

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JULY 13, 2021 – 7:00 P.M.
LINCOLN CENTER HEARING ROOM

ONE MEETING AGENDA

PRESENT: Mayor Moran, Directors Bergin, Conyers, Marois and Schain, General Manager Shanley, Deputy General Manager Stephanou and Assistant Town Attorney Sullivan.

REMOTE: Deputy Mayor Jones, Secretary Castillo.

ABSENT: Dougan, Floyd-Cranford

1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. All in attendance, and virtual, participated in The Pledge of Allegiance to The Flag, led by Mayor Moran.

2. AWARDS AND PRESENTATIONS.

Mayor Moran explained that tonight is General Manager Shanley's last Board of Directors meeting before he retires. He could always tell when Mr. Shanley didn't agree with him, as he would call him Mr. Mayor. He thanked Mr. Shanley for his 15 year service to the Town of Manchester. During his tenure, he led the town through some very difficult times, including the recession, the shooting at Hartford Distributors and the COVID-19 pandemic, while continuing to grow the town's fund balance and maintaining a AAA bond rating. Mayor Moran read a Proclamation declaring June 15th as Scott Shanley Day in Manchester.

Each of the Board members thanked Mr. Shanley for his leadership and mentorship during their terms on the Board of Directors, and for keeping the Town running smoothly through the pandemic. Mr. Shanley's institutional knowledge has been invaluable and he has provided a good platform to move Manchester into the future. Town employees and residents have benefited greatly from his service. They wished him well in his retirement.

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)

Robert Lavin, 9A Ambassador Drive, is president of the condo board for Northfield Green Condo Association. He spoke about the poor condition of the sidewalks along Ambassador Drive. For years they have brought the issue to the Town and some minor repairs have been done. The Town engineer recently came out to evaluate the condition of the sidewalks and reported that the sidewalks are in "good" condition, but he disagrees. He spoke of the difficulties of traversing the sidewalks with walkers and strollers. He provided photographs of 50 slabs of sidewalk in poor condition, some showing cracks 4-5" wide and 2-3" deep. He would greatly appreciate someone looking into this further.

Phil Adduci, 31 Dennison Ridge Road, is very concerned with the rise in crime in Manchester. Within the past year, he witnessed a carjacking at a gas station and just last week he witnessed a group of men attempting to break into a house on Porter Street. He also expressed concern over what is happening at the State level with religious exemptions for vaccines being taken away from Connecticut residents. This is government overreach and he hopes fellow residents will speak up and not allow this to happen.

Gigi Adduci, 81 Dennison Ridge Road, spoke about increased car break-ins and home invasions in the area. We can't let Manchester fall to these crimes. She feels less safe in Connecticut than she did when she lived in the Bronx. She knows several people who are interested in working with the police to form community neighborhood watches. She also noted Town parks are not kept up as well as they used to be.

Chris Hopkins, 34 Hoffman Road, a retired Hartford police officer and former insurance investigator, also spoke about the uptick in auto theft and car-stripping. Organized crime groups are using juveniles to commit these crimes. They know the system better than anyone, and know there will be no consequences for their actions, because we treat these juveniles like they're shoplifting bubblegum. He asked that Town leadership work with State legislators to make changes for juveniles that commit crimes.

Vanessa Reichelt, 97 Prospect Street, expressed concern over the mandate for children to wear masks in school. She has two young children that come home from school with their masks soaking wet at the end of the day. It is not healthy for our children to be required to breathe through a piece of wet cloth for six hours a day. Young children need to make new friends and get to know their new teachers, and facial expressions play a large part in social interactions. Most mask restrictions have been lifted but not for young children in our schools. She urged Manchester to reverse this school mandate.

Jeri Beckford, 149 Maple Street, thanked General Manager Shanley for his service. She was so pleased that the Town of Manchester held its first Juneteenth celebration this year. She is grateful that there are many camps offered through the Town but she is baffled by the lack of planning around the schedules of working parents. Many camps are from 9:00-3:00 and do not offer before or after care to accommodate a parents' full time work schedule. When planning these camps, there needs to be racial, gender, social and economic diversity backgrounds at the planning table. Manchester public school camps offer before and after care, but they only allow public school students to attend. She wonders if her property taxes pay for the public school camps that her children cannot attend.

Ben Weidner, 320 Hilliard Street, is concerned about the proposed Community Protection Resolution on tonight's agenda, which does not include provisions for mental health services for the juveniles that commit these crimes. He does not want to see prison time for these juveniles. It has been a really tough year financially for so many and he wonders if this has caused some of the uptick in crime. The Town and State need to provide more social service programs for families.

Danita Sulick, 417 South Main Street, stated the rise in crimes is negatively affecting our community. She has lived here for several years and has never felt so unsafe. Her neighbor was in her yard this morning and was approached by a man with a gun. Eight of her friends have been burglarized over the past two weeks, all in her area of Town. She understands that police are not allowed to pursue juveniles. There are two victims, the property owner and the juvenile who commits the crime. The State is doing nothing to stop these crimes, as there are no repercussions or consequences for juveniles that commit a crime.

Elizabeth Kline, 60 Valley Street, talked about the proposed resolution which talks about discussing thoughtful ways to prevent crime. She is a neuroscientist which she states because she hopes it will give her comments more credibility. People under 18 do not have the same developmental level of psychological maturity as adults and because of this they are not as good at self-regulation. They are not as good at resisting peer influence or anticipation of future consequences. Many are seeking harsher sentences for these juveniles but it is completely inappropriate for consequences of a car theft to be the same for a juvenile as for an adult. We are dealing with entirely different biological realities. She also spoke about the impacts of incarceration on people under 18. Harsher sentences for juveniles will only exacerbate the problem.

Sarah Summers, 53 Mather Street, is concerned that Board of Education meetings are still not open to the public. There are many Manchester parents who have concerns that are not being addressed by the Board of Education. They are not addressing community relations. Parents who request to speak at virtual meetings are not being given working links to speak at the meetings. She is in support of the Community Protection Resolution. The rise in crime is a direct side effect of the narrative being pushed to defund the police and this lawlessness is being ignored and allowed. She gave statistics of crime in Manchester and indicated it is safer than only 20% of U.S. cities. Residents' concerns are falling on deaf ears and we deserve better.

Linda Harris, 60 Brookfield Street, feels the proposed resolution is misleading as stated. There has been an uptick in crime not only in Manchester but throughout the country. There is a no chase policy for car thefts and the reason for that is public safety. The resolution speaks about accountability being instilled in our justice system. If our justice system was fair to all people, she wouldn't have a problem with it, but there is bias within the justice system to people of color. People of color are more likely to be apprehended for a crime than their white peers are. This resolution should not be passed. Resources should be diverted to address the issues that young people in the community are facing.

Tom Stringfellow, 183 Hillstown Road, congratulated General Manager Shanley on his retirement and wished him well. He thanked the Town's recreation staff for holding the Juneteenth celebration. He was named as one of the awardees for making a difference in the Town of Manchester. It was quite an honor. He also spoke about the increased crimes throughout the State. He respects law enforcement but disagrees with sending juveniles to jail. He agrees that there can be bias in the justice system. We need to look at prevention of juvenile crime, not increased punishment. He recommended the book *Biased: Uncovering the Hidden Prejudice That Shapes What We See, Think, and Do* by Jennifer Lynn Eberhardt. Racism and sexism still exist. We have to work together as Americans.

Matt Farrell, 27 Hillcrest Road, had his car taken from his home this weekend in broad daylight by a youth with a gun in his hand. The Manchester Police were great, but we cannot pass laws at the local level. We need to keep pushing at the State level. There are no consequences for youth stealing cars. There has to be punishment for crimes. This is very stressful and he is convinced that someone is going to get killed; a homeowner, police officer or the juvenile committing the crime. Something has to be done to prevent this.

4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING.

- A. Actions, June 1, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- B. Minutes, June 1, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Castillo/Conyers

8 Voted in Favor

- C. Actions, June 8, 2021 – Special Meeting
- D. Minutes, June 8, 2021 – Special Meeting

Castillo/Schain

6 Voted in Favor
(Secretary Castillo and Director Bergin abstained)

5. COMMUNICATIONS.

Secretary Castillo noted the Board of Directors received several communications from residents regarding the proposed Gardner Street multiuse path, some in favor and some against. They also received an email from **Bob Kilpatrick**, 61 Steep Hollow Lane, expressing his concern, fear, and frustration over the rash of

car break-ins, thefts, and home invasions that have recently occurred in Manchester. He understands these crimes are not unique to Manchester, but residents should not have to live in fear. This problem hit him personally yesterday in the early afternoon when individuals entered his garage while he and his wife were home. Their vehicle drivers' side doors were left ajar and contents were strewn about the interior of both vehicles. During the same timeframe, a homeowner one street over reported an attempted theft and reported seeing a firearm. Actions need to be taken before either citizens or perpetrators are hurt or worse.

Director Marois received emails and messages from residents frustrated with the frequent illegal fireworks going off in their neighborhoods late at night. There were also communications from parents frustrated with the ongoing requirement of students to wear masks in Manchester schools and about parents not being able to attend Board of Education meetings. He also noted several communications from residents in regard to their fear of the crime uptick in the community.

Vice Chair Jones stated there were many communications regarding the Gardner Street project. She thanked the residents for sharing their thoughts and thanked Town staff for providing information and transparency around this issue to residents. That exchange demonstrated our commitment to working with residents to provide safe and accessible areas within our community. She also received communications regarding concern for blocked storm drains and recent flooding with the heavy rains we have received. She thanked Town staff for addressing these issues so quickly.

Mayor Moran has spoken with several residents affected by car thefts recently. He has also had meetings with some of our state delegation over the past few days to express concern about this increased crime.

6. REPORTS.

A. Manager's Report

1. November referendum presentation/ road and sidewalks etc. for August action

General Manager Shanley explained that every two years the Public Works Department provides a proposed referendum to the Board of Directors for review and to determine whether or not to move the referendum forward to voters in November. He explained that much of the Town's road and sidewalk work is dependent upon this. Director of Public Works Tim Bockus and Town Engineer Jeff LaMalva will make this presentation, for action by the Board of Directors in August.

Mr. Bockus explained that borrowing rates are very favorable at this time, so this is a great opportunity for us to invest in our infrastructure. We are making great progress on roads and sidewalks throughout Manchester, currently in the Spruce Street area and utility work in the Foster Street area. The Town often combines road/sidewalk work and utility work in the same areas for ease of completion.

Mr. LaMalva reviewed the status of the work approved by the 2019 Public Works Bond and timelines for completion of the projects that have not yet been completed. For the current bond, the request is for \$18M, representing a 9% increase over the last approved bond amount. This year's request includes \$14.5M for road resurfacing (a 3.5% increase over 2019), \$1.5M for sidewalk replacement, \$750K to replace bleachers at Manchester High School, \$750K for Union Pond Dam repairs and \$500K for contingency/Debt Service.

Road conditions are assessed by StreetScan, Inc., a vendor that specializes in pavement condition assessment. StreetScan takes hundreds of thousands of images of the roadway, very similar to Google maps. Each road is given a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) rating from 0-100. Data can be used to identify and manage future repairs and replacements. Manchester's roads received an average PCI of 66.

The proposed bond request amount would help to maintain the current PCI level. As in past years, any roads that were not completed from the past referendum are put on the top of the list.

Sidewalk replacements with this bond include Dover Road, Edison Road, Fulton Road, Hendee Road, Whitney Road, Jarvis Road, Carol Drive, Chester Drive and Thomas Drive. \$1.5M will be used for replacement of existing sidewalks, and does not include funding to fill in sidewalk gaps. \$750K for the MHS bleacher replacement project is to replace existing bleachers with new aluminum bleachers and expand capacity to 1,500. This funding also includes replacement of the existing press box with a rooftop filming area. \$500K for Union Pond Dam will be used to complete necessary repairs. The project is currently at Connecticut DEEP for final permitting and if approved work will begin in 2022.

Mr. Bockus explained that any Board of Directors' recommended changes will be incorporated and a final proposal will be presented for approval in August.

Director Dougan asked if the bleachers are being replaced because there are problems with the condition of the current bleachers or the project is just to increase capacity.

Superintendent Geary stated bleacher capacity would increase from 680 to 1,500 to allow more spectators to events but also to accommodate all of the students at one time if needed. They will consider using the current bleachers at another school if possible.

Director Schain asked for an explanation of the \$500K for contingency/Debt Service. He also asked if federal funding was considered for any of these bond projects.

Mr. LaMalva explained that the debt service portion includes the administrative cost of putting the bond out. If any funds remain after administrative costs are paid, they will be put toward the approved bond projects (likely road repaving).

General Manager Shanley stated there is a potential that federal funding could be utilized, but there will be great demands on that funding. If other funding becomes available, we will certainly apply for it which would allow us to replace the next roads on the list.

Director Bergin asked if we reached out for alliance district reimbursement funds for the bleacher project.

Superintendent Geary explained they did reach out to the State when the Alliance funding became available with a list of possible projects, which included the bleachers, but they were all discouraged. They were not items the State wanted to prioritize. The bleachers were put to the top of the priority list for bonding because the elementary schools were all being renovated and the two areas left that need renovations are Illing and the main part of MHS. If additional alliance funding becomes available, we would again include bleachers on that list.

3. Health Department Update

Mr. Catlett, Director of Health, reviewed ongoing non-COVID related activities within the Health Department. Restaurant inspections and other regulatory responsibilities continued during the pandemic. They offered guidance and assistance with the Governor's executive orders, assisted with outdoor dining initiatives, followed up on all resident complaints about health related items, kept up-to-date on employee trainings and certifications, strengthened the department's efficiency by the increased use of technology, and increased the department's social media presence and public health internship opportunities.

He briefly reviewed the COVID timeline with the first Connecticut Coronavirus case on March 08, 2020 and the first announced COVID case of a Manchester resident on March 21, 2020. Between April and September of 2020, the Health Department, in collaboration with other town departments, provided education and prepared to test and vaccinate town residents as soon as the vaccine became available. Between September and December of 2020, the Health Department sponsored mobile COVID testing. The vaccine became available for emergency use authorization in mid-December of 2020 and the Health Department ran its first vaccination clinic on January 19, 2021. On April 6, 2021, they held a six hour 500 person vaccination clinic for Manchester educators and vulnerable community residents while also honoring the commitment to dedicate 25% of the town's vaccine allotment to areas of town that met CDC's definition of High Social Vulnerability Index. Their final vaccination clinic was held on May 11, 2021. Since May 2021, they have partnered with Griffin Hospital and CT DPH to offer mobile vaccination clinics. Contact tracing has been ongoing since the start of the pandemic. Vaccination statistics to date show that almost 35,000 Manchester residents have received their first dose, including 98% of those age 65 and over, 74% of those age 45-64, 60% of those 16-44 and 43% for those age 12-15. Community outreach and health equity clinics continue.

The Health Department continues to keep a close eye on the Delta variant. Vaccination is the best protection against it. The longer people wait to get vaccinated, the more opportunity the virus has to mutate again. Areas with lower vaccination rates could see a significant rise in hospitalizations, as the Delta variant is more contagious than the other virus strains. The State Health Department estimates that 50% of all new cases are related to the Delta variant. They are keeping up to date on the possibility of boosters and whether or not that is something municipalities would take on or if they would be done through the regular vaccination stream at physician's offices or pharmacies. Because of the COVID pandemic, the Health Department was able to bring on some additional staff to do some critical work that they have wanted to do for a while. They hired a COVID Health Equity Coordinator, a COVID Community Outreach Worker and a COVID Environmental Health Inspector to assist with business reopenings. All positions were paid for by a CDC/DPH grant and are funded until November 2022. Health equity is a priority and the new positions are critical to help address the health inequities in our community.

Health equity initiatives include a town hall forum on COVID health equity in collaboration with community partners, working with early childhood programs on an educational curriculum to help ease vaccine hesitancy, and reaching out to local groups, leaders and others in an effort to build relationships and gain deeper understanding of the various and unique needs of residents. They are also working with Griffin Hospital and DPH to provide local access to vaccines, facilitating connections between community groups and housing providers for vaccines and testing, and working with local community leaders to identify eligible residents from statistically underserved populations in an effort to facilitate vaccinations, testing and education. While they are currently focused on COVID, these efforts will really bolster the Health Department's ongoing efforts to protect the health of all Manchester residents beyond the current pandemic.

2. Downtown Manchester Special Services District - Parking Modernization Plan

Joy Press, Downtown Manager for the DMSSD, stated the goals of this plan are to create a simpler permitting system, extended parking for customers, provide parking monitoring and eliminate the waiver program for downtown parking. This plan maintains the focus on convenient customer parking while enforcing regulations. It moves them out of the antiquated times of paper permits and chalked tires into the current decade.

This plan would provide free timed parking, \$2 all day parking, free all-day options, business validation and online purchases. The new system will be a cloud-based system which will handle permits, parking enforcement and more. This means no more hangtags, no more driving to Town Hall or waiting for a tag

to come in the mail, and no easily identifiable tag hanging from your mirror, alerting strangers to where your car will be parked and unattended all day long. The new approach will also mean less tickets issued to customers overall, which is a huge win for everyone.

DMSSD will maintain the current free parking options, two hours on Main Street and three hours in the lots, for guests and patrons. Loyal guests can still park downtown just as they have been doing. The number of free all day parking lots will increase from one to three. Employees and patrons alike can now choose to park in one of the designated lots all day long for free without a permit. They have also added the option for guests and patrons to park all day in any other colored parking lot for an affordable \$2 flat daily rate. Patrons can spend time downtown without worrying about receiving a ticket that they would need to submit for a waiver. This will be accomplished with a convenient mobile app; no physical kiosks will need to be installed. Businesses will have the option to validate customer parking. Parking Permits will be purchased online and more of the enforcement process will be automated. There will be less paperwork for DMSSD staff and for the MPD and less opportunity for human error to occur. It will free up valuable staff hours for other important tasks.

The automated process will help ensure more consistent and efficient parking monitoring and enforcement. Utilizing this digital program will provide them with important information they can use to make data-informed decisions in the future. This will lead to consistently faster turn-over of spots on Main Street which can be directly tied to revenue for many business owners. Moving to this type of system has been shown to lead to more compliance with regulations and improved collection of fines. We expect to see more employees and customers choosing to park legally. The secure software will automate collection efforts and eliminate time-consuming tasks, freeing up staff and the Police Department to focus their efforts elsewhere. Parking is an issue faced by developers and city planners across the globe. Customers and business owners want convenient parking. This requires ample parking spots with fast turn-over in the most convenient spots, such as those on Main Street. Manchester has an incredible amount of parking lots and spaces available - more than many other local cities and downtowns. Our lengthy free parking time limits are also more generous than comparable communities. This new pay-to-stay option does not take away any of these free options. It does provide an opportunity for parkers to choose to stay downtown longer.

DMSSD is not seeking to establish a new revenue stream from paid parking. The goal is to modernize the downtown parking program and add additional parking options for lingering guests. This new parking program will come with costs, especially the first year, but will be mainly funded by the revenue from permit purchases, parking sessions and violation fines. The remainder of start-up costs will be funded through budget reallocations and use of fund balance, if needed. There will not be a mill rate increase to fund the program. The roll out will be slow with lots of communication and training to the community and business owners.

Mayor Moran recalled an elderly resident contacted him a couple of years ago who had attended Good Friday service at St. James and came out of the service to a parking ticket. He asked about residents who may not have the technology needed to download an app.

Ms. Press stated there will be a phone number to call to pay for parking.

Captain Palombizio, Manchester Police Department, asked if there was consideration given to adding parking kiosks to the downtown area where people could pay for parking.

Ms. Press stated kiosks were discussed but are cost prohibitive. She noted the first year they will give out more warnings than tickets to allow people to learn the new system.

Director Conyers asked if employees of downtown businesses are given free all-day parking.

Mr. Press explained that they can park in the free lots all day.

Vice Chair Jones stated parking in the downtown area is not under the purview of the Board of Directors. She hopes the DMSSD will ensure residents have equitable access and the technology is able to support residents who may drive more than one vehicle or transfer a license plate to a new vehicle. We have heard complaints from residents in the past we have been boxed out by employees or patrons. She wants to ensure implementation of a new plan doesn't cause a different set of unintended consequences, by inequitably impacting downtown residents.

4. American Rescue Plan (ARPA)

General Manger Shanley stated Deputy General Manager Steve Stephanou and Budget and Research Officer Brian Wolverton will provide a policy framework presentation about how to proceed with decision making on ARPA funding.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou explained this overview of ARPA funding will explain how much Manchester will receive, eligible uses and recommendations for use of funds. The Board has the discretion on how this funding is used.

Mr. Wolverton explained that ARPA's very historic grant program was signed into law in March of 2021. Because Manchester is a CDBG eligible community, it will receive a direct formula grant from the U. S. Treasury and we have already received the first half of that. There is also a county allotment passed-through the State of Connecticut. The Town of Manchester's direct funding from the U.S. Treasury is \$13.8M and the county allocation is \$11.2M, for a total grant amount of \$24.98M. This is the Town allocation, and is separate from the Board of Education allocation. He reviewed the funding we have received or expect to receive, some of which are directed to specific areas.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou stated this is an amazing one-time infusion of external revenue. It is very important to not incur operating expenses in out-years when we won't have this funding. As Mr. Catlett explained earlier, the grant funded-positions will run out. We are cognizant of this in the way we are currently doing staffing to ensure we do not burden taxpayers in the future.

Mr. Wolverton explained this grant funding was effective in March of 2021, so eligible expenses must take place after that date. The first installment of the grant was received in June of 2021, with the second installment expected in June of 2022. All of the funds we receive must be committed by the end of the 2024 calendar year and fully expended by the end of the 2026 calendar year. He provided a list of foundations to consider when deciding on use of funds, the source of which is the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities ARPA Toolkit. It is important that we follow the guidelines carefully for allowable use of the grant, and that we ensure transparency throughout. It is also important that we not create future budget deficits as this is a one-time funding source. The four allowable uses for grant funding are a) efforts in response to coronavirus, b) premium pay for essential employees, c) revenue loss and d) water, sewer and broadband infrastructure.

Efforts in response to coronavirus include spending directly related to the pandemic or to address its disparate impacts on certain populations. This provides a broad array of options to be used for many types of assistance, services or investments to help the disparately impacted populations or industries. Spending with a social justice component to it would most likely fall into this category, but this component has the most rigorous compliance requirements. The burden of proof (including data, performance measures and demographic information) will be on the Town for this.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou explained that if we don't meet the very specific eligibility criteria, we are at risk of having the funding recouped. Reporting and following eligibility requirements for the funding is critical. Manchester does have one census district that is identified as eligible under this category, in the downtown area (between Center Street and Charter Oak Park).

Mr. Wolverton explained that premium pay for essential employees was mainly composed with the concept of not knowing when we would come out of the pandemic or if we would have resurgences of the pandemic. The third allowable use is revenue loss. The U.S. Treasury has established a formula that sets an amount that governments can use toward services or infrastructure with broad latitude, based on our actual revenues. This formula sets FY 2019 as the base year and allows for 4.1% annual escalator, so for each fiscal year you add 4.1% which sets your counterfactual revenue and that becomes the baseline for the subsequent fiscal year. Based on our current estimates, FY20 comes out to \$5M and FY21 amounts to approximately \$10M. The revenue loss category can be used for general government services and capital projects. There are not a lot of restrictions, except that funding cannot be saved or put into pension funds, or applied to debt service, and it must be spent during the grant period.

The fourth allowable use category is water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. Water and sewer projects have the same guidelines as the clean water funding, which covers most capital expenses for utility operations. Broadband relates to improvements to internet services for areas where high speed internet is not available, particularly in disadvantaged communities. Connecticut's ARPA plan includes some broadband investments statewide, so this area may get handled at the state level.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou explained that some of the ARPA funding could potentially apply to some of the projects on the public works referendum or to some streets and projects that aren't being proposed as part of the referendum. Section c revenue loss would provide the ability to invest in capital projects beyond what is being proposed by public works.

Mr. Wolverton stated that ARPA funds cannot be used to lower taxes, deposited into pension funds, used for contribution into internal funds or used toward debt service. He then reviewed uses-to-date. The FY22 budget incorporated the use of \$290K which funds the Social Worker position at the Police Department, provides funding for rental assistance and additional Human Services community services. Also, when the water & sewer rates were passed, there was an assumption that pipe replacements for one year would be covered by ARPA funding, which is up to \$2.4M. The \$290K was part of the budget resolution. The use of \$2.4M toward water & sewer isn't formalized or finalized at this point. He recently submitted an application to the State to cover \$2M worth of pipe replacements for next year. When the decision was made to potentially use some of this funding for the water & sewer infrastructure, we were working with the assumption that the water & sewer infrastructure was one of the only infrastructure expenses allowable under this grant. We then received more information that there is a lot more latitude for this funding, so we have the opportunity to reconsider whether that is the best use of the funds.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou stated the \$2.4M is about 10% of the total ARPA funding. There is more latitude than we realized when the initial recommendation was made to use funds for water pipe infrastructure.

Mr. Wolverton then explained the process for allocating grant funds. There are many options to distribute this funding. It gives us the opportunity to make some investments that in any other year we couldn't consider making. Step 1 is the initial decision making process, establishing some early allocations and then determining some broad spending categories, strategy and timeline. Step 2 is to gather public input. It is crucial to hear from the public on this, possibly through the use of surveys, public hearings or focus groups. Step 3 is deliberation where the Board of Directors come together to develop a proposal(s) to get brought to a vote. This step will require a lot of thought to streamline the ideas of each Board member to come up

with one set of allocations. Step 4 is the final allocation which is to bring the proposal to a vote for approval.

The recommended funding strategy is to have a short term community rescue fund and a long term community investment fund. The short term fund would set aside up to \$1M, in an upfront appropriation, early in the process to cover immediate community needs. This funding would assist those still in need of assistance after State, Federal and other resources have been exhausted. Some of the areas could be household assistance, food programs, rent, mortgage, utilities and eviction protection. We can also provide aid to non-profits and can reach out to community agencies we partner with. We could consider small businesses assistance to some of the industries impacted particularly hard by the pandemic.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou noted some of the Federal and State assistance programs (eviction moratorium and unemployment insurance) are ending. This is an area where we could help those still in dire need.

Mr. Wolverton explained the long term recovery fund would be used to ensure Manchester emerges from the pandemic in a strong, stable, equitable and resilient manner. The majority of the long term recovery fund could be used toward one-time investments in the community. We could address community health and equity issues such as health disparities, food insecurity, and mental health issues. We can look at economic recovery, job-training assistance, improvements to downtown and arts and culture. Under environmental resiliency we can look at energy efficiency, preparing for future pandemics and disaster preparedness. The Sustainability Commission will also present some ideas related to ARPA funding. Under infrastructure and neighborhood investments we can consider school repurposing, the parks, roads, sidewalks and facilities. Housing support could include services for unhoused persons. Government efficiency could include items such as IT investments, cyber security, department service enhancements and improving digital access to services.

Our recommendation is for the Board of Directors to have a workshop(s) within the next month to begin discussions on how to allocate this funding. Topics could include initial actions, developing a process, timelines, public input strategy and an overall broad strategy for the funding.

Deputy General Manger Stephanou explained the Board of Directors needs to make a policy decision for a short-term community rescue fund to address urgent needs. Long term, having a broad strategy and plan in place is important. There is no rush to make a quick decision. Guidance for best practices when it comes to a large sum of money gives Manchester the opportunity for one-time transformational investments that will benefit the community for decades to come. We have a lot of good projects that have had community input over the past several years which we can build off of. In terms of getting public input, we could look to do neighborhood workshops to get feedback on how residents want to prioritize eligible categories. It is up to the Board to determine overall strategy for the funds.

Director Bergin noted the State of Connecticut received a lot of capital funds which they have not allocated in their entirety. When we are considering allocation of short term funds, we need to consider the relief assistance that has already been given to certain populations. The Town needs to identify who is falling through the cracks. We need to be mindful of some of the timely issues that we have in town. We had a lot of comments on car break-ins and juvenile justice and heard solutions about diversion and rehabilitation. The long term community investment fund could be used to address some of these issues.

Deputy General Manager Shanley stated President Biden encouraged municipalities to consider using ARPA funding to address the increase crime we are seeing nationwide.

Director Dougan asked how the State determined what amount was given to each town.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou explained that states received a certain portion of the \$350B funding from the federal government. Municipalities that are CDBG eligible received federal funding directly from the U.S. Treasury. The States will decide under their own discretion how to allocate the funding. Counties also received funding. Hartford County received \$173M and the State Office of Policy and Management is dividing that up based on population, which is why we are getting an additional \$11M. The State of Connecticut has suggested that they might use some of their money toward broadband investment throughout the State. During this past budget's bonding cycle the State added a \$1.5B program for alliance districts to invest in transformative projects to benefit communities that have suffered disproportionately over the past few years. We can also try to leverage some of that State funding for Town projects.

B. Other Reports.

APPROVED - Motion to Suspend the Rules to move Item 12I. to the agenda at this time.

Schain/Marois

8 Voted in Favor

12 I. Community Protection Resolution

Community Protection Resolution

WHEREAS, the Manchester community and neighboring towns deserve to live safely with effective public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Manchester community has experienced an increase in motor vehicle thefts, shootings, and serious crimes; and

WHEREAS, the Manchester community believes accountability should be evident and instilled in our justice system; and

WHEREAS, the delay of thoughtful legislation continues to put our community at risk.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester request Governor Lamont call for a special session of the Legislators to discuss thoughtful ways to prevent crime in our community.

Mayor Moran received an email on Friday saying that there was going to be a proposed resolution. He then received phone calls and emails from residents that said they saw the proposed resolution on social media. The full Board of Directors did not receive the resolution until Monday, though they should have seen the draft before it went public. He noted that when Director Conyer's proposed a resolution, he spoke with each Board member separately prior to presenting it at the Board meeting.

A motion was made by Director Marois to approve the resolution. Director Conyers seconded the motion.

Mayor Moran asked Police Chief Darby to speak about some of the criminal activity that has taken place in our community over the past several months.

Chief Darby stated there has been an uptick in car break-ins and car thefts in Manchester, and throughout the State, many involving juveniles. In 2019, we had 114 motor vehicle thefts and in 2020, we had 174. Year to date in 2021, we have had 101. One of the most concerning things about the motor vehicle thefts is the involvement of firearms. There has been a lot of talk statewide that we are not at the level of motor

vehicle thefts that we were back in there 1990's, but it was a totally different type of crime then. At that time, there were no key fobs and screwdrivers or hotwiring was done to steal cars. The cars were used for joy ride. Now we are seeing motor vehicle thefts of high-end cars to use them for other criminal activity. There were arrests in Windsor of five people in a stolen car who were involved in a shooting in Hartford. The group that was involved in stealing a car at the Farrell's residents had been at three other residents earlier in the day trying to steal other cars. They are aggressive groups of people, many connected through social media, who use stolen cars to steal other cars. There is total disregard for the safety of other drivers. They are reckless. It is out of control, not just in Manchester but statewide. He agrees with Mr. Farrell's earlier comments that it is only a matter of time before somebody gets killed. It is a no win situation. We understand the public's frustration and police officers are just as frustrated. Our job is to stop crime and to catch criminals. In 2019, the State of Connecticut Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POST) issued a new statewide pursuit policy that restricts situations when officers can pursue vehicles. Another restriction is if we know or think it's likely that a juvenile is driving the car we are not allowed to pursue unless the driver committed a violent act.

He described a recent situation where the driver of a stolen car was intentionally taunting a police officer. There were two people hanging out of the back seat windows of the car while travelling at a high rate of speed down Main Street and an officer got behind it. The driver of the car sped up and then when the officer stopped pursuit, the car turned around and came back down the other side of the street past the cruiser. The stolen car pulled over and when they saw the officer behind them, they took off again at a high rate of speed. We have had other incidents where the suspects taunt the officers to try to get the officers to engage in pursuit. It is extremely reckless and unsafe. Manchester police officers have the same concerns as residents do.

Mayor Moran noted that the danger level seems to be picking up. There have been recent events when suspects enter residents' garages in broad daylight to steal cars.

Chief Darby agreed there have been recent incidents where garages are entered through an open door or a side door. There was also an incident where kids shoveled a person's driveway and when one of them asked to use the phone, another kid entered the residence, stole car keys and left with the residents' car. He is very concerned about the potential outcome of this if something is not done. Over this past weekend, there were numerous vehicle windows smashed to gain entry to the cars. Residents are so concerned for their safety that there has been a drastic increase in pistol permit applications. Last year, MPD received over 1,000 applications. People are arming themselves because they want to feel safe in their homes. He understands their concerns but he is concerned people will use deadly force to protect their personal property. This is a recipe for disaster. He lives in Town and is concerned for his family, too.

Captain Palombizio explained that officers go through specific training to help get them through stressful situations. He has been involved in incidents where shots have been fired and even with all that training it is very traumatic. When he hears a resident say they are startled in their own garage by someone with a gun, he can only imagine what trauma they face and what their reactions will be. Officers can only do so much because of the restrictions the state has put in place. It is difficult for us to see the residents that we are paid to protect fearful on their own property. We always have to keep public safety in mind during pursuits. The last carjacking occurred on a Saturday at 4:00 p.m. The suspects were traveling at a high rate of speed, around 80 mph. It was a crime of violence, so if we were to pursue, we would have been justified but we still have to reassess. At that time the supervisor made the right decision to break the pursuit off because it would have put pedestrians and other drivers in more danger. There is a huge debate between incarceration and programs for juveniles. The juvenile justice system needs to share what those programs are. Are they being utilized? Are they working? If the programs are not being utilized, why not? If they're being utilized but are not working, are they reassessing what can work? Knowledge of these programs may reassure residents.

Mayor Moran noted there has been a problem with repeat offenders. It is a very complex issue that needs to be discussed between legislators and police officers. We need to get at the root of the problem. He understands the residents' concerns. He is also concerned for the juveniles involved in these crimes.

Chief Darby noted that if an arrest is made in Manchester of a juvenile resident, the Police Department will have access to prior records in Manchester. If a Manchester juvenile is arrested in another town, they would not have access to those records. We are told there are juvenile programs but we don't know what these programs are. A few years ago, stealing a car was considered a serious juvenile offense. The juvenile was brought to detention and they would remain there until they went to before a judge and the court would adjudicate the case. This would at least take them off the street. Now if we arrest a juvenile for stealing a car, they are released into their parents care. There has to be something in place for these serious offenses. We don't have access to juvenile records. This is a serious issue and there has to be some changes made.

Director Bergin understands the issues surrounding police pursuit. These crimes are on such a continuum right now, going from having items stolen out of the front seat of an unlocked car to very violent intrusive robberies of cars in broad daylight. He pointed out the difference between a juvenile committing this crime to an adult committing the same crime. Everyone is being affected by this.

Chief Darby stated if a juvenile commits a crime armed with a firearm, it is a serious offense. We would contact a judge to have an order signed to have them sent to detention. The problem is catching them because it most often ends up in a pursuit. We arrest very few compared to the number of thefts that we have had. The same kids that are breaking into cars are stealing cars. Police officers are the ones out there dealing with the victims that have to explain to a resident who has just had their car stolen at gunpoint why police can't pursue them.

APPROVED - Motion to suspend the rules to continue the meeting past 11:00 p.m.

Jones/Conyers

8 Voted in Favor

Director Conyers stated the change from stealing items from an unlocked car to breaking into and stealing cars are gunpoint has residents concerned, angry and fearful. We have been asking a lot of questions but we do not have the answers. This resolution asks our legislators to look into this significant problem. We need to bring in legislators, law enforcement experts and mental health experts to find and implement programs that work toward a solution. It's a statewide problem and we're not the only town looking for answers. He asked if the statistics Chief Darby gave on vehicle crimes are directly tied to juveniles.

Chief Darby stated they cannot be tied directly to juveniles because often they are not apprehended but many victims have identified the suspects as teens. We know of incidents where people over the age of 18 are getting juveniles to commit these crimes.

Director Dougan stated that she had her briefcase stolen from her car several years ago, but she was not scared after it happened. She thought it was probably just some young kids looking for money. Now she is scared because the crimes are being done in broad daylight. We need to look into the psychology of the fearlessness of the kids committing crimes.

Chief Darby was on a call recently with several police chiefs and several legislators from all over the state of Connecticut to discuss this uptick in stolen vehicles. Unfortunately, there doesn't seem to be a sense of urgency from the legislators to address this. The state removed stolen vehicles as a serious juvenile offense many years ago. There needs to be consequences. The chiefs of police across the state are very frustrated. We are not asking legislators to overhaul the whole juvenile justice system, but if they focus on this one

problem area than maybe they could slow down some of this activity. Something needs to be done to stop this reckless behavior.

Mayor Moran stated that is the same conversation he had with local legislators. There has been a dangerous increase of this activity that must be addressed.

Director Marois stated residents are extremely frustrated and scared in their homes. Our community should not have to live in fear. He understands the Police Department is doing everything it can but are limited in what the state allows them to do. That is where the disconnect is. Something needs to be done at the state level. Many police unions talked about the negative effects it would have on crime rates if they were not at the table when the legislators passed the police accountability bill. This seems to have played out.

Chief Darby explained the restrictions put on police departments. Officers are not afraid to do their jobs but there is some uncertainty as to how they will be held accountable for their actions under the police accountability act. The police accountability act was put through very quickly, but legislators don't seem to be working as quickly to do something to fix the juvenile justice problems. There is frustration on the part of police officers.

Mayor Moran stated the increase in car thefts has led to dangerous activities over the past weeks in our community. He does have some questions on the proposed resolution. The resolution suggests the Board of Directors request that Governor Lamont call for a special session of the legislators to discuss ways to address these crimes, but we do not have the authority to do that. Only legislators can request a special session. This is a problem that we need to address but he doesn't feel this resolution would do that effectively. He suggested forming a committee of our local legislators, Board members and police officers to discuss the issues.

Director Bergin explained that over the past few weeks a group including state legislators and people who have worked in the area of juvenile justice have been meeting to discuss this issue. They have gotten feedback from many municipal leaders about their concerns for their communities. He does not believe this resolution as stated will lead to Governor Lamont calling for a special session of the legislators to address or resolve this issue. He appreciates the intent of the resolution and this evening's discussion but he does not believe this version of the resolution will have the desired effect of addressing this issue. He would like to offer the following amendment to the resolution which he believes will bring clarity to its intent.

Proposed Amendment to Community Protection Resolution

WHEREAS, an increase in vehicle-related crimes including burglaries and theft is part of a nationwide trend; and

WHEREAS, communities, including Manchester, have experienced an uptick in such crime since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester shall establish a subcommittee of the Board whose purpose shall be to discuss solutions to recent vehicle-related crimes and who may work directly with Manchester's Police Department and state legislators in pursuit of their work.

Director Bergin believes it will be more effective to establish a subcommittee of Board members and Manchester police officers to work with state legislators directly about juvenile crime issue that could be

solved at the State level. There are certain distinctions with this approach from the original resolution.

Attorney Sullivan stated this should be considered a substitute resolution as it seems to be a replacement of the original resolution. An amendment is usually just a minor change in wording.

Secretary Castillo is in support of the resolution proposed by Director Bergin. We have heard from several community members tonight to express their concerns. We need to take action now, rather than wait for Governor Lamont to call a special session to discuss this. She feels it will be more effective to establish a subcommittee locally to discuss the issues.

APPROVED - Motion to take a brief recess at 11:40 p.m.

Conyers/Bergin

7 Voted in Favor
(Director Dougan voted against)

Mayor Moran reconvened the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

**Proposed Substitute
Community Protection Resolution**

WHEREAS, an increase in vehicle-related crimes including burglaries and theft is part of a statewide trend; and

WHEREAS, communities, including Manchester, have experienced an increase in such crime.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the Town of Manchester shall establish a subcommittee of the Board whose purpose shall be to discuss solutions to recent vehicle-related crimes and who may work directly with Manchester's Police Department and state legislators in pursuit of their work.

Director Marois would like to amend the initial resolution by removing the final paragraph of the original resolution and replacing it with the final paragraph of the new substitute resolution. He doesn't feel the new substitute resolution provides as much of a statement as there should be for our legislators. As we have heard from Chief Darby, he has met with several legislators and had conversations about the issues but no action has been taken. He feels including the four original whereas sections makes more of a statement to our community to let residents know they are being heard and lets our legislators know that we are serious about the actions we would like them to take.

Vice Chair Jones stated the substitute language makes a statement about things that are within our purview and is about reacting directly in a collaborative way. She doesn't feel the original four whereas statements directly address the concerns of our residents. The substitute language moves us more toward action. Public safety means more than feeling secure in our homes. It includes healthcare, food security and housing security. This issue is complex and root causes are important. Evidence based practices and interventions are important. The ARPA presentation this evening talked about how we might leverage some of the funds to address some of the root causes, but none of that gets done when we hand this off to the state in a more broad way. The substitute language helps us get to the root causes by having real conversations.

Director Dougan stated it is time to be reactionary. Finding the root causes within our town is a good start but the problem of car thefts is a statewide issue, so legislation at the state level has to take place. That is what the initial resolution stated. Even if we start at a local level, it needs to be addressed at the state level.

FAILED - Motion to amend the resolution as substituted to include the language of the four original whereas sections and the final paragraph of the new substitute resolution.

Marois/Conyers

**3 Voted in Favor
5 Voted Opposed**

APPROVED - Motion to approve the substitute Community Protection Resolution.

Bergin/Schain

8 Voted in Favor

Mayor Moran stated he and Minority Leader Dougan will get together to discuss the makeup of this subcommittee.

APPROVED - Motion to suspend the rules to move Items 8C1 and 8C2 to the agenda at this time.

Bergin/Dougan

8 Voted in Favor

- C. 1. Adoption of the Community Development Block Grant Annual Action Plan for Year 31 (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022).
- 2. Appropriation to Community Development Block Grant Program Year 31 (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022)\$573,392

General Manager Shanley explained that there were no changes since this appropriation for the Community Development Block Grant Program action plan was previously presented to the Board of Directors.

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

APPROVED - Motion to suspend the rules to move Items 8D, 8E and 8F to the agenda at this time.

Bergin/Schain

8 Voted in Favor

- D. Appropriation to Newton Taggart Library Trust Fund\$46,094 for the purchase of children's books to be financed by Newton Taggart Trust Fund Balance.
- E. Appropriation to Alexander and Alice C. Jarvis Book Fund\$118,258 for the purchase of books to be financed by Jarvis Fund Balance.
- F. Library Donation Trust Fund Account\$8,795 to be financed by donations to purchase books and for public programming.

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

7. PRESENTATION OF BID WAIVER REQUESTS. None.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS (formally advertised).

A. Appropriations to Special Projects as follows:

1. Police Donations Revenue Account – Youth Services Program.....\$530
to be funded by donations from First Korean Presbyterian Church (\$500), Donald Dubiel (\$20) and an anonymous donor (\$10) which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
2. Summer Youth Employment and Learning Program.....\$46,820
to be financed by a grant from Capital Workforce Partners to create an employment program and employment opportunities for eligible Manchester youth during summer 2021.
3. State Asset Forfeiture Account.....\$3,504
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
4. Vacant Building Account\$18,900
to be funded by a court order and judgment from a blight case involving property located at 89 High Ledge Circle.
5. Youth Service Bureau\$115,082
to be financed by a contract with The Village for Families and Children to reduce alcohol use in youth ages 12-20 thru the objectives set in the Strategic Prevention Framework-Partnerships for Success grant.
6. Youth Service Bureau\$34,993
to be financed by the CT Early Childhood Funder Collaborative (CT EFC) for operational and project support to strengthen organizational capacity and implement birth to age 5 system projects.
7. Recreation Department Special Activities Fund\$11,832
to be financed by a donation from the Hartford Foundation as reimbursement for several benches being installed at Case Mountain which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
8. Manchester Police Department – Center for Digital Investigations.....\$3,900
for Manchester’s yearly share of the Digital Investigations program.
9. Energy Efficiency Upgrade Reserve Account.....\$4,000,000
for BOE and Town Energy Efficiency Projects to be funded by Eversource incentives (grants), and zero-interest loans as authorized by the Board of Directors on May 4, 2021.
10. Youth Service Bureau – Sparkler Grant.....\$13,410
to be financed by the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood to help improve early child development outcomes.
11. Work_Space Young Artists’ Vision Art Show\$3,000
to be funded by a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.
12. Work_Space\$10,400
to cover the cost of a series of art exhibits in 2021, to be funded by the Downtown Arts & Culture Mini Grant Program.

General Manager Shanley explained that Item 8.A.9. is entirely paid for through incentive grants and zero interest loans. There is a 4-5 year payback and is being appropriated because it is such a large project and this allows the contractor to receive payments now.

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

Director Dougan stated item 8A12 should have been in the grants. Going forward we need to be cautious that the funding is not used for paying Town employees for events that are being held at Work_Space.

There being no comments, Mayor Moran closed the public hearing on the above items.

- B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:
 - 1. Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary
Special Populations Recruitment and Retention Grant (FY 20/22)\$22,167
 - 2. Elementary and Secondary School Education Relief Fund II
(ESSER II) for FY20/24.....\$6,888,207

General Manager Shanley explained that these are federal COVID relief funds.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou stated this funding is completely separate from the ARPA funding. The Board of Directors may wish to ask for an update from the Board of Education about their intentions and strategy for use of ESSER II and other federal funding.

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

- G. Approval of an amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 70, Pensions and Retirement, to increase the monthly benefit to retired pension plan members or their beneficiaries by 1%.

General Manager Shanley explained this is an action the Board of Directors has traditionally taken every other year to make a cost of living adjustment of 1%.

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

- H. Resolution to appropriate \$2,400,000 to capital accounts for the 2021-2022 fiscal year budget for the purpose of paying the costs of water distribution system and sewer system improvements and authorize the issuance of temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$2,400,000, or so much as may be necessary after deducting grants to be received for the projects.

General Manager Shanley explained this is consistent with the budget and at some point, the Board of Directors may want to designate some of the ARPA funding for this in order to bring the water rates down.

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

- I. Microsoft 365 Acquisition & Implementation\$400,000
for the purchase and installation of a new Town-wide server operating system,
to be funded by General Fund designated Fund Balance.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou explained this would be an eligible expense for ARPA funding if the Board of Directors chose to allocate the money in this way. The reason we are asking the Board to appropriate the existing fund balance from the IS account is because we feel this is critical to get going at a

time when ransomware attacks are happening constantly. The Microsoft 365 subscription includes two-factor authentication, single sign on, managed threat protection, firewall protection, disc encryption, mail archiving, mobile device management and many other cyber security components that we feel are critical right now. As a subscription service, we will have an annual operating cost in future years. We will save by being able to take away some of our current ad-hoc solutions. The Board of Directors will have the ability to offset this decision with ARPA funding in the future, if so desired.

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

9. CONSENT CALENDAR. (Items 8C, 8I, 12G and 12H added)

8A.Appropriations to Special Projects as follows:

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to be funded by donations from First Korean Presbyterian Church (\$500), Donald Dubiel (\$20) and an anonymous donor (\$10) which are gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
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3. State Asset Forfeiture Account.....\$3,504
for continuing narcotics investigations, equipment, and/or training to be financed by proceeds from narcotics investigations.
4. Vacant Building Account\$18,900
to be funded by a court order and judgment from a blight case involving property located at 89 High Ledge Circle.
5. Youth Service Bureau\$115,082
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to be financed by the CT Early Childhood Funder Collaborative (CT EFC) for operational and project support to strengthen organizational capacity and implement birth to age 5 system projects.
7. Recreation Department Special Activities Fund\$11,832
to be financed by a donation from the Hartford Foundation as reimbursement for several benches being installed at Case Mountain which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
8. Manchester Police Department – Center for Digital Investigations.....\$3,900
for Manchester’s yearly share of the Digital Investigations program.
9. Energy Efficiency Upgrade Reserve Account.....\$4,000,000
for BOE and Town Energy Efficiency Projects to be funded by Eversource incentives (grants), and zero-interest loans as authorized by the Board of Directors on May 4, 2021.
10. Youth Service Bureau – Sparkler Grant.....\$13,410
to be financed by the State of Connecticut Office of Early Childhood to help improve early child development outcomes.
11. Work_Space Young Artists’ Vision Art Show\$3,000
to be funded by a grant from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving.

- 12. Work_Space\$10,400
to cover the cost of a series of art exhibits in 2021, to be funded by the
Downtown Arts & Culture Mini Grant Program.
- B. Appropriations to Education Special Projects as follows:
 - 1. Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Secondary
Special Populations Recruitment and Retention Grant (FY 20/22)\$22,167
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- C. 1. Adoption of the Community Development Block Grant Annual
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- F. Library Donation Trust Fund Account\$8,795
to be financed by donations to purchase books and for public programming.
- G. Approval of an amendment to the Code of Ordinances, Chapter 70, Pensions and
Retirement, to increase the monthly benefit to retired pension plan members or their
beneficiaries by 1%.
- H. Resolution to appropriate \$2,400,000 to capital accounts for the 2021-2022 fiscal year
budget for the purpose of paying the costs of water distribution system and sewer system
improvements and authorize the issuance of temporary notes in an amount not to exceed
\$2,400,000, or so much as may be necessary after deducting grants to be received for the
projects.
- I. Microsoft 365 Acquisition & Implementation\$400,000
for the purchase and installation of a new Town-wide server operating system,
to be funded by General Fund designated Fund Balance
- 12A. Appropriation to Special Projects (under \$500) as follows:
 - 1. Police Donations Revenue Account - Manchester Police Explorer Post\$175
to be funded by dues.
 - 2. Hockanum River Linear Park Fund.....\$100
for trail maintenance to be funded by a donation from the Perennial Planters Garden
Club which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
 - 3. Manchester Animal Control\$20
to be funded by a donation from Joe Spacone which is gratefully acknowledged
and accepted.
 - 4. Spruce Street Community Garden (SG273).....\$350
to be financed by a donation from the Perennial Planters Garden Club
which is gratefully acknowledged and accepted.
- B. Acceptance of Collingridge Drive and the remaining portion of Castle Hill as town
roads and the public works infrastructure associated with Rieg Highlands Phase 5C.
- C. Reappointment of Teresa Ike to the Cox Cable Advisory Council with term expiring
July 2021 (2 year term).
- D. Reappointment of Kerri Kearney (BOE appointment) to the Cox Cable Advisory Council with
term expiring July 2021 (2 year term).
- E. Reappointment of Tim O’Neil (Town appointment) to the Cox Cable Advisory Council
with term expiring July 2021 (2 year term).
- G. Approval of revised job descriptions.

- H. Resolution authorizing Acting General Manager Steve Stephanou, or his agent, to enter into and amend any and all contracts with the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation in regard to the 5310 grant application (senior bus).

Jones/Schain

8 Voted in Favor

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

- A. TABLED - Appointment to the Repurposed Schools Committee as a representative from the Robertson neighborhood to fill the vacancy left by Maureen O'Reilly.

12. NEW BUSINESS.

- F. Approve expanding the use of the previously appropriated (5/13/21) housing assistance funds to also include assistance with the payment of rental arrearages.

Mr. Cox, Director of Human Services, explained that at the May 13, 2021 meeting the Board of Directors generously approved the inclusion of an additional \$150,000 in funds for Senior, Adult and Family Services (SAFS). These funds were designated for assisting residents in need with first and last month's rent, but limiting the scope of these assistance funds to first and last month's rent limits the ability of the program to serve residents in need. SAFS has vast experience administering housing assistance funds and typically see a wide variety of requests, including requests for first, last, security and arrearage payments. Experience has shown that the ability to offer a broad range of housing assistance is a key component of maintaining housing stability and avoiding/resolving housing crises such as homelessness. Expanding the use of these funds will allow SAFS to broaden the scope of the assistance they are able to offer residents through this program.

Director Bergin stated there are hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding that are limited to supporting tenants facing evictions for arrearages. When we were developing the budget, we were very intentional about providing relief for residents who may be dealing with financial difficulty resultant from the pandemic, but want to ensure we are not providing funding that is duplicative. He asked Mr. Cox if SAFS requires that residents first apply for state and federal resources.

Mr. Cox explained that SAFS ensures residents have exhausted all possible state or federal resources before they consider providing financial assistance through the Town of Manchester. There is abundance of federal and state funding available at this time for first, last and security payments, so this Board action will broaden their ability to help more residents with rental assistance that is not available from other resources.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou noted he will work with SAFS as part of the framework when considering the best use of ARPA funding, identifying areas that don't qualify for other funding programs.

Bergin/Marois

8 Voted in Favor

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

Director Marois stated several residents spoke this evening about their frustration with not being allowed to go to Board of Education meetings. Since the Board of Directors' meetings have opened up to in-person meetings, the Board of Education meetings should also be open to the public.

Mayor Moran noted the Board of Directors do not have jurisdiction over how the Board of Education meetings are held, but he will follow up with Superintendent Geary.

Attorney Sullivan explained that Connecticut's Budget Implementer Bill allows for remote, hybrid and in-person meetings Under the new provisions, taking effect on July 1, 2021 and expiring April 30, 2022, meetings can be held either in-person, entirely remotely, or partially remotely ("hybrid"). Case law is pretty clear that the Board of Education can decide on their own how to hold their meetings, subject to State and FOI guidelines. The Board of Directors cannot dictate what the Board of Education does.

Deputy General Manager Stephanou stated the bill gave discretion to each board and commission on whether or not to do in-person, hybrid or virtual meetings. The Board of Directors approving a hybrid meeting for tonight is under its jurisdiction but the Board of Education can determine how they want to conduct their meetings.

14. ADJOURNMENT.

The meeting was adjourned until the August 3, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln Center Hearing Room.

Adjournment: 1:10 a.m.

Bergin/Schain

8 Voted in Favor

lgl

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Secretary, Manchester Board of Directors