

## MINUTES

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 11, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.

#### LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM

#### SECOND MEETING OF THE MONTH

**PRESENT:** Chairman Howroyd, Vice-Chairman O'Neill, Secretary Zingler, Directors Hachey, Sheridan, Topping, Spadaccini, Peak, and Pelletier

**ALSO:** General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Darby

#### 7. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Chairman Howroyd.

#### 8. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS.

No awards or presentations.

#### 9. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- A. **ADOPTED** - Actions, March 7, 2006 – Regular Meeting
- B. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, March 7, 2006 – Special Meeting
- C. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, February 7, 2006 – Regular Meeting
- D. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, January 17, 2006 – Regular Meeting
- E. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, January 10, 2006 – Regular Meeting
- F. **ADOPTED** - Minutes, December 13, 2005 – Regular Meeting

**Secretary Zingler moved and Chairman Howroyd seconded the motion.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

#### 10. COMMUNICATIONS.

**Secretary Zingler** received two communications he wanted to acknowledge. First, he received an e-mail from a citizen who would like to see an elevator to the second floor stacks of the Mary Cheney Library for easier access. Second, he received an e-mail from a citizen regarding the annual collection of car taxes. This places a financial burden on her family and she would like to see a twice annual collection. Secretary Zingler requested and received a review from Alan Desmarais on this subject. Also, Secretary

Zingler has been in contact with Pat Brooks of the Board of Education concerning budget cuts proposed by the President. In fiscal year 2007, the anticipated cuts affecting the Town of Manchester are in the amount of \$82,000 in Federal grants and \$22,000 in State funding.

**Director Peak** received a communication from Kurt Wagner, 6 Amherst Drive. Mr. Wagner had some concerns including rising cost of basic living expenses, rising health care costs, the arrest of some law enforcement officials, and community involvement.

**Director Hachey** received two thank you letters from Martin School after the Reading Program took place. Also mentioned was a letter from Paul and Sue Berte opposing the demolition of historic buildings, specifically those involved with the Bennet Renovation Project.

**Director Spadaccini** received a letter from the local chapter of the Red Hat Society mentioning concerns about affordable housing and tax relief for seniors. Director Spadaccini noted that seniors may not be aware of all options for affordable housing and suggested that the appropriate department educate the seniors in town. Also, the Board received copies of petition cards requesting the Board to pass the Living Wage Ordinance. Director Spadaccini wanted to note for the record that approximately 10% of the street addresses listed do not exist within the Town of Manchester.

**Director Topping** estimates there are 300 to 320 petition cards filled out in favor of the Living Wage Ordinance. Director Topping stated that equal weight should be given to the opinions of Manchester citizens and Manchester business owners.

**Director Pelletier** received a communication from a resident with concern over tax dollars being spent on a conference for Selectman Cassano. Also received by the Board members was a communication from Director Sheridan offering to reimburse Selectman Cassano's meal expenses. Director Pelletier would like this issue addressed on next month's agenda.

**Director Sheridan** explained that the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities pays for dinner and then bills people individually. Director Sheridan offered to pay for Selectman Cassano's meal. He noted he also paid for his wife's meal and that was not considered a donation.

**Chairman Howroyd** stated that there was no direct Town reimbursement. There was no expenditure of Town funds and therefore not passed through the Town's coffers.

**Director Pelletier** asked if Selectman Cassano applied for reimbursement from the Town of Manchester.

**General Manager Shanley** stated that a request for reimbursement was received, however before this was processed, another member of the Board of Directors paid this expense directly. A payment was never processed to Selectman Cassano.

**Director Topping** clarified that he alone paid for Selectman Cassano's trip because Director Topping felt that Selectman Cassano's presence at the conference would benefit the Town of Manchester.

## 11. REPORTS.

### A. School Project Update

**Louise Guarnaccia, Director of Operations, and Keith Epstein, Facilities Project Manager**, were present to provide the requested school project update. Board members received a written report in their mail log which gives the status of these projects through April 6, 2006. Waddell and Bowers code projects are getting finished up. Schools are looking very nice. Improvements include new sprinkler system, code compliance in toilet rooms; ramps are slip resistant with handrails for adults and children, and new ventilation system throughout schools. Some work will continue through the summer at Bowers. Stair on the side of the school is crumbling and will be rebuilt for code compliance. At Waddell, there were no bidders for the sprinkler system in the auditorium during the original bidding phase in 2005. The Town is presently bidding this system again along with the swing space package for Bennet school. We are holding \$100,000 from the Waddell budget to cover this project. Both projects are \$100,000 under budget at this point. Furniture, fixtures, and equipment purchases approved last year have been ordered and will be delivered over the summer.

**Director Sheridan** asked if it would be prudent to upgrade some cabinetry that was not included in the original improvement plan with the leftover money within project budget.

**Mr. Epstein** is aware of many items that could still be replaced such as windows, masonry, and other non-code compliant items.

**Director Sheridan** asked for a survey of these two buildings for additional deficiencies that should be worked on.

**Mr. Epstein** said bids were opened last week for Manchester High School. The Building Committee has recommended awarding eight of 21 trade packages. The Building Committee has recommended that the entire roof replacement be bid as an add/alternate. The roof is about a \$2 million replacement cost per the estimates pre-bid. Once all bids have been reviewed, most likely Bid Alternate 1 will be awarded. This consists of a \$900,000 replacement of the roof over the buildings around the quad. That would be done this year and the remaining alternates could wait until next year.

**Secretary Zingler** wanted some clarification on age of roof above cafeteria, gym, and pool.

**Mrs. Guarnaccia** explained that the roof in the K-wing is newest roof; however it has failed and is leaking. The roof on the main part of building as well as auditorium, gym,

pool area was put on in 1980 or 1981 and is past its 20 year life. Currently there are no leaks over cafeteria, gym, and pool.

**Director Sheridan** asked what construction is contemplated for the Bailey Auditorium in this particular project.

**Mr. Epstein** answered new seating, new rigging, asbestos abatement, electrical, and sound.

**Vice-Chairman O'Neill** asked if the project is on schedule for the April vacation week.

**Mrs. Guarnaccia** said it is. The construction fencing is up and the contract for site work and the contract for demolition and hazardous material abatement was awarded early last week. Asbestos abatement will begin on April 17<sup>th</sup> and be completed during the week of April vacation.

**Mr. Epstein** updated the Board on swing space. As we plan for Bennet to close, we are looking at moving 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders to Illing and it becoming a dedicated middle school. We will also integrate 6<sup>th</sup> graders for two years back into the elementary schools. Three modular classrooms are being rented at Buckley, Bowers, and Washington schools. At Buckley, an old locker room is being renovated into two classrooms. At Martin, we are currently planning to add three new permanent classrooms. The modular classroom bid is due April 12<sup>th</sup> and the permanent construction bids are due on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Project is estimated at \$1.5 million for construction.

**Mrs. Guarnaccia** explained that there is an issue with reimbursement concerning the swing space. The portable classrooms will be reimbursed at \$15/sq ft. EDO-49's were approved and submitted to the State, but the State advised they would not reimburse for any work being done in schools unless the schools are fully accessible and meet requirements of handicapped accessibility that had been set about 30 years ago. Because of this, we will not be getting reimbursement for approximately \$1.1 million of construction being done in the schools.

**Director Spadaccini** asked if our Legislators have gotten involved in the loss of reimbursement. Mrs. Guarnaccia said they are not yet involved. Director Spadaccini pointed out that the original estimates were close to \$8 million dollars for swing space. We've come up with an innovative idea and also saved the taxpayers millions of dollars and now the State won't reimburse \$1.1 million? Director Spadaccini would like to see our Legislators involved in this issue.

**Mrs. Guarnaccia** will get in touch with the Legislators once there are firm bids.

**Chairman Howroyd** volunteered to work with Mrs. Guarnaccia on getting in touch with Legislators and getting reimbursement.

**Vice-Chairman O'Neill** gets a sense that the State often puts up roadblocks or changes

the rules midstream when it comes to reimbursements.

**Mr. Epstein** has experienced this. He gave several examples of first being told one thing and then being told something completely different on the same issue.

**Vice-Chairman O'Neill** is in favor of working with Legislators to let them know exactly what is happening and what we perceive the problem to be.

**Chairman Howroyd** is also committed to working with the legislative delegation, the Executive Branch of the Governor's Office, and/or Commissioner Sternberg at the Department of Education.

**Mr. Epstein** advised that the Bennet Sixth Grade Academy is a very complicated project even though very little is being added onto the building. The most cost effective way to do this project is to gut the buildings and start with the shell of the building. The project is currently in design development stage. Through the schematic design phase we are running over budget and are currently making changes to bring costs down.

**Mrs. Guarnaccia** discussed the pool at Bennet Middle School. Cost estimates were about \$300,000 in the original Downes estimate. The pool at Bennet was never licensed or permitted by the State Department of Health. Because of this, the current pool cannot be grandfathered and has to meet all current permitting standards of the State Department of Health. We have not found a waiver provision yet. To make changes needed to meet code guidelines, the total cost is approaching \$1 million. Locker rooms are an additional \$250,000. This pool has become a major cost center that no one envisioned. The Board of Education has not yet written the pool into the sixth grade curriculum. Another issue we are grappling with is the walkways connecting the buildings. The upper walkways will be enclosed. There continues to be discussion as to whether the walkways on the lower level should be enclosed. Cost to enclose the lower level is about \$450,000.

**Chairman Howroyd** feels that the pool is an intricate part of this project in the minds of many of the citizens who voted for this. He understands the cost issues, however we must keep the education components the priority. Chairman Howroyd does not want to foreclose the possibility of the pool being installed should funds become available in this project or as a subsequent project. Chairman Howroyd volunteered to be involved in this issue.

**Mrs. Guarnaccia** brought Susan Chandler, State Historic Architect, to see this pool. The State Historic Preservation group has the ability to request the waiver of building codes and other codes in order to assist a historic preservation project. This is an avenue to look into further.

**Chairman Howroyd** understands the cost issues and that this part of the project needs to be deferred. However he would very much like to address this as an add/alternate or a subsequent stand alone project.

**Director Spadaccini** agrees we should make every possible effort to preserve the pool. He does not support taking away the historical essence of the pool in order to bring it up to code. Director Spadaccini asked the cost of the West Side pool for comparison purposes. Mrs. Guarnaccia answered \$900,000 including the bath house.

**Mrs. Guarnaccia** gave brief update on the Illing Project. It is ready to go to bid and there is going to be work done this summer. Bids should be received in early May. Completed projects include the boiler at Buckley, roof at Nathan Hale, all roofs at the Bennet buildings, masonry has been repointed at Bennet on the parapet walls, and on the Recreation building, the rotting timbers have been rebuilt, replaced and reinforced.

**Chairman Howroyd** thanked Mrs. Guarnaccia and Mr. Epstein for their update. He also thanked the Building Committee for all of their efforts and hard work.

**Secretary Zingler** gave a brief overview of the Congressional Cities Conference of the National League of Cities. Secretary Zingler, Director Peak, Director Sheridan, and Selectman Cassano attended. Trading ideas and information with other towns and cities around the country was very helpful and informative. Secretary Zingler discussed the workshops he attended. One was regarding the earned income child tax credit. Some families may not be aware that the Federal Government offers this tax benefit. Secretary Zingler will discuss with Human Services how to get the word out about this information. He believes they did a great job as a Manchester delegation representing this Town.

**Director Peak** also discussed the earned income child tax credit. It is a refundable tax credit and he would also like to work on getting the word out to Manchester citizens about this. Director Peak discussed the workshops he attended. Laura Bush spoke at the Congressional Conference regarding programs that address the family breakdown. There is a list available on the White House website. Hopefully we can implement some of these programs in Manchester. Director Peak has a lot of respect for former Mayor Cassano; however as a policy matter Director Peak disagrees with the idea of having a former mayor sent on this type of trip.

**Director Sheridan** also discussed the workshops he attended. One workshop was about the value of after school programs. He feels the Town of Manchester should develop a master plan for the Town's youth. There are a variety of needs and a strategic plan is needed for delivery of services. Another workshop was about future-casting. As a former mill town we are currently filling old mills with retail establishments. Some people feel in the next 10-20 years many retail establishments will be empty due to growth of industry over the internet. This is something we should keep in mind as we plan for our future. The group met with Congressman Larson and discussed a proposal of converting Spruce Street Fire Station to a neighborhood center. Currently, Senator Lieberman is working on an appropriation that would set aside \$1.3 to \$1.5 million dollars to be used for the construction portion of this conversion.

**Director Pelletier** agrees with Secretary Zingler's point that to be able to learn the skill of negotiating and networking you have to be able to experience it again and again.

However, having a former mayor as the voice of our town cripples the growth of the current Board members.

**12. PRESENTATION OF BID WAIVER REQUESTS.**

No bid waivers.

**13. ACTION OF ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARINGS.**

3A. **ADOPTED** - Approval of an ordinance establishing a living wage requirement. A copy of the proposed ordinance may be seen in the Town Clerk's office during business hours.

**Director Peak** has been researching this topic for the past few months and gave examples of statistics and data from various studies. He also read a book about the Living Wage written by advocate Stephanie Luce. Director Peak discussed the philosophy of "each according to his ability" vs. "each according to his needs." He sees Manchester spending a lot of money dealing with the Living Wage Ordinance, but not much money actually going into the pockets of those citizens we are trying to help. According to Town studies, 25% of the people who would be covered by this Ordinance do not live in the Town of Manchester. Director Peak does not support the Living Wage Ordinance; however he proposes a scholarship fund for adult learners. Director Peak will vote against the Living Wage Ordinance.

**Chairman Howroyd** reminded Board of Rule 9.3 to make all reasonable efforts to limit remarks to five minutes.

**Director Hachey** spoke of the 134 communities who have already passed a Living Wage Ordinance and gave examples of several communities with budgets similar to Manchester. He also discussed corporate greed; CEO's who make millions of dollars, but their employees do not have health insurance. Director Hachey agrees with the people who suggest this is a symbolic ordinance. He suggests we all ask ourselves if we can live on \$15,000 per year. He would like to pursue the scholarships for adults and the Chamber's Life Plan. Director Hachey will vote for the Living Wage Ordinance.

**Director Pelletier** discussed the morality of the Living Wage Ordinance. Local church leaders declare the Living Wage Ordinance is the morally right thing to do, however she pointed out that many local churches and religious schools do not pay a living wage or offer comprehensive health benefits. She does not believe the Board of Directors has the ability to legislate people's morality. We still do not know the fiscal impact of this ordinance. Director Pelletier opposes the Living Wage Ordinance and will be voting against it.

**Director Sheridan** discussed the timeline of the Living Wage Ordinance, when it was written and when it was originally mentioned at the Board meetings right through the vote. He disputes the morality/character connection and would like to restore civility to

this debate. Director Sheridan will vote in favor of the Living Wage Ordinance.

**Vice-Chairman O'Neill** pointed out that some members of bargaining units are not covered under this ordinance. She also sees this as a difference in philosophy. The cost of this to the Town of Manchester is minimal. The Ordinance only requires one report per year, which should take very little time. She envisions more people bidding on contracts because the playing field will be more level. Vice-Chairman O'Neill supports the Living Wage Ordinance.

**Secretary Zingler** explained that he voted against the resolution during the last vote because he was not happy with the version proposed. He thanks Director Sheridan for all of his hard work on this project. He noted a University of Massachusetts study that found after a Living Wage implementation the cost of contracts actually fell in two or three of the cities and competitive bidding remained strong. Because the rewritten Living Wage Ordinance is much more concrete, Secretary Zingler supports the Living Wage Ordinance.

**Director Topping's** concern is for the taxpayers, not the Chamber of Commerce. He cannot in good conscience vote for anything that charges the people who can least afford it even more. Director Topping is voting for the Living Wage Ordinance.

**Director Spadaccini** does not advocate paying substandard rates to employees, but he does have a problem with a Municipal Government trying to impose a law that mandates minimum wages. The Living Wage Ordinance has taken up much of the Board's time at the expense of many other issues. Director Spadaccini feels there are enough loopholes in this ordinance that any smart employer can get around the ordinance. He also feels that Living Wage laws are best set at the State level, not by each individual municipality. Director Spadaccini opposes the Living Wage Ordinance.

**Director Sheridan** asked where in the Living Wage Ordinance it states that it will affect only workers working on Manchester service contracts.

**Director Spadaccini** answered he believed it was part of a revision made by Director Hachey.

There was some discussion between Director Sheridan and Director Spadaccini regarding who is affected by the Living Wage Ordinance and it was determined that all workers for a firm are impacted.

**Director Peak** asked Director Sheridan for a clarification of an eligible employee.

**Director Sheridan** clarified the definition of an eligible employee.

**Director Sheridan moved and Director Hachey seconded the motion.**

**Six Voted in Favor  
Three Voted Against – Peak/Spadaccini/Pelletier**



**RECESS.**

The Board took a brief recess at 9:47 p.m. and returned at 10:03 p.m.

**Chairman Howroyd moved and Director Topping seconded the motion.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**14. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.**

A. **TABLED** - Appointments to Boards and Commissions which have members with terms expiring in November/December 2005.

<b><u>Board/Commission Expiring</u></b>	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Term</u></b>
Cheney Hall Board of Commissioners 2008	Vacancy	November
Commission on Aging 2008	Charlene Southergill, 8 Hendee Road (R)	November
Human Relations Commission 2008	Alfred Meek 124B2 Park Street (R)	November

**Secretary Zingler moved and Director Pelletier seconded the motion to table.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

B. **TABLED** – Approval of the Manchester L.I.F.E. Scholarship

**Secretary Zingler moved and Director Hachey seconded the motion to table.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

C. **TABLED** – Appointment of a member to the Housing Commission (R) with a term expiring November 2006.

**Director Spadaccini moved and Secretary Zingler seconded the motion to table.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

D. **REMOVED** – Approval of participation by the Town of Manchester in the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education funding lawsuit.

**Director Topping moved and Director Hachey seconded the motion to remove.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**15. NEW BUSINESS**

A. **TABLED** – Appointment of an Alternate to the Planning and Zoning Commission (D) with a term expiring November 2006.

**Secretary Zingler moved and Director Hachey seconded the motion to table.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

B. **ADOPTED** – Allocation in Landfill Reserve – Site Improvements .....\$300,000 for the purpose of replacement of a landfill scale and construction of modular office to be funded by Unallocated Landfill Reserve.

**Vice-Chairman O’Neill** asked when the scale is moved, will it be moved to a place that can in the future be used for a transfer station. Mrs. Guarnaccia confirmed that is the goal. The plan is to make the scale somewhat remote from the scale house.

**General Manager Shanley** pointed out that the current scale is in very poor repair and the Town has been advised that it needs to be replaced and further repair could be unlikely the next time it breaks.

**Chairman Howroyd** asked the location of the scale and house. Mrs. Guarnaccia answered that the plans are not yet finalized. She gave a description of the current options.

**Director Pelletier** acknowledges the scale is antiquated and supports changing the scale.

**Director Hachey moved and Secretary Zingler seconded the motion to approve.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

C. Discussion of the action to demolish the Cheney building on School Street as part of the modified land acquisition plan in association with the Bennet Middle School renovation.

**Director Spadaccini** would like the administration to do a similar analysis on the Cheney Building as was done on the Spruce Street Fire House. He would also like to forestall any demolition of the Cheney Building until we have gone through that process.

**Director Hachey** pointed out that we already have a heavy commitment to school renovation and if saving this building is a good idea it will have to get in line behind current commitments.

**Chairman Howroyd** is aware of the view that the January decision was made in haste. This is not true, he was intricately involved in the Bennet School renovation project and

understood the repercussions involved. Because the decision needed to be made rather quickly, some corners were probably cut regarding public outreach.

**Director Pelletier** acknowledges some circumstances have changed since that vote, but does not feel circumstances have changed enough that the vote should be changed. At this time she is not willing to take back her vote as there is still no money to repair this building. She thought it was interesting to note that the only money available is for historic buildings.

**Vice-Chairman O'Neill** is opposed to tearing down these buildings for several reasons. She feels it is important for us as a Town, before we tear down a building, to make sure we are not going to say we need a new building with the next breath. We are already hearing Youth Services say they need more space. Will Manchester lose its historic landmark designation by tearing down these buildings? In the future, before things like this are voted on, the Board should get input from the Historic Committee.

**Director Sheridan** is not inclined to reverse his vote; the basic facts have not changed. He has discovered this building was not even built by the Cheneys. It was built by the Town of Manchester in 1926. It was part of the State of Connecticut Trade School system. The Spruce Street project was envisioned as a neighborhood center, not necessarily a community center. The money allocated is to the project at Spruce Street; not to be spent on any project at any location.

**Chairman Howroyd** reminded Board to keep on topic of Cheney Building.

**Director Topping** currently sees no compelling reason to reverse his vote. He understands the desire to re-examine this issue, however voting now is premature. He will only vote on this issue again with a true cost estimate.

**Director Peak** voted to raze the Cheney Building. Feels it is useful to have another idea available, however decisions need to be made rather quickly in order to move Bennet project along. Would it be possible to put together a hypothetical plan for a youth center or community center?

**General Manager Shanley** thinks we will be talking about programming going forward. The Board already has the estimates of building renovations.

**Mrs. Guarnaccia** said that the Spruce Street plan is a model and can be put anywhere. It's a concept. The quality of the building that it goes into is an issue; the building has to be accessible, it has to be appropriate for the kinds of activities that will be going into it.

**General Manager Shanley** reiterated that the Spruce Street plan is conceptual. The programming itself would be the main concern.

**Director Peak** understands that the concept of a community center is a good one and can work in either location. There is currently no change in his vote.

**Director Spadaccini** suggested notifying our Congressional delegate that we have multiple locations in mind for this project.

**Chairman Howroyd** reminded everyone that the Board of Education just passed a resolution in conjunction with a school project. We need to remember we need to work with the Board of Education to address their priorities.

**Secretary Zingler** has a problem with what is currently happening. He feels his integrity and the integrity as a Board is at stake. When this idea was pitched it was with the understanding that there was bi-partisan support. It now seems that is not the case. The deadline for the application has already passed. Secretary Zingler respectfully asked the Republican caucus what is going on.

**Director Spadaccini** has a problem with the fact that the proposal was not reviewed with the minority. He thinks the idea of a community center is a worthy endeavor for the Town of Manchester, however representing that as a decision of the Board is not feasible when part of the Board had not even seen the proposal yet. We need due diligence.

**Secretary Zingler** explained that the plan was given to the three Board members who were in Washington DC on Sunday night. The group did not meet with Congressman Larson until Tuesday. If anyone had a problem with the proposal, it should have been mentioned during that 48 hours.

**Director Topping** asked for clarification whether it is a neighborhood center or a community center.

#### **ADOPTED – MOTION TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO GO BEYOND ELEVEN O’CLOCK**

**Director Sheridan moved and Director Topping seconded the motion**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**Director Sheridan** looked at this as an opportunity to take care of needs for this particular neighborhood, not necessarily the needs of the Town as a whole.

**Director Pelletier** pointed out an appropriation has not been made yet and therefore thinks it should not be assumed that the plan cannot be modified. Before a decision is made, we need more answers. That is what is going on here, just looking for more detail.

**Director Peak** does not believe there would be any appearance of disorganization or lack of support if another idea was added to the file in Washington DC. He still believes in the community center idea and this represents an opportunity to potentially save a building. Is it feasible to amend the plan to consider the Cheney Building? Director Peak feels it will get approved or rejected based on the merits of the idea, not based on the location. Felt this was an opportunity to offer a compromise to the Historical Society.

**General Manager Shanley** explained that this is not applying for a grant; it is an earmark. The language that goes in is very important; the language that comes out is what is binding. If the language says Spruce Street, then that is where it has to be. General Manager Shanley will attempt to find out if there is a location specifically attached to this earmark.

**Chairman Howroyd** clarified that the process to develop concepts actually began at the direction of the Board, but also with some staff initiative going back to last year. The previous Board was involved with youth-related issues last summer. Let's put the partisan stuff aside and remember that this is for the kids of Manchester. We are not talking about a town-wide grand scale community center, we are talking about a neighborhood youth center to address specific needs. The motivation is honorable and it is unfortunate that some toes were stepped on. Let's also remember that the Cheney Building is slated for demolition at this point and was when this plan was proposed. Let's get it done.

**D. ADOPTED** - Approval of EDO-49's for Keeney Elementary School and Manchester Regional Academy fire alarm systems appointment of the Building Committee to act as the Building Committee for the project and authorization for the Board of Education to make submittal to the State of Connecticut.

**Secretary Zingler moved and Director Topping seconded the motion to approve.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

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

**Joe Bernard**, 28 Theresa Road is concerned about the brook in the back of his house. He is paying taxes on property he cannot use. The brook is a "big hole" and depreciating the value of his property. He thinks the Town of Manchester should be responsible for the brook.

**Bill Ogden**, 127 Branford Street agrees with the previous speaker. Would like the Board to give Mr. Bernard an answer. Mr. Ogden believes, for the good of the Town, that things should be discussed between both political parties. He is still waiting to know who authorized Cassano to go?

**Sherry Keeran**, 86 Barry Road heard something she felt was disturbing during the recess. Director Topping sat in the audience and a gentleman from the coalition supporting the living wage came in and thanked Director Topping for his mutual support and the benefits for this.

**Jerry Ghidinelli**, of Pearl Street is concerned with some of the architecture in Town. He feels that the entrance to the Mary Cheney Library should be on the left instead of the

right. Thinks a change will make a difference in the way people feel.

**Chairman Howroyd** did speak with some people at the Library regarding this issue. The flow pattern with the entrance to the right is consistent with the North American driving pattern and it is what people are accustomed to.

**Chairman Howroyd** answered Mr. Ogden's question about Selectman Cassano. Selectman Cassano went at the request of Chairman Howroyd and his expenses were paid by Director Topping. He is entitled to attend as a member of the Advisory Council of the NLC.

**Chairman Howroyd** also addressed Mr. Bernard's complaints. Mr. Bernard purchased a home near a brook; the brook was present before the house was built.

**General Manager Shanley** will send a copy of the written report of inspection by Mr. O'Neill and the expert from Yale University to Mr. Bernard.

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

**Director Hachey** responded to the public comment on Washington DC. He was not in the position to go, neither financially or with time off of work. Director Hachey would like to see the Board pursue the Tree Ordinance. Chairman Howroyd said that will be done through the Physical Services Sub-committee. Director Hachey also mentioned the citizen at 56 Gerard Street who is having flooding problems. That is a serious issue and is on the Capital Plan for 07/08, however Director Hachey feels it should be worked into this year's budget. Director Hachey passed around an article on pension shortfalls for the Board to review. Also, there was a naming policy editorial in the paper recently regarding naming parks and buildings in Newington. Director Hachey would like to get a policy for naming Town facilities. The Little Shop of Horrors Musical put on by the Manchester High School was a fantastic, professional show. If Manchester High is doing a musical, this is something not to be missed.

**Director Topping** apologized for the misinterpretation by Mrs. Keeran of what was said by somebody in favor of the Living Wage Ordinance. He offered to further discuss this with her to straighten out any misunderstanding. Director Topping is in agreement with Director Spadaccini about meeting with the State delegation regarding education issues, education reimbursement rates and we need to find out what our contingent is doing to bring additional money to town. Director Topping publicly recognized Detective Amato from the Manchester Police Department. He will be receiving an award from the State Police Wednesday. He also recognized two officers involved in solving the recent assaults on Strickland Street. Director Topping would also like to ask the State delegates why the names of people who are 17 and 18 and commit crimes are not printed in the paper anymore. He feels it is important to know who is committing these crimes. In closing, Director Topping is greatly concerned by what he has seen in his first six months

on the Board. It seems that the campaign has not ended yet. We need to stop the political bickering for the good of the Town.

**Secretary Zingler** mentioned the memo from General Manager Shanley regarding upcoming dates to save. The goal setting session is planned for Saturday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Secretary Zingler wanted to let the Board know that is the beginning of the Pride in Manchester Week. Secretary Zingler will not be able to attend that session. There was some discussion among the Board about dates for this retreat. Chairman Howroyd suggested a Sunday. An e-mail will be sent out regarding these dates.

**18. ADJOURNMENT.**

The meeting was adjourned until the May 2, 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room.

**Secretary Zingler moved and Director Topping seconded the motion to adjourn.**

**Nine Voted in Favor**

**Adjournment: 12:05 a.m.**

gem

**APPROVE:**

**ATTEST:**

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**Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors**