

**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
AUGUST 31, 1999
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM
7:30 P.M.**

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

ALSO: General Manager Sartor, Deputy Manager Werbner and Town Attorney Darby.

The meeting was called to order at 7:34 p.m by Chairman Cassano. He stated that this was a continuation of the special meeting of the Board of Directors held on August 24, 1999. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Chairman Cassano.

At the August 24th meeting the Board of Directors held a meeting on the following two items:

Item No. 1 An appropriation and bond authorization in an amount not to exceed \$2,630,000 for various capital improvement projects including Hartford Road reconstruction, North Main Street bridge reconstruction, Community YMCA building repairs, Mary Cheney Library roof, River restoration improvements, Hollister Street storm drainage improvements, Senior Center building improvements, Skateboard park construction, sidewalk repair, replacement and removal.

Chairman Cassano stated that he would refer to this item in the course of this meeting as Item No. 1.

Item No. 2: An appropriation and bond authorization in an amount not to exceed \$110,742,000 for school improvement projects including the purchase of equipment and the repair, renovation and reconstruction of ten (10) elementary schools and sites as presented by the Board of Education and Building Committee.

Chairman Cassano stated that he would refer to this item in the course of this meeting as Item No. 2.

The Board of Directors' meeting on August 24th included a public hearing on each of

these two items. A public hearing on each item was closed and the Board of Directors was recessed to reconvene this evening to consider these items and determine whether to submit them as referendum questions to the electors for their approval or disapproval at the election to be held on November 2, 1999.

He stated that the items would be taken up separately. First Item No. 1 would be considered. The full text of the proposed resolution relating to Item No. 1 has been provided to each member of the Board of Directors including the Secretary. He asked if any member needed clarification as to which resolution would be considered at this time.

Secretary Negri moved and Vice-Chairman Howroyd seconded a motion to read a summary of Item No. 1 which is the subject of the proposed resolution, to waive the reading of the entire resolution and to incorporate its full text into the minutes of this meeting.

	Roll	Call	Vote
Cassano	yes	McMahon	yes
Howroyd	yes	Crockett	yes
Negri	yes	Becker	yes
Morancey	yes	Thompson	yes
Hachadourian	yes		

Director Morancey moved and Director McMahon seconded a motion to adopt Item No. 1 an appropriation of \$2,630,000 to be added to the Capital Accounts of the 1999-2000 budget for the purpose of paying costs of capital improvement projects, including but not limited to, Hartford Road reconstruction, North Main Street bridge reconstruction, Community YMCA building repairs, Mary Cheney Library roof, River restoration improvements, Hollister Street storm drainage improvements, Senior Center building improvements, Skateboard park construction, sidewalk repair, replacement and removal and the financing of said appropriation by the issuance of general obligation bonds of the Town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in an amount not to exceed \$2,630,000.

	Roll	Call	Vote
Cassano	yes	McMahon	yes
Howroyd	yes	Crockett	yes
Negri	yes	Becker	yes

Morancey yes Thompson no
Hachadourian yes

Director Morancey supported the North Main Street bridge reconstruction and skateboard park. He stated it was a good time to get the bridge done as a new bridge would be constructed to reroute traffic during the reconstruction process. He also was happy to see the funds for construction of the skateboard park in this particular bond issue.

Director Crockett supported all the items in the proposed facilities bond issue. He stated he would like these questions listed individually on the ballot.

Vice-Chairman Howroyd support the capital bond proposal before the Board this evening. He felt that it was prudent to move forward this evening on a number of the items in this bond request. He disagreed to divide this into nine separate questions.

Director Becker reminded the Board that the main reason this was before them was because the minority proposed what was originally a \$12 million plan to repair sidewalks. Considering the dollar amount that this arrived at, he felt that it was a fairly good compromise, however, felt that the sidewalk problem would not go away. He supported the motion.

Director Thompson would not support the motion unless the questions were broken out and stated that in past years the majority had said that the questions should be broken down into public works and recreation. He felt that at least the skateboard park should be a separate item. He supported all the items going to the voters as a necessity for being done, although they should be broken down.

Chairman Cassano stated that in the early 80's there was a charter revision that they broke into separate questions. The criticism was very high because of the lines to the voting booths. This is not a large amount of money, and except for the skateboard park, they are all highly necessary items. On the items of the North Main Street bridge and Hartford Road, we are spending money to gain money in grant monies. He supported this question as put forward.

Director Crockett moved and Director Morancey seconded a motion to read a summary of Item No. 2 which is the subject of the proposed resolution, to waive the reading of the entire resolution and to incorporate its full text into the minutes of this meeting.

Roll Call Vote

Cassano	yes	McMahon	yes
Howroyd	yes	Crockett	yes
Negri	yes	Becker	yes
Morancey	yes	Thompson	yes
Hachadourian	yes		

Director Morancey moved and Vice-Chairman Howroyd seconded a motion to adopt an appropriation of \$110,742,000 to be added to the capital accounts of the 1999-2000 Budget for the purpose of paying costs of school improvement projects, including but not limited, to the purchase of equipment and the repair, renovation and reconstruction of ten (10) elementary schools and sites as presented by the Board of Education and Building Committee and financing said appropriation by the issuance of general obligations bonds of the Town and notes in anticipation of such bonds in an amount not to exceed \$110,742,000 or so much as may be necessary after deducting grants therefore in an amount estimated to be approximately \$36,337,000.

	Roll	Call	Vote
Cassano	yes	McMahon	yes
Howroyd	yes	Crockett	yes
Negri	yes	Becker	yes
Morancey	yes	Thompson	no
Hachadourian	yes		

Director Thompson could not support this motion for two reasons. First, he felt that it was a disservice to the voters not knowing the reimbursement rate. Secondly, he felt the total picture has been ignored. He felt that the middle schools and the high school deserve the highest priority. By sending this to the voters, we could be dooming this bond question to failure and also the high school and middle schools to failure. He thought that we should take a second look at the total picture and come back in a year's time.

Vice-Chairman Howroyd stated that as the process began, he agreed that grades 6 through 12 should be done first, but unfortunately, there are number of very complex reasons why we are not at that point to support a proposal to go forward today. He stated that the elementary schools have some serious inequities from school to school. The average classroom is 52 years old and he felt that it is time to update these schools. He intended to support this because this is work needed to bring our elementary schools to where they should be. He looked forward to institutionalizing a capital fund within the Board of

Education or the Board of Directors through our Facility Manager to maintain the school buildings.

Director Becker stated that he would vote in favor of submitting this question to the voters. He voted out of respect for all the citizens that worked on many committees, the Building Committee, the Board of Education and also the Superintendent of Schools. He felt the people of the Town of Manchester should have the right to vote for it. He went on to cite the unanswered questions that troubled him. He preferred to see somewhere along the line of a ten year plan that would be bonded after completion for twenty years stretching the cost out over a thirty year period. This plan would be adopted after re-valuation. All the schools would be part of this plan. An integral part of this plan would be a maintenance policy.

Director Hachadourian spoke about the ECS bonding cap and how it would affect tax income when it is lifted in about four years. The Town would receive approximately \$4 million a year more. That would cut the expected tax increase from this bond issue in half. He supported this and planned on voting in favor of putting this question on the ballot. He stated that we are unlikely to get a better or less expensive plan than we have before us for the 10 elementary schools, and that it has probably been the most studied plan in Manchester's history.

Secretary Negri stated that when it was first made clear that the schools needed to be renovated, he felt that the 6 through 12 schools needed to be addressed first. However, it has been shown the bad conditions that exist in the elementary schools. Because of that, he highly approved that the voters should come out and vote for this proposition. He hoped that some modifications would be made, for instance, Nathan Hale parking.

Director Morancey stated that he supported this referendum and the time is now. He looked at some of the ages of the schools and stated that Washington School was built in 1912. Nathan Hale is 78 years old, Highland Park 70 years and the youngest Martin is 34 years old. He felt if we could get the life from this bond issue that we had in the past, we would be good for another 50 years.

Director Crockett supported this referendum. He thought the high school and middle schools should be done first.

Director McMahon stated that there is no doubt that there is a critical need to improve the physical condition of all of the public schools. She supported placing this bond issue on the November ballot, and more importantly, the voters having a chance to vote on it.

Chairman Cassano stated that he thought it was important to look at the recent history of the last years as we have looked at school renovations. Citizens committees and a variety of studies have been done regarding this. He believed that the needs of the schools had been identified and as it was looked at closely, the focus shifted to the elementary schools. There wasn't enough time to put together a package necessary to be before us this evening to deal with the many needs of the middle and high schools. That doesn't mean that the elementary schools are not a necessary priority. All the schools need to be done and to put it off only would increase the cost. We have an obligation to the children today to make these upgrades to the school system so that they will have the same privileges that all children have had in the past. He supported this question and stated that it is important to the future of Manchester.

Adjournment: 8:32 p.m.

/jld

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT