

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 1, 2006 – 7:00 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM

FIRST MEETING OF THE MONTH

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

ALSO: General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Darby

ABSENT: Chairman Howroyd

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:11 p.m. All in attendance participated in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, led by Vice-Chairman O'Neill.

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

Marge Nordeen, 48 Delmont Street, reported that she and her committee have been successful in obtaining the required number of signatures on their petition to ask voters about purchasing the Parkade. She would like a referendum put before the voters on the November ballot. She noted that about one-third of the people who signed the petition were not registered to vote. She thanked the committee members for their efforts, the 2,100 people who signed the petition, and Joe Camposeo, Town Clerk.

Scott Aiken, 92 Laurel Street, asked the Board to start making some tough decisions about taxes. It is hard for him to accept that his employer is giving a 3% raise, and taxes will go up 5.7%. He would like the Board to look into the Town budget to find places to make cuts. Mr. Aiken requested that the Town do something about the graffiti on the stop sign at the end of his street. He has called the Police Department twice without result. Mr. Aiken does not agree with the Republican's proposal to use \$100,000 of the CDBG funds for surveillance cameras. He noted that this is a Community Development Block Grant, not a surveillance grant.

Eileen Sweeney, 86 Hawthorne Street, addressed the Board regarding item 3.F, window replacements for the Whiton Library. She noted that the replacement door on the old North Main Street side of the Whiton Library is not in keeping with the character of the building. Ms. Sweeney suggested that someone from the historic preservation field be present when decisions are made that will alter community landmarks. She thinks restoring unique and well constructed elements is a fiscally responsible approach.

Mary Dunne, 117 Adelaide Road, Executive Director of the Manchester Historical Society, explained that the Historical Society applied for a Block Grant to install a heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning unit in their building and did not receive the funding. She spoke of the advantages of having an HVAC unit in their building and the fact that the building is rendered useless for public programming in extreme heat. Working conditions also become difficult. Ms. Dunne requested that the Board consider their need for a \$69,000 appropriation from the CDBG for an HVAC system.

Bob Samuelson, 108 Hemlock Street, made several remarks about the purchase of 11 School Street by the Town last month. He thinks \$500,000 is just too much money to spend on this lot and building. He listed expenses and rental income, and concluded that the price does not carry the expenses in the "real world." Mr. Samuelson is not comfortable with the purchase of the properties involved in the Bennet project, especially because there was a public hearing and the Board voted immediately after the hearing. Also, Mr. Samuelson stated that Center Springs Pond is a disgrace.

Joe Bernard, 28 Teresa Road, has approached the Board several times about the brook behind his house. Someone is going to get hurt if nothing is done to repair the damage. Mr. Bernard stated that it is the Town's responsibility to fix problems with the brook.

Milt Perlman, 3 Sanford Road, noted that the most recent Manchester Matters e-mail suggested people go to the libraries and Senior Center to get relief from the heat. He thinks this puts people in a terrible position. He mentioned the number of deaths in CA due to the excessive heat and no air-conditioning. Mr. Perlman noted that while the poverty level in Manchester has increased, the Town is spending \$1.8 million on the Bennet project. The PTA would like to see the sixth graders stay in the elementary schools. Mr. Perlman thinks the Town should inform DOT that the bus depot will not be built on Hartford Road.

Dan Moran, 145-A1 Chestnut Street, related an incident that occurred between him and several youth at the corner of Spruce and Bissell Streets. The young men blocked the intersection so Mr. Moran could not pass and kicked in his car door and punched out a window. Mr. Moran stated that there is more violence happening than people are aware of. He requested a meeting with the General Manager, the Chief of Police and the two Party Leaders. People should not have to be intimidated on the streets of their own town.

Jim Kurlowicz, 27 Columbus Street, requested a breakdown of Manchester Country Club's full budget, including salaries, with the salary of the administrator broken out. He also stated that the intersection of Hartford Road and Keeney Street was left in a dreadful state during construction. The intersection is practically impassable and should be repaired. Mr. Kurlowicz also thanked Mr. Samuelson for all the work he did researching the purchase of the homes involved with the Bennet project. There is no way any private citizen would have paid the prices the Town paid for those homes.

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, asked how former Mayor Cassano, got a car for his own personal use. He also requested a full and detailed audit of the Country Club. Mr. Ogden also mentioned the efficiency study which recommended a night crew at the garage. Having a night crew would be a savings for the Town as employees would not be waiting for small repairs during the day. Mr. Ogden also agreed that Mr. Samuelson did his homework and is right in what he said.

Carl Brown, 39 Trebbe Drive, asked the Board if anybody cares about the taxpayers. He feels that the proposed Youth Center is nothing but a taxpayer sinkhole. He suggested teens study after school or get part time jobs.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, pointed out the positive initiative of National Night Out. He does not condone intimidation or violence of any kind. Mr. Stringfellow supports the Youth Center and asked where the youth are going to go without it. He also mentioned several current events.

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS.

A. Appropriation to Special Projects as follows:

1. Public Safety – Police Department (SG014).....\$2,500
to be financed by an anonymous donation for use by the Manchester Police Explorer Post which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
2. State Asset Forfeiture.....\$736
for continuing narcotics investigations equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds (\$400 and \$336) from narcotics investigations.
3. Certified Nurse’s Aide Training Program.....\$23,386
to be financed by a grant from Capital Workforce Partners.
4. Certified Nurse’s Aide Training Program.....\$5,000
to be financed by a donation from Bank of America/The Mr. and Mrs. William Foulds Family Foundation which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
5. Recreation Department Special Activities Fund.....\$500
to be financed by a donation from Anthony Morascini to support programs for children with physical and/or developmental disabilities which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
6. Pride in Manchester Special Grants.....\$2,900
for Pride in Manchester Week activities to be financed by donations which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
7. Health Department.....\$91,753
for the upgrade of local public health preparedness and response to bioterrorism to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health and authorization for the General Manager to enter into and amend any and all contracts with the State of Connecticut, Department of Public Health.

8. Health Department.....\$1,424
for costs associated with the Statewide Strategic National Stockpile
Drill to be financed by a supplemental grant from the Capitol
Region Council of Governments.

Vice-Chairman O'Neill opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Dan Moran, 145-A1 Chestnut Street, suggested utilizing a donation to the Police Department for a Manchester victims of crime reimbursement fund. Mr. Moran noted that the Town is expending money for red lights and DWI, but asked about the safety of the people in Town. He has noticed a number of houses for sale on Summit Street. People do not feel safe. Mr. Moran would like to see more police officers on patrol.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports items 1, 2, 6, 7, and 8. He mentioned recent pharmacy robberies in the news and the pandemic flu exercise recently held in East Hartford. Mr. Stringfellow thinks Pride in Manchester Week is a good thing, a positive aspect of the Town.

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, does not see the need to discuss the monetary gifts given to the Town during public meetings. General Manager Shanley explained that it is required by Town charter to hold public hearings on any donation.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:
 1. State Teachers Retirement Grant (FY 2006/07).....\$766,000
to be financed by the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board
to subsidize health insurance premiums for retirees.
 2. Medicaid Grant (FY 2006/07).....\$150,000
to be financed by the Connecticut Department of Social Services
for Medicaid eligible Special Education and related services.

General Manager Shanley explained that these are two annual grants that are provided to the Board of Education.

Vice-Chairman O'Neill opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports both grant appropriations. The cost of healthcare after retirement is expensive.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- C. Appropriations to General Fund:
 1. Public Safety – Police.....\$20,405
for reimbursement of overtime expenses related to the Click It or
Ticket campaign in Spring 2006 to be financed by a grant from

- the Federal Highway Safety Program.
2. Public Safety – Police.....\$57,500
for reimbursement of wages, overtime, benefits and equipment related to 2006 Red Light Compliance Operation Program to be financed by a grant from the State of Connecticut through the Federal Highway Safety Program.
 3. Transfer to Capital Reserve – Town Clerk Software.....\$46,500
for land records conversion project to be financed by Designated General Fund Balance.

General Manager Shanley briefly explained each item.

Vice-Chairman O’Neill opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Milt Perlman, 3 Sanford Road, asked for clarification about money budgeted in the annual budget, and then reimbursed by the State. There was some discussion among Mr. Perlman, General Manager Shanley, and the Board to explain the process.

Dan Moran, 145-A1 Chestnut Street, stated that Joe Camposeo has done an excellent job as Town Clerk. Manchester is one of the most advanced towns in the state. Mr. Moran thinks there should be money available to have more cops in the neighborhoods. He feels the police are contributing to the problem by not enforcing ordinances and/or laws. This is both a management and a political problem.

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, asked what happened to the original paper records now that everything is on computer. Vice-Chairman O’Neill said that would be addressed with the next item on the agenda.

Scott Aiken, 92 Laurel Street, appreciates that the Town is spending money on enforcing traffic laws, but requested money be spent on traffic law compliance where residents live, not only where they shop. Mr. Aiken noted that people are regularly turning left into the Shaw’s parking lot from Center Street where the signs clearly say no left turn. There will be an accident there.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports item C.3. He formerly participated in the Manchester Government Academy and knows that computers are making information more accessible to the public. Mr. Stringfellow feels it is extremely important to wear a seatbelt. He also thinks the Police Department should look at prevention and intervention, as well as include parents and caregivers in discussions about problems.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- D. Appropriations to Capital Improvement Reserve:
 1. Town Clerk Software.....\$12,000
for land records conversion to be financed by a grant from the Connecticut State Library and authorization for the General

- Manager to enter into an Agreement with the Connecticut State Library.
2. Deferred Construction Projects.....\$4,405
to be financed by payments under the Town’s Sidewalk and Curb Ordinance.

General Manager Shanley explained that Item D.1 is a grant for historic preservation of documents in a digital format. He asked the Town Clerk to elaborate further.

Joe Camposeo, Town Clerk, explained that the State passed a statute adding \$3.00 to each land record. A portion of that charge is made available to local municipalities to aid in historic preservation. The Town of Manchester thought it would best to use this funding to achieve file conversion.

Director Pelletier asked if paper records are still available even though everything will be available on computer. Mr. Camposeo answered that everything will be available in paper form, on microfilm, and also digitally.

Director Spadaccini has had an opportunity to use the scanned documents and found them very easy to use. He asked if the maps of specific properties that are currently available in Engineering or Planning will eventually be combined with the information the Town Clerk’s office is currently scanning. Mr. Camposeo answered that he would like to go in that direction. There are enormous opportunities to collaborate with other departments throughout Town.

Vice-Chairman O’Neill opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Milt Perlman, 3 Sanford Road, does not approve of a paperless society. If hackers were to get into the system, the records would be gone and there would be no paper trail.

General Manager Shanley explained that this process does not eliminate paper records. It is just an opportunity to have access to documents without actually coming to the Town Hall.

Mr. Camposeo added that back-up records are regularly housed off-site in case of damage to our system.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- E. Appropriation to Capital Projects Fund -
Public Works Capital Projects (CP348).....\$166,140
for the design, construction, inspection and maintenance of safety improvements to Middle Turnpike West and Adams Street utilizing Federal funds under the Hazard Elimination Component of the Surface Transportation Program and authorization for the General Manager to enter into and amend related documents.

Secretary Zingler noted that there is some new development in that area and wanted to make sure there have been communications between the parties involved. Mr. Carlino assured the Board that all parties have been in communication.

Director Pelletier has had communication with the resident who has a driveway leading out to Middle Turnpike West near this intersection. The resident has had many problems entering and exiting her driveway because of the intersection. Director Pelletier asked that Mr. Carlino look at this resident's issue and try to address it.

Vice-Chairman O'Neill opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

- F. Appropriation to Whiton Library Renovations.....\$200,000
for window replacements to be financed by the Whiton Library Fund
balance.

MOTION TO REMOVE ITEM 3.F FROM THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Secretary Zingler moved and Director Sheridan seconded the motion.

Eight Voted in Favor

- G. 1. Appropriation to Community Development Block Grant –
Program Year 16.....\$674,542
to be financed by a Federal Grant (\$668,192) and Program
Income (\$6,350).
- 2. Adoption of Annual Action Plan for Year 16 (October 1,
2006 to September 30, 2007).

Mark Pellegrini, Director of Neighborhood Services and Economic Development, explained that the Community Development Block Grant is intended to benefit low to moderate income persons and areas. There are several neighborhoods that meet the grant requirements, including the East Side, the West Side, the Verplank area, and the Robertson area. Hearings were held in eligible neighborhoods as well as one town-wide hearing. A list of requests was compiled from the hearings. The Board of Directors is being asked to adopt the annual plan so it can be delivered to HUD by the August 15th deadline. Funding will become available in early January.

Director Peak asked if it is possible to make changes to the plan at this point. Mr. Pellegrini answered that any changes made would have to involve reallocating funds.

Director Topping asked if it would be prudent to table the discussion about this issue until next week.

Director Hachey commented that items presented to the Board seem to have deadlines that are requiring rather quick decisions. He would like to be able to carry items over to the next month

if the Board decides to do that, rather than being rushed into a decision. Director Hachey asked if the dollar amount for housing rehabilitation can be adjusted. Mr. Pellegrini answered in the affirmative.

General Manager Shanley explained that the timeframes set out for this grant are very different than the typical items dealt with by the Board. This program is structured by the Federal Government. Mr. Shanley requested that Mr. Pellegrini set the whole process back a month next year so the Board will have the extra time to make their recommendation.

Director Pelletier concurs with Director Hachey's comment regarding deadlines. She also feels that the \$100,000 budgeted to administer this grant is excessive. Ms. Pelletier suggested the Planning Department administer the grant itself, making more money available for various projects.

Vice-Chairman O'Neill opened the floor for public comment at this time.

Dan Moran, 145-A1 Chestnut Street, commended Director Hachey on his comments. He has also noticed that everything seems to have a limited window of opportunity. Mr. Moran also feels that the money to administer the program could be better spent elsewhere. He also suggested more vocational training be made available in Manchester.

Milt Perlman, 3 Sanford Road, agreed with Mr. Moran's comments. He asked about a revolving loan program that was in existence in the past. Mr. Pellegrini explained that there are many types of programs available, and each is administered differently.

Scott Aiken, 92 Laurel Street, feels it is wrong to install surveillance cameras in the community. He thinks they will build a sense of mistrust. The West Side neighborhood has a tremendous potential to become an arts community, populated by people who want to fix up the old Victorian homes.

Bill Ogden, 137 Branford Street, agrees with Director Hachey that decisions have been made under pressure.

Joe Bernard, 28 Teresa Road, asked what happens to the money that accumulates in the General Fund. General Manager Shanley said he would be willing to discuss that with him at another time.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, supports the Community Block Development Grant. This is the forty year anniversary for HUD. The Board of Directors should be well-informed when making decisions.

There being no further public comment the hearing on this item was closed.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (with the removal of item 15.B)

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- 15A. Acceptance of Lenti Drive as a Town street and the public works infrastructure associated with the Lenti Subdivision.
- C. Approval of a resolution authorizing the General Manager to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the State of Connecticut to allow the Town to participate in the 2007 Emergency Management Performance Grant program.

Director Spadaccini moved and Secretary Zingler seconded the motion to adopt.
Eight Voted in Favor

5. REPORTS.
A. MANAGER’S REPORT

General Manager Shanley updated the Board on construction on Hartford Road and Main Street. The Town did get a permit for dredging of the pond at Center Springs Park, which should address some of the algae problems. A section of pipe will be replaced on Gerard Street and may provide temporary relief to the resident there.

Attorney Darby updated the Board on the issue of adult entertainment in Town. He explained that the Planning and Zoning Commission took prompt action by issuing a moratorium, but it is scheduled to end in September. The Planning and Zoning Commission has proposed a regulation that will regulate where these types of businesses can locate. They will be voting at

their next meeting and it should be on the books before the moratorium ends. Attorney Darby explained the proposed regulation to the Board and asked if the Board would like to take additional action. Attorney Darby suggested the Board wait to take action until after the Planning and Zoning Commission has voted on their regulation.

Director Topping said the Board of Directors is ultimately responsible for what goes on in this Town. He would like to see some type of ordinance and does not want it to mirror the Planning and Zoning regulations.

There was additional discussion among the Board members and Attorney Darby regarding the differences between an ordinance and a regulation, the option for a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals, and taking a licensing approach. It was decided that Attorney Darby would provide the Board with research on the pros and cons of licensing and/or passing an ordinance.

General Manager Shanley continued his report. Cruisin' on Main Street is this Sunday, August 6th. Mr. Shanley provided the Board with some information on the mill rates in other towns and cities in Connecticut, spurred by the man who spoke last month about leaving Manchester after 26 years.

B. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS REGARDING ITEMS ON THE AGENDA THAT MAY NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE NEXT MEETING.

Director Hachey thanked General Manager Shanley for the memo regarding the mill rates. He requested a meeting about 22 Gerard Street. On Spruce Street there is a trash can that is messing up three businesses. Mr. Hachey received another complaint about speeding on Vernon Street. The city of Chicago has a weather disaster plan that is being used as a model. Mr. Hachey requested that the Health Director of Manchester contact the Health Director in Chicago and obtain a copy of their plan.

Director Topping has noticed that much of the graffiti around Manchester consists of the same "logo" and asked what is being done about this issue. He noted that the Board takes public safety very seriously and that is why they unanimously fully funded all police officer positions and added two additional positions. Mr. Topping asked for an update on recruitment efforts. Mr. Shanley stated the Police Department currently has 119 officers and is continuing in their efforts to hire more officers.

Director Spadaccini asked for a report on youth outreach efforts and youth crime. He also asked when the update on the efficiency study will be ready. Mr. Shanley answered that it would be ready before the first September meeting. Mr. Spadaccini asked about the Country Club's response to an efficiency study. Mr. Shanley has many things to discuss with the Country Club and that is one of the items. Mr. Spadaccini has received communications from residents in the Concord and Baldwin Street area. There is a house there which has been boarded up for a year and is an eyesore in the neighborhood. He asked how the Town addresses that type of problem. Mr. Shanley stated that particular issue is currently in housing court.

Director Peak has received pictures of graffiti throughout Manchester and noticed it is happening on federal, state, town, and private property. Is this a barrier to quick removal? Mr. Shanley asked if the Board would like to spend local tax dollars on state property.

Director Spadaccini noted that part of the CDBG funding is being used for a study of properties just off Main Street. He requested a list of the properties and an explanation of the ultimate goal.

Secretary Zingler asked for a listing of the 2003 Public Works Bond including what has been spent and what is left.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board went into Executive Session for the discussion of pending litigation at 10:52 p.m. and returned at 11:00 p.m. No votes were taken.

Secretary Zingler moved and Director Spadaccini seconded to motion.

Eight Voted in Favor

RECESS TO SECOND WEEK.

The meeting was recessed until the August 8, 2006 second meeting of the month.

Secretary Zingler moved and Director Sheridan seconded the motion.

Eight Voted in Favor

Recess: 11:00 p.m.

gem

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors