

**MINUTES
TOWN OF MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT
SWEARING-IN AND ORGANIZATIONAL CEREMONY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, BOARD OF EDUCATION
AND
ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Monday, November 15, 1999

**CHENEY HALL
177 Hartford Road
Manchester, CT 06040
7:30 P.M.**

PRESENT: Board of Directors: Stephen T. Cassano, Josh Howroyd, Joseph D. Negri, James E. Morancey, Edward Hachadourian, Thomas P. Crockett, Timothy H. Becker, Louis A. Spadaccini and Susan Hovey.

Board of Education: Thomas A. Robinson, Sandra L. Lok, Michael T. Rizzo.

Treasurer: Elsie L. Swensson

Board of Selectmen: Mary E. Warrington and Joseph J. Diminico.

ABSENT: Janice M. Johnson

Constables: Warren J. Packer, Lisa H. Stevenson, Joseph S. Rafala, John DiDonato, Collins D. Johnston, James P. Quaglia and Richard A. Lyman.

ALSO PRESENT: General Manager Richard J. Sartor, Joseph V. Camposeo, Town Clerk, Alan Beitman, Superintendent of Schools, Richard J. Porth, Executive Director, Capital Regional Council of Governments, Pastor Kent Elliott and Father Chip Elliott.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 p.m.

Prelude music was provided by the Illing Middle School Jazz Band. The Manchester Police Color Guard was piped into the hall by the Manchester Regional Police and Fire Pipes and Drums. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. The National Anthem was sung by Victoria Lynn Rodrigue accompanied by Yasmeen

Mandour-Brackin on the piano. An invocation was presented by Pastor Kent Elliott of the Faith Tabernacle United Pentecostal Church.

Town Clerk Joseph V. Camposeo administered the oath of office to the newly elected Board of Directors: Stephen T. Cassano, Josh Howroyd, Joseph D. Negri, James E. Morancey, Edward Hachadourian, Thomas P. Crockett, Timothy H. Becker, Louis A. Spadaccini and Susan Hovey.

Town Clerk Camposeo administered the oath of office to the newly elected Board of Education members, Thomas A. Robinson, Sandra L. Lok and Michael T. Rizzo.

Town Clerk Camposeo administered the oath of office to the newly elected Town Treasurer, Elsie L. Swenson.

Town Clerk Camposeo administered the oath of office to the newly elected Town Selectmen, Mary E. Warrington and Joseph J. Diminico.

Town Clerk Camposeo administered the oath of office to the newly elected Town Constables, Warren J. Packer, Lisa H. Stevenson, Joseph S. Rafala, John DiDonato, Collins D. Johnston, James P. Quaglia and Richard A. Lyman.

General Manager Sartor introduced Alan Beitman, Superintendent of Schools, who congratulated the newly elected officials.

General Manager Sartor introduced Richard J. Porth, Executive Director, Capital Region Council of Governments. Mr. Porth stressed the importance of involvement in government as the building block of democracy. He offered six principles for elected officials to use in being effective in the job and to help build civic participation that makes for a good democracy. These ideas came from a law professor who wrote a book called Integrity. 1) A town is its people. 2) Think big picture. 3) Consistency matters. 4) Everyone should get to play. 5) Emphasize the common good of shared responsibility. 6) Sometimes the other side wins. Mr. Porth explained the benefit of the Capital Regional Council of Governments and what it brings to towns in the region through the cooperation of each town working together toward the development of policies and services. Through this coalition, towns are able to work more efficiently and cost effectively, and it is one of the most practical solutions to many of our public challenges today.

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

General Manager Sartor called for nominations for the position of Mayor of the Town of Manchester and Chairperson of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Director Howroyd moved and Director Negri seconded a motion to nominate Stephen T. Cassano, Mayor of the Town of Manchester and Chairperson of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Director Howroyd moved and Director Becker seconded a motion to close nominations for the Mayor of Manchester and Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Nine voted in favor.

General Manager Sartor called for a vote on the nomination of Stephen T. Cassano, Mayor of the Town of Manchester and Chairperson of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Nine voted in favor.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Chairman Cassano called for nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor of the Town of Manchester and Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Director Negri moved and Director Morancey seconded a motion to nominate Josh M. Howroyd, Deputy Mayor of the Town of Manchester and Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Director Becker moved and Director Spadaccini seconded a motion to nominate Thomas P. Crockett, Deputy Mayor of the Town of Manchester and Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Director Hachadourian moved and Director Negri seconded a motion to close nominations for the Deputy Mayor of Manchester and Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors.

Nine voted in favor.

Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the nomination of Josh M. Howroyd, Deputy Mayor of the Town of Manchester and Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Five voted in favor.

Four voted against - Crockett, Becker, Hovey, Spadaccini.

Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the nomination of Thomas P. Crockett, Deputy Mayor of the Town of Manchester and Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Four voted in favor.

Five voted against - Cassano, Howroyd, Negri, Morancey, Hachadourian.

ELECTION OF SECRETARY OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Cassano called for nominations for the position of Secretary of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Director Morancey moved and Director Hachadourian seconded a motion to nominate Joseph D. Negri for the position of Secretary of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Director Morancey moved and Director Howroyd seconded a motion to close nominations for Secretary of the Board of Directors.

Nine voted in favor.

Chairman Cassano called for a vote on the nomination of Joseph D. Negri, Secretary of the Board of Directors for term November 1999 - November 2001.

Nine voted in favor.

Chairman Cassano introduced Susan M. Holmes, Patricia A. Ellis and Lisa P. O'Neill, Board of Education newly elected members who will be sworn in next year.

ADDRESS FROM THE MAYOR AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman Cassano stated that this was a great day - particularly for the elected officials. This was indeed a historical moment - as the new Board would serve 45 days in the 20th century, and then begin as the first Board of the 21st century.

He stated that elections were over and the hard work had paid off. The voters had recognized their efforts and had chosen them to serve. They were no longer board elect. They now officially represented the people of Manchester.

This was the beginning of dramatic change for our newly elected officials. Long hours, missed meals, late phone calls, missed family events, tons of reading, meetings, more meetings, meetings to schedule meetings it seemed. He thanked family members for understanding the role of elected officials, their patience, taking a message, holding something to eat, or just listening. Countless hours would be sacrificed and there clearly was an impact on home life as well as work life.

Now that the elected officials were sworn in, the toughest part, and the best part lied ahead. The challenges faced were significant and together those challenges could be met.

He stated that when elections were over, elected officials go through a transition period. They had run for office representing their respective political parties. Responsibility was now to represent all of the people of Manchester. He stated that he had had the privilege of serving as Mayor for the last 8 years and believed that he had made a genuine effort to include both parties in the decision making process. He pledged to continue that effort. A simple analysis of past Board actions showed that more than 97% of the votes had been unanimous and he expected that it would continue. He welcomed Lou Spadaccini and Susan Hovey and congratulated Tom Crockett.

He stated that we were 45 days away from the end of this 20th century. A hundred year span that saw incredible change. Our strong independent nation became the greatest nation in the world. We survived two world wars, disease and plagues, death to climatic exposure and an industrial and technological revolution, an impact never dreamed possible. Media technology, radio and television, the internet changed our lives. Freezers and microwaves changed our eating habits and Elvis and the Beatles redefined music as we knew it.

Locally, Manchester itself had undergone that same dramatic transformation from a rural farming town to the world's largest and most famous silk manufacturing city, from stagnation and blight due to the decline of the silk industry to becoming one of Connecticut's largest and most desirable cities. A city of hope, opportunity, economic revival and diversity. He reminded people that in the late 1980's, just 10-12 years ago, this town received funding as a distressed municipality along with Hartford, Bridgeport, Willimantic and others.

As a community we dared to be bold. We developed new initiatives and we refused to stand still and have our community erode into a run down former mill town with no hope for its future or its children's future. For many we are still a city of village charm.

Today, we face monumental challenges all over again. The education of our children must be our highest priority. We must explore new and unique approaches to learning. Let us work to restore the student, teacher, parent partnership that helped build this great nation and let us come together to support a bi-partisan effort to develop an acceptable and practical building renovations plan that looks at sensible renovations and new construction where needed.

He pledged to continue the board efforts to work positively with the Town's highly skilled professional staff and stated that their effort was crucial to our partnership in the council/manager form of government.

He pledged to continue to play an important role working with regional, state and national organizations, and to continue to encourage professional staff and elected officials to be actively involved with such organizations.

Tonight was a time to celebrate. A time to reflect where we have been as a city, and a time to ponder about what the 21st century would bring. On behalf of all the elected officials he thanked each person who took the time to vote and gave them this opportunity to serve. He also thanked his colleagues for choosing him to serve as chairman, once again.

The benediction was delivered by Father Chip Elliott of St. Mary's Episcopal Church. The ceremony was concluded with An American Hymn sung by Victoria Lynn Rodrigue accompanied by Yasmeen Mandour-Brackin on the piano.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Cassano at 8:45 p.m.

/jld

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

SECRETARY, BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT