

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 6, 2018 – 7:00 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM
ONE MEETING AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor Moran, Deputy Mayor Hackett, Secretary Gates, Directors Castillo, Devanney, Eckbreth, Floyd-Cranford, Galligan and Jones.

ALSO: General Manager Shanley and Town Attorney Ryan Barry.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board went into Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. to discuss Real Estate, Personnel and Labor Negotiations, and adjourned at 7:10 p.m. Present were Mayor Moran, Deputy Mayor Hackett, Secretary Gates, Directors Castillo, Devanney, Eckbreth, Floyd-Cranford, Galligan and Jones. General Manager Scott Shanley, Director of Planning Gary Anderson (until 7:00 p.m) and Director of Administrative Services Dede Moore (until 7:05 p.m.) were also present. No votes were taken.

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. All in attendance participated in The Pledge of Allegiance to The Flag, led by Girl Scouts from Troops 10606, 10610, 10620, 10626 and 10643.

2. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS.

A. Proclamation: Girl Scout Day

Mayor Moran stated March 12, 2018 marks the 106th anniversary of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. For more than 100 years, Girl Scouting has helped build millions of girls and women of courage, confidence and character who act to make the world a better place. Today, more than 59 million American women are Girl Scout alumnae and 2.7 million girls and adult volunteers are active members. He presented the Girl Scouts with a Proclamation naming March 12 as Girl Scout Day in Manchester.

3. OPENING OF MEETING TO ELECTORS OR TAXPAYERS WHO WISH TO BE HEARD ON ANY SUBJECT WITHIN THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. *(Sign-up sheet available 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting)*

Christine May Joyner, 450 East Center Street, is concerned about fracking waste, which leads to leakage of radioactive material into the sand and water supply. She would like to see Manchester join the more than 35 other Connecticut towns leading the charge to prevent this from coming into our state.

Barbara Vizoyan, 16B Ambassador Drive, thanked the Board for putting fracking waste on the agenda. She appreciates the hard work done by the Board of Directors. She is on the Sustainable Living Committee for the Unitarian Universalist Church in Manchester. Fracking waste is one of the committee's biggest concerns. They have joined with other organizations to stop fracking waste from coming to Connecticut. More than 30 towns have passed ordinances to ban transfer and storage of fracking waste in their towns. There are many citizen organizations throughout the state that have come together and are active in banning this. The Connecticut General Assembly

passed House Bill 6329 on January 23, 2017 for a moratorium on fracking waste, which ends on July 18, 2018 unless the moratorium is extended. In the meeting in Hartford on February 23, 2018, an extension did not seem likely. According to State Law, towns have the authority to prohibit the carrying on within the municipality of any trade, manufacturer, business or profession which is or may be prejudicial to public health. Certainly toxic waste is detrimental to health. In Pennsylvania, the Marcellus Shale is running out of places to put this waste. This waste has been linked to earthquakes in Ohio. She distributed a fact sheet on fracking waste to Board members. She wants Manchester to pass an ordinance to ban fracking waste. There are several petitions being gathered which will be brought to the April Board meeting.

Angela Bellas, 126 Lakewood Circle North, is here to speak on the creation of a Multicultural Affairs Commission. It is our social responsibility to actively combat racism and all forms of oppression in our town, in our state and in our nation. As a community, we need to acknowledge that structural racism is real and affects everyone in our community. We must address structural racism at social, economic and political levels and in every policy decision that we make. A Multicultural Affairs Commission alone will not effectively address structural racism. It requires multipronged transformative strategies for changing entire systems. The Board of Directors needs to play an active role in dismantling structural racism in Manchester.

Peyton Rutledge, 33 Stephen Street, moved to Manchester 30 years ago with her husband and two children. They wanted to live in a friendly culturally diverse community close to Hartford with strong schools. She thanked the Directors for the time and concern given to issues of diversity and community engagement. Hiring KJR consulting with a goal of increasing community engagement is a proactive effort with much potential. The recent forum demonstrated there is a lot of work to be done. Weighing the results of the survey and determining what more is needed to gather data that more accurately reflects our population are useful next steps. The process should involve members of our community who have perhaps not shared their experiences or voiced their concerns in the past. I agree with Directors Jones and Floyd-Cranford and Mayor Moran that involvement of many residents is essential. Continued discussions will lead to a stronger community. Creation of a Multicultural Affairs Commission, although its goals may be worthy, will detract from the open Town-wide process that needs to take place. As our town leaders, this diverse group of Directors has an opportunity to lead by example. Please continue to support the process that began with the survey, encourage participation by listening to your town and to each other.

Diane Kearney, 16 Briarwood Drive, has a lot of respect for all Board members. Her comments are not directed at the Board members, but are about a system that is fractured. She is here to speak about the creation of a Multicultural Affairs Commission. Good intentions aren't always the answer to solving a systemic issue. The proposal has merit and it is a great gesture to solve inequities that exist in Manchester, but she would like the Board to seek an alternative approach. Multiculturalism runs through everything that we do. A Human Relations Commission began in the early 80's to combat discrimination. She would like to hear about the systemic changes that occurred as a result of that commission. When the commission merged with two other commissions, it devalued the Human Relations Commission. The commissions were merged but now you want to create another similar commission. The most productive direction to go is to have courageous conversations about race, integrating the idea of this commission into your work, routines, discussions and relationships. It needs to be a holistic integration. It is about getting comfortable so that if something difficult comes up, we should be able to have dialogue about it without getting defensive, feeling attacked or not being heard. If we talk about racial disparities in education in the commission instead of with the school staff, what true impact will we have on those who are affected by the inequity? Board members are change-makers and need to incorporate the discussions into the DNA of what you do. Having conversations about race will

allow us to change policies and practices. Separating it out allows us to avoid it once again. We need to tackle this together alongside the BOE, Fire, Police, Park and Rec and local businesses, not just in a Commission. Let's create a safe inclusive environment to have those conversations together.

Katie Bonilla, 136 Campfield Road, commends the Board of Directors for trying to create avenues to have courageous conversations about race and inclusivity. She does not believe there should be a Multicultural Affairs Commission. She was struck by the clause in § 28-76 D which read "Members of the Commission are expected to demonstrate leadership qualities in and out of Commission activities and shall avoid physical altercations, threatening behavior, personal attacks, imputing improper motives to any member or misrepresenting the statements of other members. Behavior that is likely to discredit the Town of Manchester is ground for dismissal. A member may be removed from the Commission in accordance with the provisions for removal of board or commission members contained in the Town Charter." Using terms such as improper and threatening reinforces negative attitudes and stereotypes towards communities of color and conversations about race. This paragraph is essentially filled with fear and we are setting a dangerous tone. She is troubled that this specific language is proposed when talking about a commission that addresses multicultural concerns, and wondered if this clause is included in every commission's regulations. Part of the process in addressing issues of race, privilege, homophobia and class is to have open conversations meant to deconstruct biases. Creating a Multicultural Affairs Commission is not an inclusive approach.

Laurel LaPorte-Grimes, 25 Jeffrey Alan Drive, also spoke about the possible creation of a multicultural affairs commission. She is speaking as a member of the community and on behalf of USIC (Uniting for a Safe Inclusive Community). USIC is a grassroots organization in Manchester who actively work to ensure a safe and inclusive community for all, and in particular for members of marginalized communities. They appreciate that the intent behind the proposal is to help enhance community engagement. There are many things Town leadership can do to support marginalized communities but they don't feel that creating this commission is one. Racism, sexism, etc. are systemic issues. In the past, we created commissions to study these problems and recommend solutions to try to enhance community cohesion through these efforts. We can't field this work out to a commission but need a continuous and integrated approach. Everyone in every capacity must do this work on a daily basis. Town leadership need to ensure that people of color and members of other marginalized communities are actively being recruited to serve in our police and fire departments, ambulances, school district, etc. especially in leadership positions. She suggests training on undoing racism and similar training related to other marginalized communities. This training would benefit the leadership, staff, existing commissions, Board of Education and Board of Directors. This type of training enhances understanding and empathy. Making training a priority would demonstrate to marginalized communities that leadership is listening to their voices and concerns, and is interested in learning how to address them. The members of USIC understand that Manchester draws its strength from our diversity, but that also presents us with challenges. The best way to address these challenges is in an integrated fashion, as part of the decision making process in all departments and commissions, with appropriate training as a resource.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, talked about the riots after Dr. King's assassination. He disagrees with an article he recently read indicating Dr. King didn't deserve a holiday. Dr. King died for all Americans. *Atlantic Monthly* recently had an article about the impact of Martin Luther King's speeches. A book about Mrs. King titled *My Life, My Love, My Legacy* came out recently. He then talked about an article in the March edition of *Time* magazine regarding the opioid epidemic, which is a national problem. Formation of a Multicultural Affairs Commission is a noble effort but he wondered what would come out of it. It's not easy to talk about structural

racism, sexism or classism. We are at a point where we have to pull together for the sake of the children and grandchildren in Manchester. All citizens have a right to be heard. He commends this town for what has been achieved and hopes the proposed multicultural affairs commission will really listen to what everyone has to say.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- A. Actions, February 6, 2018 – Regular Meeting
- B. Minutes, February 6, 2018 – Regular Meeting

Gates/Galligan

9 Voted in Favor

- C. Minutes, February 27, 2018 – Policy Briefing Meeting

Gates/Floyd-Cranford

**3 Voted in Favor
(6 abstained)**

There was some discussion about acceptance of the Policy Briefing Meeting with only 3 votes. The Town Attorney indicated that because there were no votes taken at the policy briefing meeting that the minutes can be approved with 3 votes.

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

Mayor Moran stated Manchester will be represented in Saturday's St. Patrick's Day parade. It is a great honor to be the Town Marshal and to be accompanied by the Town Honoree Director Eckbreth.

6. REPORTS.

- A. Manager's Report

General Manager Shanley stated there will be three reports tonight. The first report is regarding the opioid lawsuit filed by a number of municipalities in the state of Connecticut. Manchester has been asked to join this lawsuit. Sarah Howroyd, co-founder of the HOPE Initiative, has gone to several of the meetings in regard to the lawsuit and is here to discuss that. Should the Board of Directors agree to join the lawsuits, it should be contingent upon agreement by the Town Attorney once he has had the chance to review the documentation.

Superintendent of Schools Matt Geary is also here tonight to present a briefing on security updates made to Town schools, as requested by the Board of Directors. Max Cohen, Safety Coordinator for the schools and Peter Staye, Facilities Director, are also here to answer any questions as needed.

2. Briefing: Security Investments in Schools

Superintendent Geary provided the Board members with an overview of security upgrades made to Town schools. Significant investments have been made through State Security Grant funding and local funds from the Board of Education and the Town to make the schools more secure. Since the school shooting in Florida, there has been a lot of strong communication with the Manchester Police Department to help us keep students safe. MPD has been very responsive to any needs we have had.

Mayor Moran stated we have increased our security efforts in our schools over the last several years. After the Florida tragedy, our anxiety level has been raised again. It is important to remind the community that we are doing our best on a daily basis to keep our children safe, which include security measures that are not made public. He thanked Superintendent Geary for his leadership in this effort.

Superintendent Geary indicated the Manchester Police Department did an audit of the schools shortly after the Newtown tragedy. Through that audit we found that exterior doors were sometimes propped open for reentry. Badge-activated access readers have now been installed on all outside doors so they are no longer left propped open. All doors at all schools are now kept locked. Significant funds were spent on surveillance cameras, both inside and outside the buildings. Upgrades were also made to voice over internet protocol (VOIP) phone systems in every school so all interior phones can be dialed out directly to a landline from classrooms. There are other details that are confidential because they are related to safety.

The next biggest investment was an intrusion alarm system, which include motion detectors, panic buttons throughout the schools and door contacts so we can tell when doors are open. Radio upgrades were made, allowing us to speak across an emergency frequency. When we have a lockdown, we use the emergency channel so Police and Fire Departments are aware of what is happening. Other upgrades include emergency information bags in each classroom, which include supplies needed in case of emergency. Room numbers were put on windows of all rooms that are visible from the outside of the buildings. Also added are high security entrance vestibules requiring visitors to be “buzzed in” to schools. In our newer buildings, the doors lock from the inside and in the older buildings we have asked teachers to leave doors in the locked position at all times so if the door is open and there is a lockdown you just pull the door closed. Many schools purchased high quality door jamb magnets which allow staff to keep their classroom doors in the locked position but able to be opened during routine operations.

The Manchester Police Department now has access to buildings through emergency card readers and key fobs in patrol vehicles. We are currently in discussion about security camera access for the Manchester Police Department so they have access to surveillance cameras in the event of a lockdown. We have security staff with Security Guards at Illing, MHS and Bennet, hall monitors in buildings and 5 School Resource Officers (SRO’s) in the schools. We have made a significant investment to keep our children safe. We are in a good place with these upgrades that have been made in comparison to many other districts.

Mayor Moran said he went to Highland Park School on Friday and was impressed that he had to go through two sets of doors to get into the school. He appreciates the efforts being made by the Board of Education.

Director Devanney asked what training there is for teachers and staff so they know what to do in the event of an emergency. He also asked what a safety drill would look like and if the students are aware of what they are expected to do during a drill.

Superintendent Geary stated every school has a formal safety plan. Each teacher also has a quick sheet guide to the safety plan. Drills are done regularly and staff give feedback after the drills. There is ongoing communication with the staff. Safety drills involve the Principal calling for a lockdown. When the lockdown starts, the building is checked to ensure everyone is silent and in a corner away from the windows. Response time is checked. A lockdown is designed to figure out if improvements need to be made. They are done in each school monthly. They have also done some weather related drills. They are always very clear when the lockdown is a drill, so

that students/parents don't panic. Students understand the seriousness of a lockdown but we do protect some semblance of innocence for the younger students.

Secretary Gates asked if the portable classrooms are included in the drills.

Superintendent Geary indicated the portable classrooms and central offices do not have a PA system, so they use upgraded walkie-talkies in those rooms, which are on at all times. The announcement for lockdown is made through the walkie-talkies.

Director Galligan stated these are great security improvements and all staff always put the student safety first. He asked if there is security for after-school events.

Superintendent Geary responded that most after-hours events are at the high school and middle schools. At MHS, there is round the clock security. There is security at Illing whenever there are students present. There are evening events at the middle schools that are done through Park and Rec where there is not security.

Director Eckbreth stated we have to be sensitive to having the right balance of security without creating an environment where children become scared. She has recently received questions from residents about installing metal detectors in the schools.

Superintendent Geary is not a fan of metal detectors although the most recent school shooting felt different to him. For the first time, he might have thought out about metal detectors. He has spoken with the Police Chief about this, and they are uncertain if metal detectors would prevent something like what happened in Florida. Metal detectors would also have to be staffed regularly. We should invest as much money as we need to keep kids safe but metal detectors can cause a false sense of security. While they might make people feel safer, he doesn't feel they would actually make them safer, and they might make students feel more like they are walking into a prison, not a school.

Director Eckbreth agrees that metal detectors can heighten stress and make a learning environment difficult. It is about creating a safe and inclusive environment. In Florida, the individual walked right into the building. Manchester had taken security measures a long time ago that would have prevented this. She received a video clip from a resident that showed an enclosed unit in a classroom used to keep students safe. It was also used as a quiet place for students to read or get individual instruction. She understands these units could be cost-prohibitive. She does appreciate the efforts by the Town, public safety and BOE staff to continuously look for ways to implement safety measures in Town schools. She feels it is important to let the community know that, without revealing all of our security measures, the safety of our schools is something that we constantly look at.

She did have a complaint this week, however, from a parent who is new to the Town. He went to his child's elementary school to drop off something and although he needed to be buzzed into the school giving his name, he was upset that he was not required to present i.d. Director Eckbreth assured the parent that policies are in place and said we need to make school staff aware when policies are not followed. She gave the parent Superintendent Geary's contact information. She thanked Superintendent Geary for the update.

Superintendent Geary said he has gotten an overwhelming response from parents regarding the upcoming "Stop the Bleeding" workshop. It is unfortunate that we have to present this type of workshop, but he has received positive feedback that the Town is pursuing these types of workshops.

Vice Chair Hackett thanked Superintendent Geary and his staff for preparing this presentation. As a former BOE member, she feels it is critical that we share this information with the public. There is a fine line between instilling confidence vs. disclosing too much information. The SRO's have been a constant. They have a multi-pronged approach of keeping children safe which includes relationship-building with the students, enabling them to stay close to what's going on in the schools. She mentioned the Tips line within the schools, and asked how that is enhancing the safety of the schools.

Superintendent Geary stated there are two anonymous tip lines, one with the Manchester Police Department and one in the schools. The in-school tip line goes directly to him. He has gotten several tips relating to a child being uncomfortable in school. All tips are examined.

Vice Chair Hackett also asked if there is a connection between the two tip lines. She wondered if it is confusing that there are two different tip numbers.

Superintendent Geary stated the in-school tip line clearly states that all police matters should be referred to the Manchester Police Department. He will get numbers for the Board of Directors on how many tips they have received and what types of tips they are.

Mayor Moran asked what the protocol is when visiting teams or clubs come to town. He asked how the schools communicate safety drills with visiting schools. He also asked what type of conversation we are having with our students after an incident such as in Florida. Last week in Westport a student reported a possible problem which was looked into and possibly prevented an incident. He wanted to ensure we are having those types of conversations in our classrooms.

Superintendent Geary indicated that protocol for visiting schools is an area that could certainly be looked into more. He stated we are having conversations about incidents such as Florida with students in grades 6-12. In the K-5 setting, it is a parent's decision as to how much or how little they say to their children. If a parent asks for our social worker to talk to their child, we will do that.

Mayor Moran reiterated that safety is our number one concern, especially for children in our schools. We want every student to feel safe. He thanked Superintendent Geary for his hard work and for the update.

1. Presentation regarding opioid lawsuit (Sarah Howroyd)

Ms. Howroyd presented information regarding opioid abuse and talked about the nationwide opioid litigations. Opioid abuse is an epidemic in the United States, with over 11.8M people misusing pain relievers. 91% of these abusers do not receive treatment. All HOPE Initiative participants have been Medicaid recipients. In Connecticut 1,038 residents died of opioid abuse in 2017. It affects all walks of life and is the worst public health crisis we have ever seen. We have lost 66 Manchester residents between 2012-2017. Opioid prescriptions have quadrupled since 1999. Big Pharma intentionally misled doctors for their own monetary gain. Opioids were never meant for ongoing pain addiction, but were meant for end-of-life palliative pain control.

Last year almost 400 cities, counties, states and Native American tribes began suing opioid makers, wholesalers, distributors and marketers for misleading health professionals and the public by marketing opioids as rarely addictive and a safe substitute for non-addictive pain medications such as ibuprofen. Ms. Howroyd attended meetings with Waterbury's Mayor who is looking to get other Connecticut municipalities involved in the opioid lawsuit. No amount of money will

bring back the nearly ½ Million people who have died to opioid related overdose deaths. The Attorney General's office now has special interest in these cases.

Beyond the money, the lawsuit is to hold Big Pharma accountable for their actions both civilly and criminally. Cost burden on municipalities includes employee medical plan costs, WC plans, opioid therapy and addiction treatment costs and public health costs. Taxpayers pick up the burden of the costs from the influx of criminal justice costs to addiction treatment costs to ER costs. Foster care systems are inundated with children who have been destroyed by this epidemic. The level of destruction that this has caused is unfathomable. We need to prevent new cases from occurring, provide effective treatment to those addicted and control the supply of over-prescribed opioids. The cost of the opioid crisis just exceeded \$1 Trillion for American taxpayers. She urged Manchester to consider joining the opioid lawsuit as a municipality to take a stand for what is right, to get treatment for those who need it and to prevent new instances from occurring.

Mayor Moran concurred opioid addiction is an epidemic and is growing. He thanked Ms. Howroyd for her passion in regard to this.

Director Galligan thanked Ms. Howroyd for the important work she is doing. It's so important to remember these are not statistics; they are brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers and children who are never going back to their families. He asked if there has been any discussion about including the FDA in these lawsuits.

Ms. Howroyd would love to see the FDA included in these lawsuits but they are not included in any current lawsuits. Right now the focus is to get leadership within communities to come together and take action. She has spoken directly to the attorney who is overseeing this effort in Connecticut who could provide more details and offered to connect the Board with this attorney.

Director Galligan stated these messages are resonating within the physician community as well. His oral surgeon's office indicated they will not prescribe these pain killers because of the effects these medications have.

Vice Chair Hackett is grateful for the work done by Ms. Howroyd and the HOPE Initiative. We recently had Dr. Carroll and Chief Montminy give an update. She wondered what is happening in medical school training in regard to opioid abuse.

Ms. Howroyd stated unfortunately only a few medical schools have opioid abuse training in their curriculum. Only within the last few years was there mention of teaching this in medical schools and only a few schools are doing it. Dr. Daniel Tobin at Yale University is reconfiguring the entire medical school program to include this. We talked at the State Legislation level about trying to mandate this training in medical schools and social work schools. We would need legislation to make training on opioid addiction a requirement.

Director Devanney thanked Ms. Howroyd for the courage to put herself out there for the good of others.

Director Eckbreth asked for background information on the lawsuit. She would like to see the list of CT towns involved in the lawsuit, their costs to date and what the attorney thinks the final costs would be for towns that join the lawsuit. She also asked what end-result they are looking for in the lawsuit. When the tobacco industry was involved in a similar lawsuit, the money didn't trickle down to the individuals who were affected. She is concerned that the financial gains are only for the litigators who took this on rather than the communities who took part in the lawsuit.

Ms. Howroyd stated there is no up-front cost for the Towns. Waterbury’s Mayor has been a driving force behind this. There’s no amount of money that can be put on human life but this is what would hit Big Pharma the hardest.

Mayor Moran thanked Ms. Howroyd for her presentation.

General Manager Shanley stated he will meet with Attorney Barry to discuss our options in regard to the opioid lawsuit.

2. State Revenue Preview

General Manager Shanley stated there is a slow consistent erosion of State revenue in Manchester, a community that is said to be held harmless because we are an Alliance Community. What gets held harmless is the ECS funding for the most part, though not entirely. The erosion of State funding to Manchester occurs everywhere else. We will start this upcoming fiscal year \$2M below where we started the current fiscal year. It has been through a series of budget reductions and rescissions, where the Governor has the authority to reduce what the Legislature budgeted. We lost \$250K from the Renters Rebate program and additional funds from many other programs. This will be discussed in more detail during the budget workshops. If the BOD had not sent a supplemental motor vehicle tax bill, this figure would be closer to \$3M.

B. Other Reports. None.

7. PRESENTATION OF BID WAIVER REQUESTS. None.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS (formally advertised).

A. Appropriations to Special Projects as follows:

1. State Asset Forfeiture Account \$1,310
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
2. Manchester Police Department Training Account..... \$3,750
to be funded by reimbursement from Community Health Resources, Inc. for multiple health training classes to provide mental health services to various groups.
3. Manchester Public Library – New Alliance Foundation Grant \$20,000
for services and books to assist with the Summer Reading program for students in Grades K through 3.
4. Library Donation Trust Fund Account \$6,690
to be financed by donations to purchase books, programs and materials which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
5. Youth Service Bureau \$68,750
to support Youth Services prevention activities to be financed by a grant from the State Judicial Branch.
6. Police Donations Revenue Account – Youth Services Program \$500
to be funded by a donation from Cruisin’ on Main Street which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.

Mayor Moran opened the floor for public comment at this time. There being no public comment, Mayor Moran opened the floor for Board Members’ comments. There being no comment, Mayor Moran closed the public hearing on the above items.

TABLED - 8B.Approval of an ordinance establishing a Multicultural Affairs Commission.

Eckbreth/Gates

9 Voted in Favor

9. CONSENT CALENDAR. (Items 12F and 12G added)

8A.Appropriations to Special Projects as follows:

1. State Asset Forfeiture Account \$1,310
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be
financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
2. Manchester Police Department Training Account..... \$3,750
to be funded by reimbursement from Community Health Resources, Inc. for
multiple health training classes to provide mental health services to various
groups.
3. Manchester Public Library – New Alliance Foundation Grant \$20,000
for services and books to assist with the Summer Reading program
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to support Youth Services prevention activities to be financed by a grant
from the State Judicial Branch.
6. Police Donations Revenue Account – Youth Services Program \$500
to be funded by a donation from Cruisin’ on Main Street which is gratefully
acknowledged and accepted.

12A. Appropriation to Special Projects (under \$500) as follows:

1. Police Donations Revenue Account - Manchester Police Explorer Post..... \$180
to be funded by dues.

12B. MRA Roofing Project

1. Establish a building committee (designate the Permanent Building Committee to
this project).
2. Authorize at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications.
3. Authorize the filing of the grant application.

12F. Appointment of Auditor (Blum Shapiro).

12G. Recommendation for removal of a member of the Cheney Brothers National
Historic District Commission due to his relocation.

Eckbreth/Jones

9 Voted in Favor

10. ACTION ON ITEMS OF PUBLIC HEARING.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

- A. Appointments to Boards and Commissions which have members with terms expiring in
November 2017:

<u>Board/Commission</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Term Expiring</u>
<u>Cheney Hall Foundation, Inc.</u>	TABLED - Vacant	November 2018

Eckbreth/Gates **9 Voted in Favor**

- B. **TABLED** - Appointment of a member to the Redevelopment Agency with a term expiring November 2021 to fill the vacancy left by Robert Schneider (R).

Galligan/Jones **9 Voted in Favor**

- C. **APPOINTED** – Appointment of Lindsay Gengras Meggers (R), 56 Jean Road, to the Advisory Recreation and Parks Commission with a term expiring November 2019 to fill the vacancy left by Jodi Kissmann-Huyler (D).

Eckbreth/Jones **9 Voted in Favor**

12. NEW BUSINESS.

- C. Advisory Recreation & Park Commission’s recommendation to formally name the pool at West Side Recreation Center informally referred to as the “West Side Pool” to “Marcy MacDonald Pool” in recognition of Ms. MacDonald’s accomplishments internationally as a long distance swimmer, as well as her devotion to the Town of Manchester.

Mayor Moran introduced Chris Silver, Director of Leisure, Families and Recreation.

Mr. Silver stated he received a recommendation from Chickey Barrera to rename the West Side Pool to the Marcy MacDonald Pool. He grew up with Marcy MacDonald on the West Side. She has contributed greatly to the young people of this community in terms of water safety. She has served as a positive role model for young people her entire life. She has been a competitive swimmer, a great coach and an outstanding athlete. His job is to facilitate the process when a recommendation has been made. If he were to make a recommendation, he would wholeheartedly agree with this. He would be honored to see that pool named after Marcy.

Bill “Buzz” Wooldridge stated Marcy was a student of his. She is one of the most dedicated and caring people he knows. It would be a wonderful gesture to name the pool after Marcy.

Mayor Moran said he has known Marcy for about 25 years. When he worked at St. Joseph College, Marcy trained there for her English Channel swims. She is a proud product of Manchester schools and has been a great role model for young athletes. It is a great honor which has been vetted through the Recreation Commission.

Director Jones agrees Marcy has contributed so much to the community. She asked for an explanation of the process for naming locations after residents and how recommendations come forward. She wants to ensure naming locations is done equitably.

Mr. Silver said if someone in the community feels something should be named after a resident, they are instructed to develop a proposal and bio on the individual and explain why they deserve the distinction. The proposal is presented to the Park and Rec Commission. The Commission reviews the proposal, votes on the proposal and then brings it to the Board of Directors. Mr. Silver and his staff are not part of the recommendation, other than to facilitate the process.

Mr. Shanley indicated there are guidelines but they have never been adopted and have been interpreted as flexible.

Director Jones asked to see the guidelines and asked if we have a list or catalog of places in the community that are named after a resident. She explained that the process is important.

Mr. Silver indicated he does not have a catalog of places named after residents, but he can put one together.

Secretary Gates stated there were discussions when he was on the commission about how long the location is named for a resident. He fully supports approving this recommendation. Marcy's athletic accomplishments are astounding. She also contributes so much to the community.

Director Eckbreth agreed we have had discussion about how we name things and for how long. We have never settled on how long something should be named. The process we have includes volunteers from the community who bring this information forward and have no vested interest in it. It was about keeping it out of the political process as much as possible. Staff facilitates the process but does not make the recommendation. We do not have many opportunities to name a swimming pool after an international long-distance swimmer, but also an individual who has been such a mentor for our community. By the time the Board receives the recommendation it has been pretty well vetted with the commissions. She completely supports this proposal.

Director Jones indicated some of the speakers this evening talked about representation and structural racism. She wonders how many women or people of color have places in town named after them. When we accept things as they come and don't recognize in these moments that we are perpetuating an opportunity for some members of our community and not others, we are potentially continuing to promulgate the issue. This is not about Marcy, but about the process. She would like to see the list and then talk about how we might make sure that this opportunity is available to everyone in our community.

Mayor Moran commented that this was a great recommendation for a wonderful role model for our young women and men. Marcy is a successful businesswoman and successful athlete who gives so much to our community.

Galligan/Gates

9 Voted in Favor

D. Approval to join opioid lawsuit.

Director Devanney made a motion to approve Item 12D. Secretary Gates seconded the motion. A vote was not taken.

General Manager Shanley asked that Board approval be contingent upon approval from the Town Attorney after review of the lawsuit documentation.

Attorney Barry stated multiple law firms have brought lawsuits against Big Pharma with varying causes of action and different clients. He has been contacted by a few law firms who have asked to discuss their lawsuits with Attorney Barry. He would like to meet with them and review the material.

Director Devanney retracted his original motion and moved to table Item 12D.

D. **TABLED** - Approval to join opioid lawsuit.

Devanney/Jones

9 Voted in Favor

E. Discussion: Tax abatement for Gold Star families.

General Manager Shanley stated this is an initiative from Director Castillo.

Director Castillo was informed by a resident about Substitute Senate Bill No. 918, Public Act No. 17-65, put in place by the State of Connecticut regarding a property tax exemption for Gold Star families, which are families of military men/women killed in action. Manchester is a very welcoming community that provides a lot of good services to our residents. We have many Veterans in Manchester and she feels it is important that we support them. Many towns and cities in Connecticut have adopted an ordinance for tax abatement for Gold Star families and she hopes to have Manchester join this.

Ms. Lord, Director of Finance, indicated the State Statute was effective October 1, 2017. It does not require an ordinance but does require approval from a Town's legislative body. The tax abatement is for parents or surviving spouses of service members killed in action while performing active U.S. military duty. The resident could give notice to the Town Clerk that they qualify. Ms. Lord spoke with the Town Attorney O'Neil who said an ordinance would streamline the process. We do have other tax exemption ordinances in Town including those for qualified Veterans and for energy assistance. She recommends putting together an ordinance that outlines the process so each request would not require Board approval. The tax abatement is for either \$20K or 10% of the assessed value of the home.

Director Galligan thanked Director Castillo for bringing this to the Board's attention. This is incredibly important and is the least we can do.

Vice Chair Hackett agrees it is certainly a worthwhile cause. We recently voted on some modest tax exemptions for disabled Veterans. We should certainly put this forward for Veterans' families.

Director Jones asked if Town staff could draft an ordinance.

General Manager Shanley indicated this would be added to next month's agenda under Public Hearing.

H. Discussion/Resolution: Fracking Waste.

General Manager Shanley stated this is an issue that appears before Town Councils and Boards of Directors across the state. There was also a State public hearing on this issue on the Environmental Committee. The Connecticut Conference on Municipalities (CCM) has taken a position and testified regarding fracking waste. There is a draft resolution by the State of Connecticut supporting a ban on use of hydraulic fracturing in the State. Senate Bill 103 is intended to require DEEP to regulate, evaluate and enforce fracturing waste products in Connecticut. We have the ability to do this at the local level, but this could provide a false sense of comfort to residents. The practical reality is we could rewrite our bid requirements and could require that people not provide any services or materials to the Town government that may include fracking waste, however our ability to enforce that may be difficult. The State government can enforce this much better than on the local level. The State Legislation has only been in Public Hearing mode on this issue. We don't know if they are going to provide statutory requirements. The resolution put before the Board of Directors is in support of CCM's position on Senate Bill

103 and includes amending the resolution to include oil from extraction activities, byproducts of the well drilling process and products derived from solid waste products that may include construction fill, brownfield capping materials, or used frac/silica sand that is partially processed and reused. He has confidence that CCM would act in a responsible fashion.

Director Eckbreth stated the moratorium currently in place did not include oil extraction. The new Senate Bill is superior to the prior bill. It is incumbent upon us to work with our Legislators to encourage passage of this bill. Fracking waste does cause serious health problems with development and reproduction which should concern all of us. Unfortunately, our Federal Government doesn't currently classify fracking waste as a hazardous material. We can use our Legislative authority to guide the process and work with our State Legislators to ensure that the new moratorium is passed. It is incumbent upon us to ensure we have a policy in place to prevent fracking waste from coming into the Manchester landfill and to have fines/penalties in place if it does, including barring any further dumping from that company/individual. She asked if Town staff could look into this.

Mayor Moran said we can revisit this next month.

General Manager Shanley will let our Legislators know the Board is considering passage of this resolution.

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

Mayor Moran said there is some concern from Board members that they don't receive as much back-up information on agenda items as they should, so they do not feel as prepared as they should be.

Director Eckbreth stated she would have liked to see the same background information that Attorney Barry had on the opioid lawsuit.

General Manager Shanley explained it is a balance between giving the Board members the background information they need without overwhelming them with info they may not need.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned until the April 3, 2018 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room.

Castillo/Galligan

9 Voted in Favor

Adjournment: 9:50 p.m.

lgl

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors