

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

April 2, 1996

7:30 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll. There were twelve Aldermen present.

Present: Ald. Wihby, Elise, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Soucy,
Shea, Domaingue, Pariseau, Cashin, Robert, Hirschmann

CONSENT ITEMS

Mayor Wieczorek advised if you desire to remove any of the following items from the Consent Agenda please so indicate. If none of the items are to be removed, one motion only will be taken at the conclusion of the presentation.

Informational to be Received and Filed

- A. Communication from Grace Hicks Grogan, Executive Director, Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority, submitting a draft of the Annual Submission FFY 1996 Comprehensive Grant Program and extending an invitation to attend an advance hearing on April 3, 1996 and a public hearing on April 23, 1996 relative to the Comprehensive Grant Program. Both the advance meeting and the public hearing will be held at 6:30 PM in the Community Room at the Governor Hugh J. Gallen Apartments, 200 Hanover Street.

Informational Only - Referred to the Committee on Community Improvement Program

- D. Communication from Francis Martineau, expressing an interest in acquiring the building located at 397-399 Spruce Street.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

- E. Communication from Jill E. Allyson, Continental Cablevision, submitting total subscriber revenues for the period 1/1/95 to 12/31/95.
- F. Communication from Mark Taylor, Chairman, Logistics Subcommittee, 150th Birthday Committee, requesting a waiver of or reduction in permit fees for the 150th Birthday Picnic at Derryfield Park on June 8, 1996, with a rain date of June 9, 1996.

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- G.** Communication from Christine E. Fonda, Architectural Historian/National Register Coordinator, NH Division of Historical Resources, inquiring if the City wishes to comment on whether the Victory Park District should be considered for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.
- H.** Communication from David Plante, P.E., Public Service of New Hampshire, requesting to acquire an additional piece of an easement from the City for the purpose of running one or more aerial fiber optic cables from PSNH structure number 393/80 to the U. S. Sprint Facility, 920 Candia Road, Manchester, NH.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

I. Resolutions:

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for the Pediatrician Collaborative."

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for 1996 2.20710 HIV Education Services."

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for the 1996 4.20104 Juvenile Jail Removal."

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for Serve America FY 96 and School to Work FY 96."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$2,200) from Contingency to Civic Contributions Adopt-A-Block."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT, AND REVENUE ADMINISTRATION

- K.** Recommending that a proposal submitted by Coopers & Lybrand to provide professional services to the City of Manchester, Department of Health be approved.

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- L.** Advising that a contract in the amount of \$258,500 will be awarded to the firm of Lavalley/Brensinger Professional Association for the rehabilitation of City Hall & City Hall Annex.
- M.** Recommending that a request by Danais Realty Group on behalf of Thornton & Thornton, PA for exchange of property on Hanover Street be denied.

- N. Recommending that the 1996 Community Improvement Program be amended by adding Pediatrician Collaborative - \$4,995.60 NH Dept. of Education and for such purpose an amending resolution has been submitted.
- O. Recommending that the 1996 Community Improvement Program be amended by adding 1996 2.20710 HIV Education Services - \$90,722 and for such purpose an amending resolution and budget authorizations have been submitted.
- P. Recommending that the 1996 Community Improvement Program be amended by increasing 1996 CIP 4.20104 Juvenile Jail Removal - \$7,756.00 (increasing the budget from \$55,000 to \$62,756) and for such purpose an amending resolution and budget authorizations have been submitted.
- Q. Recommending that the 1996 Community Improvement Program be amended by adding Serve America FY 96 - \$3,000 and School to Work FY 96 - \$80,000 and for such purpose an amending resolution has been submitted.

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

Note: Concurrent referral to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.

- R. Recommending that Ordinance:

"Amending an Ordinance Regulating Traffic Upon the Public Streets of the City of Manchester providing for definitions, regulations, and penalties relative to Commercial Motor Vehicular Traffic and Trucks."

be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading and be given be given favorable consideration.

- S. Recommending that certain regulations governing standing, stopping and parking, be adopted and put into effect when duly advertised.

HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF ALD. PARISEAU, DULY SECONDED BY ALD. SHEA, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.

- B. Communication from Frederick Rusczek, Health Officer submitting a report detailing the activities and services provided by the Manchester Health Department during the last fiscal year.

Ald. Soucy stated it might be appropriate for the Board to publicly thank the Health Department, particularly Fred Rusczek noting the report the Board received in their packets was perhaps one of the most detailed and comprehensive reports ever received from a department in a long time. She thought it was very well presented and had a great deal of information, and had learned about what the department was currently doing that she had not been aware of. Ald. Soucy stated she was very pleased and wished to encourage their efforts to continue working hard in restructuring their department, to continue providing the wonderful services they provide to the City of Manchester and wanted to publicly thank them and congratulate them on their great achievements.

Mayor Wiczorek agreed with Ald. Soucy noting Mr. Rusczek did an outstanding job and had always been a joy to work with.

On motion of Ald. Soucy, duly seconded by Ald. Pariseau, it was voted to receive and file the report submitted by Frederick Rusczek.

- C. Communication from Frederick Rusczek, Health Officer, advising that twelve Central High School Football Team members volunteered their time on a Saturday to assist at the recent Child Care Youth Fair held at the Mall of NH whereby the students gathered over 500 signatures as individual pledges to live life tobacco free.

Mayor Wiczorek commented that Ted Steward, Mike Paul, David Howard, Joe Dunn, Joe Brodeur, Adam Noce, Andy Silverman, Colin Murphy, Luke Webster, Dave Werda, David Lavigne, and Kevin Gray were the students who volunteered their time stating the exemplary community service that the Central High School athletes and students provided to Manchester. He said their help was instrumental and their demeanor was a good indication of the community spirit and ethic of their generation and asked Mr. Rusczek if there was anything else he wished to add.

Mr. Rusczek stated the program was coordinated by the Manchester Tobacco Prevention Coalition which was headed by Jim Schubert who was the Central High Football Coach and the Coalition thought it was very important that if they were going to promote a no smoking message that adolescents be used who were exemplary models in the community and Jim Schubert turned to the football team and got twelve students to volunteer their time on a Saturday noting he could recall from his own experiences as a high school student that he wouldn't have done that, but everybody from the public to the Health Department who they heard from about the day said those students were exemplary models of adolescence and should be very proud that they are not only the State football champs but they're willing to come out and serve the community. They got over 500 signatures which would be posted in the School Board room for a while and on behalf of the Manchester Tobacco Prevention Coalition wished to present to the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen some hats so that they would always remember the importance of not using tobacco and of the value it has to the economy and health.

Mayor Wiczorek wished to nominate Ald. Pariseau as Honorary Chairman noting he had been on the program for a while.

Mayor Wiczorek stated he was very pleased, on behalf of the City, to thank all of the young men noting it was a clear indication that the City of Manchester, whenever people are called respond and asked those students present to stand up and be recognized.

On motion of Ald. Wihby, duly seconded by Ald. Pariseau, it was voted to receive and file the communication from Mr. Rusczek.

- J.** Communication from Paul Kerry, Executive Director, New Hampshire Performing Arts Center, requesting financial assistance to continue the New Hampshire Performing Arts Center's major educational/cultural program called THE LIVING CLASSICS.

Ald. Elise moved that the communication from Mr. Kerry be referred to the Committee on Community Improvement Program. Ald. Reiniger duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he did not know how many people had attended the U. S. FIRST competition which was held last Friday and Saturday at New Hampshire College, but the program was growing very, very fast. He noted there would be 96 teams signed up at EPCOT which was up from the 59 teams of last year's event and was pleased to announce that New Hampshire and Manchester had done very well. West High School was a finalist which was just edged out by Nashua High School to win the New England Tournament here with U. S. FIRST noting the points were probably even or perhaps a one point differential, but that was how close that competition was. The mayor wished to extend his congratulations to West High School and to Public Service Company of New Hampshire who was the engineering team involved with them and many of the organizations which came here with their design teams and students participating in the exercise ran into some problems with some of their machines and Public Service Company opened up their machine shop to all of the different organizations which was a very nice gesture on their part. The competition was very, very exciting and they had to close off the doors to the people wanting to get in to see it because there were too many and with the fire regulations they had to let people in as some were let out. Mayor Wieczorek stated he thought they were on to something big and it was getting bigger and better every year and wished West High School the very best at EPCOT and certainly would be a force to be reckoned with in that national competition noting they would be looking for some money and he had told Bob Baines he would try to collect for them, so they would do what they could to see that they would be able to make the trip.

Brief presentation by Walter Stiles, Project Coordinator, Manchester City Hall Restoration Committee.

Mr. Stiles stated he wished to present to the City of Manchester and the Board of Aldermen a check for \$15,000 noting that on September 5, 1995, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen had voted to support their efforts one hundred percent and at that time they had requested that they would need some seed money to the tune of \$15,000 which was given to the Committee and tonight it gave him a great deal of pleasure to give that money back

to the City indicating the money had been raised by selling the Sesquicentennial license plates saying those of you who haven't bought them yet, go out and buy them, the whole community. He wished to emphasize that the plates were merely a beginning. As they used to say at Straw School back in the 30's before they went to the track meets down to the Athletic Field, they would say "the day is here, the sky is clear, and we're off with banners flying" and we are off with banners flying in this particular drive to restore, renovate, whatever word you want to use, this wonderful, old City Hall here in Downtown Manchester. Mr. Stiles to give a brief history of City Hall stated it became operative in 1845 and was functioning 150 years ago tonight in 1846 and the building itself cost \$35,000 which included the tower and the bell and all that went with it and it was built and paid for by 10,000 people who lived in Manchester at that time and incidentally in the two years prior to that there was only about 8,000 people in Manchester. So, Manchester at that time was a boom town. Well, it's a pleasure to pay this back tonight and we all know that Manchester has had some bad times and wanted to go back in history for a brief moment to let everyone know what Manchester at Granite Street looked like in the '36 flood noting it had started in Manchester about March 18th and not only was the Granite Street Bridge inundated with water, but the McGregor Bridge also. After the flood the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company was in business in those days, well, that flood just about knocked the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company out-of-business, so they had to clean it up after the flood and by Christmas Eve of 1936 the Amoskeag Manufacturing Company shut down forever noting the City was not only in the pits of the depression, but everything, the City was in real tough shape. However, all was not lost and Manchester retrieved itself and came back and became a very, very prosperous City. In reference to a picture of City Hall which had been taken from the Carpenter Hotel before the NYNEX Building was built about 1928-29 all of the stores had awnings, Manchester was a fantastic place, it was the shopping center and people came down here Thursday nights, all day Friday, all day Saturday, Saturday nights and they shopped and he was under no illusion that Manchester will ever become a shopping center like it was back in the 1920's and happened to dig out the other day a picture of what Manchester looked like in 1944 from **The New Hampshire Sunday News** and published October 12, 1995 and there was the Leavitt's Building, the Amoskeag Building and our beloved City Hall and frankly, next to my wife I have fallen in love with City Hall, it's really quite a place noting we're going to be the comeback City, and we are a comeback City already and incidentally he was glad that Mayor Wieczorek had mentioned U. S. FIRST. Mr. Stiles continued by stating that City Hall was the focal point of Manchester, it was the crown jewel of the City of Manchester and thought they all agreed with him, however, the crown jewel was severely tarnished, in fact, it was a disaster. When looking around the building today and you see the worn out carpets, the fake ceilings, everything is in tough shape and that was the reason why they had embarked on this program of restoring City Hall and commented don't let the restoration efforts be done with your help. Many who had bought the plates and others who had sent in money for he wished to thank them, but it was just the beginning and don't let it

happen with everyone. When Mayor Mongan was Mayor they probably recalled the story about the old railroad station which probably should have been restored and thank the Lord this City hall is preserved and will be better than ever once they get through with it. But, unfortunately, some of the City's landmarks had gone by the board. Mr. Stiles stated the architects Lavalley/Brensinger brochure came out on the 28th of March noting there were a lot of interesting things in it and as it was stated in the brochure "you can't fight City Hall, but you certainly can fight to save it" and the way in which all of you fight to save it is to open up your pockets and give, give, give and thank you very much for the time you've given me.

Mayor Wieczorek wished to thank Mr. Stiles very much noting that this was his seventh year at City Hall and he had recently found out that the couch in his office really pulls out into a bed and since he was in love with it invited Mr. Stiles to go into his office anytime that he'd like stating his enthusiasm was very contagious.

5. Report from the Manchester Development Corporation regarding the outcome of its first meeting.
(Note: to be forwarded under separate cover.)

Mayor Wieczorek stated the meeting had been held last Friday where the Board had voted to take \$32,500 which was pledged by businesses in the community several years ago and when somebody called asking if they wanted the money back they replied no and what they wanted to do was to be used for economic development and asked if anyone had any questions regarding the money or where it came from or anything else as he had representatives present.

Ald. Soucy asked if there was a list of contributors and how were they contacted (i.e., phone, letters, or copies of the original letter which solicited the funds).

Mr. Snow replied if there was no list of contributors in the Board's materials he was surprised noting he could not list them off-hand but there was perhaps fifteen contributors to that campaign which went back to 1993. He had written each one of the contributors at the time of the GMDC situation thinking that because of the controversy which was occurring there might be some concern on the use of that money and asked every contributor to contact him directly if they had concern on the use of the money and the fashion the Mayor had just mentioned. He had heard back from one contributor who had since indicated to him that it was not a concern of his firm and believed that based upon that effort of about two years or so ago that all of the contributors were very positive about the use of the money in that manner.

Ald. Soucy stated it was her understanding that to date City funds of approximately \$80,000 had been spent on the CenterPlex proposal noting that about \$25,000 which had been given for promotion and was unsure as to what it had been spent on and there was also money spent through GMDC funds to do the studies (Phases I & II).

Mr. Snow asked if that was as part of the LDR Study report.

Ald. Soucy asked wasn't there more GMDC funds used to pay for the Hunter Report.

Mr. Snow replied GMDC funds were used for the Hunter Reports, correct, but couldn't recall the amount off-hand but did recall that it was part of the whole LDR process for planning not only the Civic Center but also the general plan for the Downtown/Elm Street/Millyard area.

Ald. Soucy asked if most of the contributors from the list were in the Downtown geographic area.

Mr. Snow replied not all, they were located elsewhere and some were located Downtown.

Ald. Soucy stated her concern was that the City had made a contribution toward the CenterPlex project in promoting it early on and also believed that it was the duty of the Board to inform the public and thought that could be done through a series of informational hearings, but her concern was that there were businesses in the Downtown area who were looking to the Board for leadership in economic developing noting they themselves had decided to impose another tax upon themselves and use that money to go out and hire an individual which they were currently in the process of doing not knowing if the contract had already been executed, but thought a proposal such as contributing to an existing program such as the Downtown Manager and using some of those funds to reduce the costs of those businesses trying to make ends meet on Elm Street was more worthwhile and did not think that was an appropriate use of the funds.

Ald. Domaingue in addressing Mr. Snow asked if the letters which went out to the fifteen business people was it specific to the reuse of funds for CenterPlex itself or was it just a general, broad description of economic development.

Mr. Snow replied it wasn't specifically directed toward CenterPlex or anything else for that matter but that the funds were given generally to promote the well-being of the City from an economic point of view originally and his letter was to request whether there was concern on the part of the contributors to use it in that fashion and had received the response he had just mentioned.

Ald. Domaingue stated if it was the business community's wish to use those funds for that purpose she would certainly not object to it, however, her concern was that it was the understanding that if the legislation should not pass, then the City of Manchester would not go forward seeking additional funding for CenterPlex and if it was the wish of the

business group to use those funds then perhaps the City should ask them to hold off on that use until the fate of that legislation were to be determined.

Mayor Wiczorek stated he did not think that could be done because the money was needed to provide the information which would be necessary to the general public and did not know the message could be brought across to everybody about the things which needed to be done if some money wasn't invested in doing the things which would be necessary.

Ald. Domaingue stated while she respected the Mayor's opinion and it seemed a little backward to her that they would be promoting something they were not even sure would ever happen and she personally would prefer to wait to see how the legislation turned out and if the State determined they did not want to support that legislation the CenterPlex project would not go forward and to utilize \$32,000 for an effort that they weren't planning on going forward with would be a little surprising to her.

Mayor Wiczorek stated they were planning on going forward with it and personally thought if the Board did not vote to do it this evening then what they'd be doing would be saying that they didn't think the CenterPlex project was a worthwhile project and that would be the message he'd be getting and did not think that could be done without spending any money and asked Mr. Snow if he had anything else he wanted to add.

Mr. Snow stated it would be nice to know what the result of the Concord discussion would be, but it would appear that was well down the road noting there was lead time involved in the whole process and if they couldn't move ahead now thought they would lose opportunities to get out the educational program they had in mind and added that these were not the only funds they had raised noting they had received considerable other commitments from private businesses to supplement those funds and they were needed now and not in a month from now.

Ald. Wihby stated it was probably the single most important vote the Board would take noting they had been out there telling people they would be informed of what was going on, etc. and it seemed to him that they needed to get out there and had to explain their side and explain what was going on and did not think they could wait until legislative action occurred and moved to authorize use of \$32,500.

Ald. Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Ald. Elise stated the new economic development group had just recently been named noting Manchester needed some serious economic development and suggested the Board should support that and it was her understanding that the money was not supposed to be used for promotion but for educational purposes.

Ald. Soucy stated she kept on hearing about the CenterPlex's side and their need to present their position and thought it was great but if a group of citizens went before the Board saying they've organized and they've got a thousand signatures and they were opposed to the project and would do everything to combat it asked would the City give them half the money and thought that would only be fair in that if an argument is being presented, two side of an issue and thought there were plenty of forums and thought the Board noting she was certainly willing to conduct public hearings and thought Channel 40 was an excellent source, the paper had had many articles and a lot of citizens had called her with concerns and questions and did not think that voting against the proposal this evening would cast dispersions on the project and thought it was a question of how the money would be used and she did not feel that it was appropriate at this time using City taxpayer dollars had been used to promote the project to date, they've used GMDC money and here they were once again they were allowing other people to set the agenda for this Board and did not feel it was appropriate.

Mayor Wiczorek stated the Board had just listened to Mr. Stiles talking about the Amoskeag Mills closing on Christmas Eve 1936, this was the very same area they were talking about revitalizing noting that was 60 years ago and it was a long time and did not think it was pushing the Board very much nor did he think it would be fair to say that a group opposed to CenterPlex should be receiving half the money or a thousand dollars and asked was that an economic development project to be opposed to CenterPlex and if it was then he certainly didn't understand the project.

Ald. Soucy stated all she was suggesting was that the CenterPlex Committee was a group of people who had a particular belief and happened to support the project and believed it was in the best interest of the City and because they were organized and because they were influential in the community and had access to this fund reiterated if they were going to have a referendum on an issue they would need to present balanced information and present two sides.

Mayor Wiczorek stated there would be a referendum on the issue and whether it would be binding or non-binding thought Senator Barnes stated very clearly what he thought the Mayor would do and he had stated precisely what the Mayor would do. If the people vote to have it they would try to have it done and if they voted not to that would be the end of it and thought the people were entitled to say what they wanted to have done, they were entitled to know how much it would cost, how it would be paid for, what the benefits would be and were entitled to know those things before they voted on it and this was one of the most important projects that this Board would face and deal with and it would probably be one of the most important projects the City will have had in many years because it was an important piece of what they were trying to do noting the Airport had been taken care of, the U. S. FIRST thing well on its way, an important catalyst in the

Millyard and now CenterPlex another part of what they were trying to do to revitalize the Downtown area.

Ald. Soucy asked if a portion of the money would be used to lobby the Legislature since it depended on what the Legislature would do and whether or not there would be a referendum as Ald. Domaingue had stated earlier if the legislation was defeated then there would be no sense but yet they would have been the \$32,000 and asked if it would be spent to lobby the Legislators or spend it to educate people.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it was a project that the Board supported unanimously the last time a vote was taken and that people had said they wanted to get it done, they wanted a referendum, there would be a referendum, they voted for it but now was saying there was some other reasons why it shouldn't be done and did not think there was anything wrong with informing the people of what the project was all about reiterating it was an important project in the community and people should have every bit as much information as they possibly could get, so they could make an informed decision and did not see anything wrong with it.

Ald. Shea asked when would the Legislature consider the vote within the next few weeks, a month away, did anyone have any information about that.

Mayor Wieczorek replied the subcommittee would be meeting this week, with the full Committee meeting next week, then it would go to the floor of the House, followed by the Finance Committee.

Ald. Soucy stated it would probably be two weeks before it went to the Finance Committee and thought their deadline was sometime in May.

Ald. Domaingue stated the \$32,000 was not tax dollars, but rather private donations by the private community noting Mr. Snow had stated there was additional private contributions since that time toward the CenterPlex project and asked if Mr. Snow could tell the Board what that amount was.

Mr. Snow replied he was talking commitments noting they did not have all the cash in-hand and had commitments of \$200 less than \$50,000 which would be added to the amount they were discussing this evening with other requests outstanding and believed there would be a nice fund in order to move forward with the educational process and an effort to turn out the vote.

Ald. Domaingue stated having gone with the Mayor to Concord in support of the project she obviously would not be accused of not wanting to support it, but did have a concern with respect to the comments which were made in front of the Committee by the Mayor

that if, in fact, the legislation were not to pass that the City of Manchester would not go forward with the project because they would need the funding in order to fund the entire project and wanted to make sure that the credibility of the Alderman from Ward 8 stayed with her constituents in that she did not want to spend additional funding which was tax dollars noting that was obvious by the letter.

Ald. Reiniger stated he represented the Downtown, the Millyard and last November he had conducted a door-to-door campaign of almost all of the business owners of the area and knew of no other issue of which the residents and the business owners of Downtown were so united so as to support CenterPlex noting he supported it very strongly.

Ald. Clancy stated when he ran to Alderman he had pledged he would not spend any taxpayers money towards the construction of CenterPlex and asked was the monies from the Rooms and Meals Tax to be spent for CenterPlex.

Mayor Wieczorek replied it was the additional increment from the Rooms and Meals Tax and asked Mr. Clougherty to address the question.

Mr. Clougherty replied there would be no Rooms and Meals Tax dollars used for the educational process noting it was still the same financing plan which had been on the table for a considerable amount of time and there had been no change.

Ald. Robert stated for the people to really get an opportunity to look at it constructively assumed it would be a constructive approach relative to education of the proposal noting they had perhaps, up till this point received only little sound bites here and there noted he was surprised that somebody wanted to organize an educational program to really go at the citizens of the City as he had been under the impression it would not be quite that aggressive and could fall short in their goal of educating the public and thought it was an excellent use of money whether they opposed the project or were for the project and as long as everyone knew what they'd be voting for he thought was the most important thing.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to authorize the use of \$32,500.00 as requested.

Ald. Pariseau, Cashin, Robert, Hirschmann, Wihby, Elise, Reiniger, Sysyn and Domaingue voted yea. Ald. Clancy, Soucy and Shea voted nay. The motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek presented a budget message and read as follows:

Members of the Board and Citizens of Manchester:

Each year, we struggle with the need to provide services and maintain an affordable tax rate. This is the seventh budget I have prepared and it has been the most difficult. As the City's financial position has deteriorated, maintaining the balance between services and taxes has grown increasingly troublesome.

Over the past few years, we have wrung out much of the waste that saturated City government. To be sure, City government will never be "fat free", but the limits on spending increases have been so stringent, that what is left in the system as it is currently organized has all but been removed. As I worked to develop this budget, this observation became clear reality.

This budget presented several challenges: The threat of a still declining tax base, a \$4.3 million increase in salaries resulting from the raises granted by the past Board, a proposed 21.5 percent increase in Blue Cross & Blue Shield premiums and a proposed 42 percent increase in their third party administration fee both totaling \$2.6 million, a \$1.6 million increase in debt service, a loss of nearly \$2 million in non-property tax revenues, and over \$3 million in solid waste disposal costs. No matter how I added it all up, it totaled disaster for either services, the taxpayer, or both.

Before I delve into the hi-lights of this proposal, let me first thank our department heads. Most of them worked cooperatively with me and my staff to develop many of these proposals. Their requests were mostly reasonable and the majority of the increases were driven by the pay raises granted by the last Board. Despite the fact that my spending recommendations for their departments are well below where most would like them, most expressed a willingness to work with their numbers as best they could.

The Foundations

--Tax Base

This proposal uses a tax base of \$3.611 billion dollars, which is the current value. The Board of Assessors forwarded a preliminary figure of \$3.6 billion to my office in December. As you are aware, this number came into dispute and after sending a memorandum questioning the figures, I met with Assessor Porter and Assessor Tellier. In this meeting, they said that they would respond to my inquiry regarding the numbers in writing. They have yet to do so. Since they did not dispute the numbers in this memorandum, I used the current value of the tax base in this budget proposal and lowered the Overlay Account to \$2.4 million; a figure they gave me during this meeting.

It is my understanding that the Board of Assessors has asked for this amount in the Overlay Account to cover outstanding abatement cases now being heard by the Board of Land and Tax Appeals which date back to 1993. When asked why we were budgeting FY '97 dollars for abatements in the 1993 tax year, Assessor Porter responded "We don't want to go down the road." It troubles me that this tax base problem persists. Frankly, the information we have received regarding the City's outstanding liability from pending abatements has been poor to none. This is a problem which this Board has to address and remedy soon. Incidentally, this problem is the only mark in the City's management letter and it has been there for years.

--Solid Waste Enterprise

As mentioned earlier, no matter how the numbers were added up, they totaled disaster for either services, the taxpayers, or both. Devastating cuts into services were as unacceptable to me as was a sharp jump in the tax rate. Something had to be done that would preserve services and spare the taxpayer. That something is this proposal to create a Solid Waste Enterprise with a "Bag and Tag" program as a primary source of revenue.

This proposal shifts and lowers all costs for solid waste services from tax rate to fee based funding much as did the creation of Recreation Enterprise. As a result, we were able to remove \$4 million from the tax rate and reduce the projected increase by roughly four percent. The Highway Department has advised me that it will take three months to implement this program. For every month we carry this program on the tax rate costs the taxpayers \$385,000. As a result, I have scheduled a special meeting for next Wednesday, April 10, at 7:00 PM for discussion on this proposal. In the interim, I request that it be sent to the Committee on Community Improvement Program so that remaining details may be worked out between the Aldermen, my office, the Finance office, and the Highway department. If we act next week, we will be able to remove another \$385,000 from the tax rate as one month's contingency has been built into my budget proposal.

Other than our obvious budget woes, this proposal is also driven by an equity consideration. Currently, the Highway Department picks up less than half of the trash generated in the City. More than half of the City's trash, whether in condominium, commercial, or industrial developments is removed by private contractors. Those who pay for the private contractors are also paying taxes to support the City's operations. This is not fair and is increasingly so now that disposal costs have risen so sharply. Everybody ought to pay for what they use.

This proposal and request may appear drastic. However, my office and the department have worked closely to develop this proposal and believe it is well in order. The urgency here is driven by the numbers and the costs for any delay are easily calculated. It is \$385,000, about .4 percent on the tax rate for every month it does not exist. Truthfully, I wish I did not have to revisit this proposal. But, given the need to provide services and spare the taxpayer, I see no other alternative. Let me recommend that the Committee meet this week, if possible, with another meeting next week to tie up any loose ends and answer any questions before making recommendations to this Board.

--Health Insurance

Thought I am happy to report that our Blue Choice premiums did decline by 7.5 percent, we still did suffer an enormous increase in our Blue Cross costs. If found the increases to be unacceptable and immediately sought alternatives. Working with the Risk Manager and Finance Department, we approached the New Hampshire Municipal Association Health Trust and asked them for a proposal to provide our current benefits. They responded admirably and produced a very attractive offer. In response, Matthew Thornton cut its rates to the City by 6.3 percent and Blue Cross/Blue Shield lowered its administration fee from 9.2 percent to 7 percent of claims and adjusted its rates. The result was a proposal from the NHMA and a combined cost for our current arrangements that were nearly identical.

The revised numbers have been included in this budget proposal but I have not told either the Municipal Association, Matthew Thornton, or Blue Cross that I have chosen either of their proposals over the other. I believe that there are long-range possibilities here and ask that this matter be referred to the Committee on Personnel/Insurance for further review and recommendation. Discussion must take place on these items soon for if we are to change from our current direct providers to the Health Trust, we will need a minimum of sixty days for the transition. My office will be happy to assist the Committee in making contacts with all of the above to come before the Committee.

These negotiations resulted in a premium decrease of approximately \$500,000 and the health insurance line was reduced by another \$500,000 based on utilization projections. This utilization reduction should be further investigated by the Committee as it is somewhat early to solidify next years projections based on the current year's reconciliation of premiums with utilization.

--Non-Tax Revenues

In addition to sluggish performance, the City lost non-tax revenues it is not likely to reclaim. These include, in round numbers, \$500,000 in Foundation Aid, \$200,000 in Fire Inspection Fees, \$1 million in School Tuition, and \$200,000 in fees and fines generated from delinquent property taxes.

To offset these losses and generate additional revenue, I have developed proposals which will be submitted to this Board following this address for referral to Committee. They include fee increases in the Clerk's Office and Health Department, which will be submitted to the Committee on Accounts and Revenue and in the Traffic Department, which will be submitted to the Committee on Traffic and Public Safety. In asking for these matters to be referred, I wish to stress that my office worked closely with appropriate City officials to develop these proposals for your consideration. We will be happy to sort through the details with you as you prepare your recommendations.

Combined, these initiatives account for more than \$1.1 million dollars in this fiscal proposal. Various other adjustments were made to departmental revenues where prudent and were based on past and current performance and in consult with the appropriate department.

General Expenditures

--Centralization of Functions

This proposal contains initiatives to begin and further develop central purchasing and central fleet maintenance/garaging. I am asking that these initiatives be referred to the Committees on Administration and Community Improvement respectively. Because of the central purchasing proposal, department had various line items within their budget reduced by approximately 10 percent or more where the spending history allowed. All departments that do not have garage facilities, including School, Health, Building, Info Systems, PBS, the City Clerk, and my own office have had all their vehicle items removed. The total of these line items have been reduced by 5 percent and relocated to the MER Account from where it will be administered by the Director of Public Buildings Services.

These proposals will be submitted in greater detail to their respective Committees. An outline of the proposals will be distributed to the Board following this message.

--Consolidation of the Health, Elderly, and Youth

Services Departments

Because of current rental obligations and moving costs, savings from this consolidation will be nominal in the first year. However, I am still recommending this proposal to the Board for three reasons: First, the savings in the out years grow quickly and substantially; Second, I firmly believe that this consolidation will improve services to some of the neediest citizens of our City; and Third, we have a unique opportunity to relieve ourselves of a very costly and/or unsatisfactory rental space and take advantage of another opportunity at 50 Bridge Street at a good price in good accommodations.

In the data folders you have received, you will note that both of the budgets for the Elderly and Youth Services Departments have been zeroes out in my recommendations. They have been, after some reduction, added into the Health Department. Work remains to be done on this proposal and I request that the matter be forwarded to the Committee on Administration where the details we have developed to date will be sent.

This having been said, I think I should tell you why this proposal isn't further along. Nearly two months ago, I contacted Health Officer Fred Rusczek about this consolidation. I asked him whether or not he felt the departments were compatible and could be combined and informed him of the space opportunity that had arisen. After careful consideration, Fred said he felt it could be done and I asked him to develop a preliminary departmental organization. With my office, he viewed the available space and drew up conceptual floor plans for a consolidated department and an elderly center.

Once I was familiar and comfortable with what I had asked Fred to develop, I met Barbara Vigneault from Elderly Services and Regis Lemaire from Youth Services. I advised them of what I was looking to do and asked if they had a problem with the concept. Neither indicated there was a problem and agreed to look into the matter further with Mr. Rusczek. Within hours, this proposal, which had not been finalized, was being condemned by a

member of the Elderly Commission and criticized by members of this Board. Mr. Rusczek became reluctant to continue developing a proposal fearing that he would be drawn into a political fight he did not create.

In proposing this consolidation tonight, I wish to advise this Board that Mr. Rusczek was asked to investigate various options by me. This was not his idea, but thanks to his input and early foot work, I believe it is an idea that will benefit all of the constituencies served by these departments and save the City money. It is my hope that the Committee on Administration and this Board will carefully consider this proposal and stay away from the petty political turf battles that have already marred this process. It would be nice, if for once, members of the Board or any commission would at least review a proposal before they criticize it.

I want to publicly thank Mr. Rusczek for his willingness to respond to my inquiry and assist in this endeavor.

--Personnel

Very few new position requests were granted. In total, there are only five in the general fund: A 911 Operator for the Police; an Account Clerk to help PBS with central purchasing and fleet responsibilities; an Information Support Specialist to aid in the transition to and maintenance of our new computer and communication systems; a badly needed new School Nurse; and a Clerk Typist, mostly supported by trust funds, to help keep the Cemetery offices open during regular business hours. None of the personnel reclassification requests were accommodated. Some existing positions were cut, include: temporary workers in the Assessors and Welfare Departments; a vacant clerk position in the City Clerk's Office; five District Fire Chiefs; a vacant parking meter foreman's position in the Traffic Department, the part-time helper in Elderly Services as a result of the consolidation; and six positions in the School Department that were shifted to the General Fund after federal funds ran out.

Further, there is no money in this proposal to give pay raises to bargaining units that have yet to settle their contracts. As mentioned, last year's pay raises had a \$4.3 million impact on this year's budget and we cannot afford to add to this burden now or in the next fiscal year. Because the School Department's budget request did not include severance pay, I added \$500,000 to the Salary Adjustment Account for this purpose.

Finally, on this topic, I am aware and share the Board's desire to overhaul our personnel classification system. I thought long and hard about funding a reclassification study. I have chosen not to do so for several reasons. First, a study that looks at what you have and tells you what existing employees should be paid is not the answer to our problems. We need an evaluation of what we have to see if it is needed. Second, we have to make some changes in our current Personnel Department. They are grappling with their current workload and may not be able to administer a review of the classification system. Third, our department heads have formed a Quality Management Team to address various problems with the City's systems and procedures. I would like to ask them for their help in identifying the problems and potential solutions before hiring consultants. This is an issue I would like to see referred to the Committee on Personnel/Insurance for further review and recommendation.

These have been very difficult decisions. It is not easy to recommend that positions be eliminated or that raises not be funded. Our employees are dedicated and hard-working, but change must come and measures must be taken if we are to maintain the balance between service and cost.

Community Improvement Program

The Board has voluntarily restricted debt service expenditures to \$3/\$1,000 on the tax rate. Current debt service stands at \$3.25/\$1,000. Thought this does not exceed the cap by much, we must be mindful of the limit unless it is changed. I worked with Director MacKenzie of Planning and Finance Officer Clougherty to propose an alternative to this cap. Whatever we do, though, we must be mindful of the burden bonding places on the tax rate and be careful not to upset the balance we are trying to maintain between services and taxes.

That having been said, please know that we did the very best we could to allocate what amounts to \$14 million in bonding capacity over the next two fiscal years to the demands we are now facing, which totaled more than \$45 million in requests this year. Because these CIP recommendations will be forwarded to the Committee on Community Improvement Program for review and recommendation, I will not cover all details tonight. I will, however, hit a few high points.

--School Capacity

This issue has driven the CIP process this year. It is a very difficult problem to figure out and cope with. There is little doubt in my mind that we need increased capacity. At this time, I support the construction of a so-called middle school with the caveat that it be ready for the 1998-1999 school year. I realize that the School Department would like it to open in time for the 1997-1998 school year, but there are many questions that must be investigated by this Board and the Joint School Buildings Committee, not the least of which is "can this building be open by September 1997?" Personally, I do not think so. The process would have to be flawless at all points and I am not sure that is realistic. Several members of this Board have expressed their reservations on this item and I do not disagree with the points that have been raised.

However, should this Board and the Joint School Buildings Committee decide otherwise, the CIP will still handle building the school with an opening date of September '97 with no further impact on the tax rate than this current CIP proposal. If there are problems, the School Department will have eighteen months to develop contingency plans to accommodate capacity needs for the 1997-1998 school year and plan accordingly in its FY '98 budget. I have allocated \$4.5 million in this fiscal year and recommended another \$4.5 for FY '98.

--Downtown Revitalization

I am pleased to say that we have found a way to implement a major reconstruction of Elm Street. As you know, the previous Board authorized a study of possible capital improvements based on the LDR Report. Preliminary reports have been sent to the Highway Commission and were reviewed by my office, the Highway Department, and the consultant's in preparation of the CIP budget. The CIP includes \$1.5 million to reconstruct Street from Bridge Street to Granite Street. The proposal includes adding angle parking and moving from four lanes to three on Elm Street and several capital and aesthetic improvements.

We have also included \$500,000 from Central Services Business District revolving loan fund money to assist property owners with various projects such as facade improvements. This program needs some definition, however, and I would like to work with the Community Improvement Program Committee, Planning Department, Intown Manager, and the Downtown Alderman to develop specifics.

Conclusion

By now, I am sure you have gathered that a great deal has gone into the preparation of this budget. Much remains to be done. My requests to refer various proposals to Committee for review and recommendation are designed to provide the Aldermen and the public with greater input and insight into the budget I have presented and the options that may exist. The Committees are now better structured to handle these significant policy issues and should make recommendations on them to the Board. Though the Committee on Finance will ultimately decide what to recommend to the Board, I believe the input of the subcommittees will be invaluable. They provide a better working atmosphere for the departments and members of the community and will, I believe, expedite the process so we are not making decisions under pressure at the last possible minutes.

This has been an excruciating experience for me. Despite all of the work that has been done in developing this proposal, I am really not very happy with it. The projected tax rate increase is 4.57 percent and I have proposed some painful measures to get it to this point. There are some initiatives, aside from quick passage of the "Bag and Tab" Program, that will reduce this increase. They include: A reorganization of the Board of Assessors and eliminations of benefits for all part-time employees, as well as the Aldermanic and School Boards. I ask that these items be referred to the Committee on Finance and the Committee on Personnel/Insurance respectively for review and recommendation. Please note that I have not included these reductions in my proposal as I wanted to get a sense of the Board first.

The real culprit in all of this difficulty is our tax base. We have suffered enormous losses since 1988 with no relief. Hopefully, things will begin to trend in the right direction soon. But, even if they do, it will be some time before we can adequately address our needs. From where we are now, we can follow one of two paths that I see. We can become ultra-conservative and do nothing as we watch the world go by. Or, we can move aggressively to redevelop the value of the tax base, particularly in the

Downtown/Millyard area. I choose the second path for unless we act to improve our own condition, we will slowly die under the weight of our own needs. There is just no way we will wait out these financial hard times and find the money we need to address the things that have to be done.

With this budget, we have come to two ends: a structural end that will hopefully be addressed by the Charter commission and an economic end that can only be addressed by an improved tax base. I am, of course, making reference to the CenterPlex proposal because I believe that it is an answer to what ails us. We cannot grow the tax base if we do not take the initiative to invest in it.

So, as I draw this speech to an end, let me ask all of you here and all that care to listen to support the CenterPlex proposal in the House of Representatives and in the referendum before the people. Manchester will continue to struggle indefinitely with an income that cannot possibly handle its needs, without a major initiative to improve the tax base. CenterPlex is only one piece of this effort, but it is the best opportunity for bold action in a generation. If we do not seize the opportunity at this time, it could be the best opportunity for at least another generation.

Maybe, if we dare to live the great dreams we have for our City, we won't have to struggle so mightily with the balance between services and taxes.

Thank you for your time and attention tonight. And many thanks to the departments for their help, especially Dick Houle, Bob MacKenzie, Frank Thomas, Hugh Moran, Diane Prew, the Traffic Department, and the Police Department for their help in revamping the budget process and in developing several of the initiatives presented to you tonight.

Mayor Wiczorek asked if he could get a motion to send all of the items he spoke about during his budget message to the respective Committees.

On motion of Ald. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald. Domainque, it was voted to refer all of the Mayor's recommendations to the respective Aldermanic Committees as outlined in his budget message.

Resolutions:

"Approving the Community Improvement Program for 1997 Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefor, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program"

"A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of \$11,273,377 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 1997."

"Appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of \$270,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for Fiscal Year 1997."

"A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$2,299,094 from Recreation User Charges to the Recreation Division for Fiscal Year 1997."

"A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$9,437,201 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for Fiscal Year 1997."

"A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$5,341,945 from Solid Waste Enterprise to the Solid Waste Division for Fiscal Year 1997."

"Appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of \$900,000 for the Fiscal Year 1997."

"Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 1997."

On motion of Ald. Robert, duly seconded by Ald. Domaingue, it was voted that the budget Resolutions be read by titles only, and it was so done.

Ald. Wihby moved that the budget Resolutions be referred to the Committee on Finance. Ald. Clancy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Budget handouts were distributed to the Board. Mayor Wieczorek requested Mr. Girard to explain to everyone what the handouts were.

Mr. Girard stated the plain sheets of paper were a summary of all of the recommendations that the Mayor had asked be forwarded to Committees noting they were in detail and had not been available in his budget message and all of the backup regarding the proposals was there also. In the material in the black binder on the front inside cover was a copy of the Mayor's budget address and right beneath it was the three-page summary that all had gotten used to in working the numbers with which noted all of the recommended and requested allocations for the departments and the restricted line items. As part of the change the Mayor had made in the budget process they had worked with departments with what they referred to as performance indicators and unlike years past there was a budget book which would have a mission statement, an organizational chart, various so-called service indicators, the types of activities that departments conduct and what volumes so as to have an understanding of their operations, what department's considered to be past years accomplishments as well as their future years goals as well as a copy of their personnel complement by category and their new position requests. The last set of information in the data binder were the D314, D315, D415 and D415 forms noting the D314 was the expense report on which would include a history of the City's budgets from 1992, 1995, the adopted budget for 1996, the modified budget for 1996, what had been spent as of today from the '96 budget, the departmental requests and the Mayor's recommendations noting the detail was provided to you by line item. The D315 was a summary with the D414 and D415 were revenue reports which had the same information as the expense reports, but obviously for revenues, and would be available to the Board to answer any questions and provide them with further information or help them use the information they received this evening.

Mayor Wieczorek stated the reason there was no 1993 was because it was the 18-month budget noting the transition period would be hard to make any comparison.

Ald. Domaingue asked what did the 4.57 percent increase in the Mayor's budget represent in terms of tax increase for the property taxpayers of Manchester.

Mr. Girard replied it represented a tax rate of \$30.98 which was \$1.32 higher than the current \$29.66.

On motion of Ald. Clancy, duly seconded by Ald. Soucy, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting back to order.

OTHER BUSINESS

A report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that

Resolutions:

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for the Pediatrician Collaborative."

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for 1996 2.20710 HIV Education Services."

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for the 1996 4.20104 Juvenile Jail Removal."

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for Serve America FY 96 and School to Work FY 96."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$2,200) from Contingency to Civic Contributions Adopt-A-Block."

ought to pass.

On motion of Ald. Wihby, duly seconded by Ald. Soucy, it was voted to accept, receive and adopt the report of the Committee on Finance.

A second report of the Committee on Finance was presented recommending that Personnel Committee Actions on Agenda PC 2-96 with the exception of the position in Highway/EPD be approved.

On motion of Ald. Sysyn, duly seconded by Ald. Wihby, it was voted that the second report of the Committee on Finance be accepted, received and adopted.

Discussion relative to funding for recognition of former Aldermanic Board members.

Mayor Wieczorek notified the Board money had been found in the Aldermanic account and that the former Aldermen would be invited to the next meeting and have plaques engraved for them.

On motion of Ald. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald. Wihby, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Communication from Deputy Finance Director advising of the receipt of a donation in the amount of \$400.00 for the Bicycle Patrol Unit, requesting the Board accept same and remand for the purpose intended.

On motion of Ald. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald. Domaingue, it was voted to accept funds and remand for the purpose intended.

Communication from Deputy Finance Director advising of the receipt of drug forfeiture funds in the amount of \$15,718.85 and \$1,048.90, requesting the Board accept same and remand for the purpose intended.

On motion of Ald. Hirschmann, duly seconded by Ald. Robert, it was voted to accept funds and remand for the purpose intended.

Communication from Randy Sherman, Thomas Arnold, and Jay Taylor advising of their choice of SVBK Consultant Group and O'Neill, Grills & O'Neill, P.L.L.P. as the team of consultants best qualified to advise the City's officials on rapidly changing electric services; and submitting a copy of their proposal.

Ald. Pariseau stated the proposal received from the group was pretty good noting he had a question relative to the estimated cost of \$237,715 and in reference to page 104, section 7 it indicated it might not be the final price and he was concerned that if they started at \$237,000, before it was over it could be up to \$400,000 and wanted a figure they could cast in concrete.

Mr. Clougherty stated the group had appeared before the Board several months noting they had to attract some legal and engineering expertise to deal with all of the things that were happening in Concord with the regulation and that there was currently a Pilot project along the way and they expected the details of that Pilot to be out in the next couple of weeks and was also some legislation going on that had passed the Senate and was be sent to the House dealing with aggregation and depending on what happened with each of those pieces of legislation what the City's opportunities would be varied and they saw that the commitment through the end of the fiscal year was to participate in the Pilot and do some preliminary activity to make sure that they would be protecting the City's

interest on those fronts and they did not expect the expenses between now and the end of the year to exceed the area of \$20,000 which was something that the Solicitor's Office and Finance could cover through their combined incidental balances. In the next two weeks, as a result of the legislation they would have a much better handle on what the potential opportunities and costs would be and what the savings might be, as well, in the long haul. So, before the conclusion of the budget decisions that the Board would have to make they would have a better handled on what the long-term budget would be and they would looking for the authorization to move forward so they could deal with the more immediate problems in the current fiscal year.

Ald. Pariseau stated the City would not then be committing itself to the \$237,715 as yet.

Mr. Clougherty replied, no. They had asked people to give the City's team an idea of what the hours and costs would be if they had to go through all of the different things that could conceivably happen down the road and that was merely to give them a ballpark idea as to what might happen and before they would ever commit to those they would want to know what the savings would be on the other side and as he had previously stated depending on what would happen with the legislation and PUC regulations they would then start to get a better picture of it over the next few weeks. So, the commitment they would have would only be to spend what they had out of their incidentals combined through the end of the year and hopefully within the next month they would be able to come back with a very detailed budget showing what the costs would be over a series of years and what expected savings would be.

Ald. Elise stated the benefit also of going forward with the consulting group was not only for the Pilot program but it would position the City so if competition did occur before the Pilot program was completed or halfway through the Pilot program the City would already have on hand the experts the City would need to assess its electric needs and go forward and did not think that there was any other community in the State which was as prepared as the City was to take advantage of it.

Ald. Pariseau stated he understood that, but rather his concern was that there was a price of \$237,000 and then it stated that the proposed fee estimate was subject to change and he did not want to be committing himself to a \$500,000 project noting Mr. Clougherty had addressed that issue.

Mr. Clougherty stated the consultants were present and if he had misstated the position he was sure they'd be saying so.

On motion of Ald. Domaingue, duly seconded by Ald. Elise, it was voted to authorize execution of a contract with the consultant team so chosen, subject to the review and approval of Mr. Clougherty, Mr. Taylor, and Solicitor Clark.

Communication from Frank Thomas, Public Works Director, requesting approval of the retirement of William R. Chauvette effective April 1, 1996.

On motion of Ald. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald. Shea, it was voted to approve the retirement of William R. Chauvette effective April 1, 1996, as submitted.

Resolutions:

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for the Pediatrician Collaborative."

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for 1996 2.20710 HIV Education Services."

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for the 1996 4.20104 Juvenile Jail Removal."

"Amending the 1996 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds for Serve America FY 96 and School to Work FY 96."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Two Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$2,200) from Contingency to Civic Contributions Adopt-A-Block."

On motion of Ald. Reiniger, duly seconded by Ald. Soucy, it was voted that the Resolutions be read by title only, and it was so done.

Ald. Sysyn moved that the Resolutions pass and be enrolled. Ald. Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Ald. Robert was duly recorded in opposition to Resolution relative to #2.20710 HIV Education Services.

Mayor Wieczorek made the following nomination:

John Tucker to succeed Donald Pomeroy as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire March 1, 1999.

Mayor Wieczorek advised that under the rules, the nomination would lay over to the next meeting.

Confirmation of nominations to the Board of Recount, terms to expire October 1, 1997, as follows:
William M. Gardner
Robert R. Rivard

On motion of Ald. Clancy, duly seconded by Ald. Soucy, it was voted to confirm the nominations of William M. Gardner and Robert R. Rivard to the Board of Recount, terms to expire October 1, 1997.

Confirmation of the nomination of Robert Greenwood, CPA, to serve as a member of the Revolving Loan Fund.

On motion of Ald. Hirschmann, duly seconded by Ald. Domaingue, it was voted to confirm the nomination of Robert Greenwood, CPA to serve as a member of the Revolving Loan Fund.

Mayor Wieczorek stated they had since found out that the nominations to the Revolving Loan Fund would be made by the Board and confirmed by the Board.

TABLED ITEM

Ordinance: (Note: Tabled 3/19/96 pending submission of agreements.

"Amending the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Manchester by extending the B-2 (General Business) zoning district to include portions of the lots currently zoned I-3 (General Industrial) and I-2 (Industrial Park) on the southerly side of Huse Road and the easterly side of South Willow Street."

This item remained on the table.

NEW BUSINESS

Ald. Wihby stated he had sat down with the City Clerk and had also talked with the Aldermen relative to addressing the budget right away and had outlined a tentative schedule noting the Board would meet with all the departments during the month of April so the Board would have the months of May and June to sit down and work out the nuts and bolts of everything.

Ald. Wihby stated that the Special committee on CenterPlex Referendum Question would meet on Wednesday at six o'clock.

Ald. Soucy stated she had drafted a letter along with some newspaper articles relative to buildings fees noting she was very upset and disheartened to hear of the events which had taken place with the fees associated with the Union Leader building noting the Attorney General's Office had conducted an investigation and found that no laws were broken but

had characterized the incident that was out of the ordinary. Ald. Soucy, therefore, was requesting that the Chairman of the Board establish a Committee to review the findings of the Attorney General's Office and to look at also changing the City's existing fee structure and to make recommendations to it and also to recommend any changes to existing State Statutes so that such an incident would not happen again noting her concern was not that a law was broken as the Attorney General's Office had established such, but still believed that constituents needed to be treated fairly and thought that there was the appearance perhaps of something that didn't seem right or feel right and did not think it should exist in the City of Manchester at a time when the City was struggling to make ends meet and thought the City needed to capture every penny it could noting a loss of \$58,000 meant a big difference in the budget and personally hoped that Mr. Stabile would still be willing to pay the fee for the building even though the work had already been done but getting beyond that issue she thought the City needed to avoid such a situation in the future where anyone would be questioned relative to their actions to fees and thought it needed to be ironed out as soon as possible.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he had talked to the Building Commissioner when the matter arose noting that the Commissioner had indicated he was in the process of making adjustments to the fee structure simply because they had not contemplated a rehab project of that magnitude.

Ald. Soucy hoped that the Building Commissioner would be an integral part in reestablishing some new fees whether a person was putting a \$2,000 addition on their home or doing a major renovation wanted to make sure they had the same opportunities and were treated in the same manner.

Ald. Hirschmann stated one thing Mayor Wieczorek had said which disturbed him was that the Assessors did not report back to him for his budget presentation indicated he would like the Board's support to send a directive to the Assessor's Office to report back to the Board and give them a rate by the next meeting and asked for everyone's support.

Mayor Wieczorek believed steps had already been taken in that area to go to the Finance Committee.

Ald. Hirschmann reiterated he was asking for a directive.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he did not think they could have it by the next meeting asking Ald. Hirschmann exactly what it was he was requesting.

Ald. Hirschmann stated he was asking that the Assessors report to the Board relative to a tax rate base by the Board's next meeting noting the Assessors did not have to give them a hard number but present something close to the Board. Ald. Robert duly seconded the motion.

Mayor Wiczorek noted the Assessors were scheduled to address the Board on April 15th relative to their budget.

Ald. Wihby stated they did not know their numbers until May or June sometime as it changed.

Ald. Robert stated the Mayor had indicated that the Assessors had not responded to him and thought perhaps an explanation could be given to the Board and particularly the new people as to why that number was not yet available.

Mayor Wiczorek stated it was one of the important numbers used in developing the budget and what was important was the direction in which it was going, the trend, was it still going up or still going down noting one of the problems they had had was that statements had been made where different figures were mentioned and asked that Ald. Hirschmann clarify his motion.

Ald. Hirschmann stated he wished to send a directive to the Assessors that they at least respond to Mayor Wiczorek's request, in writing.

Ald. Robert stated he had no problem with that, at least for the benefit of the new Aldermen.

Ald. Wihby stated they had already started where they had left off two years ago, pitting people against people noting that the Assessors on the 15th could tell the Board what the number noting the Board normally did not get that number until May.

Ald. Robert asked why couldn't the Assessors communicate that.

Mayor Wiczorek believed there were deeper problems than that which was why he had wanted it referred to the Finance Committee so the Committee could take a good look at it noting there were things that he felt were wrong and thought there should be a full discussion held.

Ald. Elise in reference to the scheduled special meeting of the Board on Wednesday, April 10th wished to know if it was merely to discuss the issue relative to a "Bag and Tag" program.

Mayor Wieczorek replied it would be a meeting with the Board noting a decision could not wait until June 25th as it was \$385,000 per month that it went on so the quicker a decision was reached the better.

Ald. Elise asked if it would be possible to meet on the 9th instead.

Mayor Wieczorek replied, no as there were two Committee meetings scheduled for that evening.

Ald. Domaingue stated the Highway Department was holding a public hearing that evening at 6:30 at Highland Goffs Falls School for the Brown Avenue Reconstruction Project and had asked the Aldermen to be present and asked if there was an intent on the part of the Board to hold a public hearing on that issue and also had a question for Ald. Hirschmann relative to the Assessors.

Mayor Wieczorek replied the Board would have to do whatever legally had to be done.

Ald. Domaingue asked if there was an alternative date.

Mayor Wieczorek replied he had wanted it on the 9th, however, there were two meetings.

Ald. Wihby stated if one of the scheduled meetings was a Committee he Chaired, he would be willing to forego the Committee meeting.

Mayor Wieczorek stated the City Clerk would figure out the scheduling noting Frank Thomas would have to be present.

Ald. Domaingue inquired as to whether or not it was required that a public hearing be held relative to the "Bag and Tag" proposal or would it be all inclusive.

Mayor Wieczorek replied there did not need to be a public hearing.

Ald. Domaingue stated if the Aldermanic Board decided it wanted to hit up the taxpayers with a separate fee for carrying their garbage bags off their property every week than that would be something that the taxpayers would need to address either at the monthly public forums or at the general public hearing on the budget itself.

Mayor Wieczorek indicated Ald. Domaingue was correct.

Ald. Domaingue as a follow up to Ald. Hirschmann's position regarding the Assessors asked if when the Assessors were to meet with the Board if the Board could ask them

what types of tax abatements the City had been giving to the tune of some \$20 million as she was certainly getting questions from constituents wanting to know when the abatement process over the years would end as it obviously impacted on their tax rate and they wanted to know what kind of abatements the City had been giving beyond the average property taxpayer and the initial revaluation process that everyone went through and hoped that the Assessors would have that type of information.

Mayor Wiczorek stated that was all part of a future discussion noting that there should be some sort of a reserve set up in the future.

Ald. Domaingue stated she hoped that the Chairman of the Board would ask the Assessors to bring that information with them.

Mayor Wiczorek stated when the Assessors appeared before the Board they would then have a full blown discussion with them.

Ald. Pariseau stated there was probably somewhere in the vicinity of \$322 million in property controlled by non-profits which the City was not receiving a dime on as well as \$70 million which had been abated because of the elderly exemption and there was also approximately \$400,000+/- that had been abated because of veteran's exemptions, so those who were continuing to pay their fair share had to pick up that excessive burden as well noting that was the problem.

Ald. Domaingue stated those two figures did not come close to the millions of dollars that the Board continued to hear about being set aside which was her concern and respected those exemptions but there apparently there was an awful lot of money out there that had been abated noting she wished to see it justified.

Mayor Wiczorek stated that would be a regular full discussion of all of those items.

Ald. Shea stated as a new member it was difficult to get a handle on what the Assessors were doing noting it was not that they were doing anything wrong necessarily but it was difficult to gauge exactly how they fit into the overall City situation and suggested that in addition to their appearing before the Board on the 15th that a time be set aside for them to meet with the Board in order to give a more detailed explanation so as to enable the Board to understand the role they were playing, if there was difficulty in their positions they could explain that as well but right now most of the departments appeared before the Board in the form of either the commissioners giving the Board minutes of meetings or agendas and so forth noting there was nothing forthcoming from the Assessors in terms of their meetings or their getting together with any Committees of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and thought it was important that the Board get an accounting or accountability.

Ald. Soucy noting there was no item relative to union negotiations on this evening's agenda wondered what position it would leave the Negotiator in asking would he cease negotiations with the unions or how would it leave that process for the people who were contemplating coming forward with the proposal within the next couple of months.

Mayor Wiczorek replied he had made his position clear noting it was up to the Board to decide what they wanted to do with that issue.

Ald. Elise stated the U. S. Marine Corps was in the process of deciding whether or not to send the Marine Corps Band to Manchester for its 150th Birthday Picnic noting they had never visited Manchester before and knew there were some people in the Band who were residents of Manchester and wished to encourage them to be able to come to Manchester and hoped that the Board would be willing to send the U. S. Marine Corps Band a letter inviting them to come to the City for the June 8th celebration and there would be no cost to the City in their coming but would require accommodations for overnight stay and thought it would help them in their decision if the Board sent them a letter inviting them to come.

Mayor Wiczorek inquired if Ald. Elise knew where they were located.

Ald. Elise replied she did noting she had all of the forms.

Mayor Wiczorek suggested she forward all the information to the City Clerk's Office in order to forward a letter.

There being no further business to come before the regular meeting of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, on motion of Ald. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald. Sysyn, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk