect each others viewpoint and believe that open debate is necessary for good government. He then utilized visual aids that demonstrated three symbols of what these proceedings were about tonight. First of all there is a rubber stamp marked approved. This is to symbolize the action of our friends on the other side approving almost

completely the General Manager's budget. In fact, their budget varied .04 mills from the General Manager's final budget. Second a bottle of imported water to demonstrate the high prices residents are forced to pay for water; and lastly, a thirty pack, to symbolize the approximate value to the average home owner of the tax cut that was passed by the Majority tonight. He took a brief look back at October 1997 and felt it rather ironic that the Minority wound up fulfilling the promises made by the Majority. He quoted a copy of an October 18<sup>th</sup> article from the Journal Inquirer that reported on a Democratic press conference. "It's pay back time." Director and candidate James Morancey said. The Democratic candidates pledged to use at least one million dollars of expected tax revenues from the Pavilions at Buckland Hills Mall for tax relief in the 1998/1999 and the 1999/2000 budget years. The Democrats said the taxpayer's deserve some relief. All six Democrats have agreed, they said.

On October 30, 1997, Republicans placed an ad in the Hartford Courant. It promised if elected to a Majority they would cut taxes by 1 mill and water rates by 20%. As you listen to tonight's proceedings I think you can understand who is telling the truth. It would be easy to dwell on the legacy of 25 years of one party rule in Manchester. Democrat stewardship that has left us, our children and grandchildren a bill of over \$250 million to pay for deteriorated schools, roads, bridges and sidewalks. Democrat leadership that lacks business experience, that has always taken the easy way out by rubber stamping administration budgets. Democrats who promise \$2 million of tax relief at election time but failed to deliver. Instead, he spoke tonight about the vision of Republican leadership for our future. This year we must reduce spending. Our simple premise is spend less next year than we did this year. He then repeated it. It's never been done by our friends on the other side. Let's cut out the waste, duplication effort and bureaucracy and actually spend several million dollars less than in fact what was promised. Less than we did last year. The reason is simple. Evaluation next year will result in a mill rate that is 30% higher than today. A school renovation project that we can no longer put off will require a tripling of our debt service and result in at least a 2 to 3 mill tax increase. In today's dollars it will mean that Mr. Average's tax bill will increase as much as \$200 in the next seven years just to pay for school repairs. We must begin today to reduce spending and soften the impact of revaluation and the cost of school repairs. He then showed bar charts. The first one showed Democrat spending increases from the budget year 1993/1994 to adoption tonight 1999/2000. He pointed out that it has continued to climb from a little over \$85,000 to over \$85 million to over \$101 million. However, there is a second side to that story. He showed a chart of medium home prices from the year 1991 through 1997. In 1991 the medium home price was \$130 thousand. By 1997 it had dropped to \$105 thousand. Mr. Average is generally said to be an owner of a home valued at \$143,500. In fact, about a year and one half ago there was a home that sold just for that amount on Woodstock Drive.

However, the taxes on that home were \$3,626 a year. In effect, when you take these two charts, spending and the value of your home, taxes have effectively gone up over 30%. You know prices have dropped and accordingly taxes will have to increase. This is a projection of what happens with our mill rate. In the year 2001 the mill rate will increase probably over to 35 to 36 mills to take into account the drop in our net grand list and this is a projection of what will happen with our bond debt. The latest figure that he heard in today's paper was \$120 million. Our bond debt could top \$120 million or more as we project out to renovate our schools. And finally, the Republican vision. As you can tell, if we continue to increase spending at current levels, by the year 2005, we are going to be in excess of \$115 million dollars. Republican expenditures on the other hand capped at no more than 2% per year could keep the cost of living in Manchester to a reasonable level. Our concern is for young families and the elderly. Manchester must remain affordable. Spending must be reduced. A new baseline must be established. Our budget proposal supported the entire Public Safety budget and adds one firefighter. Education budget would be frozen at current levels. Other department budgets would be reduced from 5 to 10%. Property taxes would be cut by nearly 1 1/4 mills, which is probably a bit more than was promised in 1997 by the Majority, water rates be reduced by 20%, sewer rates by 10%, translating into a total savings of close to \$200 per year for the average home owner. It is payback time or should be. (Copy attached to these minutes.)

Chairman Cassano clarified some things that he felt were very misleading. The schools may be a \$120 million project, but that will not be the responsibility of the taxpayer. Approximately 60% of that is reimbursable by the state. To create this kind of a fear is unfair. We need to work together to make sure that the bond issue goes and to be accurate and honest with the people of Manchester. Talking about home values, etc., you have proposed the largest cut in the history of this town in education. This would cause the collapse of home values. If the Minority's budget went through, cutting hundreds of thousands dollars in recreation service, library services, and \$1.6 million in education in a community where we are having difficulty maintaining current levels of attendance, etc. what a sign that would be. He asked what authority have you gone to that's predicting this gloom and doom of a 30% increase as far as revaluation. Director Becker stated if you look at medium home prices, they have dropped that significantly.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**Chairman Cassano moved and Director Crockett seconded a motion to adjourn. Nine voted in favor.**

Adjournment : 9:28 p.m.

/jld

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

---

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT

SECRETARY,