

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

October 7, 1997

7:30 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

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

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

Presentation to the October recipient(s) of the "Spirit of Manchester" Award.

Mayor Wieczorek stated the Spirit of Manchester Award Committee recently convened and selected an individual to be honored in the month of October for outstanding Service to the City of Manchester. The parameters of the award state that the recipient should 'have contributed to the improvement of quality of life in Manchester,' performing acts that are 'clearly above and beyond the call of duty.' Mayor Wieczorek stated that this month's winner was Rick Groleau, a forty-year resident of the city and the coordinator of the Adopt-a-Block program that fights to beautify and cleanup Manchester. Adopt-a-Block was in its infant stages when Mr. Groleau took control of the program four years ago. Mayor Wieczorek noted that in Rick's tenure as head of the project, its size and scope have drastically broadened to encompass dozens of parks and neighborhoods in the city, and to include the helping hands of hundreds of volunteers. He stated that the project's popularity has grown so considerably that it has spawned other similar city-wide clean-up efforts that throughout the year help to keep Manchester looking beautiful. In that sense, Mr. Groleau's service has had far-reaching and profound affects upon the city and its well-being. In the words of one individual who nominated Rick for the aware, "He is a sparkling mentor to all, and a great treasure to the city of Manchester."

Mayor Wieczorek commented that for the Adopt-a-Block program this year there were 1500 volunteers and a tremendous amount of trash was picked up because of it, and he wished to offer his congratulations to Rick Groleau.

Mr. Groleau was then presented with a "Spirit of Manchester" pin and certificate.

Alderman Elise stated the Spirit of Manchester Awards Committee is here this evening and I wanted to thank each person for contributing to the success of this project. Some of the For Manchester Steering Committee members are here also and we did want to thank the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for working in conjunction with For Manchester to recognize individuals in the City that have contributed to the quality of life in Manchester. I did want to ask the Committee members to stand - Bill Houghton is here this evening, Joe McQuade is here this evening, Mike McCluskey is not here this evening, Chris Pappas is here our student member from Central High School, and Jan Steele is another member of the Committee that is not here this evening.

Presentation by Andrew M. Allen, President of FIRST regarding the new science and technology facility at 200 Bedford Street.

Mayor Wieczorek stated before I have Andrew get up to speak, I would just like to let you know a little about Andrew and what his background is. Andrew M. Allen, Lt. Colonel U.S. Marine Corps, Commander NASA Astronaut. Born August 4, 1955, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Bachelor of Science in mechanical engineering from Villanova University 1977 and was a member of the Navy ROTC Unit. Flew F4 Phantoms from 1980 to 1983. Graduated from the Navy Test Pilot School in 1987, graduated from the Marine Weapons and Tactics and Instructor Course and the Naval Fighter Weapons School and was the top gun. He logged over 6,000 flight hours in more than 30 different aircraft. Selected by NASA in 1987 to become an astronaut in 1988; pilot on the Shuttle Atlantic SDS 46 in 1992, and the Shuttle Columbia SDS 62 in 1994 and was the mission commander of Tethered Satellite System SDS-75 in 1996. He has logged over 900 hours in space. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1987 with honors including Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Single Mission Air Medal, NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, NASA Exceptional Service Medal, NASA Space Flight Medal, Honorary Doctorate of Public Service from Bucks County Community College in 1993, and an Honorary Doctorate of Engineering/Science from Villanova University in 1997. And, Andrew, I'm very pleased to have you here and speak on behalf of FIRST because we are all very anxious and interested to know the progress that is being made and where you plan to take the FIRST organization.

Mr. Allen stated I have some overheads to show and I'd like to start off by saying thank you very much for letting me come and talk to you, I know you have very busy schedules and I've only been here in Manchester for about four months and I've seen it from a long distance away, but I've never been up here and personal before, but I am really getting to like it. I haven't yet survived the winter up here yet, but I'm sure it's going to be a mild one with the El Nino's that have been out there until around March or so, but I'm looking forward to it and I think it's going to be a lot of fun. It really wasn't on my horizon screen that I was going to end up being here, but I have to tell you it's very exciting to be here. Of all of the youth programs that I've seen nationally and internationally FIRST really strikes me and it strikes me really deep. We in the astronaut program get very involved in youth and we know as well as anybody that the future of the country is in their hands and this is kind of a unique opportunity for me to pay back a little bit to give someone some of the same opportunities that I've had. Well, basically I'm excited about being here, this is going to be a great program and I have to admit that up until April of this year, I thought I was heading someplace else and I went to EPCOT Center and watched the FIRST competition and of all the kids programs I've ever seen it struck me because it wasn't just getting young folks that are interested in science already and getting them more interested in science, it was really turning some people around and it was getting some off the streets, getting some from inner-city schools that were very at-risk and it was even getting some kids out of the gangs, so I think that it has been tremendous and I want to talk a little bit about where we are, where we've been a little bit and where I think we're going to go. FIRST Foundation as a whole

basically is the parent organization. We have two branches right now. The first is the FIRST competition which is the robotics competition which is doing extremely well where we basically get mostly high school audiences with corporate sponsorships putting robots together, we give them a problem, and they get six weeks to come up with the solution to the problem and then we compete their solution to the problem with other solutions to the problems. So, it turns an athletic event and I'll talk a little bit more about that later. In 1997, we had a team increase, we had 155 teams from 93 the year prior. We went from one regional to three regionals - Motorola picked one up in Chicago and Johnson & Johnson picked one up in New Jersey and then we had the Nationals at EPCOT Center where there was 7,000 students directly involved in this program from around the country. In 1998, we're continuing that growth...we are probably going to go what we think 250 and maybe even up to 300 teams involved from across the country and increasing the regionals to five before we go to the nationals at Disney World and, of course, I had to include Houston in there as one of them. I think it'll be a good place for us to have a competition and we've also picked up a Detroit competition that the auto makers are going to host together. Like I did say, we did do some things to some young folks that I think were very different. There are some Hollywood producers at EPCOT Center, they picked up on it, Disney bought the rights to the script, and they are making a TV movie due to air probably in January or February and is basically geared about changing some lives of some at-risk folks that were in gangs and weren't really doing all that well in school. Organizationally, we've made some changes and we made some additions. I, myself, have come on board and have been here since June. We've got an advisory committee that I'll talk about here shortly and we've probably doubled the staff size since at least this point last year of just the staff of the FIRST Foundation itself and we will probably continue to grow and I would see with what we've got coming and what the capabilities and potentials are that there's no reason why we won't have 75 to 100 staff members on board the FIRST Foundation here within the next year-and-a-half to two years. We have taken some hard looks at FIRST Place, it was one of the first things on my plate when I came on board to make sure that what we did do at FIRST Place was going to be achievable, that it was going to do the correct things, and that it was going to have a national outreach. Our Executive Advisory Committee would rival any boards in this country of corporations or organizations with Xerox and Johnson & Johnson and Proctor and Gamble and this is CEO involvement - Motorola, Honeywell, Chrysler - I've been talking to quite a few and we have more coming on board with General Motors, Kodak, maybe Compaq Computer, maybe Enron, Exxon, Shell, and we're even going to go and talk to Coca Cola and McDonald's. We've got quite a few coming in and we've got quite a few more to go, but it is growing and it's growing at a tremendous pace. As far as FIRST Place is concerned a very, very brief history because a lot of you here are probably more familiar with it than I as far as the chronology of events. It started in the 90-91 time frame of looking for a potential site for FIRST Place. We identified and we are now in the building at 200 Bedford Street. In 1992 it was basically building the support base. In 1993 was getting the CDFFA approval to bring in some funding or to let us bring in some funding to work towards FIRST Place. The Mayor and the Board here approved us to purchase the building in mid 1993. In 1993-94, we actually exceeded what we were allowed to on the CDFFA Board of what they approved and we went well over three million

dollars of what people wanted to contributed for making this FIRST Place a reality. 1995 was basically immersed in consultations, development plans, probably some replans, and eventually drove us in 1996 to take a look at putting that plan together and Ralph Applebaum Associates from New York came on board as our exhibit designers and put together a master plan. We took that master plan and in early 1997 selected Lavalley/Brensinger as our architects and if you look at the monies that are involved there as I came on board I saw \$63.6 million to build the FIRST Place which is impressive, the model was very impressive, but one of the realities that really kind of hit me was that even though we could probably rival any science museum in the country that doesn't necessarily mean that we are going to have a national outreach from here to get across this country and to get into maybe the borders of other countries. So, we took another look at the plan and we've redefined it, I think we've been very aggressive about redefining the plan to make it realistic, to make it achievable and also to make it unique. I think for this to work and to work well and for us to be unique, different, find a niche, and have a niche that really works and gets the outreach that we want to have for Manchester that we're going to have to do a few different things. I think we're doing those and I'll talk about them very shortly, but basically the programs that we are looking at doing is we will still have some portions of the museum and exhibits on board mostly geared toward some of the local schools. The things that we're looking at taking as an outreach program is some of the things we worked on at NASA a little bit like TeleScience where we can do some distant learning, where we can take a program and take it to schools across the country. As we continue on with the goal of FIRST which is to inspire the young folks into math and science, I think the number that I've heard before is somewhere in the hundreds of billions of dollars this country spends on an annual basis on educational programs, so we think the supply side is very well endowed. I think the problem that we are trying to address with both the competition and first place is the other side which is the demand side. If the young people don't want to learn math and science there is really not a whole lot we can do to learn to do math and science. So, we've taken that a step from FIRST competition, used some of the lessons learned, and also used some of the capabilities that will be unique here to FIRST Place that we will define into FIRST Place to get us to a point where we can help increase that demand, create the demand or enhance the demand, so that when these young people do have a demand for learning math and science that the supply side will be there and be able to give them all the nurturing and encouragement and knowledge that they could ever desire. We are going to approach it as an outreach program where if we have to develop curriculum aids or teacher's workshops where we can help devise a plan for some science teachers across this country where we can take some of the local pockets of excellence that are out there and turn them into national programs, that's kind of the gear that we're heading towards working and the goals that we have in mind. We've got a lot of different ideas, we're still in development on some of those ideas, but I think when we do the Phase I of the construction we will have an opportunity to bring some of these ideas to fruition between a number of programs whether they be internships, summer programs, after-school programs, telescience or distant learning programs, or whether they end up being in curriculum or curriculum aids or enhancements that we're going to develop for some of the science teachers across the country. We plan on getting into the Phase I design which is basically completed at

this point and we're looking at putting the bids out and starting the construction. I want to put up the City mouse on the schedule because we have to address where we fell short. There were some original milestones that we put out by the City of where FIRST Place should be at this time and how much square footage should be devoted and should be available for public displays and doing the things we needed to do. The July 1996, which was the original first milestone for 10,000 square feet, we went ahead and basically, I guess, put in a letter to extend that to January 1998 and from that point we've put another letter here recently to extend that to the summer of 1998. We've known for a little while that it was going to go to January of 1998, we've been working towards that goal for quite a few months, the July 1998 is a goal that's probably recent since I've come on board. After that first milestone with the go ahead we will go ahead and actually make the second milestone and probably exceed the second milestone and the subsequent milestones after that if we go through the three phase schedule that we have on board. Phase I we're just about ready to start, that'll be 28,000 square feet and an entry area that will meet all of the fire codes that we'll need to have numbers of people on board. Phase II will start in a few years from now and Phase III a few years after that and we just build up the additional square footage in the subsequent phases. The Phase I schedule like I had said we've talked to Applebaum, we've talked to Lavallee, we're very close to putting the bids out. We've got the final plans, not quite in-hand, but pretty close in-hand and we've got some models in-hand and sketches in-hand. The CDFA contract is probably within days if not a week of being signed, so we are in the process of putting it all together, getting the entryway started here hopefully within a month and start the interior construction shortly after that. As far as the entryway is, we've already got the bids out and we're at the point now where we have to select the bid, the final plan on that is done, the final design on that is complete and we're waiting to pick a contractor and go ahead and start the construction. The interior design is not far behind and we're looking at final plans now and making our last minute adjustments and getting ready to put the bids out, so actually we're maybe just a little bit ahead of what that schedule is there. The exhibits are also in final design. We should have the bids coming out here probably a little bit ahead of that schedule is there now, start the fabrication and have an opening in May of 1998 is where we're targeting. The next step that we are looking at doing is we need to finish up the CDFA milestone, as far as the CDFA contract is concerned, so we can release the funds. We're pretty much there, it's just some of the legalize in the letter that we're working on and the formal approval for the initial mortgage milestone for one year and that really concludes my presentation, Sir, and I'm ready to answer any questions.

Mayor Wieczorek asked are there any questions from any of the Aldermen regarding anything with the program.

Alderman Reiniger asked where do the negotiations stand with the Manchester Historic Association is that close to be wrapped up and is there a timetable.

Mr. Allen replied all that we have left to do on that is we're pretty much all on board with that, that's a Phase II program and we've got the square footage set aside, so we're ready to go.

Alderman Shea stated I just want to call to the attention to the general public that since 1994 the City was presented a bond for this construction for \$2,040,319 and again they spent \$300,000 in terms of Community Development Block Grant, so the City has contributed a substantial amount since 1994 and I wondered how much has Mr. Kamen spent since that time.

Mr. Allen replied as far as FIRST Place is concerned, I don't look at what Mr. Kamen has spent on FIRST Place, he's the founder of FIRST and he's the founder of the FIRST Foundation. What he has spent personally on the FIRST Foundation in itself and probably predominantly the competition and keeping it going and keeping it moving has pretty much come out of his own pocket and it probably has been to the tune of a million dollars over the last few years, so I think what he has done to keep the whole concept of the FIRST alive has been admirable and I don't have enough laudatory comment to say about what it takes for a founder to take such a program and start from scratch and I guess he's use to that...to start from scratch and to make it work and get to the point where it is right now. I think where we are at right now is that we've had to move from being a dream...we've gone past proving the concept and it's time to get formal and get organized and to get structured and to take this thing to reality and to make the potentials happen.

Alderman Shea stated you have building modifications for \$26.7 million and exhibit development for \$36.6 million for a total of \$63.3 million, how do you hope to raise that kind of money.

Mr. Allen replied we're not and what I probably should have done was address it in my comments there because that was part of the redefinition of the plan. As I came on board and looked at this a \$63 million museum and science center is tremendous, it had an 840 foot human body you could walk through the heart valves and do all kinds of things and it would rival any science museum in the country. The problem with that is even the science museums in the biggest cities in this country have a difficult time and it was probably my opinion and I think it was shared by others, but I was probably the driver coming on board which basically said that we have to do something that is going to be unique and has a national outreach to it, we can't build something and expect people from across the country to come here because it's new and it's different, so we have to do something very, very different and we had to do something programmatic that is new and that is unique and that will get the attention across the entire country. What we're looking at now is probably in the realm of less than \$10 million total. I don't have the exact figures in my head, Dia, but I think all total with CDFA - \$4 million, about an \$8 million total project and that was really taking some of the ideas that were in that original concept that was \$63 million and what I think put in a little bit more of a sanity check and reality check on them because that design basically took out the pillars on every floor there and built a steel structure inside the brick structure and it was just so expensive and so costly and it didn't seem to be that it would be an easy goal to attain to get that kind of funding, so now we're

looking at what I think are more realistic targets and thanks for addressing that because I forgot to mention that when we went through that.

Mayor Wieczorek asked are there any other questions. There were none.

Mayor Wieczorek stated, Andrew, I want to thank you very much, I think you have been a welcomed addition and certainly a good spokesman for FIRST and we're very pleased to have you here in Manchester.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I would like to have item 38 taken off the table, so we can address it.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Robert, it was voted to remove item 38 from the table for discussion.

Communication from Andrew M. Allen of FIRST requesting an extension to agreements with the City.
(Tabled 9/2/97 pending further review by the City Solicitor and Finance Officer.)
(Note: communication from the Finance Officer dated 9/22/97 enclosed.)

Alderman Wihby moved to approve the extension request to May 1998. Alderman Robert duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Cashin asked is that what they requested.

The Clerk noted that is what they had requested.

Mayor Wieczorek stated that is for the first phase.

Alderman Cashin asked that is an extension from how long.

Mr. Allen stated it is basically one year from...we basically worked from January of 1998 for the last six or eight months with a letter that went out and that is what we were working for, but the original milestones were mid-1996.

Ms. Stolnitz stated the original milestones are 1996 we received an extension to July of 1997 and now we are asking for an official extension to July of 1998.

Alderman Cashin stated fine, so long as we are treating this like we would treat any other project, your Honor, I have no problem with it and certainly no one is against US FIRST, we're all favorable to that and it's a wonderful program and we know it. I just want to be sure that this is treated in the same light as any other project and if that's being done, I think that's fine.

Alderman Robert stated I just wanted to ask if the timetable you set for yourself is realistic. I just want the reassurance...people are out there watching us and they want us to be sure that you're going to be doing something and we had hoped to see something before now and that you'll be able to stick with this timetable and we'll be able to show some results to the citizenry.

Mr. Allen stated definitely. I think we're in the final stages of a plan that I think is achievable and workable and I think we are ready to start construction.

Alderman Robert stated I would just hate to have to have you come back again, that's all.

Alderman Pariseau stated the extension will extend the...supposedly we're suppose to have on July 1, 1996 to July 1, 1998 and I wondered if we could add a little caveat to whatever the extension is going to be that if nothing is done by July 1, 1998 that we go ahead and proceed with action as outlined by Solicitor Clark's memo to this Board dated October 3rd and I'd like that cast in concrete to get these people moving. I don't think it's fair for us to be extending and extending and extending without coming down and hitting them over the head with an umbrella or whatever, but we need some positive action by FIRST. The people of Manchester supported this to the tune of...as Alderman Shea said \$2.3 million and we've got to see something and if it's not done by July 1st of '98 I would hope that we go ahead and take over that property.

Alderman Wihby stated I would hope that...the reason that I understand that most of this delay is because they want it done right and it's been getting bigger and they've asked for these delays and they've had finance problems in the beginning...we can always in May of '98 review it again and we can, at that time, determine what we want to do, but if it's a matter of one month or whatever and they're showing a good faith effort and that is what this whole project has been about...it's been a dream that I don't think when we first voted this in if we really thought it would get as big as it's getting and so I think we should pursue it, and when May '98 comes we'll review it at that time, but I don't think we should put something over someone's head. They're trying their best efforts, they're doing it for the citizens of Manchester, and I just think that we should just go ahead and not put that caveat.

Alderman Pariseau stated I understand that, Alderman, but I don't think the citizens of Manchester should be second-class citizens to let the people who operate FIRST take advantage of them any further. We, as people of Manchester, support FIRST, we want to see something done with our money, that's my concern. They can have all kinds of excuses as to why they want extensions. All I'm saying is that if nothing is seen by July 1st of '98, then we ought to take the action that was submitted by Solicitor Clark.

Mayor Wiczorek stated I think what they are saying in here is that you could do that, but you know I think that obviously you haven't been familiar every step of the way with the things that have occurred. I have been familiar with some of the things that have occurred, as a matter of fact I spoke before the CDFA in either May or June to see that we get those funds released because this was a big part of what they were planning on and they finally did get that and what Andy is saying is that they expect that it should be signed and released next week. This is a big project and this is a project that is important and it could have a lot of ramifications, not only for the City of Manchester and its students, but really have an impact on what happens on the

country. I don't think we want to put a noose around our neck and say "either or". I think we all want to see something happen and they're working very hard to try to get that done, let's give them the opportunity and let them know that we support them.

Alderman Pariseau stated I think I said that and I would support the extension, your Honor, but I think we've got to see something definite by July 1st of '98. Do you anticipate another excuse for an extension.

Mayor Wieczorek replied, no, I don't anticipate it because a lot of things...

Alderman Pariseau stated I don't see any problem with my request to add a little side note that something has to be done by July 1st of '98.

Alderman Shea stated I would second that motion.

Mayor Wieczorek stated there is already a motion on the floor.

Alderman Domaingue stated, Astronaut Allen, I am very pleased to see you here tonight because a lot of the confidence that you portray in carrying through with this project is the kind of confidence that the City residents are looking for in this project, so I am very pleased to see you here tonight. I agree with Alderman Wihby, I don't think we need to put any caveats on this at this time, but I would communicate to you, Sir, that the City residents are very excited about this project from all of the input that I get and part of their exasperation has been the waiting game. So, whatever you can do to assist this process and get this project approved and in place on time certainly is going to help the support that you already have in the community of Manchester, but I wouldn't encourage us to put a caveat on it.

Alderman Hirschmann stated because it is a legal instrument the mortgage does have to have a specific date of say May 15, 1998 and Mr. Arnold will confirm that, it's a City mortgage that we're talking about.

Assistant Solicitor Arnold stated we are going to be doing an amendment if the Board approves the extension and I would need a specific date to put into the instrument.

Mr. Allen stated the request was for July, I think the opening will be in May.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I don't want to tie them.

Alderman Soucy stated just a question in reference to Mr. Clark's letter. In addition to the request to extend the date there was also notice given at that time that the square footage would increase from 10,000 to 13,000 square feet, is that still part of the request to extend the date and to also then extend the amount of square footage.

Mr. Allen replied there is also another 15,000 to bring us up to that 28,000 square feet by July of 1998.

Alderman Wihby stated we've been extending this but every time they come back they're also making it bigger than what it is.

Mr. Allen stated basically as far as the first portion of it, we went from 10,000 feet to 13,000 feet with exhibit space. The other thing that we were going to do was to take SEE which is the Science Enrichment Encounters over in another mill building and we were going to bring that over to FIRST Place and we were going to give them 15,000 feet to move over and bring them over there so we can be a little bit more synergistic to what we offered the citizens and that brings us up to 28,000 square feet.

Alderman Clancy asked, Mr. Allen, will that 28,000 square feet be done by July 1st complete.

Mr. Allen replied yes, Sir. Talking to the Director of SEE this morning, they did not want to move until June of 1998 because of the summer programs and school programs they have on-going. So, they want to wait till the end of the school year before they made their move, but they are ready to do it right at the end of June.

Mayor Wiczorek stated there is a motion on the floor to extend this to July 1, 1998 and called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wiczorek stated thank you very much, Andrew and Dia, for your presentation and letting us know where you're at.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Wiczorek 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.

Approve Under the Supervision of the Department of Highways

- A. NYNEX Pole Petitions #223399 and 921164B.
- B. Communication from Stephen Tierney, Utility Coordinator, requesting approval of sidewalk and curb petitions under the 50/50 Program subject to the availability of funds.

Informational to be Received and Filed

- D. Communication from the Human Resources Director submitting results of a reference survey relating to Yarger Decker & Thomas, Inc.

- E.** Communication from the Manchester Transit Authority submitting minutes of June 24, 1997 meeting and the Financial and Ridership Reports for the months of June and July, 1997.
- F.** Communication from Brian Mrazik, District Chief of the U.S. Department of the Interior, submitting a copy of the recently published Fact Sheet describing on-going programs of the U.S. Geological Survey in New Hampshire.
- G.** Communication from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration, submitting the Record of Decision - Approval of Airport Layout Plan and Federal Funding of Airport Development.
- H.** Communication from Executive Councilor Normand submitting a copy of the minutes of the September 4, 1997 meeting of the Governor and Council.
- I.** Communication from Executive Councilor Normand announcing a Regional Economic Summit to be held on October 9, 1997, at the Center of New Hampshire regarding the regional economy, education, and health care issues.
- J.** Communication from the Director of the Manchester Water Works submitting the 1996 Annual Report for the Manchester Water Works.

Informational - Refer to the Mayor, Public Works Director, Planning Director, and Industrial Agent

- K.** Communication from Executive Councilor Normand encouraging the City to participate in public hearings on the proposed NH Department of Transportation Ten-Year Highway Plan (1999-2008), the first to be held on October 21st at UNH-Manchester Auditorium.

Informational - Refer to Planning Director

- L.** Copy of communications from Robert LaMontagne seeking to finalize their agreements with the City and request acceptance of the Rosecliff Subdivision and the Ivywood/Rosewood Subdivision (a.k.a. - Fortin Subdivision).

Accept Funds and Remand for the Purpose Intended

- N.** Communication from the Deputy Finance Officer advising of the receipt of \$23,467.79 in drug forfeiture funds.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

**COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS, ENROLLMENT, AND
REVENUE ADMINISTRATION**

- O.** Communication from Gino Alibrio, New Horizons for NH, Inc. seeking an exemption from the annual \$500.000 inspection charge conducted by the Fire Department for their building located on Manchester Street.

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

- Q.** Petition to rezone property in the area of Zachary Road from R-S (Residential) to I-2 (Industrial) submitted by Daniel Callaghan on behalf of O.O.C.K.E., L.L.C.

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- R.** Communication from the Executive Director of Intown Manchester seeking exclusive authority to coordinate and manage a banner program in partnership with Downtown property owners and businesses on Elm Street.
- S.** Communication from the Director of Planning seeking authority to submit an application for designation under the American Heritage Rivers Initiative.
- T.** Communication from the Director of the Manchester Water Works seeking the Board's approval of a renewal lease between the City of Manchester, Manchester Water Works and Cynthia U. O'Brien, President, Harp Co., Inc., d/b/a/ Spatt's Restaurant.
- U.** Communication from Jim Butler, President of the Crystal Lake Preservation Association, seeking funding assistance through the CIP process for the upkeep of this area.
- V.** Communication from Mr. and Mrs. Roland Cloutier seeking to purchase two (2) parcels of tax dedeed property known as Map 222, Lots 78 and 52 for the original back taxes of \$4,152.15.
- W.** Communication from Barbara Prentiss, Principal of Weston School, requesting a sidewalk on Briar Avenue through the School Sidewalk Program.

COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL/INSURANCE

- X.** Communication from the Employee Relations Manager submitting class specifications.
- Y.** Communication from Thomas Stiles, Coordinator Benefit Plans USA, requesting authorization to provide their Financial Planning and Legal Advice package to City employees.

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

- Z.** Communication from Alderman Elise requesting a 4-way stop at the intersection of North and Russell Streets.
- AA.** Communication from Alderman Reiniger submitting a proposed Anti-Cruising Ordinance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- AC.** Recommending that the Mayor be authorized to dispose of property known as Map 862, Lot 62 Phillip Street, to the abutters for the amount of \$1,000.00. The Committee notes that the Board of Assessors has advised that \$1,000.00 is a fair price; and further that no other than the abutter would benefit by sale of such property and for such purpose has submitted an ordinance for referral to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.

COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL/INSURANCE

- AD.** Recommending that minor administrative changes to the Family and Medical Leave Act Policy be approved.
- AE.** Recommending that salary schedule ID be approved to bring the City into compliance with the new Federal Minimum Wage Law.
- AF.** Recommending that the enclosed guidelines for the City of Manchester regarding anti-nepotism be approved.
- AG.** Advising that is has approved the following items in actions taken on agenda PC 7-97.
- (1) Airport - approved the requested personnel changes.
(Note: copy enclosed)
 - (2) Health - approved to recruit for Deputy Health Officer and a part-time Clerk Typist III.
 - (3) Human Resources - approved class specifications (grant administrator, municipal communications superintendent, waste water treatment plant maintenance assistant supervisor and senior auditor).
 - (4) Police - approved four additional Police Officer positions from the COPS Universal Hiring Program office.
 - (5) Water Works - approved a one-year leave of absence, without pay, for Colleen Devan, Account Clerk and the ability to increase hours for existing employees.
- AH.** Advising that it has adopted the following guidelines relative to reclassifications while a consultant's study is in process.
- (a) Freeze routine requests for reclassification until the consultant study is completed and approved.
 - (b) As time and staff permit consider for approval those studies that:
 1. involve critical, legal or emergency compliance requirements that may disrupt City business;
 2. involve obvious cost effective or savings to the budget, including reorganizations;
 3. involve vacant positions resulting in lower grade levels (and savings) for those vacant positions; and
 4. special studies as determined by the Personnel Committee and the the Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

- AI.** Recommending that a request of Darrell Ross, American Red Cross, for the closure of both ends of North and Elm Streets and Webster and Elm Streets on Saturday, October 19, 1997 from 5:30 to 9:00 PM in conjunction with the 2nd Annual "Frightmare on Elm Street" be approved under the supervision of the Police Department.
- AJ.** Recommending that a request for renewal of a parking lease option with WYNEX Properties (formerly NYNEX Properties) for up to 150 parking spaces be granted and approved subject to the review of the City Solicitor, Industrial Agent, and Traffic Director.
- AK.** Recommending that a request for the closure of streets on Sunday, October 19, 1997, for a 5K Road Race to benefit The Way Home, Inc. as enclosed herein be granted and approved under the supervision of the Police Department.
- AL.** Recommending that the Traffic Director be authorized to expand the leasing program in the Millyard to 2-hour meters; and that same be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for ordinance preparation.
- AM.** Recommending that the 48 spaces available in the Arms Parking Lot be utilized for leased parking only in the Millyard area.
- AN.** Recommending that 17 meters be removed from the Middle Street Parking Lot to increase parking spaces leased to McQuade's from 17 to 34 spaces through January 1, 1998; and further that same be reviewed for rate structure and space availability at such time.
- AO.** Recommending that the permitting system in the Granite Street Lot be eliminated and that the leased area be self-policed by the lessors.
- AP.** 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 ALDERMAN WIHBY, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN SYSYN, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.

- C.** Communication from the Manchester Airport Authority submitting minutes of their July 24 and August 21, 1997 meetings.

Alderman Shea stated in reviewing the minutes of the Airport Authority on June 24, I noticed a substantial amount of money is derived from parking fees and I'd like to ask Mr. Testa if this revenue is placed in the Enterprise Fund or is there a separate account for this revenue.

Mr. Testa replied all of the monies derived from operations at the Airport goes into the Enterprise Fund.

Alderman Shea asked does Manchester get any kind of benefit from this revenue, at all.

Mr. Testa replied no. From the revenue itself, no revenue comes to the City except for those services that we use. Every time I call the City Solicitor, every time I call Kevin or we use Personnel they charge us every quarter for all those services. The plowing at the Airport is done by my own crews.

Alderman Domaingue stated in both of those sets of minutes there was discussion relative to the new monies that were anticipated to be coming through the federal government for home acquisition and also to the instrument landing system which is a safety system that is in place. My first question is because I've been receiving phone calls the minute the press got a hold of the fact that there's nine million, a lot of these homeowners who are part of this home acquisition program have been asking does that mean that the three phases of acquisition are now one and if so, is the time table stepped up.

Mr. Testa replied yes. I've already talked to about a half-a-dozen homeowners in the area on a personal basis and letters are going out Thursday to all the homeowners that are listed. We've set a meeting at the St. Francis School auditorium, they'll all be getting notices October 22nd that evening. The relocation and acquisition expert will be there to answer all questions and they'll be getting mailed a federal relocation assistance pamphlet that explains all the rights of the homeowners and I've talked to several people...we've kept a list of several people who have called up and have called them back and said yes, we have the money and it is now in-hand and the process is going to be such that the dollars that we just received from the federal government aren't actual purchase monies, but start the flow of funds. Because of the process that we must go through in hiring appraisers and check appraisers and you have to find housing, etc. we don't want to ask people to move during the winter times, so we're using probably an April time date...we will go through negotiations through the winter, arrive at negotiated prices, relocation assistance, moving assistance, mortgage assistance, if that be necessary and find replacement housing, if necessary, and have all of this signed on the dotted line. As a matter of fact, I was talking to one of your constituents this morning and he's just signed for a house, so he's wondering about the time line and even though he has to sign by March 1st I said you'll have a signed instrument from us by then that you can take to the bank, so everything's in place.

Alderman Domaingue stated their concern was on the time line and also on the instrument landing system which is critical for the safety.

Mr. Testa stated that is up and running right now. It is operational, we checked it out last week. It has to be published, the approaches have to be published in what they call "Jefferson" plates and that should be published by Oklahoma City FAA, sometime by the end of this month. We're hoping by the first week in November that it will be fully operational, but it is operational now but not all of the approaches are published because FAA has to go through a 30-day period and publishing in the Federal Register too.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to receive and file item C.

- M.** Communication from the Deputy Finance Officer advising of the receipt of a donation in the amount of \$10.00 to be used by the Animal Control Unit.

Alderman Wihby stated we just honored the volunteers who helped us out and built the Animal Shelter donating a lot of time noting that in the past the money donated went to The Friends of the Manchester Animal Shelter and this number that is on here is the general fund account number, and moved that the funds and any further checks be sent to The Friends of the Manchester Animal Shelter and let them again get those donations from working so hard and reward them. I spoke with the Police Chief who indicated he had no problem with that as the money went to them anyway, so the money should go to them. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

- P.** Communication from Alderman Robert submitting an ordinance as follows:

“Providing that votes on abatement requests be taken in public session.”

Alderman Shea stated I'd like to respond to Alderman Robert's request that the Board of Assessors hold public meetings and to vote publicly any time a tax abatement is requested. Because requests for tax abatements are very personal and because public meetings would reveal very personal matters, if this practice were adopted, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen would be subjecting our citizens seeking abatements to needless embarrassment and, in particular, our most vulnerable citizens, the elderly. I find it most confounding that Alderman Robert recently nominated as department head of the Assessor Board, Mr. Tellier, and it seems that he does not value nor does he respect his judgment in this matter displaying a total lack of confidence in him as well as other members of the Board of Assessors and moved to receive and file this request.

Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Robert stated I don't have a problem with the individual, I know Steve, I like Steve and I've told him that I have confidence in Steve. But, this issue has come up every term that I've been on the Board, this is the third term, it's been a point of contention, a point of sharp disagreement. I have a problem with it, I feel it's time to come up, I've always pointed out things that I've thought were important and I still think this is improper. Essentially, what we are doing here... or how I feel is that I can't assure my people that anybody who goes to the Board of Assessors is treated fairly; that there isn't room for favoritism. But, also maintaining the integrity of the process doesn't only protect the public, it protects the people that make the decision, as well. In my time here, more than one Alderman has told me that they don't feel completely comfortable with that process. I've heard it said by people that Manchester is a very political City. I've sat on this Board for three terms and I've witnessed what this Board can do to its friends and what it can do to its enemies. Not only in making this proposal do I think that

I am assuring the citizens of Manchester that this process of this function that these people are providing is proper, fair, and above-board, but I think I'm protecting the Assessors as well. They're appointed by this Board, they have to come to us for reappointment and I'm not pointing the finger at anybody, but hey from what I've seen I'm not saying that it can happen. For the third time that it's come to the Board and the many times that I've been here and I don't think it's going to be the last and if folks don't like it for that reason, that's fine. I think it's the right thing to do.

Alderman Pariseau stated my concern is that Alderman Robert's letter concerning this subject borders on the...it's almost slanderous to the Board of Assessors and if we are going to have public hearings relative to abatements then I suspect that we'd request the same be done for welfare applicants. I don't see any difference. If an individual goes and seeks welfare assistance at the Welfare office then they ought to have a public hearing to that. I don't think the abatement issue is any different than the welfare issue and if we are going to make the abatement process public, then we ought to go into the Welfare office.

Alderman Shea stated I'd like to respond to Aldermen Pariseau and Robert's comments. During my tenure on the Board, I have received probably two or three calls from very elderly citizens requesting how they can go about getting or making an abatement. These people...one man was really in a difficult state, his wife had to take the phone. To subject these people to public scrutiny is wrong. It's just not right because these people probably wouldn't want an abatement if they had to come down in front of all of the public and publicly reveal that they have this kind of illness of this kind of a bill. If we don't have enough confidence in our Assessors, then why are we nominating and approving them and why is Alderman Robert making Mr. Tellier head of the Assessor Board if he doesn't believe that there is favoritism shown. I don't get the idea, it doesn't make sense to me, but these are the people that would not seek abatements and if there is favoritism shown then it should be revealed for what it is and if he has any proof of that he should come forward and not make accusations that are substantiated, in my opinion.

Alderman Robert asked could I have my letter read into the record, please. It was said that something in here is slanderous, if it is I will hold myself accountable for that.

Alderman Wihby stated we'll agree it's not slanderous.

Alderman Robert stated okay, that's fine. Again, your Honor, this is the third time it's come up, it's not the people, it's the process. I've always promoted the concept of good government, I like everything out in the open. The people like things behind closed doors, say so.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I think I will put my two cents in. I have full faith in this Assessor Board. As a member of the Committee on Accounts, they do appear before us and they tell us everybody in this City that is due an abatement, pending, and completed and for the past year I have been very impressed with what I've seen of these three gentlemen as a Board. There has

been the pending nomination of a new department head, but their actions have spoken and they are doing their jobs. The assessments are coming in, the City's tax base is growing. I don't see any problems on that side of the fence and I think you are starting some problems and asked to move to the question.

Alderman Wihby stated I would just like a correction, your Honor, just to make sure that Alderman Shea and I know that he didn't mean to do this but by saying to an elderly citizen coming in and having to go through the public process, it's still public. It's not public in that it's open and there's newspapers and everything else there. But, the whole system is open, it is public, and you could get all of that information out.

Alderman Shea interjected right, but not to appear publicly.

Alderman Wihby stated so it is public and I don't want anybody thinking that you're saying we like it closed and it's not public.

Alderman Shea stated I know that, I'm on the Committee on Accounts and I know what's coming forth and it hasn't been closed.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Robert duly recorded in opposition.

AB. Communication from Harold Levine relative to commercial vehicles being parked on City streets overnight and the lack of City decals on all vehicles.

Alderman Robert stated I am a member of the Committees that this letter is being referred to. I think we've addressed their concerns in the past, but if this Board feels as though they want it forwarded to these Committees for us to try and readdress them, fine, but I don't think we're ever going to satisfy the author of this letter.

Alderman Robert moved to receive and file the communication from Mr. Levine. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Wihby asked did the Committees at least try to address it with him.

Alderman Robert asked which Committee are you speaking of. We addressed it in Public Safety about the parking and the Police Department, etc. It just seems that it's something that defies his resolution. On the Committee on Fleet, he does have some concerns. As Chairman of the Committee, I guess I want to try and speak to the Committee. I think we have a consensus, the department heads, the experts feel that a City this size, the largest corporation in the State of New Hampshire... they feel that they need a logical, well-thought out process. I'm not saying that the author or want to be on the Board is not capable of that, but it just seems as though the

Committee has embraced the experts we decided to employ and quite frankly, they wouldn't have it any other way, from what I can see.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Elise duly recorded in opposition.

Confirmation of Aldermanic nominations for one alternate to Conduct Board, term to expire October 1, 1998, as follows:

Eugene Gagnon
James Tenn

Alderman Hirschmann withdrew the name of Mr. Eugene Gagnon noting that with the new City Charter the Commissioners made a mistake. They made our Board non-partisan and they're leaving the Conduct Boards and other important boards partisan and I don't think it belongs any where in City government at this time and I'd like somehow to bring that up in the future.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to confirm the nomination of James Tenn as an alternate to the Conduct Board, term to expire October 1, 1998.

Confirmation of nominations to the Board of Registrars as follows:

Rita M. Brack to succeed herself, term to expire May 1, 2000; and
Brian McHugh to fill a vacancy, term to expire May 1, 1998.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to confirm the nominations to the Board of Registrars as submitted.

Confirmation of the nomination of Fred Harris to succeed himself as a member of the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Commission, term to expire July 7, 2000.

On motion of Alderman Sysyn, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to confirm the nomination of Fred Harris to succeed himself as a member of the Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Commission, term to expire July 7, 2000.

Confirmation of nominations to the Conservation Commission as follows:

Mark Gross to succeed himself, term to expire August 1, 2000;
Todd Connors to succeed himself, term to expire August 1, 2000;
Jane Beaulieu to succeed herself, term to expire August 1, 2000; and
Kathleen Brown to succeed herself, term to expire August 1, 2000.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to confirm the nominations to the Conservation Commission as submitted.

Confirmation of the nomination of Charles E. Hungler to succeed John Allard on the Manchester Development Corporation Board of Directors, term to expire March 11, 1999.

Alderman Wihby moved to confirm the nomination of Charles E. Hungler to succeed John Allard on the Manchester Development Corporation Board of Directors, term to expire March

11, 1999. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Domaingue being duly recorded as abstaining.

Confirmation of the nomination of August Fromuth to succeed Daniel Manning as a member of the Fire Commission, term to expire May 1, 1999.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to confirm the nomination of August Fromuth to succeed Daniel Manning as a member of the Fire Commission, term to expire May 1, 1999.

Confirmation of nominations to the Heritage Commission as follows:
Verna Perry as an alternate, term to expire January 1, 1998;
Linda Seabury as an alternate, term to expire January 1, 1999; and
Walter Milne as an alternate, term to expire January 1, 2000.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to confirm the nominations to the Heritage Commission as submitted. Alderman Wihby duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Domaingue being duly recorded as abstaining.

Alderman Elise stated in terms of reviewing the qualifications of these people and their reputations, I certainly could not vote against any of them as additions to the Heritage Commission. But, at this particular time, I just want to express my sincere disappointment that you could not bring it upon yourself to nominate Bernie Cowette to the Heritage Commission. These people, I'm sure, will be able to sit on the Commission and assess all of the items brought to them and make decisions on each and every one of them and probably go forward to propose things they'd like to see done in the City regarding heritage and historic preservation. I think Bernie would have been a very good asset to that Board in the sense that he is an individual that had researched this type of commission system throughout the country, he was an organizer that organized some grassroots and fought for this in the City, he did work with each Board that had to come to some compromise over this ordinance in terms of working with it and he put in four years of his spare time to see this Board come to fruition. So, at this time I want to reiterate that I am very disappointed that the Board will not have him as an addition to this Commission.

Confirmation of the nomination of John J. Brady to succeed himself as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire March 1, 2000.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to confirm the nomination of John J. Brady to succeed himself as a member of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, term to expire March 1, 2000.

Confirmation of the nomination of Joan Bennett as an alternate to the Planning Board, term to expire May 1, 2000.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to confirm the nomination of Joan Bennett as an alternate to the Planning Board, term to expire May 1, 2000.

Confirmation of the nomination of Sophia Antoniou to succeed Joanne Farley as a member of the Board of Health, term to expire July 1, 1998.

Alderman Clancy moved to confirm the nomination of Sophia Antoniou to succeed Joanne Farley as a member of the Board of Health, term to expire July 1, 1998. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Cashin asked did Joanne Farley asked to be replaced because she was an exceptional member of the Board of Health.

Mayor Wieczorek replied yes.

The motion carried with Aldermen Domaingue and Pariseau duly recorded as abstaining.

Confirmation of the nomination of Raymond M. Manseau to fill the unexpired term of William Desrosiers as a member of the Manchester Transit Authority, term to expire May, 2002.

Alderman Reiniger moved to confirm the nomination of Raymond M. Manseau to fill the unexpired term of William Desrosiers as a member of the Manchester Transit Authority, term to expire May, 2002. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Domaingue duly recorded as abstaining.

Communication from the Director of Planning submitting the Planning Board's nomination of Pauline Guay to succeed herself as a member of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, term to expire June 30, 2001.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann, it was voted to confirm the Planning Board's nomination of Pauline Guay to succeed herself as a member of the Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission, term to expire June 30, 2001.

Mayor Wieczorek stated before we get onto the next item there was one thing I wanted to talk about. I imagine all of you have probably been getting some comments about Elm Street and what's happening on Elm Street, I can't be the only one who's received calls. Now, I asked Frank and Tom Sommers to come tonight to give you a brief overview of what's happening on Elm Street, so you can tell your constituents what's happening on Elm Street.

Mr. Thomas stated I am pleased to report that the Elm Street project is progressing extremely well. The contractor Superior Excavators established a very aggressive construction schedule and they are meeting their schedule. I'd like to compliment the residents of Manchester for enduring the inconveniences that result from a project of this nature. The silver lining to these inconveniences are that they'll be over in a short period of time because of this aggressive schedule. I've asked Tom Sommers, Principal in the firm of Costello, Lomasney & deNapoli to

come and give the Board a detailed update on the Elm Street project. His firm is providing both design and construction administrative services on the project on behalf of the City.

Mr. Sommers stated first of all if you can't see this, I apologize, it was kind of short notice and I made the first mistake because I didn't come and look at this room today to see what it would be in front of me, so I'll try to help you through this. For you that may have not been as familiar would it make sense for me to go through some of the basics of what the project is, first. First of all, this project consists of reconstructing Elm Street from Bridge Street southerly down to Granite Street. The actual work in terms of the three-lane configuration which we've put in place and the angle parking is from Spring Street down to Pleasant Street, we've added an additional 55 spaces on the east side going north from Hanover Street and on the west side going south from Hanover Street. In that location because we only have so much room to play with we also made that three-lane traffic. Now, the purpose of this and there was a very specific purpose which was developed through a workshop of 16 people who we will call stake holders, in fact, one of the members of this body was on that and many members of the City as well as business people and owners Downtown were involved in this. The purpose of this was to make the Downtown...Elm Street specifically...more pedestrian friendly by slowing traffic and, therefore, more shopping friendly and more user friendly and that is what the intent is. So, in putting in the angled parking we also developed a three-lane configuration, one thru lane north and south and a center call it weaving and turning lane. We also were able to add in behind the angle parking a five-foot buffer area so that a person can pull the end of their car out and see a little better as they are backing out and not be blocked by the other cars which is kind of a detail which wasn't necessarily thought of in the original plan, but it goes into the project as you develop the design. We're also reconstructing select sidewalk areas, those areas are what we call bump outs or nubbin areas. They're specifically being done for the first purpose of providing the angle parking, but also they provide more pedestrian refuge. Remember, we brought the length at which pedestrians have to cross over Elm Street, we've reduced that dramatically to make it a better feel for pedestrians, a safer field. So, we've slowed cars down and we've decreased the amount of time at which one has to be in a crosswalk. These are up and down the street. If you've been out there, you've seen the ones that are completed between Hanover and Amherst Streets you'll notice that they're a combination of concrete and brick and you'll also notice that we are improving and expanding on the ADA ramps and accessibility, and we'll be improving also on the light system with respect to ADA accessibility, the crosswalk system that is. In addition, what's to come is we are going to be repairing the brick in areas where it needs to be along the entire street network, we are not going to remove it, we are going to repair it, a lot of it is in good shape, there are places that are not that will be repaired in-kind. We are going to be replacing selected trees. You've noticed some trees have come out, I believe that about 50 trees have been taken out and those will be replaced. Some of you may have heard that the Elm Street Program we are working with Parks & Recreation and within Intown Manchester to try to make some of these trees Elm trees. If we can find the right ones, it's the desire as far as I know and our intent to try and put those in, but we will be working with both of those. As a matter of fact, we have a meeting Friday to try to confirm that. Those trees

will not go in until spring, but we need to select them this fall so that we can start them to get their roots cut and for that to be moving forward. We're going to be putting in new light fixtures. The sterner fixtures, the tall ones are not being replaced. They are going to be cleaned up and used. As some of you may know For Manchester has been working on changing the lighting system in them and they are working at that separately and we have been cooperating with them, but we're also putting in an Amoskeag type fixture at the crosswalks and the bump-out areas to improve pedestrian lighting. One of the reasons that we were not able to expand the lighting than anymore than we have is because we have so much utility underground that to try and put these Amoskeag lights in at exact locations is almost impossible because we have to go three to four feet down with our bases for these, so it's just difficult and too expensive to do and what we decided to do was as a result of those concerns. We're replacing signage, I just noticed that there's a new sign for Stark Street, we're putting in the standard green signs and hopefully will stand out for vehicles when traveling and don't fade into the backgrounds. We're going to be putting in signs for parking to direct people to the parking garages and lots and some of that will come next year and some this year. In the spring, we will also be putting in new benches and putting in some planters and some bikeracks. The type of bikeracks we're putting in is a very simple U-shaped bikerack that can be placed in and bolted down and taken out in the winter. We are trying to make this as maintenance-friendly as possible recognizing what Frank has to deal with and what Intown has to deal with with respect to maintaining this because that is going to be an important aspect of this. Our schedule...we are on schedule and I would dare say that we are a little ahead of schedule, the contractor is working furiously and I really commend the people in town and the merchants in town for putting up with it and we've been in touch with some of them, yes, it has affected them and we are trying to get this job done quickly so it affects them the least amount possible and I think we're succeeding in that. The curbing on the east side is substantially complete. If you've been down there you've noticed that we're starting to do the curbing on the west side. The sidewalks are probably about 50 percent complete, we've had to deal with four private utility companies going in and that work will be done by October 10th, so we're told and we're trying to hold them to that. We are putting in civic use power for the City, so that you can have trees lit in the winter and have various uses; that has been placed down one side of the street - the east side - and is now being placed on the west side and that should be done in the next couple of weeks. You'll notice that we put a pavement down on Saturday before the parade which was kind of set up that way to try and be as accommodating as possible and I commend the contractor on that again. We expect final paving of this project by the end of this month, that is what they've scheduled, that is what they are telling us they're going to do. So, the project is moving along very well, we're very satisfied and we're working very cooperatively and the contractor intends to be done, substantially complete this fall - mid-November is what his schedule says and I expect that he will need to come back in the spring and need to do cleanup, put the benches in, some of the street furniture in that we don't want to put in this winter, we'll need to put the trees in, but you will see this new system operating, you'll see the roads striped, at least temporary striping and they'll probably come back in the spring and put the final markings down because I'm sure by the time we reach November we have to be concerned about the cold and how everything is going to

stick and we want to make sure everything works well and also in the spring we are going to be looking at doing a "cobble motif" at the Hanover Street intersection. Because of the intricacy of that work, we decided that it would be best to have that wait and not be rushed before winter to do that properly. So, we'll pave that area now which is a fairly small section, cut it, and then work our motif in the spring.

Alderman Wihby stated on Hanover Street when you take a right, it's almost impossible to take and stay in your lane, is that because everything is going to shift over more to the west.

Mr. Sommers replied yes.

Alderman Wihby asked what are you going to do with the snow, how are you going to plow with the way the curbs stick out.

Mr. Sommers replied I am going to let Frank address that because Frank has put together a whole plan on how he is going to maintain it.

Mr. Thomas stated the Board of Mayor and Aldermen was very gracious to allocate additional funds in my operating budget this year to actually pick up snow in the Downtown area on a regular basis. In the past years, due to budget constraints we only went down and picked up snow when it got so high that you couldn't crawl over the snowbanks and get to the meters. This year what we intend to do is get out there the night after the plowing operation if there is at least four inches of snow and go down and remove it all and truck it away down to the back of the soccer facility that is down there. Plowing - during the storm we will be able to get into most of those parking areas with the wings and the wings on the graders. We will have to do more frontend loader type work to get in close to where these jut-outs are, but the streets will get plowed and opened up the night of the storm and then the following night we will go down and move all of the snow between the buildings. We also hope that where we are going to do the snow pickup on a regular basis that we are going to be able to also have time to get out onto some of the side streets such as Hanover Street, etc. and also pick up snow.

Alderman Wihby stated you don't see it as a problem as far as the snow plowing and hitting those curbs, you're going to put something up to show that there's a curb there or flags or anything like that.

Mr. Thomas replied obviously it's going to be more problems, what we're going to be doing is familiarizing our people with that area and typically we're not going to...typically Elm Street gets a lot of attention so that those jut-outs are not going to be so covered that we don't know where they are.

Alderman Wihby stated we had one up further past Bridge. Did we ever have any problem with that one.

Mr. Thomas stated it was just south of Bridge Street, that was removed...there are a couple of reasons why it was removed. One of the major reasons was to improve the right turning stacking so that people could get off into the right-hand lane to make that right onto Bridge Street. Quite frankly, there was also an accident there, but...

Alderman Wihby asked an accident because they hit it not knowing it was there because it jugged out.

Mr. Thomas replied yes, there was an accident there because...and supposedly that was the reason, but I think there were other reasons that contributed to the accident. If there was a car parked there and somebody was driving a motorcycle down the parking lane of a roadway and hit a parked car do you blame the parked car, I say no. So, again, I think overall we've tried to address the concerns of maintenance, safety, and whatnot and there's been some tradeoffs and some of the tradeoffs have been that obviously it's more difficult to maintain during snow removal and street sweeping operations, but again we've put together a plan specifically for the Elm Street area, again it was authorized as part our budgeted snow removal equipment a piece of equipment a larger Bobcat than what we have that has a large bucket that we can go around, very maneuverable and in addition we have an attachment for that that is going to be able to help us with street sweeping operations both on the sidewalk areas and in those tight corners.

Alderman Wihby stated in the past, I imagine when this design came up and this has been done in other places, is there any noticeable problems with plowing or maintenance in other cities or towns that have done it, does Tom know or do you know, Frank.

Mr. Thomas replied again, this has all been discussed in quite a bit of detail. Obviously, when you're putting these jobs in the road and tight radiuses to accommodate diagonal parking it does require a change to the way you're doing business, but again I think we've addressed that. We also plan on sitting down...Tom Sommers our consultant and myself with the Mayor prior to the next budget process because now that we're making this investment into the Elm Street area on these infrastructural improvements, we're going to be proposing in the next budget process that there is some sort of annual appropriation earmarked for the Downtown to maintain these improvements. Whether those funds are allocated to me or to the Downtown Manager to be used by Parks & Recreation, by us, by whoever has an interest down there.

Mr. Sommers stated we know they have similar situations in Portland, Maine, we know they have them in Portsmouth and we also know they have them in Keene and they work. I've been to these cities and I haven't seen any excessive damage. Of course, you have to be more careful and that is part of what you have to do when making sure that Downtown is maintained and kept up. There is more hand work to do on the sidewalks and stuff, I think one of Frank's proposals is to use snowblowers more on the sidewalks to clean them off. So, that is part of what the merchants have been very concerned about that these things get cleaned and they're very excited

about this idea of seeing this cleaned off. I think it's part of progress, it's part of the change, it's part of seeing things happen Downtown that, I believe, are for the better and there have certainly been a lot of people that have been involved in this besides me, this didn't come out of my mind, this came out of a lot of minds and I'm seeing it start to work and I'm hearing people being more excited about it. I've heard a lot more negative earlier on and I'm starting to hear more positive now that they are seeing how it's starting to fit and seeing some of the angle parking.

Mayor Wiczorek stated just one more thing though, Tom, on the point you brought up about the nubs that are out there and the cars that have to make the turns. It's okay for the Highway Department to understand where these things are, but I think it's another thing for people who just drive down occasionally where it is. I really think you're going to have to do something to identify that, put something up there indicating.

Mr. Sommers stated we will have ballards in those at different areas..concrete or granite looking ballards that will be part of it, so we can do things with that to identify those nubbins and if the snow removal is kept down as Frank intends, then you'll be seeing those areas much better even when it snows.

Mr. Thomas stated as mentioned there will be the new lighting fixtures, so there is going to be enough that is going to be visible and with the superb job of snow removal that we do, we'll be able to see all of it.

Alderman Pariseau stated I don't want to belabor the issue but prior to your putting down that final coat of pavement could we have a permanent shamrock installed at the intersection of Hanover and Elm.

Alderman Cashin stated I'll second that motion, your Honor.

Mr. Sommers stated can I mention two things I forgot that would be good for people to know. One, is if you've noticed on Elm Street the crown of the road, the cross slope is much lower now that they've cut it out which was one of the intents of this also. You had an unbelievable crown in there. The second thing is that we've worked with the Police to develop a sign for crosswalk pedestrians that will have a permanent fixture in the pavement that will be, as I understand it, a break off if a vehicle hit it, but it can be taken out so that these can be placed out there and I think they are better than what is being used now.

Alderman Sysyn stated I just wanted to say that I am so glad that you asked the question about the snow removal that was going to be mine because that's the most frequently asked question that I get and I'm glad...Frank did a great job on explaining it, thank you.

Alderman Robert stated just one last thing on the snow removal...the rest of the City is not going to be forgotten or set aside because of this fancy snow removal process you have, right.

Mr. Thomas replied no, not at all. In the past, we did not do any snow pickup operations because of budget constraints. When we did snow pickup operations, the majority of the time it was done during normal working hours after storms. So, this is a funded program to be done more or less the day after the storm at night.

Alderman Robert stated in the last couple of weeks I have been given an education on the American Disabilities Act, is everything that applies to the American Disabilities Act being incorporated into this project.

Mr. Sommers replied in accordance with that to the best extent that we can fit it in, that is what's required. In other words, you are not forced to go to an extent that you just can't afford to do, but we're changing all of the...for example, we're changing all of the handicap ramps to meet that act and you'll see that they're substantially larger than they were. We're doing things with the signal systems to meet that requirement, I think we're putting a bell system in for crossing, so we are adding things to the best extent that we can and I believe has been reviewed by so many people that this was reviewed by the City's Access Manchester with respect to those issues.

Alderman Robert stated they felt that it was...

Mr. Sommers stated these were requirements that we came to understanding and agreements with them in working with them.

Alderman Robert stated I would just like to voice one reservation and I'm not going to challenge that committee's acceptance or denial of what's going on, but I had the opportunity to go on a wheelchair ride down a sidewalk that was suppose to be in pretty decent shape and I found that even a sidewalk that is in pretty decent shape presents formidable obstacles and essentially what you do is you sentence these people confinement if that, in fact, if things aren't done and done well. I guess as we go forward I'll review what's been done and hopefully be reassured that it's being done as "good enough".

Mr. Sommers stated the slopes that you will see out there obviously we have to make everything fit what we have. Some of the existing brick sidewalks have steeper slopes than are desirable for ADA access. To take those bricks out and change all that and try to change that grade next to the stores would have at least doubled the cost of the project and in that discussion it didn't happen and that's why I say the requirement is to the best of your ability within financial means or whatever the words are, I'd have to go back and look at the words, but they give you leeway. But, what we are putting in new we have done everything that we can to try to make those accessible and to fit that act.

Alderman Reiniger stated an issue that's come up in the past and this is for Mr. Thomas is maintenance of the Transit Authority bus stops and from time-to-time there seems to be a dispute as to who is suppose to take the snow away from those, so under your new maintenance plan will that be entirely your domain or what.

Mr. Thomas replied in the Downtown improvements area our position has always been that the Transit Authority should be responsible for maintaining the snow removal at their bus stops whether it's down on Brown Avenue or on Elm Street or what not, they do send people out to clean them out. The problems that have been passed onto me is that they haven't opened the snowbank that's in front of them. However, it's on the Elm Street Improvements area it will be part of our snow removal plan.

Alderman Cashin stated I would just like to mention that the landowners and the store owners down here are taxed an additional amount to participate in things like this and it's substantial. They're really involved in this and it's not for free in their case, they're paying for a lot of it.

Mayor Wieczorek stated this is not the design of one person anyway, this goes back to 1991 when they had the group get together called the Citizens Planning Revitalization. I think there were a couple of hundred people and all they did was after that group was finished, they engaged LDR and then there were several different proposals that were made. One was to have an esplanade down the middle of Elm Street and the Aldermanic Board said we're not going to have that, so this was the result of a change that was made with the esplanade that was there and the idea is to make it more pedestrian friendly and to slow some of the traffic down because sometimes even when I've been down there trying to cross the street they're coming 60 miles an hour if the light is green and you take your life in your hands. In talking to the Chief today, I know that he is going to be doing a lot more about enforcement there to make sure that it is going to be pedestrian friendly. Okay, no further questions regarding the questions, then hopefully everybody has an idea of where we are and what the completion date will be and so will the citizens of Manchester.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman 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

The Clerk advised that there was no report of the Committee on Finance to be presented.

Ordinance submitted by Clerk and City Solicitor regarding technical correction to Section 110.27 (C) Hearing relating to Business Licenses; and requesting that the rules be suspended so as to place the ordinance on its second reading by title only without referral to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.

Alderman Cashin moved that the rules be suspended and place the ordinance on its second reading by title only without referral to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Domiangue duly being recorded in opposition.

Ordinances:

“Amending Chapter 52. Sewers. of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding Sections 52.160(D)(3) relative to user charge credits for non-residential customers.”

Amending Chapter 150. Housing Code. Section 150.114 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by decreasing fees for inspection of rooming units.”

“Amending Chapter 91. Health and Sanitation. of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by deleting Sections 91.20, 91.21, and 91.22 and inserting new Sections 91.20 and 91.21 relative to notifying abutters and the City prior to abrasive paint removal from a structure.”

“An Ordinance amending Article IV Residential Permit Parking Section 15-62(a).”

“Making a technical correction to Section 110.27 (C) Hearing relating to Business Licenses.”

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Wihby, it was voted that the Ordinances be read by titles only, and it was so done.

These Ordinances having had their second readings by titles only, Alderman Pariseau moved on passing same to be Enrolled. Alderman Wihby duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Domaingue duly recorded in opposition to the ordinance relative to Section 110.27 (c) Hearing relating to Business Licenses.

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to recess the regular meeting to allow the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment, and Revenue Administration to meet.

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting back to order.

A report of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration was presented advising that Ordinances:

“Amending Chapter 52. Sewers. of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding Sections 52.160(D)(3) relative to user charge credits for non-residential customers.”

Amending Chapter 150. Housing Code. Section 150.114 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by decreasing fees for inspection of rooming units.”

“Amending Chapter 91. Health and Sanitation. of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by deleting Sections 91.20, 91.21, and 91.22 and inserting new Sections 91.20 and 91.21 relative to notifying abutters and the City prior to abrasive paint removal from a structure.”

“An Ordinance amending Article IV Residential Permit Parking Section 15-62(a).”

“Making a technical correction to Section 110.27 (C) Hearing relating to Business Licenses.”

were properly enrolled.

Alderman Soucy moved to accept, receive, and adopt the report of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment, and Revenue Administration. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Domaingue duly recorded in opposition to the ordinance relative to Section 110.27 (C) Hearing -relating to Business Licenses.

Communications submitted relative to transportation of students between schools and before/after school programs.

On motion of Alderman Robert duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted to approve the action taken by the Board of School Committee that the Manchester Transit Authority be authorized to transport students between schools and legally operating before and after school programs provided that the legally operating before or after school program has made arrangements, suitable to the Manchester Transit Authority, for the transportation of the program’s students to its facility.

Communication from the City Clerk requesting the Board to set the hour for the opening of the polls for the Municipal General Election on November 4, 1997 from 6:00 AM to 7:00 PM.

On motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to set the hours for polls for the Municipal General Election as requested by the City Clerk.

Communication from the Director of Traffic submitting a retirement request for Mr. Christos Chakas.

On motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Alderman Robert, it was voted to approve the retirement request for Mr. Christos Chakas as submitted.

Communication from David B. Hakola, Director of the Real Property Group of the U.S. Department of Education, seeking approval and instruction to proceed relative to the conveyance of the Naval & Marine Reserve Corps Center.

On motion of Alderman Hirschmann, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to approve conveyance of the Naval & Marine Reserve Corps Center as submitted.

Communication from Attorney Denis Robinson seeking the approval and ratification of the release relative to the settlement of FDIC v. Equity Fund III, et al. which included claims concerning the tax deeding of property on Candia Road by the City.

Alderman Soucy moved to approve and ratify the release relative to the settlement of FDIC v. Equity Fund III, et al. a submitted. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Hirschmann duly recorded as abstaining.

Communication from Michael Roche requesting a paid leave of absence to attend a benefits conference for public employees to be held in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada from October 26-29, 1997.

Alderman Wihby moved to approve a two-day paid leave of absence as recommended by the Director of the Manchester Water Works. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Reiniger stated I just want to note that Mr. Hobson the Director of Human Resources does recommend doing this.

Alderman Domaingue stated the only question I have is the financing for the benefit conference itself is coming out of where.

Mayor Wieczorek replied from the Retirement Board, their own travel account.

Communication from Joanne Smogor, Executive Director of Makin It Happen seeking permission to distribute Red Ribbon Week Breakfast invitations and red ribbons to City employees with their paychecks.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Sysyn, it was voted to approve the request submitted by Joanne Smogor.

Communication from Christopher Vaal submitting his resignation as a member of the City of Manchester Employees' Contributory Retirement System, effective immediately, due to new employment commitments.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Wihby, it was voted to accept the resignation of Christopher Vaal as a member of the Retirement Board with regrets.

Ordinances:

“Amending Chapter 52. Sewers. of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by adding Sections 52.160(D)(3) relative to user charge credits for non-residential customers.”

Amending Chapter 150. Housing Code. Section 150.114 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by decreasing fees for inspection of rooming units.”

“Amending Chapter 91. Health and Sanitation. of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by deleting Sections 91.20, 91.21, and 91.22 and inserting new Sections 91.20 and 91.21 relative to notifying abutters and the City prior to abrasive paint removal from a structure.”

“An Ordinance amending Article IV Residential Permit Parking Section 15-62(a).”

“Making a technical correction to Section 110.27 (C) Hearing relating to Business Licenses.”

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted that the Ordinances be read by titles only, and it was so done.

These Ordinances having had their third and final readings by titles only, Alderman Reiniger moved that the Ordinances be Ordained. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Domaingue duly recorded in opposition to the Ordinance relative to Section 110.27 (C) Hearing relating to Business Licenses because it did not get a hearing before the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.

Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of \$8,000,000 for the 1998 CIP 7.60323 Cohas Brook Trunk Sewer Project.”

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

Alderman Soucy moved that the Bond Resolution ought to pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Domaingue duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek presented nominations as follows:

Airport Authority

Alice Monchamp to succeed Marion Ciechon, term to expire March 1, 1999.

Board of Adjustment

Marc Pappas to succeed himself as an alternate member, term to expire March 1, 2000.

As per rules of the Board, the nominations will layover to the next meeting.

TABLED ITEMS

Petition submitted by State Representative Vaillancourt seeking the Board's endorsement regarding resident concerns of the Airport Access Road.
(Tabled 7/1/97)

This item remained on the table.

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Elise moved to nominate Brooks McQuade to fill the vacated term of Christopher Vaal as a member of the Retirement Board.

Alderman Wihby moved to close nominations. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Reiniger stated I have a letter that hasn't been passed out yet. Basically, The Riverfront Park Foundation has requested an opportunity to address the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at their next meeting on October 21st about plans being developed for a Riverfront Walkway on the eastbank of the river.

Alderman Robert moved to refer the ordinance relative to car repair sections to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading. Alderman Wihby duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Pariseau suggested it also be referred to the Building and Planning Departments for their input.

Alderman Shea stated I think three or four of us have received letters from a Mr. Thomas at Central High School regarding smoking banned at Gill Stadium and I think that it would probably do well for smoking bans to be placed there simply because there is no enforcement of the ordinance that we passed and people are going to games and they're subjected to cigar smoke and cigarette smoke, so I think if we pass ordinances they should be enforced and this is one of the problems that we tend to have here that the Policemen according to this letter no nothing about the ordinance and the people that are smoking in the grandstands don't seem to observe whatever the ordinance might be. There are a couple of "No Smoking" signs posted near the entrance to the stadium, but in the grandstand area there's nothing.

Alderman Soucy stated we should probably send a letter to the Parks & Recreation Department and inform them that since passage of the ordinance they need to comply with some sort of plan or designation for that area because we did pass an ordinance, in fact, banning cigarette smoking there.

Mayor Wieczorek asked Chief Driscoll to address this issue.

Chief Driscoll stated I've also received a copy of that letter, as a matter of fact two letters. The Police Department has been in touch with Ron Ludwig and he's promised us that he would post it and I expect that would be done at any time.

Mayor Wieczorek stated you department will then enforce it, right.

Chief Driscoll replied yes.

Alderman Soucy asked could they just report back by the next meeting as to whether or not that was done, this ordinance was passed some time ago and that should have been done by now.

Alderman Shea stated I happen to pick up *The Boston Globe* and you're quoted in *The Boston Globe* as saying about \$549,000 of the increase from the Foundation Aid had been awarded after the July end of Manchester's fiscal year, but it will have to go to property tax relief. How is that \$549,000 going to go to property relief during this current tax year because the bills are going out in a couple of weeks.

Mayor Wieczorek stated there are a couple of questions that came up. One came up yesterday or the day before, no it must have been last week regarding the more than two million dollars that we received that we supposedly weren't expecting and they were trying to find out from the communities what was happening. Well, we did know that it was coming and it was included in our budget and that is part of the School budget this year, that's the Foundation Aid which was \$4.921 million.

Alderman Wihby stated it was not revenue that we were anticipating, we got it.

Alderman Elise stated it was a full four million, it wasn't just two million.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I forgot the exact number.

Alderman Wihby stated what happened was during the budget process, we got the numbers from a legislator who actually sent it to us and then we had Mark and Kevin and Randy work on it to make sure we used those numbers at the time because we knew it was coming.

Alderman Shea stated we received from the State, thanks to Governor Shaheen \$4,921,752 as well as the legislature which was double what we anticipated.

Alderman Pariseau asked, your Honor, could we have a brief explanation from Finance as to the problems they're experiencing with the accounting system.

Mr. Clougherty stated as you know July 1st of this year we brought on the new system and what that meant was consolidating five separate systems onto one AS400. We've been running the system for about three months now for the first quarter and I think the results of the first quarter are exceeding my expectations. Certainly, I think the City departments are doing an admirable job. Now, you have to understand that we are taking a large operation of close to 2,500 people and moving it forward and there are different degrees of computer literacy and there are different degrees of aptitude and understanding, so there are pockets of development here and it's going to take time for some people to move up the learning curve. But, I think the results as we approach the end of this first quarter are encouraging. I know that there was a letter that went around, I guess it was a press release and I'd like to speak to each one of those things if I may. The way the system works is it's much more sophisticated than LGFS was and you have to put in each account, each item all the way down to the lowest sub-level of a program. So, it requires that when you're putting information in to be much more precise, much more careful. It's a modular system, so you have a general ledger in the middle if you configure this and you have a payroll system, you have a system for accounts receivable and payables and all these different systems are gathering information and feeding into the general ledger. You have to make sure that what's in the payable system, for example, matches with an account in the general ledger or it won't post and these are controls that are in the system and they will allow us to get better information and more cost information going forward. As we've gone through this first series of payrolls there were problems on the School side, in particular. The first couple of payrolls that we ran as you would expect with a new system there were people who were having problems, but overall the City's side has pretty much leveled out and is on balance doing fine. What happened though is during the first two months School's payroll entries are not hitting it as clean to the general ledger as it needs to. So, what we have to do is go back through those 17 weeks to clean up those items before we can post all of those payroll entries to the general ledger and that's the process that we're going through now. We're probably through

or at week eleven. But, each time you go through a week you pick up some of those problems and it carries back and it cleans up the subsequent ones. One of the accusations here, I guess, is that the teacher's are not paid on time and not paid correctly. Well, I have to tell you that from my understanding we are paying people and we are paying them correctly. If there is anybody out there and we've made this clear through the press and through the departments if there is someone that has not been paid or has not been paid correctly and you tell us we will reissue the check or we'll get them the difference and we'll make those corrections. To date, just to give you some idea as to the volume we're dealing with, we issued 11,400 plus checks to City departments since the system went on-line. Now, since the start of the system three month's ago we have had to issue manually 384 checks and of those about 70 of them were City and the balance were School which is where somebody didn't get a check, there was a significant problem or we had to void something and we had to reissue them. Since the 10th of September there are 208 checks that we had to issue manually and of that number 12 were for the City and the balance were for Schools. So, I think the City side is working along...the School side we're working with to try and bring along and make those corrections. We've had several meetings with the Mayor and the Superintendent and I think we're working toward some resolution there and we're working with Mark and other people in his office and we expect that by a reasonable period of time going forward here we should be able to be posting all of those back entries to the general ledger and we'll be able to issue some reports. There's another statement here "bills not paid on time, are not paid correctly". Again, I'm not aware of that. If there is a bill that isn't being paid they come to our department from the various departments and if the Solicitor has to get something out on other than the normal cycle, if bills are in by the 25th we pay them on the 15th. There has been some slippage in some of those areas on I think the second monthly run, but we're looking to have everything current as of the 15th of this month when we do the regularly scheduled run. The current School payroll account is in total disarray. I don't think it's in disarray, what they have to do is go back and we're working with them to go back and correct some of the entries. What you have to understand is the module that does the payroll has correct information. It just doesn't have all of the different links to the detail and the general ledger to get out those detailed cost accounting reports. So, that information is not quite adequate. Saying that department's are totally in the dark on last year's expenses; that absolutely is not true. If there is a department that is in the dark on their expenses from last year then tell the m to come see me. We've issued those reports and it's on-line. I think part of the problem is that before issuing some of these statements no one talked to me and no one talked to Randy in the office either.

Alderman Wihby interjected it's because of the season that we're in.

Mr. Clougherty stated I want to make clear what's happening here is we are not trying to issue and I think we've made this clear, this new system is not designed to go the way it used to be with all of these massive paper reports, it's designed to be customized by the departments and let them work out what they need, so it's an on-line system. So, anybody that needs to know what their results were from last year, it's on-line and they can go in and get that and if they're

having problems then I'll be happy to get somebody and work that out and we provided paper copies. Saying departments are totally dark in last year's expenses is again something that is just not true. Saying departments are totally dark in this year's income, I think in some cases the department's are wrestling with it, but that's not true across the board. I think your larger departments and most of the departments who are familiar with the way these things work are doing fine...Tax Collector is doing a good job, your Building and Highway people. This is another area where School is lagging, but we're working with them to try and bring them up. Last year's books are not completed - that is not true. You will be getting that at the next meeting which is when you usually get them. We've closed the books and they're available and so that's not accurate. We don't provide copies of documents to people that ask before we give it to the Board of Aldermen and that's been a policy of the Board and of our office since I started. Last year's information is not ready for the auditors, again, we already had the auditors in, they've been in since April and we've had them in at different points and they're going to come in in November and do their mass deluge on us and that's mainly a scheduling thing that we've worked out to accommodate their schedules as well as ours, so certainly if they came in tomorrow we have more than enough work to give them and keep them busy. Again, "Mayor in dark on finances of last year". Again, every department should be aware of where they are for last year. "No finance reports to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for the quarter". I'll remind the Board that we don't give you quarterly reports right on the last day of the quarter. We have to wait just as you do with your own banking account to have the information from the banks supplied to us, so we usually get that about the middle of October for the first quarter, we take a week to process that stuff and you get your quarterly reports at the end of the month. We're still striking to hit that time table. The only thing that will cause a delay is if we are not able to get all of these back payrolls that are outstanding with School up-to-speed. So, there are issues, we are working on them and we will continue to work on them with the departments, but I think the system is a good system, the information is worth taking the time to audit to make sure it's accurate before we release reports and if any department is having a problem they should give me a call and I'll be happy to sit down with them and show them how to extract information out of it. As far as people to state that I'm not competent which is something else in here which I'd like to just address quickly, I'll just tell the Board that I have been appointed to the Public Deposit Investment Pool by the Bank Commissioner which oversees the investments of all of the cities and towns of New Hampshire, is a multi-million dollar fund. I gave a presentation to the NH Municipal Association at their request to all of the city and town selectmen from around the State as to how to set tax rates and how to do financial statements which was last week and November 19th they've asked if I'll go in and do something on revenues. So, if there's a lack of confidence from the DRA and people up there, I quite frankly haven't seen it. I trust that answers the questions.

Alderman Pariseau stated I really didn't anticipate the comments by Kevin. I just heard at the School Committee meeting last night whether it was the Finance Committee, I was told that they had concerns and they were threatening to take umbridge at the company that sold us this.

Mr. Clougherty stated I haven't heard that today, Alderman. I would hope that is not the case. I think the system is a good system.

Alderman Pariseau asked what's the name of the outfit.

Mr. Clougherty replied HTE. I think it's a good system.

Alderman Pariseau stated they don't think they can perform what they promised the City.

Mr. Clougherty stated, Alderman, it is performing, I think you just have to look to the City side. I think the School has to start to make some changes.

Alderman Pariseau asked what specific problems is the School Department having of not paying bills or...

Mr. Clougherty replied the problem they have is not as I see it with the system or the hardware. The problems are really their ability to get correct information into the system and their ability to extract information from the system. They've called and asked us for data and as I said if you go into the system now and this general ledger reporting module is called "emphasis" if you went into "emphasis" it would give you all of your line items and where your budget is. What's going to be wrong on there though is your payroll because again the payroll module over here hasn't posted that. But, you can go into this module and get all of the information you need on payroll. You just take that number, this information, put it on a lotus spreadsheet and you know where you are and a lot of the departments are doing that until we can get those posted in which case the system will then generate those reports and you'll be able to move forward. But, to say that the information isn't available is I don't think accurate.

Alderman Pariseau stated apparently they're having a meeting tomorrow to straighten out the School Department.

Mr. Clougherty stated we've had several of them and we'll continue to work with them, Alderman.

Alderman Robert stated I just wanted to point out that the computer system that is being installed is a massive project and Diane Prew has come to Personnel and has asked several times for help in trying to straighten out computer related problems and I'm just going to assume that some of these problems are arising because she really doesn't have the help that she needs. I just want to say that I've worked with Kevin for quite a few years, I think he's a very competent individual, but I think they're trying to work their way through a very trying time right now and I think we owe it to him to give them a little bit more time to work things out.

Alderman Domaingue stated on another subject if I may, the Traffic Committee met about a week ago and at that time of the meeting I was unaware, but found out that evening that apparently one of the crossing guards in front of the Jewett Street School had a near miss with an automobile that chose to thoroughly ignore the crossing guard, the stop sign, and everything else. Judging from the number of complaints that I've had and apologizing for not putting this in writing I'd like to make a motion to refer to the next Traffic Committee meeting the subject of School Zone signs and flashers on Jewett Street as well as an intersection signalization at the intersection of So. Jewett and Weston Road.

Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I'd like to invite the Highway Department to give us a status update at our next meeting of the landfill closure just for the viewing public and this Board.

Mayor Wieczorek stated we could do that.

Communication from One Dow Court regarding parking in the Millyard.

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to refer the communication from One Dow Court to the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety.

Alderman Reiniger stated a very serious subject that Alderman Robert alluded to and while Mr. Hobson is here and we've had discussions about this, the situation of the ADA and the City's compliance with Title II has been a topic of the Access Board and Mr. Hobson has informed me that the City has to do two things, it has to have an ADA Coordinator in place and also has to have a Transition Plan and we've had discussions and I take it that the Personnel Committee will be the most appropriate forum for addressing the ADA Coordinator, but maybe, Mr. Hobson, if you just want to brief the public on your plans to comply with that.

Mr. Hobson stated an entity our size dating back to the implementation of the law in 1994, we have to have a written Transition Plan and there must be someone who physically coordinates that plan through a process. It is a fact that we don't have a full plan in writing, we have pieces of a plan, but we do not have a full plan and it is also a fact that we do not have a person who is anointed within the City, I'm not necessarily talking about hiring an additional staff member, but a staff member be anointed to coordinate that plan. I have been in touch with Mr. MacKenzie and Mr. Maranto from the CIP and Planning Departments to talk about something that would jointly cover a number of issues. Good questions tonight about sidewalk access - it's not just hiring issues, the American With Disabilities Act is not just a Human Resources issue, it's an issue that goes across five entitlements and I think that we have a process in place moving with Access Manchester, I think we have a very viable Committee that's trying to pull a transition team together and I think we have another meeting schedule for November and I hope

to have more information through Mr. Maranto for the Committee about some federal support or federal dollars to help support a transition plan.

Alderman Shea asked, Mark, could you elaborate on a City plan, I'm not quite sure I understood what you meant by that.

Mr. Hobson replied just simply that an entity of our size has to have a physical document that says over a period of time we will implement things like accessibility for sidewalks, public restrooms, doorways that would be accessible for wheelchairs, telecommunications devices for the deaf, the ability to have public elevators that are denoted appropriately for people who are also blind who need accessibility, particular color codings that are international in scope. All of that information has to be in a full-scale plan and what has happened is that we have pieces of a plan that exist in writing, but no one person has pulled the entire structure together and that's our aim and we want to work with multiple City departments to make that happen.

There being no further business to come before the Board, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Wihby, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk