

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN**

June 7, 1999

6:00 PM

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

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

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

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

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

4. Bond Resolutions:

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000) for the 1998 CIP 510116, Derryfield Country Club Master Plan & Improvements - Enterprise Fund."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the 1998 CIP 510118, McIntyre Ski Area Rehabilitation."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the 1998 CIP 510163, JFK Coliseum Repairs, Phase II."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Ten Thousand Dollars (\$110,000) for the 1999 CIP 511899, JFK Coliseum Rehab - Phase III."

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Four Hundred Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$470,000) for the 1999 CIP 511599, McIntyre Ski Area Rehab - Phase II."

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted that the Bond Resolutions be read by titles only, and it was so done.

Alderman O'Neil moved that the Bond Resolutions pass and be Enrolled. Alderman Pinard duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek recessed the regular meeting to allow the Clerk to distribute budgetary information to the Board members.

Alderman Pariseau stated I have a question. I received several phone calls from concerned residents of the City relative to the City's contribution to Family and Youth Services...their stance on...

Mayor Wieczorek asked which one.

Alderman Pariseau clarified Child Health Services...their encouraging abortions and that sort of thing. Is that part of the CIP or is it part of the General Fund budget.

Mayor Wieczorek replied I think some of those monies come from...

Mr. Clougherty replied it comes from the Operating budget, Non-City Programs.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it's a separate line item, right.

Mr. Sherman replied yes.

Alderman Klock asked, Mayor, could you go over the differences in this budget that we received today.

Mayor Wieczorek replied we're going to have discussion about the budget.

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting back to order.

5. Appropriating Resolution:

"Amending a Resolution 'Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2000' to \$189,002,211."

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

Mayor Wieczorek stated I am going to read a message to you here, before we get started:

As we move closer and closer to adopting a budget for fiscal year 2000 there are several issues still left unresolved. First and foremost is the School budget. At the beginning of this process we set out to accomplish two very specific goals: to prioritize and provide our residents with necessary City services and to set a responsible tax rate to accommodate those services. All of you have been through this process at least once before and some of you have been through it more than a dozen times. Each of us realizes just awesome a responsibility setting the City's budget is. It seems that each new year brings a new set of challenges and countless funding requests competing for the same resources. Through the difficult years we faced for the better part of the 1990's we were forced to make some very tough choices on how we would allocate our resources. As a result, some very important items could not be taken care of. The bottom line is this. We didn't spend money when we didn't have it to spend. The ruling by our State Supreme Court and the ensuing funding plan allows us the opportunity to address some of the long-standing needs of our schools and of our students. Whether you agree with it or not, the Claremont ruling charged municipalities with two specific tasks: to reduce the tax burden passed on to our residents and to address the funding inadequacy in our School system. Fortunately, for Manchester, we will be in a position to offer a substantial amount of money to address both charges during the very first year of receiving the additional State revenues. For the first time in my tenure as Mayor we are in a position where we are not only talking about a tax cut, but are about to make it a reality. We all know that for all too long the taxpayers of Manchester have been asked to bear the brunt of the tax burden imposed on all of us by the rising cost of education and

City services. By applying a significant portion of the additional State revenues to our School system we can finally move away from the long-time goal of educational adequacy and begin to move towards educational excellence. Business leaders around the City are sending us a clear message. Some of our students are not graduating with the necessary skills to perform in the high-tech world we live in. These additional funds will allow us to address some of the critical improvements that have been put off for so many years. With the help of the Board of School Committee we will invest in our schools responsibly by using the additional funds to purchase much needed textbooks, to hire additional staff when necessary, to implement much needed school programs, to repair the infrastructure of our School system and to provide our students with the tools that are necessary to be successful in our ever-changing world. More specifically, we will use a significant portion of the funds to update our textbooks, to purchase a new middle school math curriculum, to buy much needed teaching supplies, to update library collections and technology and to address the requirements of the New Hampshire Minimum Standards for public education. Through the Capital Improvement budget we will also complete science labs at Memorial, continuing with the HVAC upgrades at Central and West, replace the roof at Northwest Elementary, finish asbestos removal and life-safety upgrades at Parkside, and make repairs to the auditoriums at West and Central. In addition, with the one million dollars that has been appropriated for painting and minor repairs we will paint as many schools as possible, repair and replace bleachers at the three high schools, replace the gym floor at Hillside, replace the roof at Webster School, replace boilers at three or four schools and address life-safety issues throughout all of our school buildings. This budget also includes money for a negotiated contract for our teachers and to contract Service Master to clean and maintain our schools. We can do all of this while still offering a significant tax cut to the taxpayers of Manchester. As a voting member of the Board of School Committee, I pledge to all of you that I will fight to make certain that the money that the taxpayers of Manchester are investing in our School system is spent wisely. While I do not yield the same power on the School Board as I do on this Board, I'll bring to the table your concerns and the concerns of our residents who want desperately to see their money spent sensibly. I will not only bring them up, but I will also do all I can to work with other School Board members to see to it that those concerns are addressed. One of the concerns that I hear on a daily basis is whether or not our School system is truly effective in the way that they educate our students. I am excited about a project that is being embarked upon in a joint effort between the Manchester School District and the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. We are performing a school match audit of educational effectiveness which will examine the degree to which our School system meets rigorous levels of effectiveness. The audit will assist the School system to examine School system leadership, learning objectives, pupil performance, community perceptions and the degree to which schools are effective. Based on the audit findings the School system can establish appropriate school improvement programs and accountability structures to validate School improvement. I'm very excited about the potential for improvements that such a comprehensive study will bring. With any investment the investor must demand a good return on their investment and some accountability of the funds they invest. As a citizenry we must begin to more adamantly demand accountability from our school administrators and demand better results from our students. In order to do this though, we must first give them the tools to succeed. I will not use scare tactics or what if's...you only need to take a moment to visit our schools and talk with our teachers and school administrators to see that there is a true need for our investment in education. This budget will go a long way towards achieving those demands. There is no instant fix, but I believe it is a step in the right direction. We have a wonderful opportunity to positively shape the future for a generation of our students and let's not let it slip away.

Mayor Wieczorek stated what I would like to do is entertain a motion to put the budget on the table so that we can discuss the budget.

Alderman Cashin moved the budget for discussion. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Girard asked, your Honor, what budget are you putting on the table.

Mayor Wieczorek replied the budget that you have in front of you, the one just handed out with the corrections.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated if I understand it the motion would be to amend the resolution to the numbers presented by the Mayor just now under the recommended expenditures column for the time being.

Alderman Girard stated both Alderman Wihby and myself have put budgets in front of the members of the Board here and I don't think we did so with a vote of the Board to accept it. I would be more than happy to discuss what you're putting on the table here, but I'm not at all comfortable about voting on what's in front of me for discussion or any other purposes because frankly once we vote to make something the subject of discussion you've taken everything else off the table.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to amend the Resolution to the numbers presented as the point of beginning for discussion. The motion carried with Aldermen Wihby, Reiniger, Rivard, Hirschmann and Girard duly recorded in opposition.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I had a budget that I presented at the public hearing. There were a number of corrections that had to be made to that budget. Information that we didn't have that was current, we had to work with a budget that...information that was available to us at that time and a lot of the items that are in the budget were not...they were soft numbers. We had the retirement, the health insurance, the tax base, the overlay, the county tax...a number of items that are not firm...becomes firm as we go along in the process. Alderman Wihby did present a budget to all of you and in that budget there were some technical corrections that were made because some of the departmental budgets had items in there that were not accurate, there were some payroll figures that were not right and all of the adjustments were made in your budget, is that correct, Alderman.

Alderman Wihby replied true.

Mayor Wieczorek stated so now here we are with the budget that went to the public hearing, the adjustments that have been made and Alderman Wihby's budget...the technical corrections that had to be made. Now, what we are proposing here is that these departments will have a one percent reduction, not all of the departments but most of the departments in the City have a one percent reduction in their budget including the School Department and that's where we are for discussion.

Alderman Pariseau asked is that what is represented in the figure of \$187,023,368, does that include the one percent.

Mayor Wieczorek replied that is correct.

Alderman Wihby stated I just want to note one thing. When we talked Diane Prew was going to go back and see if she could fill that position in her budget and she can do that, so as long as...I guess we have to allow her to do that, but she'll move money around in the line item and fund the position and take something else out, if that's alright with the Board. So, the only position that wasn't funded that was new would be the Finance Department...everything else for new positions were funded.

Alderman Girard stated I would like to make a point of order. Alderman Wihby is not the only Alderman that put a budget with corrected figures before this Board, he's not the only one to make any proposals and I don't know why it is you've chosen to ignore the fact that I put one on the table. But, let the record reflect that I did with all of the numbers adjusted for all of the mistakes that needed to be corrected.

Alderman Shea asked are we going to be discussing, in your budget, the Yarger Decker as well as the \$188,000 in this particular budget. So, you've included the \$188,519 in your budget, is that correct.

Mayor Wieczorek replied it is actually \$125,000, the \$188,000 included all of the enterprises.

Alderman Shea stated that includes \$125,000 in Human Resources and CIP Cash funds about \$30,000 as well as about \$34,000 from the Enterprise. We're still in the discussion mode, but when it comes time to make a motion I'd like to make a motion to withdraw that from the budget, your Honor.

Alderman Shea moved to remove the \$125,000 from the budget for the Yarger Decker study. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Sysyn asked weren't we sending it back to Committee.

Mayor Wieczorek replied it's going to be a little bit late. If I might address that issue, Aldermen, because I think that's an issue that people really have to understand and I want to make sure that the people in the City understand that issue too. So, we've got a motion that is on the floor and I would like to explain, really, what this project is about.

To summarize the rationale and purpose of my proposed Management and Organization Efficiency Project this project is one of the highest priorities for this coming fiscal year. I do want to apologize to each of you for the rapid pace I set to begin this project and for not ensuring that each of you were fully informed concerning the project's fast-track schedule. It is very important to me that each of you taken an active and positive role in developing sound recommendations for improvement the efficiency and effectiveness of the organization, management and administration of our City.

The rationale for this project is clear. We all want to ensure that we are conducting all City operations and activities in the most effective, efficient and responsive manner possible and at the least cost to the taxpayers. The principal purpose of this project is to undertake a comprehensive, thorough and objective analysis of our current operational policies, programs, practices and procedures and to make those changes necessary to ensure that they are adequate for our current and future challenges. I assure you that we

bring this effort with no preconceived objectives or bias. I have requested the assistance of a qualified public management consulting firm to help guide us through this process.

We need to involve all members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, department and division heads, supervisors and managers, employee representatives, private sector and community group representatives and our citizens in an effort to modernize, streamline and reform City government operations. Specifically, we need to:

examine the basic and central missions of each City department, division and office and the City government as a whole;

review and assess the City's current administrative organization and develop the most efficient, effective and citizen-responsive structures to accomplish its most basic missions, responsibilities, operations and activities;

review the City's current administrative and operational policies, programs and procedures in each department, division and office and make the changes needed to achieve improved efficiencies and effectiveness;

identify the major future challenges facing each City department, division and office and the City as a whole, assess the needs of each such unit and develop new effective and efficient ways and means for successfully meeting such challenges;

identify and develop methods and procedures to eliminate the duplication, overlap and gaps in City operations and activities, including wastes of time and resources, low and marginal-value operations and activities and needed new citizen services;

identify and develop new means for measuring the effectiveness and efficiency of operations and activities in each City department, division and office so both the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the general public can understand and assess the effectiveness and efficiency of City operations in terms of necessity, funding levels and responsiveness to the public;

identify ways and means for improving the leadership, management and oversight of all City operations and activities; and

develop a modernized and streamlined City government that is equal to the challenges of the City's Third Century.

While the City Charter provides the Mayor with the responsibility and authority to propose these changes in City operations, activities and structures, it is my hope that we work together on this critical project in a cooperative and positive manner. The results of this project will pay for its costs many times over. To ensure that this project is conducted in an objective and inclusive manner, I am establishing a Project Oversight Committee to help me guide project activities. This Project Oversight Committee will be composed of the following Board of Mayor and Aldermen Committee Chairpersons:

Alderman Hirschmann, Alderman Wihby, Alderman Pariseau, Alderman Reiniger, Alderman Clancy, Alderman Sysyn, Tom Clark, City Solicitor, Mark Hobson, HR Director, Mark Driscoll, Police Chief, Jean Brassard, IAFF President, Robert Beaurivage, Non-Affiliated and Kevin Clougherty, Finance Officer.

I will ask this Committee to send its results to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for review and approval.

I believe that we have the interests of the City and our citizens at heart. I genuinely and sincerely believe that this project will provide the means for us to leave a positive legacy for Manchester's future generations.

And, Gentlemen, I would urge that you give very serious consideration to this project, I think it will be a very important project for the City and you'll have an opportunity to get the results from the firm that is going to be working with the City of Manchester.

Alderman Shea stated it was a very good speech, your Honor, and I appreciate that...let's get to the point. If we want to do it, why don't we take a roll call and if we don't want to do it you can veto, but if I get ten votes we'll override you.

Alderman Klock asked, Mayor, can you explain to the Board what will happen if you do take the money out.

Mayor Wieczorek replied it will have very little impact on the City budget.

Alderman Klock stated on the project.

Mayor Wieczorek stated you're not going to get the project done; that would be the end of it; that means that you will continue doing things the way you do it without taking a look at how you can improve delivery of services to the citizens of Manchester, how you can do it at a better cost. I think this is a very important project.

Alderman Girard stated the Committee you just appointed is actually a Committee, if I recall correctly that you appointed back in February when you noted that there were some personnel changes in the Finance Department, you wanted to take the opportunity back then to take a look at some restructurings. A year ago, I forwarded to this Board a couple of consolidation proposals one of which was from a prior administration of yours and at the behest of members of your staff I did not forward additional consolidation proposals because they said, at the time, that you were working on something to bring to the Board. Having seen consolidation proposals come before this Board a number of times over the years, knowing that some of them were successfully implemented and having...I do not understand why it is that we need to spend \$189,000 on a study when we can go back to 1984 under former Mayor Shaw when studies were done to address what you just proposed by citizen panels, a Manchester agenda type of thing, I don't remember specifically whether Manchester Agenda addressed any of that...I fail to see why it is we need to spend \$189,000 to bring people into the City to take a look at government operations that those of us have been around long enough should have a very good idea of how they work and where they can be changed when we've had consolidation proposals before this Board and there are more that can come. I'm sorry, your Honor, there isn't a bigger supporter of government reorganization or consolidation on this Board than I am, but I can't justify the expense at this point in time and the way it is structured it's nice now that you come to the Board and say oh well, we want Aldermanic input throughout this process...that wasn't what was brought before this Board the other night and I'm sorry, your Honor, I can't support that request and I don't believe that in order to take a look at how we're organized to do business we need to spend almost \$200,000.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I think the only person that was here that you alluded to was Alderman Cashin, you weren't here yet were you, Alderman Wihby.

Alderman Wihby replied I didn't hear.

Alderman Thibault stated this is what happens when the Aldermen are not involved with the process from the beginning. Some of these things are done behind our backs, we don't know what's happening until all of a sudden it's dropped in our lap last week or the week before. I don't like to spend \$189,000 without knowing exactly where it's going, your Honor, and I don't think I've been apprised of what this is going to accomplish. It's just another study and we've got so many studies that are sitting on our shelves that will never amount to anything and I just wonder that as tight a budget as we're trying to run here and here we are trying to help schools, we're trying to help the taxpayers and we're spending \$200,000 of their money again without really understanding where it's going to go. I think that the Aldermen on this Board have enough expertise in this here to know how the departments of this City should work. I don't think we need a consultant to do that. I'm sorry, I just can't support this because of the fact that I haven't heard enough about it to be able to support it.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I just wanted to state for everyone that when I got elected to City Hall I said I was going to be the voice of common sense on this Board and I think that many nights when you're watching this program you see that Alderman Hirschmann that is bringing up something that is not going to spend a lot of money in a needless way and this proposal is going to give whether it's \$125,000 or \$188,000 to a company in Des Moines, Iowa to come tell Manchester how to run itself better or come assist us or whatever they are going to do. I do support the team that you put together...if you want to have a leadership team to bring proposals and hear testimony and have an Oversight Committee for consolidating in the future on behalf of the taxpayer's, I'm all for that, your Honor. But, I'm not at all ready to move \$188,000, I'm not ready to move \$28,000. If you want to leave this money in the budget and give it to schools for textbooks, I'll do that but I'm not moving on any study for a company halfway across the United States when we have the talent right here, thank you.

Mayor Wiczorek requested a roll call vote be taken starting with Alderman Shea.

A roll call vote was initiated. Aldermen Shea, Rivard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann proceeded to vote nay.

Alderman Wihby interjected stating aren't we voting to cut it out. We're taking it out and you're voting no.

Alderman Shea stated a "no" vote is taking it out.

Alderman Hirschmann asked for clarification.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated if you'd care to start the roll call over, the Clerk would clarify the motion is reading on motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Hirschmann to remove \$125,000 from the Human Resources budget for a Yarger Decker Consultant Study. So, a "yes" vote would be to remove the \$125,000.

The roll call vote was again initiated. Alderman Shea, Rivard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann, Wihby, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, and Girard voted yea. Alderman Klock and Reiniger voted nay.

Mayor Wieczorek vetoed that action stating because I hope you understand the importance of what I've said here in this letter that I wrote to you. I think it's very, very important that we take a look at City government periodically. I know that people are referring back to 1984, but periodically you have to do...Alderman, please let me finish, okay. Periodically, you have to take a look to find out exactly...assess your position and find out exactly where you're at. I think we owe it to the taxpayer's of this community to make sure that we are delivering all of the service in the most efficient, economical way that we possibly can. We're not sure of that right now and all we're saying is let's invest some money so that we can determine if, in fact, we are. If we are the taxpayers are the winner, if we're not then we should make the adjustments to make the services as economically and efficiently as we possibly can and there's nothing wrong with that; that is the right thing to do for the taxpayers of this City.

Alderman Pariseau moved to override the veto. Alderman Shea duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Girard stated my comment that there were studies done back to 1984 was not to suggest that members of this Board should be aware of them, but to point out that we've done these studies time and again and perhaps what we should do is review what we have already done and see if there is any merit left in any of them. The second point is since you are all in a hurry now to start taking a look at consolidation...a year ago you asked this Board to refer proposals that I sent to your office so that you could consider them further. What consideration, if any, have you given them and why are we now looking at a \$200,000 study to do that.

Mayor Wieczorek stated because I don't think all of the expertise that is necessary lies here in this hall.

Alderman Girard interjected you thought so back in 1995, your Honor.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I think what we need to do is have somebody from the outside take a look at this who is objective and experienced in doing this.

Alderman Cashin stated before another roll call vote, your Honor, may I suggest that you transfer the money, the \$125,000 into Contingency...giving you an opportunity to later explain to this Board exactly what it's like and maybe this Board could sit down and work with you on it.

Alderman Sysyn interjected I agree with that one, can we do that.

Alderman Cashin stated to override the veto is just counter productive.

Alderman Sysyn stated we should just move it into Contingency and then we could do it later.

Mayor Wieczorek stated if this motion allows us to do that, then I'll accept a new motion to transfer it to Contingency.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated, your Honor, the only thing the Clerk has recorded at this point is a motion to override the veto, I just want to clarify that that is where you're at at this point.

Mayor Wieczorek stated would you like to amend that motion, Alderman.

Alderman Cashin stated I could move to amend it but I don't think we're going to get a second.

Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the motion is to amend the override to read what.

Alderman Cashin replied to take the \$125,000, put it into Contingency for use at a later date.

Solicitor Clark stated I don't believe you could amend a motion to override.

Mayor Wieczorek stated we then have to take a vote on the motion to override and if that doesn't pass then we can move to do it another way, to accept the other motion.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to override. If you vote yes you will then override my veto. If you vote no then we sustain the veto and can then take a new motion.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to override the Mayor's veto. Alderman Pariseau, Thibault, Hirschmann, Wihby, Clancy, O'Neil, Girard, Shea and Rivard voted yea. Alderman Cashin, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn and Pinard voted nay. The veto was sustained.

Alderman Cashin moved to transfer \$125,000 into Contingency giving everyone an opportunity to revisit this at a later date. Alderman Sysyn duly seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Alderman Pariseau, Thibault, Hirschmann, Wihby, Clancy, O'Neil, Girard, Shea and Rivard voted nay. Alderman Cashin, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn and Pinard voted yea. The motion failed.

Alderman Wihby asked where are we with it. Is it dead or what.

Deputy Clerk Johnson replied it's in the HR budget at this point.

Alderman Pariseau asked what happens.

Alderman Wihby replied it's still in the budget.

Alderman Pariseau asked how do we get rid of it.

Alderman Wihby replied ten votes.

Alderman Pariseau stated while we're at it, your Honor, I'd like to take \$118,000 out of Non-City Programs that was earmarked for Child Health Services because of their stance on abortions, your Honor. Alderman Girard duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Cashin asked what brought this up.

Alderman Pariseau replied because of the concerns that the residents have in Manchester that we're supporting an institution that supports abortion, Alderman.

Alderman Cashin stated Child Health Services does not support abortions. I've had the honor to work with Dr. Thelma Deitch for 25 years. This woman is probably more dedicated to Family Services than any physician I have had the occasion of working with. To say something like this is strictly unreasonable. She may give direction, yes. But, she does not advocate abortion and if that is why you are voting against this then you're wrong and it's an awful insult, I think, to Dr. Deitch after all of the years she's put into this City.

Alderman Sysyn stated I agree with you.

Alderman Girard stated I spoke with Dr. Deitch after this matter was first brought to my attention and to say she provides direction is something of an understatement. Child Health Services does provide, by her own admission, abortion referrals to Planned Parenthood and other institutions in this City and when I asked her whether or not they paid for them her response to me was well, the Federal government doesn't because it's against the law. I don't have a problem with Child Health Services, I have a real problem with using taxpayer dollars to support that activity and I don't believe any institution supported with taxpayer dollars should be in the business of making those referrals. There are plenty of other options that are available to teens or anybody else and I don't think it's right to make this a matter of personality, of individuals in the community...the fact is they make those referrals. I picked up referral cards and brought them to this Board when the matter was first brought up, it happens and it's an inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars.

Alderman Cashin interjected in your opinion.

Alderman Girard asked do you support funding abortion, Alderman Cashin.

Alderman Cashin replied no, I don't support funding abortions.

Mayor Wieczorek stated, Aldermen, please I know you have trouble resisting, but try to contain yourself.

A roll call voted was taken on the motion to remove the funds. Alderman Pariseau, Clancy, Girard and Shea voted yea. Alderman Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann, Wihby, Klock, Reiniger, Sysyn, Pinard, O'Neil and Rivard voted nay. The motion failed.

Mayor Wieczorek asked okay, now where are we going. Are you ready to make a motion on adopting the budget.

Alderman Klock asked aren't we still discussing the budget. What is a chargeback.

Mayor Wieczorek replied those are services performed by City departments to the School Department that they have to reimburse the City for.

Alderman Klock asked can you give a breakdown, Mayor, of percentage wise the tax cut and the amount from Claremont that is actually going to schools.

Mr. Clougherty replied under the proposal that you have before the Board it is 27.5% of the Claremont money will be going to reduce taxes.

Alderman Sysyn asked how many dollars, what's the tax rate.

Mayor Wieczorek replied the tax rate is \$30.06, a cut of \$2.49.

Alderman Klock stated since I've had so many budgets in front of me, can you please explain the differences between this budget and the budget that we just had with Alderman Wihby.

Mayor Wieczorek replied the budget that I submitted to you to begin with that went to the public hearing, Aldermen Wihby then made a lot of corrections. There were technical corrections that had to be made, different departments that had some wrong line items in there with salaries that had to be corrected, there are numbers that we didn't have that were firm that I think are now much more firm in that budget and then all we took was the Mayor's recommended budget and took one percent from schools just like we did from almost all of the other departments.

Alderman Klock stated schools if fine with that.

Mayor Wieczorek replied School is fine with that.

Alderman Shea stated your budget on a \$100,000 house would be worth about what \$249, so a person owning a house of \$100,000 assessment would save \$249, correct.

Alderman Girard stated taking a look at the Revenues...you have School Revenues and City Revenues...total School Revenues are \$51.972 million and total City is \$37.032 million; that totals to \$89 million in Revenues...I believe that is significantly higher than either Alderman Wihby or I have in the proposals we have on the table and I'm just wondering where the other \$7 million came from. Is that those chargebacks.

Mr. Sherman replied is the \$6.8 in chargebacks.

Alderman Girard stated we've never counted that revenue before.

Mr. Sherman replied that is correct. We've always billed it into the School tax rate, but there has never been any dollars that have exchanged hands and now with the latest court ruling there will be actual dollars going back and forth.

Alderman Girard stated I understand that, but wouldn't the total amount of revenue collected by the City be the same. I guess I'm wondering where the \$6.8 million magically comes from because it's being added on top of the revenue figures that were there before.

Mr. Sherman stated that's right. It's also in the School appropriation number. So, it's added to both sides because we actually do have to be moving money back and forth.

Alderman Thibault asked I wonder if anyone could tell me what the national average presently in the country as to the average class size in the country.

Mayor Wieczorek stated we have the School Superintendent here.

Alderman Thibault stated I'd like to know what it is now, not what we'd like it to be.

Superintendent Tanguay stated I can't speak to the nationwide school class wise, but I can tell you that a lot of states have reduced class sizes. For example, in California the class sizes are 20 to 1 in the lower grades. The Clinton plan allows for an 18 to 1 class size. The trend is to reduce class size throughout the nation, but those are the two I'm familiar with.

Alderman Thibault stated my follow-up question would be, it would seem to me that we could have phased this in over two to three years, rather than hit the City at one time with this which is the only thing I have against it. If, in fact, the trend is throughout the country to do this, I have no problem with it. But, why hit the City with 77 teachers all at one time. Why couldn't we have gotten 25 this year, 25 next year and so on. Right now, it seems like we're just being hit with an axe one time and I don't know if that's right. The taxpayers out there are screaming that for the last 10, 12 years that the City has had a problem they've picked up the slack and they've given the extras to the City and that's the concern I have. The taxpayers out there have to be looked at and listened to also. It's not just

the schools. I'm not against the schools, I just want to find out how come we couldn't have staggered this last year 25, next year 25 and so on.

Superintendent Tanguay stated the classroom reduction is a phase-in it's not going to address all of our needs in terms of minimum standards, so it's being phased-in. The second part of it will be the cost for the implementation of middle schools which is where the costs come in, a good significant portion of the budget is attributed to the middle school concept being implemented.

Mayor Wieczorek stated I guess your problem, Alderman, is you can't implement part of it...either you're going to implement the concept or you're not going to do it. One or the other.

Alderman Pariseau stated just so that I will have it clear, the actual reduction in the tax rate is \$8.99, but because of the Claremont \$6.50 of that going back to the State, so we have a net decrease of \$2.49.

Mayor Wieczorek stated that is correct.

Alderman Wihby stated that's not right. Let Finance address it. The six dollars is already in here.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it's in the number so you're paying it to the State instead of paying it to the City. So, the net is \$2.49.

Alderman Cashin stated in essence the \$6.50 is being absorbed in the City budget and we have a tax deduction going back to the taxpayers of \$2.49.

Alderman Shea stated, Norm, under the Mayor's budget are you going to be able to implement the middle school concept.

Superintendent Tanguay replied yes.

Alderman Shea stated you have enough resources and enough money to cover that.

Superintendent Tanguay replied that is our plan, yes.

Alderman Shea stated so McLaughlin School will have 6th, 7th and 8th graders.

Superintendent Tanguay replied 6th and 7th under the plan and all the middle schools will be, in fact, middle schools - 6th, 7th and 8th.

Alderman Shea stated may I ask why...if I'm not putting you on the spot, I don't want to, but why 8th graders won't be at McLaughlin.

Superintendent Tanguay replied they will be in there the following year.

Alderman Rivard stated, Mr. Tanguay, the reason we're not going to implement the 8th grade at McLaughlin School is because you don't have enough money in the budget.

Superintendent Tanguay replied no. We're doing the redistricting and it's being phased in by school and that phasing will be in the year 2001. So, we started with grade 6 this year and grade 7 and next year grade 8.

Alderman Shea asked would that be a problem with overcrowding at the elementary because of...in other words, there would be no overcrowding at the elementary level, is that correct.

Superintendent Tanguay replied that is correct.

Alderman Wihby asked are you going to accept any motions.

Mayor Wieczorek replied no. You're going to either vote it up or down.

Alderman Wihby stated actually I wanted to talk to Norm. This budget was done before the decision that came down as far as getting one number and all that other stuff and I'm noticing that through the FTE's through the year 2000 there's no administration. You're going from 19 in '99 going down to 17, but is there any money in this budget that's going to go in that is going to affect the decision, for instance, are you going to use money in this budget to open your own finance department, put more finance people in, take out teachers in your numbers and put in more human resource people, more finance people, more administrative staff. Is that contemplated.

Superintendent Tanguay replied not in this budget at the present time, no.

Alderman Wihby stated so there won't be any increases to administrative staff than what was on your projection before the decision.

Superintendent Tanguay replied before the Claremont decision, no.

Alderman Wihby stated so we can hold you to that number. There is not going to be any additional staff that you're going to say that because of the decision you are going to use some of that money that people want to use for books and teachers and raises and everything else, you're not going to use that for administration staff.

Superintendent Tanguay reiterated that is not out plan. There is the phase-in of the decision on the Declaratory Judgment which could affect that but that would come from other departments, I believe, if that happens.

Alderman Wihby in reference to the MS24 form from 1999, it was \$90 million and I would imagine that's the total cost of the School Department in '99 and I look at the new one and it's going up \$10.5 million to fund the extra money from the schools. I think that's just outrageous for a \$10.5 million increase. All I can say is that next year...we were hoping to get some tax relief, but this is not going to give any tax relief...we had already been told by the administration that they need an additional 20 to 30 teachers next year just for the middle school concept. We've been told that the middle school concept costs a lot of money and we were told when this Board supported it that it was going to cost "zero". So, we were taken back then...I know it was a different administration, it wasn't this one, but I don't know if this Board would have said for \$5 million more we'll okay it, we probably wouldn't have. We were told it wasn't going to cost anything. But, all I can tell you is that just by these numbers that are coming out next year the tax rate will be higher than this year's because we've used all of that money and we know there is going to be additional funding. I would hope that this money...if this budget passes isn't used for solving the problem with new finance people and human resource people and everything else...as Norm's just said that, but I would hope it would be used for the purposes that you intended, your Honor, and that's to fund the raises, the teachers, smaller classrooms and new books and everything else. Not for more administration on Bridge Street. I have to vote against this, your Honor, you know how I feel about it, but that's just one vote.

Alderman Klock stated actually Dave Wihby said a lot of the stuff, but I just wanted to...is there any way that we can make sure that most of this money goes to infrastructure problems that we have with the schools.

Mayor Wieczorek replied part of the money, obviously, when we contracted with Service Master it's costing us over a million dollars more to get our schools cleaned up. We also have another million dollars that is charged to schools, but is going to be in the CIP budget that is going to address some of the other issues that I was talking about...the heating plant in a couple of the schools, painting in a lot of the schools and some other work that has to be done to deal with life-safety issues.

Alderman Klock stated I see where you're going with your budget, I've just been against the middle school concept, number one, but I just have a problem not knowing that the schools are going to take this money and use it towards infrastructure and textbooks and things that are actually needed as opposed to peripheral things...I guess the question is, Norm, is there is any...I know it's hard to guarantee us but is there any way you can guarantee three-quarters of the money or whatever...make sure that it goes to infrastructure and textbooks and upgrading and making the schools more efficient than they are right now.

Superintendent Tanguay replied that's our plan. In the budget, as you know is a flexible document that changes daily. Our priorities may change some, I don't see them changing significantly and I would think it reasonable that we would expend the money as we said.

Alderman Klock stated I have the same problem as I've said before where I just don't...I'm very hesitant to give all this money to the schools just because I don't know when this money is going to dry up. I know that there are problems in the School system and I know that we need to add some additional money to the schools, but I just would hate to see next year the School Board coming back and asking for your budget plus the money that we've given you this year, supposedly if this passes, and we can't do it and it's already in your budget. I just hope that that won't happen.

Superintendent Tanguay stated certainly the Claremont money is a two-year plan, at least, the funding portion at the present time. I know some Aldermen have shared a concern about perhaps avoidance or no funding after two years, but I know the state's that have implemented similar plans their funding is still available and it's been over a number of years.

Alderman O'Neil stated two points, your Honor. We have an elected School Board, let's let them do their job and the second point is, I think this budget is a winner in many, many ways. I think the taxpayers win, I think the employees of this City win and I think the kids in this City win.

Mayor Wieczorek stated the Clerk wishes to clarify the amendment, so that we can have the language straight.

Deputy Clerk Johnson pointed out that because of the recent so-called Claremont decision and in discussing this with the Finance Officer and the City Solicitor and the Clerk we did confer on these numbers...to stay with the budget that has been discussed this evening we would suggest a motion to amend the resolution, but to place the School Department's budget at \$100,573,352 as a single bottom line number which would include all of the fringe benefits and the School Food Service and all those numbers that are listed under the School Expenditures column; that those would actually be budgeted directly to the School Department under one line item and the Restricted items listed under City Expenditures on the form you have in front of you totaling \$15,793,711 would be the new numbers reflected on the City side portions on the Resolution; that the total budget would be \$187,023,368 and would like a motion to that effect.

Alderman Pariseau moved to amend the resolution to \$187,023,368 as outlined by the Clerk. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Girard stated like some of the sentiment that has been expressed here, I cannot and will not support this budget. The City received this year upwards of \$33 million in new State Aid and while we can debate whether or not it's for School...the fact of the matter is that with \$33 million new dollars coming to this City the taxpayers are getting \$2.49 back and there is about a \$21-22 million increase in spending across the board in this budget and I find it hard to swallow that there is any meaningful tax relief in these numbers because, frankly, there isn't and I worry, your Honor, that if in one year \$33 million virtually disappears what's going to happen next year and the following year and the year after that. There's been a lot said about whether or

not the City should spend the money from Claremont on the schools. The Statewide property tax that was levied raises about \$25.5 million, the State Aid of \$37 million added to that is a total of \$62 million that we get from the State by one way or another and we're spending over \$100 million on the schools. And, for things frankly, that I don't think are a priority. I've had a lot of phone calls in the recent few days, many from teachers, many who complained that they have to buy their own supplies, their own materials, provide books and other things because the City doesn't do well enough on that end of things and I agree the City doesn't, but when I spoke to some of those teachers and asked them whether or not they would be willing to forego a pay raise in order to see to it that the children got what they needed and the taxpayers got a little bit more respect than they're getting here in this number, not one of them that called me said they were willing to do that. It's a matter of priority, your Honor, and I agree with Alderman Wihby if we're not going to provide any meaningful tax relief this year, the year that we get a windfall of \$33 million unexpected dollars when are we ever going to provide it. I don't call spending \$95-100 million on schools as somehow neglecting our kids. There are certain areas that need to be addressed, but once the money is spent, your Honor, we never ever get it back.

Alderman Shea stated I want to take a little bit of umbrage with what he said about teacher salaries. I think if he called every firemen in the City and asked them to take a pay cut or not to get a pay raise, I don't think they'd agree with him nor policemen, nor a City worker, nor a non-affiliate, nor anyone else. As a teacher, it was very difficult to make ends meet and I know that the average salary may be higher today, but a new teacher starting off in Manchester gets a lot less than other people beginning to work for the City and a lot of the secretaries that work in the schools get a lot less, so let's call a spade a spade and let's not be taking shots at teachers all the time about how much they make. If it's such a good job why don't more people go into it, that's what I say.

Alderman Pariseau interjected move the question, your Honor.

Alderman Hirschmann stated just three questions, your Honor. The first one is I know you had this revelation and you changed the budget over the weekend and you added all that money - \$2.5 million to Schools, but you didn't give any money to School Food & Nutrition, you left that cut and you also left High School Athletics cut, how come those two didn't equate into.

Mayor Wieczorek replied they're all in one budget, they are all in the \$100 million number.

Alderman Hirschmann asked it doesn't equate to any amount of new teachers, it's up to them. Is that what you're saying. Your new number of adding that \$2.5 million, does that equate to new teachers, how many.

Mayor Wieczorek replied yes, it's going to be up to the School Administration and the School Board.

Alderman Hirschmann stated they gave you the number they could work with.

Mayor Wieczorek replied yes.

Alderman Clancy stated nobody has mentioned anything about the Chandler School down at Easter Seals. I know they have a contract down there for two or three years, but is anybody going to put some money aside so they can move out of these small quarters and such. Norman, can you address that.

Superintendent Tanguay replied the lease we have has another two years to go and the facilities study and you've heard a lot about that and you'll hear some more will be released in September, at least a draft of that study and that will also address the Easter Seal facility and where we go with that along with other facility needs that we have. So, to answer your question I cannot deceive and give you a definite on it. You'll be hearing more about it in September.

Alderman Clancy stated I just didn't want you to forget the Chandler School children because they're down in small quarters of the old Tam O'Shanter building on the corner of Auburn and Lincoln Streets.

Superintendent Tanguay stated we agree with that but it was a vast improvement over the Chandler facility as you know which was not feasible, but it is a step above that and we do need better facilities.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to amend the Appropriating Resolution.

Alderman Girard requested a roll call vote.

Aldermen Girard, Hirschmann, Wihby and Reiniger voted nay. Aldermen Shea, Rivard, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Klock, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, and O'Neil voted yea. The motion carried.

Alderman Wihby stated for the next budget, I think what we should have and they should start it now is the benefits for the departments should be calculated into the department totals, so that we know exactly what each department is.

Mayor Wieczorek stated they're waving their heads yes.

Alderman Wihby stated they waved their heads last year too and never got anywhere.

Mayor Wieczorek stated you are going to get it next year.

Mr. Clougherty replied you had it this year, yes.

Mayor Wieczorek stated okay, that's it.

Deputy Clerk Johnson interjected actually you're not. The vote was on the amendment, you need to now enroll as amended.

Alderman O'Neil moved to enroll the Appropriating Resolution as amended. Alderman Klock duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Aldermen Wihby, Reiniger, Hirschmann and Girard duly recorded in opposition.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business can be presented, on motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk