

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

February 16, 1999

**7:30 PM
Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the Pledge of Allegiance; this function led by Alderman Sysyn.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were fourteen aldermen present.

Present: Alderman Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Girard, Shea, Rivard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann.

Mayor Wieczorek requested those present to consider Joe Forseze, Principal, Highland Goffs-Falls Elementary School, who was ill in the hospital, in their prayers.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Informational to be Received and Filed

- A. Copies of minutes of the Manchester Airport Authority meeting held on December 22, 1998.
- B. Communication from David Fluharty, UNH/Civil Engineering Department, advising that Kevin Sheppard, Deputy Director of Public Works has achieved the status of Road Scholar One.

Accept Funds and Remand for the Purpose Intended

- C. Communication from the Deputy Finance Officer advising of the receipt of drug forfeiture funds in the amount of \$3,865.60.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SERVICES

- E.** Communication from Fred Harris, President of Riverfest, Inc., seeking permission of various requests as outlined below during the Riverfest celebration scheduled for September 10, 11 & 12, 1999:
- (a) designation of the area generally bordered by Elm Street to the east, Brook Street to the North, Granite Street to the south, and the Merrimack River to the west as the "Riverfest Area";
 - (b) requesting those possessing valid Arms lease stickers be allowed to park "free-of-charge" in either the Canal Street or Wall Street garages from September 7-13, 1999;
 - (c) the closure of Arms Parking Lot from September 7-13, 1999;
 - (d) closure of the Bedford Street Parking Lot for additional tent set up and other activities; and
 - (e) requesting that the City Clerk be instructed not to issue permits to any vendors in this area during the Riverfest celebration scheduled for September 10, 11 & 12, 1999.
- F.** Communication from Ron Pappas requesting a carnival license from April 15-25, 1999 for the annual Pappy's Pizza Spring Carnival, all proceeds to benefit the Central High School Gridiron Club.

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- G.** Communication from Alderman Hirschmann seeking continued development of Phase II of the West Memorial Field as part of the upcoming CIP budgeting process.
- I.** Communication from the Public Works Director seeking authorization to proceed with necessary negotiations and purchase of a parcel of land bordering the easterly side of Brown Avenue belonging to Blue Cross/Blue Shield of NH with respect to the Brown Avenue Widening project.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

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

- J.** Recommending that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen adopt the Travel and Conference Policies and Procedures as attached hereto and incorporated by reference.
- K.** Advising that it has accepted the enclosed report from the Board of Assessors and is submitting same to the Board for informational purposes.
- L.** Advising that it has accepted the enclosed reports from the Finance Department and is submitting same to the Board for informational purposes.
- M.** Advising that it has approved a request from the Director of the Manchester Water Works to reimburse \$21.22 in out-of-pocket expenses for meals for two Water Works employees who attended a day-long computer training class in Nashua, NH on November 23, 1998.

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

- N.** Advising that it has approved Ordinance:
“Amending Chapter 33, Section 33.049 Special Merit Pay Increases of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester.”
and is submitting same for referral to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.
- O.** Recommending that a request of the Police Chief for authorization to expend up to \$11,277.32 and \$18,021.36 to upgrade current Police communications staff to the Yarger Decker schedule and to facilitate hiring of two vacant positions and six new dispatchers awarded through the COPS MORE 98 Program be approved.

The Committee is further recommending that the source of funding first come from the department, secondly considered from the YDA funds, and lastly be transferred from contingency.

The Committee notes that such recommendation includes approval to negotiate a memorandum of understanding with the bargaining units to carry out the terms provided for in such request.

COMMITTEE ON TRAFFIC/PUBLIC SAFETY

- P.** Recommending that City vehicles no longer be allowed to park on the City streets near City Hall Complex (Market St., on site, Stark St., etc.) but instead be required to park in the Canal Street. Garage.
- Q.** Advising that it has approved the validation of parking garage tickets for volunteers manning the Information Center at City Hall.
- R.** Recommending that a request for closure of Market Street from Franklin Street to City Hall Plaza on March 6 & 7, 1999, in conjunction with the grand re-opening ceremonies of City Hall complex be granted and approved, subject to review and approval of the Traffic Division of the Police Department and the Fire Department.
- S.** Recommending that a request from the Saint Patrick’s Parade Committee of Manchester, Inc. for:
- (a) closure of Elm Street from Carpenter Street to Lake Avenue and all adjoining side streets;
 - (b) no parking on Elm Street (both sides) from Bridge Street to Lake Avenue;
 - (c) closure of Central Street from Elm to Pine Streets (no parking on both sides);
 - (d) closure of Chestnut Street from Merrimack Street to Lake Avenue (no parking on both sides)
 - (e) use of the Pine Street Parking Lot (federal lot) between Central and Merrimack Streets;
 - (f) the closure of Lake Avenue between Elm and Pine Streets should the property owners of the Staples parking lot grant use of the lot to park 30+/- buses for bands; and
 - (g) permission to paint four (4) “Shamrocks” on Elm Street in front of Veteran’s Park

be granted and approved, subject to review and approval of the Traffic Division of the Police Department and the Fire Department.

- T.** 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 O'NEIL, DULY SECONDED BY ALDERMAN PINARD, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.

- D.** Communication from Mayor Wieczorek asking whether or not the City, as part of the FY2000 budget process should reconsider its role in the funding of non-profit organizations and whether it is prudent for the City to continue to do so.

Alderman Shea commented that this was only one part of the equation and they should also consider payments in lieu of taxes as previously mentioned by Alderman Pariseau and so moved to include this subject with the communication and refer the item to the Committee on Administration/Information Systems. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Hirschmann duly recorded in opposition.

- H.** Communication from the Chief of Police seeking preliminary approval for the development of a .8 acre parcel of City-owned land located near the Animal Shelter on Dunbarton Road for the building of a small boarding and animal care facility to house the developing Equestrian Patrol Unit.

Alderman Girard asked if Chief Driscoll could address this item.

Chief Driscoll stated that some time ago the City received a block grant known as the law enforcement block grant. We had to identify with a committee of people how we intended to spend that money. There has been a desire within our department and amongst some of the Aldermen to see an equestrian unit within the Police Department. We spoke to this committee about that. They were very supportive of it. We checked with other departments around the State and found that the transportation, supervision and boarding of the animals became very expensive. As a result of that, we tried to figure out a way to keep the costs down. Our solution to all of these problems is to build a small barn in the area of the animal shelter on the south side of Dunbarton Road. On the east end of the present animal shelter, there is a small .8 acre piece of land there. We have spoken with Frank Thomas and there is no immediate concern or desire to use that land. It is not committed in any way. We also spoke with Ken Rhodes at CLD about the feasibility of designing a small facility. We think it is a good idea. We think it is a good idea for the City. Since the article was in the *Union Leader*, there has been a tremendous outpouring of interest and support for this program. I think the public would embrace it. I hope the Aldermen would embrace it.

Alderman Girard asked you are going to take the proper steps to secure and house and take care of the animals so that the folks who have the concerns, and the concerns are not with the program per say, it is with how the animals are going to get from where they are to where they are going to be and how they are cared for. You are going to address those.

Chief Driscoll replied absolutely.

Alderman Girard moved to refer the communication to the Committee on Community Improvement. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek presented nominations as follows:

Building Board of Appeals

Steven Clayman to succeed himself, term expiring January 1, 2002.

Heritage Commission

Charles Goodwin to succeed himself, term expiring January 1, 2002.

Richard Thorner to succeed himself, term expiring January 1, 2002.

Personnel Appeals Board

Jenny Stephen to succeed herself, term expiring March 2002.

Under the rules nominations were to lay over to the next meeting.

Confirmation of the nomination of William J. Desrosiers to succeed Paul Bolieau as a member of the Fire Commission, term to expire May 1, 2000.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Rivard, it was voted to confirm the nomination of William J. Desrosiers to succeed Paul Bolieau as a member of the Fire Commission, term expiring May 1, 2000.

Y2K update to be presented by Diane Prew, Director of Information Systems.

Ms. Prew stated the Board requested her to provide an update on the Y2K issues that we are facing. The City has a Y2K Committee that's made up of the members of the Systems Advisory Committee those being the Mayor, Frank Thomas from Highway, Tom Bowen from the Water Department, Mark Hobson from Human Resources, Mark Driscoll from the Police Department, Norm Tanguay from the School Department, Bob MacKenzie from Planning, Diane Prew from Information Systems, and Kevin Clougherty from Finance. In addition to these members, we asked several other department heads to join the committee to round out the areas of representation. Those included Dick Houle from PBS, Joe Kane representing the emergency operations center, Tom Clark and Dan Muller for legal issues and Harry Ntapolis for Risk Management. The purpose of the committee was to coordinate the City's Year 2K activities and the committee agreed that there were three major areas of concern. Our own systems, not just the computers but the vehicles, the HVAC systems, security, elevators, telephones, generators and the list goes on and on. Secondly we needed to address our vendors and our service providers, the people that supply our departments, that keep us in business. Thirdly we needed to address the external issues such as the utilities which effect all of us. We also coordinate the responses to the outside inquiries as to the readiness of the City. There have been lots of those

and the pace of those questionnaires is increasing with every day. We're working in conjunction with the emergency operations center, this is an organization which I'm sure you are all familiar with that is always ready to deal with the City's emergencies. They run drills annually and they deal with problems such as power outages and storms etc. As part of the committee we established several subcommittees that were formed to address various issues. There's a utility sub-commission that's headed by Chief Kane. There's a legal issues committee that's headed by Tom Clark and Dan Muller. Risk Management is handled by Harry Ntapolis. Financials by Kevin Clougherty and Mark Hobson. Facilities by Dick Houle. Computers and telephones by Diane Prew. We are working very closely with our departments. We are meeting with the support specialists in the large departments that have their own stand alone computers, such as the Fire, Police, Airport, Library, Water and School Department. Within the smaller departments we have primary contacts assigned. These are people with whom we coordinate the activities that are going on for year 2000. We've had periodic updates to the administrative and information systems committee and we have updates and discussions at department head meetings. Now the e-mail that prompted this request dealt more with some of the issues related to utilities. Chief Kane has given me an update as to what is happening in that area. The Public Utilities Commission is taking the lead on utilities compliance. Utilities were required to file reports to the PUC on April 1, 1998 concerning their readiness. Copies of these reports are available. Public Service has reported that most of their issues were supposed to be resolved by January 1, 1999. Energy North reported that most issues would be resolved by January 1999 also. The Manchester Water Works reported that most issues would be resolved by the second quarter of 1999. Bell Atlantic reported that most issues would be resolved by July 1999. The Environmental Protection Division is presently working with an outside consultant. In addition the PUC has contracted with an outside consultant to review the activities of the utilities. This is to make sure that they are proceeding in a timely fashion. The first report will deal with the reasonableness of the utility plans to address Y2K issues. That is supposed to be out on March 1st. The second report will review the adequacy of the efforts to implement the plans and that should be out by June 1st. The final report will detail the general level of utility preparedness and that should be available by September 1st. So the utility subcommittee will continue to monitor these reports and then discussions as to whether actions will be necessary or not. In terms of legal issues we've been letters of response to the requests that have been coming in. We've been contacting our own vendors with questionnaires. We developed a definition of Year 2000 compliance for the city and we've been reviewing legislation as it takes place. On the Financial Subcommittee, they have been reviewing the banking system to make sure that things will be functioning properly there and they are keeping an eye on state agencies and federal agencies. It's certainly going to be important to be sure that our funding continues in a timely fashion. Facilities deal with our building management and our control systems. And our computers and telephones, our current payroll and financial system with HTE are certified compliant by our vendor, we will be doing testing on our own to make sure that things are functioning properly for us. We are presently converting the revenue collection systems, which include the tax billing, water and EPD billing, and there is work being done on community development modules also. On the desktop or PC side, we have tested all of our PC hardware

within the departments; the oldest equipment has been replaced where necessary. And all the other PC hardware has been upgraded to Year 2000 compliance. The remaining issue on the PC side is the software issue. Patches for the standard desktop software will be applied as they become available, and I suspect that this may be pretty much going on all year long, as the various vendors find new bugs that need to be addressed. So we will be keeping abreast of that and going around to all of the desktops and applying those patches. That'll be a time consuming affair. We will also be setting up PC's in our department and setting them up with Year 2000 dates so that the departments can come in and actually run tests without effecting their current applications. On the telephones, City Hall has a brand new system that is compliant, and other systems will be reviewed and upgrades made as necessary. We see as the major responsibilities for the committee to make sure that we address all of our systems, that we meet the requirements for due diligence, that we prepare contingency plans, and that we report the progress that we've made, and we hope to release a report by March 1.

Alderman Wihby asked where are we as far as a percentage as far as a department goes. Do we know for instance do we get a monthly report or something from Highway telling us where they are at right now, or finance or.

Ms. Prew responded we are in the process of assembling that information. I have about half of the information that has come in so far. Your smaller departments most of their issues are their PC issues which we are addressing.

Alderman Wihby asked where are we for instance on computers, 50 percent there or 80 percent there or is there a date that we figure everything will be changed.

Ms. Prew stated on the PC's on the hardware that's complete, they've all been tested and they've been upgraded. On the software we have not updated any of the software as yet. We have been collecting the information from the various vendors, and we'll be starting to do that probably next month. We are complete the upgrade of all of the PC's to Windows 95 and Office 97, that had to be completed first. And then we will start going around and upgrading the desktop software.

Alderman Wihby stated so do you know what departments where they are, where every department is.

Ms. Prew replied we provide the software to the departments so we are the primary provider of that. It is our responsibility to bring that software up-to-date. Now they do have...in departments there is some unique software. That is where the PC's are going to be set-up in our department to provide them the opportunity to do that testing. Once we have that information which should be by the end of this month, every department should have completed their assessment of the items that are unique to their department. That would be anything other than the desktop software that is being provided by our department.

Alderman Wihby stated it seems like we are behind on this. Security for instance. Timing and facilities. Who did you say was in charge of that? Was that Dick Houle?

Ms. Prew replied yes.

Alderman Wihby asked where are we with that, for instance, as far as security, boilers, and elevators, all of the things that have timers and clocks.

Ms. Prew answered as far as I know, there were several meetings that were held and the individual that was coordinating that had asked us to provide a facility to record the information, some databases and such. I am not sure, at this point, how far along that is.

Alderman Wihby stated it sounds like we don't have a plan, then. It sounds like we are trying to put a plan together when we are getting to the deadline. We should have had this plan before and been trying to achieve, in the next few months, getting people off that, whoever was behind in the Year 2000 compliance. I mean security issues should have already been defined in all of the buildings and we should be working on those right now. We don't even know where we have problems.

Ms. Prew replied as far as the facilities go, no.

Alderman Wihby stated it seems to me that we probably should have a sub-committee of the Aldermen here overseeing what this other committee is doing also and making sure that we get reports back. We are getting into the end of February and are almost in March. Defining the problem now, not knowing how bad we are, seems like we are going to end up with a big problem.

Mayor Wiczorek stated well I think Information Systems reports to the Committee on Administration.

Alderman Hirschmann noted it is a sub-committee of the Committee on Administration.

Ms. Prew stated by March 1, you will have a report indicating where we are.

Alderman Wihby asked on everything.

Ms. Prew answered on everything.

Alderman O'Neil stated, your Honor, I have all the confidence in Diane and the rest of the department heads. Where I don't have any confidence is in our facilities as Alderman Wihby brought up, based on everything we have gone through in the past few months. Has there been

any discussion with the special committee? Have they discussed Y2K compliance? Not her special committee but the special committee that is looking at cleaning and facilities maintenance.

Mayor Wieczorek asked the committee that we have on custodial services. No, we are working on trying to figure out what to do and one of the best things to do is to get the schools clean.

Alderman O'Neil replied but I thought the committee was not just cleaning, but facilities in general.

Mayor Wieczorek responded no, I don't think that is what it is. When we get to the end of the meeting, I have something that I will be bringing to your attention on what we are going to be doing regarding all of those items.

Alderman O'Neil stated I guess that I would ask then that the respective departments with their buildings better double check and make sure that somebody is following up on it because as we have seen, if we count on the one department that has been responsible for facilities, they haven't been doing their job. So, I throw that out to the department heads that are here tonight and encourage the others to follow-up with Diane to make sure that we are going to meet the Y2K.

Alderman Wihby asked, Diane, on March 1 are we going to get a report from facilities too.

Ms. Prew answered we will update you as to where that is.

Alderman Wihby asked so we won't get a report, we are just going to know where it is. By March 1, I mean I imagine that software and hardware, you are going to have that pretty well defined by March as far as what we need to go further with and what we have to change. On the facilities, we are not going to have that on March 1?

Ms. Prew answered I am going to have to check with the individual in the PBS department that I believe was responsible for facilities.

Alderman Wihby asked which was.

Ms. Prew answered I believe that was Mark Fay who was going to be doing that.

Alderman Wihby asked does he know...have we sent him on a mission that by March 1 we want to know about our facilities and the Y2K compliance.

Ms. Prew answered I have not spoken with him. It was Dick Houle who was attending the meetings for Y2K. I will check with him and see where that is at this point.

Mayor Wieczorek stated we are going to be checking all of the activities that are being handled by PBS. This is what we are in the process of doing right now.

Alderman Wihby replied well PBS has their own problems, your Honor, let alone taking on all of the departments security wise and the facilities. It just seems that we should have a report and I thought that what I heard earlier was that by March 1 we were going to have a report on everything. We are not going to have a report on everything; we are just going to have it on the computers. We should have a report soon telling us where our problems are and if we have to put in more money somewhere and if we have to bring in more help somewhere or do something differently we should be doing it now and not waiting. I assumed we were doing that.

Ms. Prew stated well we are having a meeting tomorrow morning at which time we will be updated on the various aspects so I can give you a call later tomorrow if you would like.

Alderman Wihby answered not just me. I mean this is an issue that we have been working on for a long time and I thought that we were further along than we were. I know that in the State we have been doing this for over a year now and every month we put in a report on how far we have gotten and we define when we are going to be Y2K compliant on all aspects and if we are going to meet it or not. We have told somebody if we could not meet it and we told somebody if we could. I assumed we were there already and that is what this committee was doing and that we knew where we were at least. It doesn't sound like we are there. I thought we were working on the problems. It sounds like we don't even know what problems we are going to have.

Ms. Prew stated I think in many areas we do know where we are. To give you a percentage today is difficulty, but by individual applications and projects, we know where we are.

Alderman Wihby asked on facilities too.

Ms. Prew answered no, not on the facilities.

Alderman Clancy stated we had a problem with the City checks a couple of weeks ago. Did that have anything to do with the computers or the HTE system?

Ms. Prew replied that was a transmission problem. When the payroll data is transmitted to the bank, it apparently did not get there in its entirety and we did not look for the confirmation, which we should have. So, therefore, it wasn't until the next day that we were aware that the information did not arrive, as it should have. We have since taken steps to insure that the confirmation will be looked for immediately and there are checks and balances that more than one person will be looking for so that will not happen again.

Alderman Clancy asked are you going to have a dry run previous to the Year 2000 with some of the departments in case when we do have a shut down.

Ms. Prew answered are you talking about...

Alderman Clancy interjected loss of power. Are you going to simulate that?

Ms. Prew replied there will be contingency plans put in place should various scenarios occur. In terms of a dry run, I don't know if you mean actually shutting off the power.

Alderman Clancy responded maybe you could do it in one of the municipal buildings just to simulate that and maybe have a generator as a back up to see if it would work.

Ms. Prew stated the generators in the City, as far as I am aware, are checked on a regular basis.

Alderman Clancy replied on a monthly basis.

Mayor Wiczorek thanked Diane for her presentation.

Presentation to be made by School District representatives relative to the Alternative School proposal.

Superintendent Tanguay stated the reason I am here this evening is to present to you a concept. A concept as it pertains to alternative schooling, not an alternative school, but alternative schooling. Background information. The Board of School Committee, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen approved a resolution and plan regarding implementation of alternative schooling. The School District is in need of a plan to show a variety of alternative programs addressing the unique qualities of the students identified with the most benefit. A proposal for alternative schooling continuing, implementation of alternative schooling opportunities for some students who have not succeeded in the traditional classroom has been a major need of the Manchester School District. Reasons for need of alternative schooling for the Manchester School District – unacceptable drop-out rate at the high school level, increasing need for selected students identified as EH or more restrictive instructional environment, increase the need for an in-district alternative schooling who are court ordered to a residential setting and ongoing challenge to meet educational services for those who have had no formal education. The identified student population includes regular and special education students who have been expelled, special education students who are 45 day placements as a result of discipline consequences, ESL students who have had no formal education prior to coming to the Manchester School District, special education students who would benefit from a more restrictive environment within the district rather than in a residential setting, students who are at risk of dropping out or who have dropped out. Profile of the student population includes high

rate of absenteeism, a pattern of failure in the classroom, history of recurring discipline problems, minimal achievement and related motivation, poor self-concept, lack of interest in school, lack of goals to graduate from high school, negative peer interaction, and behaviors which lead to court involvement. The cost containment and funding sources include State and local funding, Federal funding including entitlement programs, IDEA (Individual Disabilities Education Act), inter-agency grants, tuition for students in other districts, and capital improvement planning funding.

Action versus estimated benefits/savings. For each student not dropping out, or for each student dropping out and returning, the district would receive state aid based on a per pupil count.

Providing an alternative in-district program for potential court ordered placements, savings of up to \$20,000 per year per student. Providing a more restrictive EH program that would prevent an out-of-district placement. The savings range from \$17,000 to \$50,000 annually in out-of-district placements per student. Provide a program in which students acquire skills needed in order to successfully join the workforce. The result is an increased graduation rate, reduction in court ordered placements and a reduction in the dropout rate. Continued action versus estimated benefits/savings. Provide an alternative in-district placement for special education students who are long-term suspended or expelled. Savings range from \$20,000 to \$60,000 annually in out-of-district placements per student. Reduction in suspensions and expulsions will result in reduced impact on staff time and reduced impact on legal fees. The planning committee and related costs would be representatives of the district, city, agencies, parents and students. It should cover the following: visitations, informal searches, consultations with higher education, secretarial assistance, stipend for grant writer (internal or external), release time for selected teachers. Estimated budget \$7,500. Indicators of program effectiveness/benefits include providing instructional programs that meet the diversified needs of students, access to space options for quality learning environments for all students, reduction in the drop-out rate, reduction in the residential placement of court ordered students, reduction in the residential placement of selected EH special education students, reverse pattern of failure to pattern of success, reduction in discipline referrals, and improved learning environments in all schools. That concludes the abbreviated presentation. You all have a copy of the plan. I apologize, I think you are sharing a copy of the full plan. I will make sure you each get a full copy within the next few days.

Mayor Wiczorek asked are there any questions.

Alderman Wihby asked is this like something called a PASS Program down at MST.

Superintendent Tanguay answered yes, that is similar to what we are doing.

Alderman Wihby asked would it be there.

Superintendent Tanguay answered that will continue. As a matter of fact, we will involve staff in that program; John Rist is the person responsible for that, to serve on the committee to look at alternative schooling.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I think the YMCA had a program similar to that didn't they.

Superintendent Tanguay answered yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated not only the PASS Program, but aren't many of these programs going on at the School of Technology now. I wish I had your notes because there was a key phrase that was said at the beginning and it hit me about...and I can't think of it now but with regards to the fact that we seem to focus a lot on preparing kids for college and a lot just are not going to go to college and we need to get them into the trades. If you had to put a percentage, how much of this is already in place in the City? It may not be a fair question.

Superintendent Tanguay replied it isn't.

Alderman O'Neil stated some of it is, though, in place already.

Superintendent Tanguay replied I don't have a number. We have one at West High School as well so we have some mini ones in existence now that are extremely beneficial and successful.

Alderman O'Neil asked but you are targeting, at the School of Technology, trades.

Superintendent Tanguay answered that is one area that we are looking at.

Alderman O'Neil stated you have some special needs kids there, as well as some at-risk kids there, correct.

Superintendent Tanguay replied exactly and we have also looked at the dropout rate. Presently, we are in the teens in terms of the dropout rate. Also the EH population, we are sending a lot of students to outside placements and that is very, very costly as well as our ESL population. It is more inclusive, if you will, and will service a larger clientele.

Alderman O'Neil asked is it possible, and I know that this is in the early stages, to do a little bit of a summary about what is in place and where we are missing.

Superintendent Tanguay answered I will be glad to do that.

Alderman Shea asked is there any stipulation as far as the age group. Are you focusing more on the upper elementary or middle school versus elementary?

Superintendent Tanguay answered at the high school level for dropout rate. The expulsions run middle school to high school. Special education can run from K-12 actually. It is not limited.

Alderman Shea asked as far as placement out-of-district, we both know that sometimes you have 24-hour placement. Are you focusing on that group as well that you would have custodial, as well as educational facilities.

Superintendent Tanguay answered I will let Karen Burkash answer that.

Ms. Burkush stated I don't think we've gotten that fair in terms of having residential placement. The planning committee will look at exactly what we have in place. I guess what we have done at this point is identify the different populations that we feel that we need to improve our programs in the City so that those students can be educated in the City and reduce the cost of out-of-district placements.

Alderman Shea stated so your answer is that you haven't really decided as far as that is concerned.

Superintendent Tanguay stated just to give you an understanding of what each outside placement costs, it runs anywhere from \$17,000 to about \$91,000.

Alderman Pariseau stated my concern, your Honor, deals with the \$7,500 budget. That would be for seed money to get the program running.

Superintendent Tanguay replied right. Money to visit other institutions and secretarial costs.

Alderman Pariseau asked would that be coming out of the school department budget.

Superintendent Tanguay answered we would like to have some relief in that area from the Board of Mayor and Aldermen if possible.

Alderman Pariseau asked for out-of-district students, what would the charge be to their community. Would it be the same as what we charge now?

Superintendent Tanguay asked for some clarification.

Alderman Pariseau stated well you are talking about bringing in students from other school districts. Their tuition, would that be based on the current level?

Superintendent Tanguay replied we feel that we could do it for less money in-house which means that as you bring students back there should be some savings. Also, we hope to attract students from the surrounding districts who are also sending students out that would save them

money and also support our program. Again, the committee will be looking at all facets of the concept and coming in with recommendations addressing the questions that you have asked.

Mayor Wieczorek asked, Alderman Pariseau, are you asking if they make money as a result of taking in students from out of the City.

Alderman Pariseau answered well not necessarily make money, but I just wanted to make sure that it was going to cover the actual expenses involved in this alternative education process.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it has to cover the actual expenses right, Norm.

Superintendent Tanguay replied I need to clear that up. The committee will look at that, but an enterprise fund, unless we do it where we would pay ourselves, it will not. What it will do is save us money on outside placements so we will bring some of those students back. It will also address the dropout rate and educate those students and expelled students. We will pick up some state aid on that, plus we will pick up some grants plus the tuition from outside districts, students that will come in from other districts who we will service in special education. That could also include some that have been expelled, as well. So we will be bringing in some revenues. Again, it will not be self-supporting like an enterprise fund would where the revenues offset the expenditures. We could do something like that with tuition, but I think we are only fooling ourselves if we are doing that. I hope that the committee will address that and that it will be a cost, but the cost will be a savings in terms of total cost. What I mean to say is, for example, if we spend a half million dollars now for this program in terms of what we are doing in sending students out, it would be our expectation that that would be reduced considerably so it is a cost savings, in essence.

Alderman Thibault stated so what you are talking about is that these new programs would go into existing schools now and that you would just put out more programs. Is that what you are saying?

Superintendent Tanguay replied well some programs we do not offer now, for example the special education in-house.

Alderman Thibault asked so you will offer more of those but in the existing schools. We are not talking about building a school here?

Superintendent Tanguay answered not at the present time. Thank you for clearing that up. Again, the committee will look at that and look at the possibility of another facility but more importantly look at doing it in-house and within the constraints of our purchase authority.

Alderman Thibault asked what does it cost you to send a kid out now on one of these programs. Does it cost \$17,500?

Superintendent Tanguay answered \$17,500 is a court ordered placement. Tuition cost runs from the \$25,000 up to \$91,000 a year per child. If you compare that to a per pupil cost, K-12 is \$4,900 so it is very expensive.

Alderman Cashin stated it appears to me that you are here for two reasons. One, you are asking for the Board's approval of your proposal and two, for \$7,500 in seed money so that you can continue the planning phase, is that right.

Superintendent Tanguay replied yes, for the committee to do their final recommendations.

Alderman Cashin asked to find out if it is feasible number one and to find out if it is cost effective, number two.

Superintendent Tanguay answered yes.

Alderman Cashin moved to approve giving the School Department \$7,500 to further investigate the possibility of alternative schooling. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Reiniger asked what is the current high school drop out rate and how does that compare with the state average. Is our rate getting worse?

Superintendent Tanguay answered we are presently looking at that. The State said that our dropout rate is 7%. We are showing it in the high teens so we are trying to reconcile the difference at this point, which I believe is attributed to differences in reporting the drop-out rate among the different schools that we have. Again, the State says 7%. Ideally you want a dropout rate of about 5%.

Alderman Reiniger asked so we are high in comparison to the rest of the towns.

Superintendent Tanguay answered yes we are.

Alderman Reiniger asked what is our trend. Has Manchester been getting worse?

Superintendent Tanguay answered yes, it is going up.

Alderman Reiniger asked and why is that.

Superintendent Tanguay answered the diverse population, for example, is contributing to that quite a bit and the fact that we also cannot accommodate the drop-out rate in terms of the expelled students and that would lower that drop-out rate if we are able to offer those programs.

Alderman Hirschmann stated my concern, as an Alderman in the City is that I always want to make sure that Manchester is taken care of first. It is admirable that we want to have revenue from other districts or whatever your intentions are, but I don't know that it is in our best interest to take in expelled students and bad apples from other places. We have our own problems. We have 17,000 students in our school district. Can't we take care of our own children and our own problems? I don't really see a need to be going and taking on other problems. That is my opinion. I would rather see our kids getting the best education. People who move their families to Manchester, if they have ESL requirements, lets take care of them. I don't really think that we should be going out of district and taking other people on, even if it is bringing in revenue.

Superintendent Tanguay replied we agree with that. The idea is to serve our population first. That is our number one priority. If, in the process of servicing our population of students, we are able to bring in students from other districts and adding one or two students in the class without having to add additional teaching staff, that is where the money comes in and that would be our expectation, that we could work something like that out but number one, our student population will be serviced first. If we have room for other people, fine.

Alderman Hirschmann stated but I already hear tales that some students from the west side of Manchester can't get into the Manchester School of Technology because there are kids from Goffstown and other places. Again, I want to see our kids get taken care of first.

Alderman Shea asked don't we know take in students for the deaf program, as well as other programs so it is not really breaking any kind of tradition. The other point is if a child or youngster drops out of school at 16, will this program tend to have any drawback. In other words if a child is 16 now they can dropout, right?

Superintendent Tanguay replied that is correct.

Alderman Shea stated now is this program going to try to bring that person back. Is that one of your intents?

Superintendent Tanguay replied that will be one of the committee's assignments, to see if that is feasible, yes.

Alderman Shea stated now lets assume that the child is 14 and is expelled and the expulsion is for a legitimate reason, obviously. Would there be provisions to also bring that child back in?

Superintendent Tanguay replied absolutely. The Expulsion Committee met tonight and I think we have three expulsions, which is a low number at this point. That is very disconcerting to the School Committee, as I am sure it is to the Aldermen, that these students now are not offered any further education. This committee's work will be to focus on that and hopefully be able to offer them that opportunity.

Alderman Shea asked how about the home schooled children. Will there be provisions for them as well?

Superintendent Tanguay answered yes; the committee will also be looking into that.

Alderman Girard asked for clarification of the motion on the floor.

Mayor Wieczorek answered the motion is to take \$7,500 and give it to the School Department so they can explore the possibilities of alternative schooling.

Alderman Girard asked where is that \$7,500 coming from.

Mr. Clougherty answered there is currently a balance of \$74,198 in contingency.

Alderman Girard stated, your Honor, certainly I would like to see work on this project continue, but given the low balance that we have in contingency now, given that the Police Department in successive meetings has come in and asked for the ability to lay claim on contingency money for programs that this Board has or probably will approve in the future, given that the Highway Department is having problems with the solid waste budget and the weathermen say that there is much snow on the way, I would have some concerns about taking dollars from contingency at this point and moving in that direction. I would like to see the School Department absorb this within their budget first so that we are not taking more than 10% of what we have left in the contingency account.

Mr. Hobson stated I just wanted to applaud the Superintendent and the Student Services Director for coming forward with a plan to develop a comprehensive program. As you know, the School Board has been grappling with this problem since 1994. I believe that was the first proposal ever put together for an alliterative school and when we talk about \$7,500 for seed money, some of you may remember that we looked at purchasing the lake shore Hospital facility for literally millions of dollars. This is a big program. I applaud their efforts. It needs to get done. The ESL population has risen by 400% in the last two years. The special education budget is close to 25% of your entire general fund of the school district's budget and I think it is an excellent start and I just applaud what they are doing.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to give the school district \$7,500 to further investigate alternative schooling.

Alderman Cashin asked does it have to come out of contingency. It seems to me that there must be money around that we can find.

Mr. Clougherty answered if this were approved tonight; we would go back and bring in a resolution at the next meeting. You should know that there is \$74,000 in contingency but Bob MacKenzie and I were just talking and there may be some other options that we can come in with instead so we will look at all of the different options and bring back an appropriate resolution for your action at the next meeting, as is the policy.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

Communication from the Deputy City Clerk submitting Ordinance:

“Amending the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by inserting a new Chapter 39: Procurement Code, and deleting Section 35.097 Small Purchases.”

and requesting the Board suspend the rules and place the ordinance on its third and final reading by title only to be ordained.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Rivard, it was voted to suspend the rules and place this ordinance on its third and final reading by title only, without referral to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading and the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that on the first page of the ordinance there is a correction under Section 39.04. Section A reads “Except as hereafter provided all purchases in excess of” and it should read \$10,000. That is pursuant to discussion with the City Solicitor. The reason the ordinance is being brought before you is that in the process of going through an updating our procurement code and having it gone through, somehow there was a break off of sections. Part of it was in finance and part of it should have been in administration and policy. Somehow this section got dropped from the policy section. In essence, we are trying to reinsert it into the Code of Ordinances. It is not there now. In the interim, there was a change to Small Purchases done by the Board a short time ago. We are now incorporating that change in the ordinance that is before you now so that it will be as it should be on the books. When the ordinance was changed to \$10,000 for the Small Purchase section, that other \$10,000 should have been inserted in the other section so we are trying to make that correction at this point, as well.

Alderman Wihby asked did any committee look at any of this stuff.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered this is the same thing that the Board believes is on the books at this time. The problem is that it is not physically in the books. They all want to the committee and were acted upon by the Board at one time or another during the course of years.

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

These Ordinances having had their third and final readings by titles only, Alderman Wihby moved on passing same to be Ordained. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Bond Resolution:

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Eighty Five Thousand Dollars (\$285,000) for various water distribution improvements.”

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman O’Neil, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Girard, it was voted that the Resolution ought to pass and be Enrolled.

Alderman Clancy moved to enter into non-public session under the provisions of RSA 91-A:3 Paragraph II(d) regarding the University Center Associates and Hackett Hill acquisition. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion. The Clerk requested a roll call. Aldermen Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O’Neil, Girard, Shea, Rivard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, and Hirschmann voted yea.

Non-public session ensued with members of the Board meeting with representatives of the Finance Department and legal counsel to discuss potential terms and conditions relating to the acquisition of the so-called Hackett Hill property and related transaction with the University Center Associates. Financial considerations and environmental issues relating to the transaction were discussed.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to return to public session.

The Clerk advised that if the Board desired a motion was in order to authorize the Mayor to execute a purchase and sales agreement with University Center Associates for the University Center.

Alderman Hirschmann so moved to authorize the Mayor to execute a purchase and sales agreement with University Center Associates for the University Center. Alderman Rivard duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Reiniger and Sysyn duly recorded as abstaining.

The clerk advised that if the Board desired a motion was in order to authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary documents for closing of the transaction on February 26, 1999; and further authorize the Mayor, if necessary, to extend that deadline to a mutually agreeable date with the University of New Hampshire and University Center Associates.

Alderman Hirschmann so moved to authorize the Mayor execute all necessary documents for closing of the University Center transaction on February 26, 1999, and further authorize the Mayor, if necessary, to extend that deadline to a mutually agreeable date with the University of New Hampshire and University Center Associates. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Reiniger and Sysyn duly recorded as abstaining.

NEW BUSINESS

Mayor Wieczorek read the following communication:

Last week I copied members of the committees on Administration and Human Resources on a letter I sent to the Finance Director regarding the transfer of staff and functions in his department. In that letter I stated that now might be an appropriate time to review the structure of the Finance Department and would name a special committee to review this structure for possible improvements. Therefore, I am creating the Mayor's special Committee on Organizational Development. The membership of the committee is as follows: the Mayor, the Chairman of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration; Administration; Bills on Second Reading; Community Improvement; Human Resources and Insurance; Traffic and Public Safety; the Finance Director; the City Solicitor; the Human Resources Director; the Public Works Director; and the Airport Director; Thomas Adams representing the MEA New Hampshire; Gene Brassard representing the Firefighters; Bob Beaurivage representing the non-affiliated employees. The Committee will be aided by the consultant services of Mr. Floyd Decker and Mr. John Luthy. I will call an initial meeting of this committee in the next few weeks. If you would like to make any suggestions to the Committee you may do so in writing to my office.

Alderman Girard stated you've singled out two union presidents to represent their respective unions, asking if they are there for their unions or are they there as part of the coalition of public employees.

Mayor Wieczorek stated they are there because we wanted to have a broad base of people that were going to be taking a look at what we are going to be doing.

Alderman Girard stated so they are not necessarily there because they are firefighters or teachers.

Mayor Wieczorek stated no, we could have had some other people.

Alderman Thibault stated a couple of weeks ago I brought up the fact that the West High School had a computer stolen, and got a second to the motion to get a computer, and they still don't have one. Diane Prew had nothing that they could use. I would like to see West High School get that computer. It's very needed and I would like to see us move on the motion that I made two meetings ago.

Alderman Thibault noted it was he and Alderman Wihby who had made the motion.

Mayor Wieczorek asked where the funding was coming from.

Alderman Thibault noted that they had figured out at the time it was to come from contingency.

Mr. Clougherty stated at the time the recommendation was to have Diane look at it, and I think they thought it would come out of her budget or her surplus of equipment, but what I'm understanding is that is not the case, so your alternatives would be primarily contingency or for us to take a look at some other option now.

Alderman Thibault noted it should be purchased through the school department so it would be cheaper.

Mayor Wiczorek stated the only danger here is setting a precedent so that any time anybody has anything missing all of a sudden it's not the school side it's going to be coming out of the city side.

Alderman Thibault stated if we had five or six other computers stolen somewhere somebody would have to replace them eventually. These computers were bought because they were needed, this is the second one, they haven't said anything about the first one, they can live without it, but this one here they really need and I would like to see them get it. This was in a homeroom where it gets a lot of use. It is a real problem.

Alderman Shea stated he was not sure if Alderman Thibault had a check made of the school department itself to see if there were any computers because Chris Nelson is one of the people working on that.

Alderman Thibault stated they had nothing over there, and reiterated comments on purchasing through the school department because of getting a better deal, but that West High School really needs this computer and we should get it to them. This was the second one to get stolen over there and we should get them a computer. School didn't have anything to take care of it and the insurance fund did not cover it either. If we have five more stolen throughout the city what are we going to do then. There has to be a way of getting a computer.

Alderman Girard stated the question raised is a good one, if five more are stolen what are they going to do then and since we didn't know about the first one being stolen until the second one, I wonder how many things we are going to find out were stolen if we agree to go ahead and do this. I sympathize with the sentiments of Alderman Thibault and would like to see something done, however I believe it should be handled within the school department's budget. I don't believe that contingency is an option. I do believe it would set a precedent that I think would cause some problems for this Board not only for the school department, but there could be other liabilities here that we don't foresee.

Alderman Thibault noted he had a motion on the floor to approve up to \$2,500 from contingency to have the computer replaced through school department purchase. Alderman Wihby had seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated he agreed with Alderman Thibault. Last time we discussed this we talked about the shoring up of security, and I hope the Mayor's committee checks into that aspect. Alderman Hirschmann commented that the Mayor was in the insurance business for quite a long time, we have so many computers now, can we come up with some kind of a property tag on all of the city's computers and come up with some kind of a rider policy to cover computers.

Mayor Wieczorek stated of course you can, anything you want to pay for you can buy.

Alderman Hirschmann noted that they had lost a lot of computers over the last five years, Central High got broken into numerous times.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that an insurance company was not a benevolent organization. They are not philanthropic by nature. If you find that security is not good, you are not going to find anybody that is going to want to write a risk like that, where somebody can walk in any time they want. One thing we've learned with the committee meeting on the custodial situation is the fact that there is security problems, and the security problems are is where you will find that there may be 18 doors open in one building. It is not humanly possible to have somebody at every door. This is one of the areas that we are going to have to deal with, we are going to try to dissect all of those things and security is a major concern that has to be dealt with, but they would not be able to deal with it in two weeks.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to approve up to \$2,500 from contingency for a computer for West High School.

Alderman Reiniger asked what the mayor's recommendation was.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he agreed that it would be nice to give them a computer but I'm concerned about it opening up so that everybody that has anything missing all of a sudden is going to say well we'll have the city replace it for us, I'll talk to my alderman and he will see that it gets approved by the Board. That's the danger.

Alderman Wihby noted they had only so much money to spend and once it was gone it was gone.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Reiniger, Pariseau and Girard recorded in opposition.

Alderman Shea stated the Mayor's committee had been working with the custodial services at the schools and at this time he thought they should commend the Highway Department employees for doing an excellent job after a full day's work, he thought they had been doing a

good job over at West, and Hillside, so the men from Highway should be commended. These are the people spend eight hours after their work to clean up the schools. He thought they deserved a lot of thanks.

Mayor Wieczorek noted they should credit Cemetery too because they are also part of the crew.

Alderman Thibault stated it just proves that these schools can be cleaned if we have the proper people in them.

Mayor Wieczorek stated if you have enough people in there.

Alderman Pariseau noted that he had received a letter from Attorney Wadleigh regarding cable and he wished to have it referred to the Committee on Administration and so moved.

Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with none recorded in opposition.

Alderman O'Neil stated he had two issues asking if they were really trying to do something with the relations at the Transit Authority. Every week they were getting a letter from some employee, and the problem is not going away.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that he agreed it was not going away. Mr. Clay had called and wanted to meet with the mayor this week, and he will be meeting with him. He noted that he had a list of drivers send in their petition saying that the other group was not speaking for them, and it was a very large group.

Alderman Pariseau stated that the sub-committee of CIP was meeting with the Transit Authority on Monday at 7:00 PM.

Alderman O'Neil stated the second item dealt with the parking garage at the Airport noting he had some concerns he had some conversations with Tom Clark about this, thank god for Tom Clark working for the City because he might have saved us from being involved in a major law suit. Alderman O'Neil stated I don't know if there is something we can do to straighten out the situation down there, in my opinion Harvey Construction was not treated fairly. They were the apparent low bidder and then through some alternate the whole thing got messed up and I don't know if there is anything we can do, and I've talked to Tom about, you know we end up paying for this whether it's Tom or his staff or we have outside counsel which I believe we do here, we end up paying for this I don't believe it ends up coming out of the Airport's budget. It's costing a lot of people a lot of legal bills with regards to this and I reach out to the Board if anybody has any suggestions as to how we can resolve this.

Mayor Wieczorek stated all the bids were thrown out, so they have to be rebid.

Solicitor Clark stated the Airport went out for competitive bidding to erect a parking garage. The bids were opened in late December. What Alderman O'Neil says is that Harvey appeared to be the low bidder at that time, and at first glance that appeared to be true. Subsequent to that our office was called, we reviewed the matter, we went through the specifications and we found that there was some vagueness in the specifications, the bidders all have different ideas as to what they were bidding on, we talked to each different bidder. We found out they each believed they were doing something different. You really couldn't compare apples to apples, and myself and Tom Arnold reviewed it. The attorneys for the City's consultants reviewed the specifications. We met with the Mayor, the Airport Director, and we recommended they reject all bids and go back out to bid again. That's what they did, they followed our recommendation and the recommendation of other attorneys. We believe that that is the solid legal ground for the City, that that's what the City should do. However, subsequent to that Harvey Construction requested that the court issue a temporary restraining order to stop us from going out to bid again until they've had a chance to explain their side to the judge. The judge did give them a temporary order. We now have a hearing scheduled for February 23rd to set the situation straight.

Alderman Girard stated to Solicitor Clark, we are where we are because the Airport followed your advice, or the advice of your office.

Solicitor Clark responded that his office advised that they reject all bids, yes.

Alderman O'Neil stated that wasn't what was going to happen until Tom Clark stepped in. After they reached this problem with this alternate, they were going to award it to the next low bidder, and thank god for Tom Clark stepping in and putting a halt to it or we would have some serious legal problems now in my opinion. I think there is a practice down there, and Tom Clark has done his job, but things aren't working well at the airport again. They have legal counsel engineers have missed some items down there and it ends up costing us money I believe. It took a reputable local contractor who feels that they have been treated unfairly.

Mayor Wiczorek stated he did not think that's true. They called me when that situation occurred and I met with the Airport to determine what had happened and to try to understand what the circumstances are. Met with Harvey Construction twice. Met with the other contractor once. And we met with the engineers and everybody that was involved in the project. The attorney for the Airport.

Solicitor Clark advised she was the attorney for the consultant.

Mayor Wiczorek stated he thought Harvey had their opportunity to talk about the situation, and the conclusion was that we take the advise that our attorney gave us and that is what we are doing. He could understand their consternation about this not happening, because they are building the terminal addition, all they have to do is move the stuff across the street and they

have a \$20 million job, so he could appreciate that, but after reviewing all of the circumstances this was the only thing that was the proper thing to do.

Alderman O'Neil stated his biggest concern was not the advice that Tom Clark has given, because he believed that was correct, he thought the problem was that they were paying legal fees down there, they are paying consulting fees for engineers and they still can't get it right and that was his biggest concern and it was going to end up costing us money either time for our solicitor's office or outside counsel, noting Tom's office was paying for the outside counsel.

Solicitor Clark stated it comes under the self-insurance fund because Harvey Construction also asked for damages. To let the aldermen know, the Airport's not paying outside attorneys to give them advice on this. The consultant has their own attorneys we told them to get their own attorneys. And, to the extent that the city does loose money because its been vague in its specifications we will then look at going back at any consultants who made the mistakes to recuperate money.

Mayor Wieczorek asked if Tom billed the enterprises for time.

Solicitor Clark stated yes, our office does.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that the airport was paying.

In response to further question from Alderman O'Neil, Solicitor Clark stated that the insurance fund was paying for the outside counsel, the enterprises do reimburse.

Alderman O'Neil asked they are reimbursing the insurance fund.

Solicitor Clark answered yes. I don't know whether it is dollar for dollar, but I can find out. They do reimburse the insurance fund, though.

Alderman Cashin stated I met with you and I met with Solicitor Clark to discuss this. The problem is that the numbers are out there now. Everybody has bid so everybody knows everybody's numbers. This is what the problem is and the specifications are not going to change that much. That is what they are concerned about and it is a legitimate concern. I think you have to agree with that, Tom.

Solicitor Clark replied that is one of the results when you go out to bid again. It just so happens that it is not something that we do lightly. We don't usually do it, but it has happened before. In this case, I just felt that we had to.

Alderman Cashin stated you are the City attorney. I am not going to argue with that.

Alderman Pariseau moved to refer a letter from former Mayor John Mongan to the sub-committee on the civic center. Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Reiniger stated I continue to receive complaints and voices of concern from downtown merchants and customers about the meters that we put in, in that the meters don't accept anything other than quarters. This came up when we first put up the meters and I know that Intown Manchester still receives some complaints as I am a member of the board of that organization. I think it would behoove us, early in the budget process, to have the Traffic Department make a presentation to the Traffic Committee about the feasibility of making this change, and the cost, if any, to enable these meters to accept nickels and dimes.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I also wish they would look at tokens because you can sell tokens by the roll and people will always be able to have them in their car. It would make it a lot easier, the City would collect their money and I think that is another thing that we should consider.

Alderman Reiniger moved to have the Traffic Department make a presentation to the Traffic Committee about the feasibility of making a change and the cost, if any, to enable these meters to also accept nickels, dimes and tokens. Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I just received a petition from 125 people of the Hillcrest Terrace Resident Council which is a retirement community up in my ward who are asking for a traffic light at Front Street and Hackett Hill due to the development of that corridor. There are a lot of people that do need a traffic light. This is a 65 and older community, your Honor.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to send this request to the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety and the Committee on Community Improvement concurrently. Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

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

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk