# BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

**April 16, 1996** **7:30 PM**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Ald. Clancy.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

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

Mayor Wieczorek stated the Board would recognize the past service of Aldermen who had served in the past noting that four were not present Ann Bourque, Leo Pepino, Paul Dwyer, and Ronald Machos and presented plaques to those present as follows: Stephen H. Dolman former Ward 5 Alderman 1988-1992; Robert Dennis former Ward 6 Alderman 1990-1993; Daniel Goonan former Ward 7 Alderman 1994-1995; Raymond Buckley former Ward 8 Alderman 1992-1993; and Alfred Hebert, Jr. former Ward 8 Alderman 1994-1995.

Mayor Wieczorek expressed the Board's thanks to all present noting those former Aldermen not present would receive their plaques also.
Mayor Wieczorek recognized the Boys Scouts from Troop 104 of St. Catherine's Parish as they were present to receive their Merit Badges for communications and welcomed them and hoped they would enjoy their experience this evening.

## 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

**B.** Communication from Manchester Airport Authority submitting minutes of their January and February 1996 meetings.

**C.** Communication from Manchester Transit Authority submitting minutes of their February 27, 1996 meeting along with the Financial and Ridership reports for the month of February.

**D.** Communication from Beverly Gendron, Helping Hands Outreach Center expressing their gratitude to the City for the waiver of the Central Business Service District tax on their facility.

**E.** Communication from Waste Management of New Hampshire- Londonderry advising of their submission of a solid waste management facility permit to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services.

**F.** Communication from Executive Councilor Earl A. Rinker, III advising of items addressed at the March 20, 1996 meeting of the Governor and Executive Council.

**REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES**

**COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/
INFORMATION SYSTEMS**

**G.** Communication from Continental Cablevision regarding a change in programming in the Manchester area.

**H.** Communication from Continental Cablevision submitting its first annual progress report on capital spending on upgrades and rebuilds.

**COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING**

**I.** Communication from Thomas Arnold, Assistant City Solicitor, relative to the proposed amendment of Ordinance Sec. 8-22 providing the Committee on Accounts membership to be changed to five (5) members from three (3) members.

**COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**J.** Communication from Planning Director relative to a proposed endowment to the Derryfield School Summerbridge Program relating to the Enterprise Community Grant and suggesting application as an expendable trust.

**K.** Communication from CLEAN-FLO, Inc. relative to a basic plan to reclaim our City's lakes (Dorr's Pond, Nutt's Pond, and Crystal Lake).

**L.** Communication from Danais Realty offering to sell the City a parcel of land (Map 655, Lots 16, 16A, 16B, 16C & 16D) on behalf of Thornton & Thornton PA for the sum of $65,000.00 plus forgiveness of the outstanding tax debt which now exists in the sum of $10,000.00.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**M.** Resolution:

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars and Forty Cents ($69,520.40) from Salary Adjustment to School Salary Account."

**N.** Communication from Alderman Hirschmann requesting the Committee on Finance adopt a budget constraint policy of department heads joining in the "Pay Raise Freeze", and asking the Finance Department to provide an impact statement regarding this policy.

**O.** Request of School Board's Athletic Committee for payment of $2,963.00 from the Athletic Gate Receipts Account to Trinity High School.

**COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL/INSURANCE**

**P**. Communication from Healthsource relative to requesting an opportunity to meet with the Committee regarding offering its services as an additional health care option for City employees.

**COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Q.** Communication from John Brier requesting the City review the parking ticket policy of doubling or tripling fines after 5-7 days, and consider giving people 30 days to pay their fines.

**R.** Communication from George J. Khouri, Finard & Company relative to an easement at 1155 Elm Street and requesting $94,598.28 for expenses attributed to the parking garage, including maintenance and repair of the structure.
(Note: Response from City Solicitor's Office, dated April 11, 1996 is enclosed.)

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

**S.** Report of the Special Committee on Electric Rates recommending that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen forward a letter to all State Representatives and Senators supporting legislative efforts by the House and Senate in decreasing electric rates.

Ald. Domaingue stated as a member of the Special Committee she had no problem with the report but wondered if the City Clerk's Office could tell the Board where it stated "forward a letter to all State Representatives and Senators" and asked if it would be done in a manner so that one letter would be forwarded to them and have the State make the copies or would the City be sending 424 letters out.

Clerk Johnson believed one letter would be appropriate.

On motion of Ald. Domaingue, duly seconded by Ald. Soucy, it was voted that the report of the Special Committee on Electric Rates be accepted.

**Warrant to be committed to the Tax Collector for collection under the Hand and Seal of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.**

**T.** Warrant for Collection of Sewer Charges in the amount of $117,014.76.

The Clerk advised that the Board had received a handout reflecting $4,444.01 in abatements. On motion of Ald. Cashin, duly seconded by Ald. Pariseau, it was voted to commit the warrant for collection of sewer charges as abated.

Communication from Dean Kamen requesting to address the Board to present information on the dates and schedule of development of the Science & Technology Center.

Mayor Wieczorek stated the U.S. FIRST competition had been discussed at the last meeting noting how successful it had been and requested Mr. Kamen to update the Board on the project.

Mr. Kamen stated in accordance with the agreement they had reached with the City when U.S. FIRST took the building they had said they would be operating by July of 1996 and realizing that it was perhaps in everybody's best interest that the opening day be delayed he suggested that they officially change the agreement to July of 1997 and at that time somebody suggested that if there were any questions as to why they should do so he should appear before the Board noting they had made an official request to the Board of Aldermen to amend their agreement and would be happy to answer any questions as to why, but the real reason was to let the Board know that they had made a lot of progress in a lot of ways and that in the planning stages of the U.S. FIRST opening it seemed that 1997 would be a more appropriate time for opening.

Mayor Wieczorek asked Mr. Kamen if he wished to speak at all about the architectural firm.

Mr. Kamen stated when they had taken the building over they thought that the first thing they would do would be to move the local community, a piece of U.S. FIRST immediately. For instance, SEE, their science center which was currently in one of his other buildings noting they were dying to go in and would happily move in right away and could be open as they had suggested in July of 1996 and it that was what everybody wanted them to do, then they would do so. But, the bigger picture of the whole thing, the major support they'd received from a lot of national companies led them to believe that they could really create in U.S. FIRST a much more national center and in order to do

that they figured they would attract the best architectural firms they could to help create the right image for this place to be of a much more national scale. They spent nearly a year doing so noting they'd interviewed almost all of the well-known national architects for famous public buildings (i.e., The Smithsonium, Museums of National History, various aquariums) and it turned out that probably the most prestigious of those people around today was a guy named Ralph Applebaum who recently was the architect for the Holocaust Museum in Washington and some of the other more famous national and international buildings. It took him a number of months to convince him that this wasn't going to be just another community science center based on the scale and the scope and the goals of U.S. FIRST and finally a number of months ago they got him to come up and visit Manchester. He came, they spent a day with him and they then flew down to Washington with him to tour the Holocaust Museum and by the end of that second day with him, he agreed that he would consider being the architect for the master plan for the entire national facility. From that day until now they have worked very hard to make sure that they could break their work up with him into two pieces. One, which was due in about three months which would be the plan for moving into about one full floor of the building, about 30,000 square feet which would be the local component of this thing. It would have a hands-on science center, it would be working with various local community organizations and some State organizations like the Heritage Commission, Manchester Historic Society, etc. and then about three months after that or about six months from now they would get from him the master plan which would detail how they expect, over the next few years to roll out the development of the rest of the entire 150,000 foot building. Once they realized they would go this road, it seemed to him that moving very quickly just to get into the first piece of the building with the local component might have the risk that when the final master plan came out they would either have done something inconsistent in starting out and they would have to tear it up or spend more money than they would have had they waited and done it right. So, for the last year they had literally been waiting to do what they could easily do spend the money they had raised through the CDFA and move into the building which obviously the City had very wisely committed to this thing and if he was spending his own money on his own project being an enthusiastic, entrepreneurial guy he would have done it, but it wasn't his money, it wasn't his building. It's the City's money, it's the State's money, it's a lot of very serious sponsors money and he thought that they ought to be very, very careful and very, very prudent in how they spent the money and how they went about the development and in the grand scheme of making a very important, he thought, national center here it was worth doing it right and waiting for Applebaum to come around and in retrospect believed they had done it right, done it carefully. But, it probably meant they would not have any amount of this building opened in July which was why he came back to ask the City to push that date off and if for some reason the Board really did want some of it opened and believed the agreement was for 10,000 feet by this July indicated they could do so, but did not recommend it as he felt it was far better to do it right and do it once than to do it quickly and do it again.

Ald. Reiniger moved to authorize a one-year extension of the July 1, 1996 date referenced on the mortgage to July 1, 1997. Ald. Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Ald. Cashin stated the fact that the $3.2 million had not been spent asked where those funds were now.

Mr. Kamen replied that the money the City had come up with to buy the building was gone; that the rest of the money they had not received a penny of it noting it was at the CDFA (Community Development Finance Authority) which was the State agency which collected the money which was donated to U.S. FIRST by the various companies around the State and when they would start to pay Applebaum, when they would start reconstruction of the building they would then go to them to collect the money. But, as of yet they had put off any of their expenditures so they hadn't spent any money and they hadn't asked them for the money.

Ald. Cashin noted there were a couple of businesses in the building and some had been leased.

Mr. Kamen stated the U.S. FIRST building had in it St. Mary's Bank, a little day care, and a number of tenants in it noting they had been paying rent in and all the money was sitting in an account to be used for the purpose of the renovation of the building.

Ald. Domaingue stated in pushing off the 10,000 square foot use as a museum for one year asked if it would also push off the deal to finish the completion of utilizing all of that space as a museum or was he looking at increasing the amount of time which would be spent bringing everything in to the building and putting everything on line.

Mr. Kamen replied he would probably be able to answer that question pretty well in about six months because there were two pieces of their plan coming from Applebaum. One which was due in three months which would be a detailed plan with which they would then use one of probably three of the local architectural firms they had already been negotiating with to implement it to move their local component in by July. So, three months from today they should have a plan that would detail exactly what they would do within their budget and within the CDFA budget to open on schedule in July of 1997. Three months after that they should have the grand, full master plan for what to do with the whole building and that should have at least reasonable detail on how long it should take to finish out the rest of the plan.

Ald. Domaingue indicated she had a question for the Finance Department - the bond that was taken out to purchase the building and being paid for by the City of Manchester's taxpayers asked what was the length of that bond, what was the term of the bond.

Mr. Sherman replied it was a 20-year bond.

Ald. Shea asked if Mr. Applebaum was being considered to be the architect or had come aboard and was the architect.

Mr. Kamen replied as of today U.S. FIRST had reached an agreement with him on price, on scope, on detail, and everything else as a formality and believed there was a contract which Board members had a copy of which needed to be sent back to him, but they had agreed to all of the terms, his legal people, U.S. FIRST has had its counsel review everything and had agreed that he would be the architect for both the short-term (3 month) and 6-month master plan.

Ald. Soucy stated the CDFA was no longer in effect in terms of initiating new projects and all of the existing projects that were in effect were continued and as a result of some legislation there was some caps put in place on the amount of CDFA money which could be drawn in any given year and asked Mr. Kamen if he had consulted with their Board relative to the delay of the project and asked if it would have any delay on the cash flow coming from them.

Mr. Kamen replied they had met with a representative from there a week or two ago and was not aware that they were out-of-business noting that the representative had assured him that all of their money was there and that they would have access to it and had asked him at the time pointing out that some of the other people might have rushed into do their programs and while they hadn't perhaps the State would give them the interest on that money that they were holding and he replied that it was by statute and for other reasons that money or the interest on the money would never go to U.S. FIRST, but he had assured them that their money was there and as soon as they made their requests they would receive it.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Ald. Domaingue stated one of the most frequently asked questions she received these days after CenterPlex was where was the Science Museum and not so much a matter of routed in fiscal questioning, but routed in excitement and wanting to see something come to fruition and wished to express her concern to Mr. Kamen as an Alderman that they wanted to see this thing brought on-line as quickly as possible because the people who pay for the bond are really excited about the project and want to see something happen and thought Mr. Kamen was coming before the Board this evening to show them some plans, and reiterated they wanted to generate as much excitement as they could as the Board of Aldermen, but would hope he would speed the process up a little bit.

Mr. Kamen stated he did not know he had been invited to try to sell the plan and if the Board wished as soon as he received the plans from Applebaum he would be happy to do so noting it would be about three months and three months later he'd be happy to show them the master plan and in terms of being enthusiastic about the growth he did not want anyone present to think that putting it off from 1996 to 1997 was something that he had casually done because they lost interest or they didn't value the enormous amount of support which U.S. FIRST had gotten from the City or the State noting the growth of U.S. FIRST had been rather extraordinary as there were 96 teams this year going to the finals which were being held at EPCOT in a couple of days noting that at the local event this year there were 12 New Hampshire teams, they had every school in the City of Manchester participate (West, Central and Memorial) even Derryfield participated and had two finalists out of 40 plus teams coming from around the United States were both New Hampshire teams and the President of the United States was inviting the winners again this year to a Rose Garden ceremony and would be having the finals again at EPCOT noting major national companies (Motorola, Procter & Gamble, Johnson & Johnson) had each committed enough money to put a one-hour TV special on this year about the event, so there had been lots and lots of growth and because of the big growth and because the reality that they could make this thing national he had been very hesitant to make short-term commitments to move in to satisfy the local desire and miss the opportunity to do it right, so he hoped that nobody thought he had been relaxing noting he did have his businesses to run and did have other things to do, but all of his philanthropic time or community spirit time was very focused at pushing U.S. FIRST as fast as he could and as far as he could as there was a major new player up from Washington to help them do so and now had a full-time staff at U.S. FIRST of five and they were really working very hard and did not want anybody to think that his asking for the time was because they had been delayed or slowed down, but rather that the scope had gotten bigger, the project had gotten bigger, and they had to be really careful.

Presentation by SVBK Consultant Group relative to the City's participation in the NH Public Utilities Commission Pilot Program.

Mayor Wieczorek introduced Sheree Brown and Peter Grills and asked that they address the Board.

Ms. Brown stated there had been a new program started at the New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission and they were probably aware of the program called the Retail Electricity Competition Pilot Program and may have seen ads and received pamphlets which she distributed noting the pamphlet had been available through Public Service of New Hampshire (PSNH) or directly from the Commission which explained a little bit about the pilot program and wished to thank Mayor Wieczorek and the Aldermen for

allowing her to come and explain a little bit more about the program and wished to explain how they got to having such a program, what the program was all about, and how customers in the City may be provided the opportunity to participate in the program. To start with, she explained about the way that people have received their power under the traditional method over the past 20-30 years which under the scenario the City had been served by PSNH noting PSNH in order to serve had what was called generating facilities which was where the power was produced and from that point there were transmission facilities which power was delivered in bulk voltages, a much higher voltage and then to distribution facilities which was where the power was brought down to lower voltages usable in homes and businesses. Under the traditional power supply PSNH basically owned all of the facilities used to provide service to each individual customer and due to the nature of the way that the service had been provided in the past it had been such that within a geographical area utilities had basically been a monopoly, there hadn't been competition within a geographic area and it happened because in the past you were more limited to the specific geographic area and the delivery system, but what had happened over the past decade and even the past couple of decades was the whole country had been connected by a transmission grid, so no longer were they isolated as a separate system where the monopoly system necessarily had to remain in place. Under the monopoly system, they would be the need for regulation noting some of the needs for regulation would continue because it didn't make sense to over bill or double bill the transmission and distribution systems. What had changed which had become more open to competition was the generating facilities and over the past decade what they had found was that utilities shop for power noting they might have a facility which was generating but because their incremental costs were a little more expensive than what they could buy from someone else they actually went out and shopped for power. So, PSNH might be shopping for power from several other utilities around the country and then they bring it in on the transmission grid. Well, if they could do it then the question became how come we can't do it, can we bring it down to the wholesale level and even down to the customer level. So, under a competitive supply scenario what they had was that PSNH still owned the transmission and distribution systems which would actually deliver power, but no longer did they need to be the only generator from whom you had a choice to purchase your power from and what could happen would be that there be numerous power suppliers who could also be available to serve new power and they would put their power into the transmission grid and then PSNH would deliver it to the customers over their transmission and distribution facilities. In order to do so, one of the first things that needed to be done was that they had to break down the rates which was one of the concerns at both the federal and state commission level as to how would they break the rates down and determine which portion would be provided by another supplier versus what portion would be provided by PSNH. So, they were now looking at breaking up the rates so where there may have been a so-called bundled rate previously which included all of the services such as providing the power, generating and the delivery of it and distribution services. So, in order to promote competition they were saying they would

now break those costs up, would still pay the same amount if purchasing from PSNH, for example, but it might be broken up into several different items on the power bill such as paying a certain portion for generating, another portion for transmission and another for distribution and maybe even a separate item for customer service. Most states around the country were looking at whether competition at the retail level would be workable noting there were a lot of unresolved issues. But, New Hampshire was far in front of all of the other states at this point in time noting there might be two or three other states which were as active as New Hampshire, but no one had gone to the point of actually putting into place a program to test those concepts, to give some experience, and to allow the citizens to achieve some benefits as a result of the experience. In fact, there were several quotes from trade magazines all over the country such as **Electric Utility Week** said "The test which is due to begin May 1, 1996 could be the first of its kind in the United States." and **Public Power** which was another national magazine said "That states are taking steps toward retail wheeling" and they note "That New Hampshire is one of the top three." The pilot program is intended to give experience, it is intended to give a two-year window in which a certain portion of the customers throughout New Hampshire would be given a chance to pick a different electric supplier and would be only for the generation portion and for the citizens of New Hampshire whatever supplier provides the electric power they would still have it delivered over PSNH's transmission and distribution systems, so the cost of transmission and distribution would still be paid to Public Service but might be able to select an alternative supplier to provide the electric power. Under the pilot program which was scheduled to begin as early as May 28th noted it was a very aggressive program to get in place and what had been happening was that they'd said there would be three percent of the total load of all of the utilities in the State and that three percent of the total load would be allocated in proportion to the type of customers which would be their customer mix so residential customers would be represented, small commercial, large commercial, industrial customers would all be represented by allowing them the opportunity to participate in this program. But, in order to participate in the program they had to get into what was called a random selection pool because in order to be fair and to come up with a representative population they were coming up with a random selection process which process would allow individuals to put them name in a hat and say they'd like to participate and then through the random selection process they would pull out enough customers until they got to the total three percent load and those would be the customers who would be allowed to participate in the program. There was another way to participate noting the City was looking into participating under what was being called a geographic area of choice which was simply a group of customers making up a certain portion of the total load being allocated to the program and that group of customers would consist of residential and small commercial customers and was also being done on a random selection process. So, in order to participate the City was also having to say that it was interested and they would put the City in the hat also.

Ald. Elise stated she knew the GAC concept was to simulate real life in terms of variety of rate payers in an area asked why would they exclude industrial users.

Ms. Brown replied they were not being excluded, they were being excluded from the GAC (geographic area of choice) and was not sure what their reasoning was behind excluding them from that particular concept but they were allowed to participate on an individual basis. Around the country larger commercial customers and industrial customers generally had the wherewithal and the knowledge to select their own power supplier and to be more active noting the program was also intended to educate everyone as to whether the program would be effective for residential and small commercial customers who might not have a staff in place who would look at their total costs the same way a large industrial customer might. One of the things that was needed in order to participate on an individual basis and they were encouraging that participation was that between now and April 24th all customers need to call 1-888-647-4568 and have a monthly bill on-hand from PSNH, give the account number, the number would be open 24 hours-a-day, 7 days-a-week from now till April 24th they would then be registered and their name would go into the hat for the random selection process and for the industrial and large commercial customers it was their only chance to participate and the small commercial and residential customers had two chances to participate. One would be to call the number given and make sure they got their names in the hat with the other being the City when they submit their interest in having a geographic area of choice then they would have an opportunity to be selected under that random selection process.

Ald. Elise asked Ms. Brown if she knew how many GAC areas Manchester might be allowed.

Ms. Brown replied the way that it all started was that there was going to be only one chance to have a geographic area of choice with the sizing of that area being somewhat dependent on the random selection process and how much load was left by the time the names would be picked out of the hat. The City had participated in the process leading up to the pilot program and the reason for the City's participation had been to help the citizens and the businesses of Manchester to have a better opportunity to participate so that the City's interest would be represented in the program and in order to do that the concern was that they did not want to be limited to just a small percentage of load or just a small group that could participate and they wanted to have a fair opportunity relative to the other customer's within the State. What had happened now was that the selection process would be weighted so Manchester would have the number of chances to be selected for a geographic area of choice which would be relative to the number of eligible customers within the City compared to other cities that chose to participate. So, for example, if there were 150 customers in one city and Manchester had 15,000 then you would get that many more choices. So, in the random selection process your name would have a much better chance of being pulled out of the hat. Once they went through the

random selection process and Manchester had so many chances at being selected, once they were selected and received a certain allocation of load then there had to be a second random selection process that would happen within the City which would be done by a zip code plus two which was simply a way of having a random selection process within the City and it would take the City noting zip codes now had four extra digits on them, so it would be the regular zip code plus the first two digits in order to get small enough groups within the City and what would happen would be that the amount of load they would be able to select between one and four geographic areas of choice to equal the total load which had been allocated and at that point it would be done on a random selection process based on the zip code plus two. A zip code area could incorporate several different political wards, so there was an equal chance within the City to be selected once the process started because it was totally random based on the zip code.

Ald. Hirschmann asked if there was a risk for the homeowner's that were interested in the program that the price per kilowatt hour could actually increase, was there a gamble.

Ms. Brown replied if they got into it and actually participated then there would be three or four suppliers and if the customer found that none of them were better than Public Service they could then chose to stick with Public Service, so there really wasn't that risk.

Ald. Hirschmann stated but during the trial program could their bills actually increase because they participated.

Ms. Brown stated she would say no because they would not choose to go with them, with the alternative supplier, if in fact Public Service were cheaper. There was an opportunity as a small commercial or a residential customer which would be provided by the City's selection to participate as a geographic area of choice, but they did not want to limit their selection to that they also wanted to register on the individual process because by registering they would control the number of chances that Manchester residents and businesses had to participate in the program and ideally the City would like to have not only a geographic area of choice, but a number and a great number, if possible, of individual participants in the program. Once the random selection process was made then the participants would be selected and it would be done by May 1st. So, what would happen after that is that there would be a short period of time approximately two or three weeks where they would have the opportunity to shop for power, if chosen to participate and when shopping there were basically two power shopping options. The first was, once they were selected the Commission would ask that they be authorized to provide information which would include name, address, and load information over the past few years so a potential supplier would have an idea of what it was they were trying to sell. Under that situation, each alternative power supplier who would be registered at the Commission could then forward information such as what happened with the telephone deregulation and the competition. Another process was that they could authorize an

aggregator to negotiate a power supplier arrangement for you and in that situation the aggregator would simply collect a number of consumers and they would make the choice for you, they would be able to evaluate bids by the alternative power suppliers and then they would inform you of the choice. In that situation, for example, the City of Manchester could choose to act as an aggregate and in that event rather than each individual customer having to make the choice over the next two or three weeks after selection instead they would say well, we would like the City of Manchester to serve as our aggregator and make that choice, so the City would have that option to then go ahead and negotiate with different power suppliers and make the choice for you. Then on May 28th the power supply would switch over and you would actually have a new power supplier and all to expect at that point would be no difference to you except the price of electricity and hopefully it would go down and the bill would look somewhat different in that there would either be one bill which would come directly from PSNH which would have a breakdown of transmission, distribution, and customer service, and then there's be another bill which would come from the new electric supplier or there would be one total bill which would be provided and would have a much more itemized bill that there currently was and other than that it should be relatively invisible. Ms. Brown stated they would encourage everyone to get on the bandwagon and register as quickly as possible.

Ald. Elise stated with the City's participation taxpayers could perhaps see some relief with their tax bills going to pay City and municipal electric bills.

Ms. Brown stated most of the municipal buildings would be on a small commercial or large commercial rate so in addition to selecting to participate as a geographic area of choice the City would also be selecting under the individual process to be included for each bill that it receives. Noting that it was a pilot program and simply to evaluate whether it should be done on a more full scale basis indicated New Hampshire was way ahead of the country right now in at least going far enough to say let's evaluate this type of a deal but at the current time there was legislation being considered to take New Hampshire all the way to full customer choice sometime between 1997 and 1998, so it was very commendable of the City to get in and try to participate in this pilot program so that it can go forward and have experience, know whether it would work for its citizens and basically have an idea as to what's out there and what kind of competitive power supply arrangements there could be had.

Ald. Shea asked Ms. Brown to elaborate a bit more on how residents can compare rates. For example, an elderly couple decided to enter and they were selected asked would they be helped in terms of how they would be able to compare rates.

Ms. Brown stated if a certain customer was chosen to participate and they decided they wanted to make the choice themselves then different power suppliers who were registered with the Commission would send information to that customer comparing their rates to

the rates that the customer was currently paying which would be how they would have to make their choices. If not comfortable with that choice and the City chose to go forward and be an aggregator then the City would be in the position to do it, evaluate the power supply options and then inform the customers of what savings they did see.

Ald. Shea stated the key element would be for the people to understand what they were paying for kilowatt hours and compare those kilowatt hours with other companies that was included in the program.

Ms. Brown stated she appreciated the Board allowing her time to clear it up this evening hoping it had been educational.

Ald. Elise stated if legislation was passed in the State House whereby they would go to full competition, Manchester already had the services of SVBK engaged so the City would be able to jump into it right away and take advantage of any savings.

Ms. Brown stated the City would have even more opportunity because when the pilot program ended if full customer choice was available the City would have had the experience of dealing with another power supplier, but at the same time would have an idea of what was out there, how to evaluate it, and would also have the opportunity then to shop for power among even more power suppliers.

Presentation relating to National Volunteer Week and the Voluntary Action Center.

Mayor Wieczorek acknowledged two key volunteers who were present Renee Millson and Joanne St. Pierre who were always there when needed as well as being there for a lot of organizations noting the Voluntary Action Center has done an outstanding job in recruiting volunteers for people who needed them and were very active during the two senior citizen dinners over the years and asked that both individuals go to the podium.

Mayor Wieczorek read two Proclamations as follows:

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, the Jefferson's Awards, Lutheran Brotherhood, Points of Light Foundation, United States Conference of Mayors, Youth Service America and Youth Volunteer Corps of America will sponsor a National Youth Services Day as a showcase for the efforts of our young people; and

WHEREAS, National Youth Services Day is an effort to communicate to policy makers, business and community leaders, and to parents and teachers how the energy, enthusiasm and talent of young people can be channeled into solutions to serious social and economic problems facing the nation; and

WHEREAS, our nation's future lies in the strength and potential of the various organized youth services; and

WHEREAS, the youth of our nation are a valuable asset and will be the future leaders of our country; and

WHEREAS, local governments and institutions across the nation have long benefited from the countless hours of volunteer work performed by these young people; and

WHEREAS, through this volunteer work, our young people cultivate the trails that will make them successful leaders.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Raymond J. Wieczorek, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Manchester in the State of New Hampshire do hereby proclaim April 23, 1996 as

NATIONAL YOUTH SERVICES DAY

in the City of Manchester and urge all citizens to acknowledge and celebrate the civic contributions of our young Americans.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,
I have hereunto set my hand and cause to be affixed the Seal of the City of Manchester this Twenty-third day of April in the year of our Lord, One-Thousand, Nine-Hundred and Ninety-six.

s/Raymond J. Wieczorek, Mayor
City of Manchester, New Hampshire

**PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, our nation's self-sacrificing volunteer force of 89.2 million people is our greatest asset; and

WHEREAS, the giving of oneself in service to another is a value to our civilization; and

WHEREAS, volunteering creates an opportunity to better oneself; and

WHEREAS, an underpinning of a decent and just society is the

willingness of people to work together for the common good; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent on all of our citizens to salute our dedicated volunteers and celebrate the volunteer programs which contribute to the life of our communities throughout Manchester.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Raymond J. Wieczorek, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Manchester, in the State of New Hampshire, do hereby proclaim April 21-27, 1996 as

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

in the City of Manchester and urge all citizens to observe this period by considering how they can devote a portion of their lives each week to individuals in need, or for an important cause or group.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the seal of the City of Manchester, this Fourteenth day of April in the year of our Lord, One-Thousand Nine Hundred and Ninety-six.

s/Raymond J. Wieczorek, Mayor
City of Manchester, New Hampshire

Mayor Wieczorek wished to extend his thanks to both as they have done an outstanding job.

Ms. St. Pierre introducing herself and Renee Millson stated they were the Program Coordinators for the Voluntary Action Center, a non-profit program serving the Greater Manchester area since 1975 noting the Voluntary Action Center's mission of engaging people of all ages to effectively participate in volunteer community services aimed at serving serious social problems was being fulfilled by hundreds of area residents every year. The Voluntary Action Center was in the business of mobilizing people and resources to address the social and environmental concern of the community and there were volunteers tutoring students as they study for their GED exams. Volunteers involved in structured activities at several youth oriented organizations and volunteers unloading trucks at the local Food Bank and without the volunteer assistance many agencies and programs were unable to offer the services necessary to meet the needs of their clientele noting the City of Manchester was no exception. In 1983, the Voluntary Action Center and the City entered into a partnership to develop, implement, and manage a municipal volunteer program. Since its inception hundreds of people have volunteered their time, energy, and enthusiasm to the Manchester Municipal Volunteer Program. Municipal volunteers provide direct service to Manchester thereby giving the City the ability to utilize existing funds and pay personnel more productively. One aspect of their job was to recognize the contributions made by the participants in the Municipal Volunteer Program. As Mayor Wieczorek had just stated next week April 21 through 27 is National Volunteer Week with Tuesday, April 23 being National Youth Services Day. The City of Manchester joins the nation is celebrating those two events by way of

proclamation. On average, over the past year 72 volunteers provided assistance monthly to the following departments: Building, City Solicitor, Finance, Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery, Library, Police, Welfare, Tax Collector, Office of Youth Services, and the Office of the Mayor. Approximately 1,400 volunteers participated in the Adopt-A-Block Project this past Saturday noting that collaborative effort had the support of the Board as well as tremendous assistance from the Highway and the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Departments. Again, a true example of citizens coming together to address a community concern. Tonight, on behalf of the Manchester Municipal Volunteer Program she and Renee wished to present a symbolic check to the City of Manchester which represented the monetary value attributed to the 10,112.5 hours of services provided by participants in the Municipal Volunteer Program over the past year and it was their hope that the check would be displayed in a City Hall window as well as at various municipal departments and perhaps even at the Sesquicentennial Celebration
indicating the check was in the amount of $122,664.62. Ms. St. Pierre thanked the Board for their support of the worthwhile community program and for their attention, but mostly important wished to thank all of Manchester's volunteers.

Mayor Wieczorek stated in keeping with the program noted they had just completed the Adopt-A-Block Program this past weekend and unfortunately had forgotten the amount of trash that had been picked up but as he understood it it was a phenomenal amount and asked if any present knew the exact amount of tonnage they had picked up and also wished to congratulate those that were in the Adopt-A-Block Program.

Ms. St. Pierre stated she did not know how much had been picked up, but knew that Ald. Shea was very active that day and had seen Ald. Clancy at the end-of-the day event.

Ald. Shea stated that Joanne was active with her son Steve and others.

Ms. Millson stated there was 1,400 people who put in three hours which was another $42,000 worth of community service which was not included in the check.

On motion of Ald. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald Shea, 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 Resolution:

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars and Forty Cents ($69,520.40) from Salary Adjustment to School Salary Account."

ought to pass.

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

A second report of the Committee on Finance recommending that a request from the School Board's Athletic Committee for payment of $2,963.00 from the Athletic Gate Receipts Account to Trinity High School be approved.

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

**Reports of Committee on Personnel & Insurance:**

**Majority Report**
Recommending that the current health insurance benefits
offered to City employees remain the same and not be extended to include the New Hampshire Municipal Association Health Trust.

**Minority Report**
The undersigned recommends the full Board of Mayor and
Aldermen discuss the option of including the New Hampshire Municipal
Association Health Trust as a health insurance benefit.
s/Alderman Hirschmann

Ald. Hirschmann moved the minority report. Ald. Elise seconded the motion for discussion.

Ald. Hirschmann stated regardless of what time it was noted the City's risk pool was very large noting there were currently two providers Matthew Thornton and Blue Cross who provided many products to the City and had heard from the New Hampshire Municipal Trust who also purchased those same products for those two vendors currently who could then in turn provide it to the City at a lower price than directly going to the vendors while at the same time merging the City's risk pool because they would be one administrator providing Matthew Thornton, Blue Cross, and Blue Choice, so what it would do on a cost standpoint would be that the cost could be minimal with future impacts being their Blue Choice product was cheaper, so the more people who would be moved to Blue Choice in the future the savings would be greater because the risk pool was not fragmented as he had stated in his letter.

Ald. Robert commended Mayor Wieczorek on his actions relative to this matter noting the Mayor had forced the City's health insurance providers to compete and saw some benefits as a result and wished to encourage this process to continue especially since health care costs continued to rise and it was a large part of the City's budget and thought those people seemed to be able to save the City a certain amount of money although it

may not be a tremendous amount and it was a step in the right direction and looked upon it very favorably.

Ald. Soucy asked if Harry Ntapalis could address the issue in terms of how it would affect his office and what he saw as potential savings.

Mr. Ntapalis stated during the budget process they undertook the Mayor's budget team request to look at the potential savings once they received their rate renewal packages from both Matthew Thornton as well as Blue Cross/Blue Shield to see if the anticipated rates would be higher especially in the indemnity area if the New Hampshire Municipal Association could match the type of coverages that they had in place, both Blue Cross and Matthew Thornton HMO which were offered. New Hampshire Municipal Association took on that task and distributed a comparison as near as they could place to compare coverages exact and were doing it at one hundred percent. In essence, what the New Hampshire Municipal Association was providing on the left-hand side for all of their products (Matthew Thornton, Blue Choice, and the Blue Cross indemnity plans which included JY, JW, and JW with pay charges). On the right-hand side of the sheet were the proposed renewals by Matthew Thornton as well as the Blue Cross/Blue Shield products noting the far right-hand column would provide the differences once they'd compared and in that particular comparison there would be stop loss insurance by all the providers that quoted as well as the servicing fee and in the event that the Board wished for a transition to the New Hampshire Municipal Association they had also included the cost of runoff. In the far right column there was a difference in that in the Matthew Thornton product the rates for the New Hampshire Municipal Association actually came in cheaper by $145,430 and when looking at the Blue Cross/Blue Shield product of Blue Choice the rate differential came in overall City-wide at $1,163 which was cheaper with New Hampshire Municipal Association by that amount and when looking at the historically more expensive products offered noting there was certainly a market for the indemnity plans as evidenced with the City's group the rating structure for renewal had come in cheaper with the current proposals by Blue Cross/Blue Shield for their JY, JW, and JW with extra pay charges and were looking at an overall savings in renewing the contracts that they currently had for an additional year "as is" just under $9,000 and believed when they had made the report to the Personnel/Insurance Committee that evening those were the facts which they had available which was what they had referred to the full Board.

Ald. Elise stated she wished to hear and pros and cons of each plan as she had not previously seen those figures.

Ald. Wihby stated it seemed as though it was the majority report that the Board should be passing as the City would not be saving any money by doing it the other way and asked if

the Matthew Thornton Plan would be interested in doing just the Matthew Thornton Plan since it was cheaper.

Mr. Ntapalis stated representatives from the New Hampshire Municipal Association, Blue Cross, and Matthew Thornton were present this evening.

Ald. Wihby asked Mr. Ntapalis if it would make any sense to see if they would supply the City with Matthew Thornton as that was where their big savings was and have Blue Cross continue with what they were doing.

Mr. Ntapalis replied he would let them answer it as it had been their understanding that they were looking at a collective bottom line and they weren't willing, at least initially, to dissect any segment of it.

Ald. Wihby asked for either a yes or a no.

Mr. Ntapalis replied their answer was still no.

Ald. Wihby moved to accept the majority report.

Mayor Wieczorek noted there was a motion on the floor for the minority report.

Ald. Hirschmann withdrew his motion on the minority report.

Ald. Wihby again moved to accept the majority report. Ald. Cashin duly seconded the motion.

Ald. Wihby stated he wished to commend Blue Cross in that every year when the City sat down during budget time and they were called upon they always seemed to come through noting if everyone were willing to change to Blue Choice there would be big savings there noting that was what they would need to pursue.

Ald. Reiniger inquired of Mayor Wieczorek what his opinion on the matter was.

Mayor Wieczorek replied what they had been looking to was the bottom line to see where they would go, so if in the aggregate it's $8,620 lower even though it was a very, very small amount from a time standpoint and the things that would have to be done to make a change there would be some work involved and not that the work would not be done by the group but it would still be a lot of work by a lot of people.

Ald. Soucy in addressing Mr. Ntapalis about the numbers stated the numbers did not include the payback the City receives for good experience with JW and JY plans and asked if it was just a flat fee or would they see a further reduction.

Mr. Ntapalis replied there would not be noting everything had been considered over a period of a week when they had worked with all of the professionals to make sure they not only compared the coverages which Ald. Elise was concerned about which was equal to what the labor contracts and non-affiliated's had but also to take into consideration a cost plus type policy in the indemnity program and could be duplicated for comparison.

Ald. Hirschmann wished to thank all three vendors for participating in the effort and did not want anyone to feel slighted and thought all three had helped everyone a great deal and wanted to bring it to the full Board which was his intention.

Ald. Cashin stated not only was there a savings of $8,620 which was important but just as important thought it ought to be taken into the equation noting that Blue Cross/Blue Shield was a very large taxpayer here in the City of Manchester and also employed 600 or 700 people noting they could not lose sight of that and also thought it was a fact that when looking at matter such as this that should be taken into consideration.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to accept the majority report. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

> Suggested Committee descriptions submitted by Thomas Arnold,
> Assistant City Solicitor and staff as follows:
> Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration; Committee on Administration; Committee on Bills on Second Reading; Committee on Community Improvement; Committee on Personnel/Insurance; and Committee on Traffic/ Public Safety.

Ald. Robert moved that the Committee descriptions be approved. Ald. Clancy duly seconded the motion.

Ald. Elise moved to table the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment, and Revenue Administration description.

Ald. Wihby asked if it could be referred to the Committee for further review.

Ald. Elise stated she was agreeable to that suggestion.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that the Solicitor's Office had reviewed the descriptions.

Ald. Elise stated she would then prefer that it be tabled noting that the last description of her Committee she had looked at was different than the one which was on this evening's agenda noting she had asked Mayor Wieczorek prior to the meeting why her description had been taken off and she had not been notified and was asking that it be tabled so they could discuss it further as to why she had not been notified.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it was his understanding that the wording of all of the Committees was the same with the exception of the Committee on Accounts.

Assistant Solicitor Arnold stated the descriptions we different but they were designed to be somewhat uniform in how it was to be presented noting Ald. Elise had made a suggested change which was incorporated and sent over to the Mayor's Office.

Ald. Wihby asked if he had looked at the change.

Assistant Solicitor Arnold replied was he aware of it, yes.

Ald. Wihby asked if he had a problem with it.

Assistant Solicitor Arnold stated he did not take a position on it as it was a decision for the Board noting he did not have a problem.

Ald. Wihby asked if he sent it over indicating it should be corrected.

Assistant Solicitor Clark replied he did not say it shouldn't be corrected and made the corrections at Ald. Elise's request and since it was a policy decision for the Board his office took no position on it.

Mayor Wieczorek suggested they talk about it, so they could get it done as he thought it ought to get done this evening.

Ald. Elise interjected that she understood the Mayor took something off the agenda that she had not been aware of and did not call her to discuss it.

Mayor Wieczorek noted he had not yet recognized Ald. Elise.

Ald. Elise stated the Mayor had taken something off the agenda and put something on without any input from her.

Mayor Wieczorek stated there was a motion on the floor relative to this item indicating he would put it to a vote.

Ald. Wihby asked for clarification of the motion.

Mayor Wieczorek replied the motion was to accept the items before them.

Ald. Hirschmann asked if the Board would be adopting a Rule of the Board or was it an Ordinance.

Mayor Wieczorek replied it was a Rule.

Ald. Elise stated so the process she had gone through and giving input was totally ignored noting the Mayor should have written the Rule.

Mayor Wieczorek requested Ald. Elise to pay attention.

Ald. Elise stated the Mayor had gotten her attention when he replaced an item on the agenda that she had not been aware of.

Mayor Wieczorek stated you just don't know when to stop.

Ald. Elise stated in Congress you have to work together with other people, you have to garner their support for things and you don't slip things off an agenda and hope they'll vote on it noting she had worked collaboratively with the Mayor's Office and other people on it and she agreed on one final product and it was taken off the agenda this evening and replaced with something else and if that was the Mayor's practice she would go along with it and it was full public record.

Mayor Wieczorek was adamant in that he would not allow Ald. Elise to continue in this manner at this meeting.

Ald. Wihby asked Mayor Wieczorek to read the two variations so the Board would know.

Mayor Wieczorek replied it was in the agenda under item 12 and read as follows:

> The Committee on Accounts, Enrollment, and Revenue shall examine ordinances for consistency with the Rules of the Board and required laws, and shall report to the Board as to whether said ordinances are properly enrolled. The Committee shall receive periodic reports from the Board of Assessors as to the real estate tax base of the City and the number of abatements filed under disposition. The Committee shall have jurisdiction over policy which includes, but shall not be limited to the following: policy regarding City expenditures, revenue performance and forecast, financial statements, audit reports, City bonding, and such other matters as may be referred by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The Committee shall review all such referrals and where required, after due and careful consideration, shall report back to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

Mayor Wieczorek noted there were six words in the text which Ald. Elise wanted "but shall not be limited to".

Ald. Elise in addressing Mayor Wieczorek stated if he had had a problem with that he could have called her.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he would not argue with Ald. Elise.

Ald. Robert stated the descriptions were all uniform and consistent and thought if the descriptions were put to each Alderman they might see something they might not like and would want to adjust a little here and there and thought if the Board went that route they would not get anything accomplished noting the way in which the descriptions had been written up he could live with and moved to the question.

Ald. Cashin stated with all respect to everyone it appeared that Ald. Elise had spent some time working on it and not knowing what did or did not happen asked if it wouldn't be in everyone's best interest to table the description of the Committee on Accounts, pass the remaining, and give Ald. Elise the opportunity to sit down with the Mayor's Office to try and straighten it out.

Ald. Wihby stated that was fair noting it would not change the intent of the description.

Mayor Wieczorek suggested that they all be passed with the exception of the description for the Committee on Accounts to be referred back to the Mayor's Office.

Ald. Cashin moved to the Mayor's recommendation to approve all except the Committee on Accounts which was to be referred back to the Mayor's office. Ald. Pariseau duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Communication from Deputy Finance Officer advising of the receipt of $450.00 for the Bicycle Patrol Unit, requesting the Board accept same and remand for the purpose intended.

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

Resolution:

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to effect a transfer of Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Twenty Dollars and Forty Cents ($69,520.40) from Salary Adjustment to School Salary Account."

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

Ald. Clancy moved that the Resolution pass and be enrolled. Ald. Wihby duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek made the following nominations to the Planning Board:

> Ronald Ludwig, Director, Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Departments to fill the term ex-officio administrative position vacated by Building Commissioner, Armand Gaudreault.
>
> David Boutin to succeed himself, term to expire May 1, 1999.

Mayor Wieczorek advised that under the rules of the Board, these nominations would lay over to the next meeting.

> Confirmation of nomination of John Tucker to succeed Donald Pomeroy as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire March 1, 1999.

On motion of Ald. Wihby, duly seconded by Ald. Pariseau, it was voted to confirm the nomination of John Tucker to succeed Donald Pomeroy as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire March 1, 1999.

Ald. Pariseau stated he did not know John Tucker noting he had never made an effort to call him.

Mayor Wieczorek stated Mr. Tucker worked with the Planning Department in Pelham, lived in Manchester, and had served as a member of the Board for at least one term and it was his understanding that at the last meeting held went along quite well.

Ald. Cashin asked if Mr. Pomeroy had asked to be replaced.

Mayor Wieczorek replied he had not.

Ald. Cashin stated he realized it was the Mayor's appointment with confirmation of the Board and indicated he had found Mr. Pomeroy to be a very easy person to work with and had a hard time voting against him this evening.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it was his perogative to make his nominations and the Board could confirm or deny them noting he had received a number of complaints on how that Board had been operating, they had received numerous telephone calls noting the only way they would be able to correct the situation would be to make some changes on the Board and this was the second change and could be more but did not know for sure as something had to be done because there had been so many complaints.

Ald. Domaingue asked when Mr. Tucker's term would take effect.

Mayor Wieczorek replied immediately.

Ald. Domaingue commented that the problems the Mayor's Office and others in the public had had with the Zoning Board of Adjustment she had not experienced noting she had worked with some of those members on individual issues and had found them to be very receptive, so while it may be true, she had not experience it but was prepared to support the Mayor's nomination this evening but wished to encourage the Mayor's Office to continue an open dialogue with the Zoning Board because those people were also very important in the work for the City of Manchester that they do and hoped that they would work more cooperatively with them rather than replace people who did not necessarily agree with the opinions of a segment of a population.

Mayor Wieczorek stated with all due respect he had had meetings with them outlining problems they were running into noting he had had two meetings with them where it was discussed and finally he put it in writing and when he did so people got upset but he had to because of the problems they were encountering noting the only way to correct the situation would be to make some changes.

Ald. Robert stated he had attended one meeting but at that one meeting he had gotten the sense that things could be interpreted a little more liberally on some of the requests of the people that they were asking for as he had heard other people speak about it noting it had been going on for a while and would support the nomination with the idea that maybe the people who were left on the Board could perhaps reexamine their positions and also look at a broader interpretation of the Zoning Ordinance just to suit the needs of the people.

Mayor Wieczorek stated in his discussions with them he knew that they had to go by the law which was what they were trying to do, but if all they were going to do was to uphold the law they weren't needed because the City had the law and they were there to review things when there would be a departure from what the law was and thought that certainly with the complaints he had received with a lot of them having to do with rudeness there was no excuse for anybody to be rude to our constituents.

Ald. Cashin asked the Mayor if he was saying that Don Pomeroy had been rude.

Mayor Wieczorek replied they had had complaints on the ZBA, yes, Alderman.

Ald. Cashin asked the Mayor was he saying was Don being rude.

Mayor Wieczorek replied we've had complaints about how people have comported themselves on the Board and if he wanted more information thought perhaps his office could give Ald. Cashin the names of some of the people who had called them.

Ald. Cashin stated he was not arguing that there were perhaps problems with the ZBA, but he had not heard anyone being connected with Don Pomeroy and felt he was a gentlemen and hoped that people were not being replaced just because there was disagreement with the decisions the Board was making.

Mayor Wieczorek agreed that Mr. Pomeroy was a gentlemen noting they read newspaper articles which were very high profiled but by and large did not think it was a question of replacing someone because of decisions they were making noting that the purpose was to try and get a Board that would be working and being respectful of the rights that the citizens had and knew if you were to disagree with somebody people would be upset, but there was no excuse for being rude to anybody.

Ald. Hirschmann stated he had talked to Mr. Pomeroy as he lived in his ward and wanted everyone to know that he was crushed about it noting that he had really wanted to continue and could not support replacing him as he did not know who Mr. Tucker was, had never written him a letter or called him and felt bad for Don Pomeroy as it was a personal thing and he had taken his work on the Board very seriously.

Ald. Soucy stated she was a little concerned noting after having had a couple of experiences with the ZBA had never experienced any rudeness personally and asked to what extent did the ZBA members feel constrained by the City's very aging Zoning Ordinances and to what extent did they perhaps feel that the public perceptions of their unwillingness to make changes would be alleviated by changing the City's Zoning Ordinance knowing that the City was going through a whole process of changing them because they needed updating.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he did not think it would have any bearing on it whether there was an old Zoning Ordinance or a new Zoning Ordinance they would be looking at "that's the law" and they would go to the ZBA when wanting to part from the law whether it be the old law or the new law and did not think it made any difference.

A roll call vote was taken on t he motion. Ald. Cashin, Hirschmann, Elise, Clancy, Soucy voted nay. Ald. Robert, Wihby, Reiniger, Sysyn, Domaingue voted yea. Ald. Shea and Pariseau abstained. The motion carried.

**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**

Mayor Wieczorek stated a communication was being distributed to the Board from the Police Department relative to the charges being assessed for fees of cars being towed noting that the Police Department had come up with a lot of information noting that what the Police Department would like to do in order to deal with the situation properly would be to have the communication referred to the Committee on Traffic to deliberate the issue.

On motion of Ald. Clancy, duly seconded by Ald. Soucy, it was voted that the communication from the Police Department be referred to the Committee on Traffic for further review.

Ald. Domaingue stated as the Board interviewed the departments regarding the budget Aldermen were getting input back from residents citing their ability to comment on the Bag and Tag proposal noting she had already received input back from constituents regarding the Mayor's budget and the proposed 4.57 percent increase which would be whether there was the Bag and Tag settled or whether the Board found the revenue to equal the Bag and Tag the taxpayers were still looking at a 4.57 percent increase in their taxes and the information she was receiving from several taxpayers at the moment and brought it up specifically because the Board had so much time to deal with it noted the 4.57 percent was not acceptable to the taxpayers as she had not heard a lot of support for it and as the Board would have to consider an awful lot during the coming weeks regarding the budget. People had been asking her why they couldn't maintain a zero percent increase and she had tried to explain to them that the cost of the raises which were adopted which impacted the City for the 1997 budget, the cost of benefits associated with the raises and contracts, increased costs of doing business as a City which included increases in paper costs and all other associated costs such as utilities, maintenance, and the high cost of health care had all contributed to the impossible prospect of keeping to a zero percent increase on the tax rate. Ald. Domaingue felt that they needed to bring down the percent of increase noting even if the Board were able to find the $4.5 million they would need to replace the Bag and Tag income proposed by the Mayor they were still looking at a 4.57 percent increase and thought it was helpful to the citizens of Manchester to know what services they might be giving up if, in fact, the Board were to

consider a budget which would come in at less than what the Mayor had proposed and what services might be impacted and wondered if as a single Alderman or perhaps with the support of the Board they could go to the departments asking them what level of services the City's residents would be losing if for instance if they to propose a budget which was three percent below what the 1996 was she felt very strongly that the citizens of Manchester should be aware of what services could be impacted and if a majority of the Board were to determine that 4.57 percent was not an acceptable tax increase and they wanted to bring it down to even a three percent increase thought it was important that the citizens be given the right to decide whether they were prepared to give up those services or whether they would support the Board or the Mayor's interpretation of the budget at a 4.57 percent increase asked if it was possible to get that information from the individual departments - what services would be impacted if they took a reduction from the 1996 funding levels.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he had understood two different things: one being the 4.57 percent increase and the other being to bring it down to a three percent increase and the earlier thing he had heard was that it was three percent below the '96 budget and asked Ald. Domaingue what she had been talking about.

Ald. Domaingue replied she had chosen three percent below 1996 because she was trying to take into account the increase cost to the City since the 1996 budget began last year and taking it into account and assuming they were able to find the revenue for the Bag and Tag noted the Mayor was still looking at the 4.57 percent that the Mayor had proposed and she assumed that trying to bring it down to a reasonable level of a three percent increase would probably bring it under three percent of the current funding level.

Mayor Wieczorek stated nothing would make him happier than to have a zero percent increase and three percent would be three times better than that and thought whatever the Board wanted to do was in their hands noting they had done the best they could with what they had and the numbers they had noting that some things would change as they were working with numbers they had at the time he had to present the budget.

Ald. Wihby wanted to know if the Board would be asking the department heads to what a 12 percent decrease would be because if they took the Bag and Tag number on top of the four and a half they'd be talking close to nine and were looking to go three percent less of '96 or would they be asking what six percent of their budget would be noting he did not understand.

Ald. Domaingue stated she was looking to get it to three percent below 1996 by bringing it to the 1996 funding levels and see what services would be impacted without what had been proposed in the Mayor's budget and the reason she was bringing it forward now was because quite often as they've seen in the process people didn't realize what services

could be impacted until the final week or two before the budget was adopted as that was when the public hearing came forward and was when everyone jumped up saying "wait a minute I'm not sure I want to lose that" and thought the Board needed to hear that a lot sooner than what had been tradition and they needed to hear from the public what they were prepared to give up and what they absolutely felt were services that they were willing to pay for if, in fact, it did mean an increase in the cost to them in their property tax bill.

Ald. Wihby stated so assuming at level funding the Board would be asking department heads what a nine percent decrease would mean to their budgets.

Mayor Wieczorek thought Ald. Domaingue was looking for three percent below the 1996 number which was about 12 percent.

Ald. Wihby stated if there was a nine percent increase now and the Board would ask department heads to cut 12 percent from their budgets and come back to the Board telling the Board what it would mean.

Ald. Domaingue replied ask the department heads to take three percent from the 1996 budget.

Ald. Wihby noted there were raises in there of five percent and landfill at $4 million, so they would have to start with what the Mayor had and tell them the Board wanted twelve percent less so, therefore, it would be three percent less than 1996, so for example, they would ask School where they've already been cut $2 million to tell the Board what another $6 million would mean.

Ald. Domaingue replied either that or they could tell the taxpayers right off the top that without considering that they could not possibly do it, so the taxpayers would be looking at a bare minimum of 4.57 percent increase.

Ald. Wihby stated to ask department heads what a 12 percent on top of the Mayor's cut would be, they would all come in saying they would close down ten stations, would lay off a hundred teachers, would cut fifteen Police officers, would close this and would not give the Board any realistic numbers until the Board really knew what they wanted to cut them and thought if they worked it from where they were now and if Bag and Tag didn't come up they would be up around nine and work from the nine and work it down and sometime after they've heard from all of the departments they'd come back with some realistic number that they were willing to do and if it was nine, it would be nine, or come back with a three percent cut, or a two percent cut noted if the departments were asked to come back with a 12 percent cut the Board would not get anything from them.

Ald. Domaingue asked if they were expected to see that formulation sometime in the next four weeks or would they be down to the last week of the budget process.

Ald. Wihby asked the formulation of what.

Ald. Domaingue replied of where they were, what percentage that the taxpayers could be expecting to looking at and would they be trying to formulate...and thought it was only fair for the taxpayers of the City of Manchester to realize as they went to their Aldermen saying "we can't afford any more in taxes" and what it would translate into services and thought it was only fair to let them know that with enough time to be able to absorb it, think about it, and say, "yes, I'm prepared to pay more for these services or no I'm not and I don't think they should be expected to do that on the night of a public hearing with a budget in their hands they can hold.

Ald. Wihby stated during the budget process they try to dwindle that number down and they try to send a number that was reasonable and where they would be when they send the number noting that was where they would probably be this year and if the Board was to ask department heads now the Board would not get any answers as he felt they would be asking for a 12 percent cut and thought they would scare the community worse than what it was until they knew what some of the numbers were and didn't know if it would be four weeks as there were still a lot of big numbers which had to be decided upon (i.e., the parking fees, the cable fee, overlay account, tax base numbers, insurance numbers) and there were a lot of numbers in there that could change which would bring it down perhaps during the next four to six weeks and thought once they got to that number would be the time the Board would have to decide if two percent was the right number or three percent the right number because right now if they could get it down to four percent felt they'd be doing good and did not know how it could get any lower unless they'd see those massive cuts that the people would not want to see namely in the safety departments, the School Department but was not opposed to having them come in with something but thought they'd be ridiculous in what they'd be coming in with.

Ald. Domaingue stated she understood that noting it was not her intention to put scares out there as much as it was to respond to the initial scare that the taxpayer received when they opened up the newspaper and found that not only were they looking at a possibility of a Bag and Tag, but a 4.57 percent increase which was realistic by the Mayor's proposal and was realistic for him to put forward noting he did not enjoy doing that but thought it was important that it was an awful scare for the taxpayers right now as they were looking at what equated to a nine percent increase in their taxes and she was being told by every single person she'd been encountering regarding the budget they could not afford it as it was impossible, so she was merely trying to get more information so the Board knew just how far they could go before the taxpayers let the Aldermen know that certain things were absolutely taboo.

Ald. Wihby noted the Board had started earlier this year noting the Board would have two full months of debate.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he knew what a difficult situation it was as nobody was more upset with what was presented than he was noting he had to work with the things which were available to him at the time and if they wanted to merely maintain the status quo they had to deal to $1.9 million in non-property tax revenue which they had as a shortfall, so right away they would have to come up with $2 million from something which was existing and what they had was $500,000 in Foundation Aid which they counted on and which was gone, $200,000 in Fire Inspection Fees, $200,000 in fees in fine delinquencies property taxes, a million dollars in School tuition, a million nine hundred thousand so they had to find that before they got to even and the $500,000 in landfill revenue.

Ald. Wihby asked what the landfill number impact was.

Mr. Girard replied the total impact of the landfill closure was a half a million dollars in revenue noting there was about $2.2 million worth of disposal transfer and contracts, roughly a million dollars in recycling and yard waste contracts and would be paying about $1.3 million for the collection, so the aggregate was almost $5 million.

Ald. Wihby stated just taking care of the landfill was an increase of five percent.

Ald. Hirschmann in addressing Ald. Wihby asked if at the Monday night Finance Committee meetings he could make an opening statements to the departments who would address the Board as every single one of them had come in asking the Board for more money and asked if he could set the table for them.

Ald. Wihby replied he thought the departments knew...as he had not seen the departments saying they wanted additional money from what the Mayor had recommended and at those meetings it was the department heads opportunity to go to the Board telling them what that number that the Mayor gave them would affect with respect to City services noting some departments probably didn't realize it yet that there would be additional cuts to the numbers that the Mayor had given.

Ald. Elise stated she was in agreement with Ald. Domaingue with respect to what she was attempting to get across in that there was a psychological process which the residents went through regarding initial increase in taxes and obtaining the knowledge of what would be cut and the sooner they went through the process the sooner they would come to the adjustment that a certain tax rate which would need to be set regarding the delivery of their services.

Mayor Wieczorek inquired of the Board what they wished to do.

Ald. Domaingue replied she would be willing to wait so long as Ald. Hirschmann's suggestion was taken by Ald. Wihby noting that department heads really needed to get the message because in addition to the cost they were looking at with the budget what she saw happening where the salaries and the benefits took up the majority of the money the City expended noting she had nothing against paying a good wage and benefits to employees, but they would never turn it around unless they began to address how they'd be paid and what percentages the City was willing to fund.

Ald. Wihby stated he was going to suggest that after April they would ask departments to come back with a one, two, and three percent cut and what it meant suggesting that perhaps the Board should do it now.

On motion of Ald. Wihby, duly seconded by Ald. Domaingue, it was voted to request that department heads provide the Board with information as to what the effects of a one, two, or three percent cut to the Mayor's proposed budget would have on each department. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

On motion of Ald. Pariseau, duly seconded by Ald. Robert, it was voted to recess the meeting to meet with the Chief Negotiator regarding union negotiations.

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting back to order.

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. Robert, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk