

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED FY2001 CIP BUDGET)**

March 20, 2000

6:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silent prayer is observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Wihby (late), Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, and Hirschmann

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is a public hearing upon the proposed Community Improvement Program of the City of Manchester including activities for the 2001 to 2006 period.

The Clerk presented the proposed Resolution:

"A Resolution Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2001,
Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefor and Authorizing Implementation of
Said Program."

Mayor Baines requested that Robert MacKenzie, Director of Planning, make a presentation.

Mr. MacKenzie stated thank you, your Honor, and good evening members of the Board and the general public. Mr. Robinson and myself are going to have a fairly brief presentation on what the CIP is, what it is composed of and what is proposed for this year. Not all of the specific projects will be reviewed. Those are in a package and for the general public there are copies of the CIP available out in the audience. Generally, the Community Improvement Program includes all of the capital projects of the City and special projects that are funded by grants, Federal grants, private contributions and other programs of the City. It looks out into the future. It includes the FY01 proposed CIP and at some point later this year we will include the future years. This year, it is being proposed that the future years, the extra five years in the CIP, be worked together with the Mayor's proposed strategic planning. Later this year, he has a Task Force on the Future and given that that is looking several years into the future, the CIP section of that will be put together with that proposed strategic planning. There are several purposes for the CIP. The CIP was started really in the 1970's and there were some difficulties at the time so the intent here is to make sure that all of the different programs, the special projects, the capital projects are coordinated together and many times you have funding by different agencies of this City and if someone is not looking at them as a whole, sometimes there could be duplication or lack of coordination between projects. The CIP really also provides open public access for both

the Board of Mayor and Aldermen so that they know all of the projects going on and all of the funding that is coming into the City, as well as for the general public. It brings together in one location all of the special projects and all of the capital projects in the City. By doing this, by bringing it together, it also allows for streamline accounting procedures and since a lot of these are Federal and State grants, we have various accounting procedures that we have to follow and we are audited each year. So, providing a single point for the CIP programs allows us to follow the Federal, State and other accounting procedures. It is also appropriate to use the CIP to maximize Federal and State dollars for needed projects. Frequently there are far more needs in the City than can be met by local dollars. Once the Board identifies that a project is needed, we can focus in on those Federal and State funding programs that we can try to get Federal grants for. Typically, there are literally thousands of grant programs, but very few of them really meet the needs of our community. Another real important purpose of the CIP is to minimize the tax rate impact of capital projects. Before the CIP Program, the debt service on capital projects was approaching 1/3 of the City's operating budget. That is now down to 10% of the operating budget. It is also intended to not have spikes. For example, some of the Board members may remember that we were hit by several unfunded mandates like closure of the landfill. CIP allows you to plan over a six-year period and make sure that in no single year will you have a big tax rate impact or spike due to these capital projects. It also provides for the long-range planning of capital needs. Nowadays it is much more difficult to start a project, get it designed and get it implemented because of all of the regulations, Federal, State and local regulations, the time horizon for getting projects done where it used to be perhaps two years is now sometimes three or four years. It is important to layout a long-range plan so that you know what you have in the future and start planning for those now. It also establishes a means of setting overall community development priorities. If the Board took actions individually on projects throughout the year, you would not be able to have the opportunity in the end to compare the priority of one project versus the priority of other projects and that is one of the most critical parts of the CIP. For the Board to decide what projects are of the highest priority to the City according to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. At this point, I am going to turn it over to Wayne Robinson to discuss the comparison of the FY00 CIP versus the FY01.

Mr. Robinson stated on the screen right now and for the following couple of slides you will see how the CIP is laid out financially. What I have done is taken the impact for FY01 and compared it to FY02. I am not going to go through each line item individually. This is just for your review. Under grants, which are basically State and Federal monies given to the City, as you can see for FY01 we are looking at roughly \$7.4 million in Federal and State grants as opposed to \$13.3 million in FY00. Under CDBG Home & HUD funds, which are basically used for low to moderate type activities, we are looking at level funding of close to \$3 million. City Cash, once again, for FY01 we are looking at close to \$2.6 million compared to \$2.6 million for FY00. Under Bond Obligations to the City, which are normally long-term type projects with a life greater than 10 years, we are looking for \$13 million for FY01 compared to \$14.5 million for FY00. The last source of funds, which deals with our Enterprises, we are looking at \$24 million for FY01 compared to \$44 million for FY00. The basic difference here is lack of bonding for the airport activities. Thank you very much.

Mr. MacKenzie stated just to add a few final points to our presentation, one is that in terms of the bonding you will notice that it was down a little bit from last year. Total bonding last year was \$14.5 million, about what was recommended last year at this same time by the Mayor. Generally, we have reviewed with the Finance Director and Bond Council how much money is prudent for the City to expend on bond projects. They actually looked at two and then a third alternative to find ways to finance the bonded projects, which is one of the key discretionary parts of the budget. Generally, of those three alternatives the program that would have bonding over three years for \$40 million was the one that was considered for use here. That provided the most bond money out of those three alternatives. So, there is \$40 million, in theory, over three years. What we have tried to do here is develop a bonding program that would only use 1/3 of that to allow future year use of that balance of \$40 million. In theory, the Board could go higher at this point but then in essence they are reducing the ability for the next year and following year to apply to projects. I did just want to review that issue. That is one of the most critical portions of this budget. Several areas of the budget the Board has really limited control over. For example, the largest single program in the CIP is the CSO program. Combined Sewer Overflow Program. That is mandated by the Federal government. The City is under order to address this problem. You may remember that we did some programs last year to significantly reduce our liability, but still it is a \$17.7 million program for next year that the City is under mandated requirement to address and that is the single largest program. So, of the roughly \$50 million in the CIP program, a majority of those are actually dedicated and the Board has somewhat limited authority in allocating. Realistically, there are perhaps on the order of \$19 million that this Board has some discretion over. That includes the City bond amount, City cash amount and the HUD funds, although even the HUD funds have some strings attached. At this time, that concludes our presentation.

Mayor Baines stated before we open it up to the public hearing, I would like to thank all of you for coming this evening and participating in the process. I think this is an example of what government truly is representing an opportunity for the public to come in and express their feelings of where the priorities should be in City government. Just so you understand the process that we are involved in, the Mayor is charged under the Charter and under requirements of the State to present a budget by April 1. That budget becomes law unless by a vote of 8 Aldermen or in the case of a veto it would need 10 Aldermen to withstand a different budget that would be presented by the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. The CIP budget is presented earlier for the main reason of giving us an opportunity to get out front, especially in terms of getting bids in and things like that to advance major construction projects. It is also just the beginning of the process because this budget is referred to both the CIP Committee and the Finance Committee of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. It is also based upon the best information that we have at the timeline that we had to meet to present this budget to the public and is subject to review and consideration based upon input from you and also members of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. For example, there is a letter in the agenda this evening from alderman Thibault that may or may not be in contrast with the ultimate result of the budget because our recommendations were based on information that was presented to us at the time we made the

decisions. We will subsequently follow-up on that with meetings and it will be discussed with the Chairman of the CIP Committee to see if the imperative that Alderman Thibault has presented is as strong as he perceives it to be so that is the flexibility of the process and now the opportunity to hear from all of you people to determine exactly where the priorities of your government should be.

Mayor Baines advised that the meeting shall now be open to public comment; that each person when recognized shall come to the nearest microphone, state their name and address in a clear loud voice for the record; that each person shall be given one opportunity to speak and comments shall be limited to three minutes to give all participants the opportunity to speak; that once all present have been allowed to speak should there be a topic not discussed those wishing to speak a second time shall be provided the opportunity to do so.

Catherine Stora, Program Coordinator for the YWCA Crisis Service in Manchester, stated:

We serve victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Our request in the CIP budget is for \$6,000 to support Emily's Place, which is a shelter for battered women or children. We use the money for insurance and occupancy expenses like lights, heat, etc. The budget to run the shelter, including staffing, is approximately \$100,000. Our other sources of funding are State Emergency Shelter grant funds, United Way, community contributions and Federal grants such as VOCA, VOWA and FIPSA. Those are all Federal grants to provide services to victims of crime. We are asking for a very small contribution from the City to help us maintain and sustain this vital community service. In 1999, Emily's Place provided 3,920 bed nights of safe and confidential shelter for 41 women and 59 children who had left their homes in immediate danger of violence. Thank you.

Fred O'Connor, Country Club Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I am a member of the Executive Board for the West Side Senior Center. I have been acquainted with the West Side Center for over 12 years and I think it is imperative that the Aldermen and the Mayor do something in the foreseeable future because the quarters that we have now we are only allowed to have 70 people at any one gathering and if we have like a Christmas party of something in that order there are 300 or 400 people who want to attend. It is imperative because there are more people getting older faster than space is available. I would say that 90% of the people over age 55 are either single or have been divorced or are widowers. The only place that they have to go to meet people and associate with people is the senior center. They look forward to those times. Even today, which is a Monday, there were 65 people at the West Side having lunch together. It is very, very important for these people to join hands and become friends. It is impossible to stress how much they need each other. Even though they are elderly, they look forward to meeting new people all the time. Without the facilities for these gatherings, there are so many of them that are left without any way to meet people or associate with people and I think it is a disgrace that a City of this size that is supposed to be #1 in the country cannot provide adequate space for the seniors who want to gather together. It is very, very important to each and every one of them. Thank you.

Rita O'Connor, 23 Country Club Drive, Apt. 17, Manchester, NH stated:

I feel that the services for the elderly in this City are very important. I would like to see CIP funding for services and programs that meet the needs of the senior citizens. I support the funds requested from CIP to be used to help the elderly. I believe it is important to make improvements in our City. There are many issues that need attention like the young and the disabled, but we should not forget to address our elderly needs in our City. Manchester should be proud of its seniors and give them the services that they deserve. Please consider the request before you that pertains to elderly services and a new senior center. I understand that public support is an important process in funding a CIP project. Please let the seniors in this City know that you, too, realize the importance of senior services such as home care, adult day care, and the building of a new senior center by funding these projects. We need to better address the needs of our senior citizens. We are growing and we will continue to grow. Manchester is #1, but our senior citizen center is not. Look at the surrounding cities and then look at us. I hope you will consider us. Thank you very much.

Gus Plos, 42 School Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have lived at 42 School Street for 48 years. I am here to speak for the senior center this evening. I was operated on for open-heart surgery six years ago and was in intensive care for eight weeks. It took me about eight years before I could get around. Since I have been going to the senior center, I have made a lot of friends who have helped me quite a bit. I think we need a new center over there. We have hardly any parking and there are a lot of nice spots in the City where there could be a nice center, which I would like to see happen. Thank you.

Jane Cragen, 118 Bedford Street, Manchester, NH stated:

You will notice that I am not reading because I am legally blind. I would just like to tell you what the senior center means to me. It has helped me to maintain my mental health. My husband has Alzheimers and I am fortunate enough to have a caretaker five days a week, which allows me to go to the senior center. I take meals there sometimes, but I am there at least four days a week. It has given me so much pleasure with the friends I have met there, companionship, enjoyment and it is about 85% of my entertainment. The problem of parking is so severe. We have so many that would come, but the reason is there is no place to park. I am handicapped and fortunately now that I am not driving I have friends who pick me up and drop me at the door, but it is very difficult for handicapped people or any senior who drives to find a parking place where we are now. It is vitally important that the City thinks of us a little more, thinks of the future seniors that are coming along and helps us to maintain our health, both mentally and physically, by providing us with the proper kind of senior center and we can all join together and have happier and better health in our senior years. Thank you very much.

Monique Chamberland, 55 South Main Street, Manchester, NH stated:

My involvement with the West Side Center spans over 10 years. I started working there as an aide and am now working on a temporary basis for Elderly Services. During that time, I have seen the center grow by leaps and bounds. New faces come into the center on a weekly basis for various reasons. Parking at the West Side Center is difficult, to say the least. The space is also

inadequate and the center is often overcrowded. Seniors come in for many reasons. Some to join in many programs. Some to see where they can get help for themselves or relatives or neighbors. Some to join in on the trips that we offer, but all come to be with others. Loneliness and depression can be a killer for some people and the center helps to alleviate that. Many seniors come in every day. Many have said how much it helps. Before you this evening is a request for a new senior center. Please consider the full funding of a new, adequate facility now. The future of the fastest growing population is in your hands. Please, let them know how important those needs are. Thank you.

Claire Duchowski, 173 Cilley Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I would like to present a letter from Barbara Vigneault of Elderly Services who could not be here this evening due to a skiing accident and a petition for a new senior center. I have lived at 173 Cilley Road for the past 30 years and have been employed with the City of Manchester's Elderly Services Department for the past 13 years in the capacity of supervisor of the West Side Senior Center. During this time, I have seen the popularity of the Senior Center grow by leaps and bounds. The West Side Center had over 25,000 visits in 1999. The center also hosts St. Joseph's community services and 100 to 110 Meals on Wheels are delivered to homebound seniors daily. Due to this growth, space has become very tight to say the least and it is time to look forward to the future and realize that the senior population is growing. We have 21,000+ over 60 now and the senior's needs are important. It is a known fact that when you can keep a senior active, their health problems are less and they are independent for a much longer period of time, thus saving more costly nursing home care. It is necessary at this time to build a new center for seniors that looks to the future and the growth of the senior population in this City. The West Side Center is busy and full most of the time. Many social activities are held on a daily basis from line dancing to craft classes and bingo to cards of all kinds, health screenings, and various educational classes plus trips on a monthly basis, congregate meals are served daily along with the delivered meals. The building we are housed in is bursting at the seams. A much bigger building is necessary with ample parking. As a senior's needs in programs grow, we must insure the ability for ample growth of the facility over the next 15 to 25 years. The seniors who come to the center are as different as you and I are. Over the past 13 years I have seen and learned much. Seniors are a resilient breed able to bend and mold with the changes that they have endured, but not break. They have had much loss in their lives through deaths of their spouses, children, etc. Many have lost all of their financial stability due to illness and eventual death of their spouses and must now live on very fixed incomes. Their faith in love is strong and they roll with life's ups and downs. I have seen many of these losses first hand and have seen the reactions of these seniors as they try to adjust to a whole new way of living. Some of them never learn to drive and now they must depend on buses, friends and family to get them where they need to go and so they come to the center to be with friends and make new friends and learn that they are not alone. Many have confided that without the center they wouldn't have been able to make the transition. Many of them are here tonight to show their support and others who could not make it because they don't or can't drive at night have signed a brief letter asking for the funding of a new center. Many lives have changed in the positive because of Manchester's senior centers. The seniors' social needs are being met through the centers and

they are less lonely. Many of these seniors have no family in this area due to the nomadic way of life in this country and so the centers are so important to them. Other needs are also met through the centers, such as having someone to talk to and also often they are helped with medical and other problems they may have. When it becomes necessary, the office helps them to obtain necessary services to keep them in their own home and dependent for as long as possible. These seniors have paid taxes for many years and have asked for nothing in return. Now is the time to honor them and let them know that the work they did for so many years to make Manchester a better place for all to live in is appreciated. Please fund a new, freestanding senior center with lots of parking now. Not five or ten years down the road, but in this, the first year of the new millenium. Thank you.

Phil St. Laurent, 17 Almond Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I want to change the subject somewhat to certainly a no less worthy an issue as the School Capital Improvement Program as it is presented in the CIP budget. What is being handed out to you now are some pictures of the exterior doors, windows and restroom facilities at Parker Varney School. I believe some of you and Mr. Mayor you have seen a report as has Alderman Cashin and Alderman Lopez that was presented last November to the School Department so many of these pictures will hopefully refresh your memory. These pictures were taken last fall at Parker Varney and although the pictures are relatively recent, the conditions that they reflect are not. These conditions have been in existence at this school since 1988 as far as I know because that was the first time that they were put in a letter to the School Department as a request for repairs, maintenance and renovation. That was 1988. These conditions are not going to magically improve. The first two pictures you see there are of a restroom on the first floor of Parker Varney and at the risk of sounding crude, I think we should be thankful that they are not scratch n' sniff pictures because not only are pictures worth 1,000 words, they unfortunately are limited. What these pictures will not show you is the odor that emanates from these restrooms and not for the obvious reasons. This is because these are old and need renovations. Mold and mildew has seeped into the tiles and they really need a great deal of work. The pictures you see are actually from the worst facility at the school, although certainly the conditions exist in all. The rusted petitions that need to be replaced. Also, the next couple of pages are some pages of the exterior doors at Parker Varney. I understand from a discussion that I had with the principal of the school this morning, Tom Clough, that requests for proposals have gone out to get those doors replaced, however, I believe that the request will not be able to do all of the work necessary on all of the exterior doors. As you might be able to tell from these pictures, the hardware that is on the doors has been repaired and replaced and according to a locksmith these are now very tired doors. They do not close properly and they pose both a safety and a security risk to the children at that school. Hopefully, although some work is being done this year, I do hope that we will continue this work into the next fiscal year. The windows and the ACM panels is the last picture and I apologize that some of them did not come out too well on the copies, but they are also in great need of repair. In looking at the CIP budget, I recognize the fiscal concerns that the body has and all I can say is if there is any reallocation of funds in the budget, hopefully it is not taken away from School Capital Improvement but rather goes towards it because I believe additional funding is necessary in that area.

Mayor Baines stated for the record, the petition submitted for the senior center contained 396 signatures.

John Brisbin, 96 North Adams Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I would like to thank Mayor Baines for proposing \$175,000 for design money for the Brown School on the West Side to be used as a West Side branch of the public library. Ms. Duchowski spoke very articulately and we applaud her efforts on behalf of the seniors and we share the same aches and pains because we occupy the same space on the West Side now as the seniors do. It is an elbows in location and it doesn't have enough of any kind of space for either of our needs. The Brown School does offer five times the space that the old firehouse does. It offers four times the parking and it is an attractive parcel of land eminently usable and steel reinforced. In Reading, MA, they have a twin of the Brown School and they renovated it into a public library in 1985 and Alderman Thibault went down and took a look at that with us and we were very pleased by the way that it worked out as a public library and we are sure that we can do the same. We plan on having sufficient space for children and seniors, a computer classroom so that people can use computer skills and enhance their skills and a West Side meeting space. We have little enough there now except for West High's auditorium. Also, a Channel 16 studio so that we can have programs initiate from the West Side. We ask the Aldermen to please confirm that proposal by the Mayor and I want to say how pleased and proud I was of the turnout of the West Side community at our February 23 meeting there with the architect who designed Catholic Medical Center by the way. We had 120 individuals who came. The Aldermen and the Mayor also came by to see what was up. It was a wonderful outpouring. The architect said they have never seen such a group of people for a branch library and rarely enough had seen that number of people for any kind of library construction. Thank you very much.

Jeannette Gayan, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Chairperson of the Manchester City Library Foundation. The mission of the foundation is to raise funds and community awareness of the continuing needs for excellence in our library services. I request your support of the \$175,000 for the design phase of the West Side Library. Thank you very much.

Roger Duhaime, Belmont Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am Chairman of the Board of Library Trustees. I am here tonight to thank the Mayor for the proposed \$175,000 for the design study of the West Branch of the Library at the former Brown School. A meeting was held at the current West Side branch of the City Library on February 25. This meeting was held with the architect who unveiled the proposed plans for the Brown School. Over 100 citizens of the City of Manchester took part at this meeting asking questions and showing their support for the project, some of whom you will hear from tonight. The architect stated that he was very impressed with the number of people who attended this meeting and voiced support for this project. The Brown School is a very impressive building and the plans for renovations would greatly improve the area. I ask the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to support this project for the City Library, which will help revitalize a City landmark and provide

educational materials, building rooms, reading rooms and a computer classroom for our citizens. Thank you.

Ann Phillips, Manchester, NH stated:

I am a member of the staff of Child Health Services and Director of the Child Health Services Teen Health Clinic. I am here to speak for Selma about the Teen Health Clinic Program. In 1998, Child Health Services initiated a new program to provide general healthcare to medically underserved adolescents in Manchester. By medically underserved we mean adolescents that otherwise wouldn't be able to access healthcare. The Teen Health Clinic was that program. The Teen Health Clinic is a program of Child Health Services. It is located at the YWCA on Concord Street and at the Teen Health Clinic we provide comprehensive medical care, social support services and health education services to adolescents in Manchester between the ages of 11 and 21. Since opening, we have provided services to over 450 adolescents in the City and they have made close to 1,200 visits to our clinic. By the end of the fiscal year for which we are requesting funding, we expect to be providing services to close to 750 adolescents. The largest portion of our clients are uninsured clients and the second largest portion are those who are Medicaid recipients and find it increasingly difficult to identify a place to receive primary care in our City. Through the services of the Teen Health Clinic and with the support of the CIP Program, the staff at the Teen Health Clinic is able to assess the medical and social support needs of the teens that come to us and we are able to identify those teens that are at risk for dysfunctional health behavior. Those types of behaviors that lead to, for example, truancy and drop out or substance abuse. This is a program that promotes the public health of our community. We feel that the City has a responsibility to contribute to the provision of these services for this population and the City has done so through the CIP Program for two years now and we are very happy for that and thank you very much for your continued support.

Russell Grady, 114 Mast Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to support the movement of the West Side Library to the Brown School. As most of you know, the West Side has 22,000 people living in it and we have been in the present building for about 20 years and it was too small when we started and it is really too small now. I was talking to one of the librarians today and she told me that there are 52 different languages spoken on the West Side and she said that many of the people who are coming to the City that do not speak English one of the first stops they make is to the Library so they can make use of the text that is there to help them learn the language. The Library is a repository of the English language and American history and we often sit around and talk about what a wonderful country this is and why it is such a wonderful country and we think of the documents like the Declaration of Independent and the Constitution and the wars that we have thought but we don't often think of the English language, which is the thing that keeps us all together. This is the only country in the world where you can travel 3,000 miles in one direction and speak the same language all the way. It is a very, very important part of our unity and I think that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen can help to support that with the approval of the Mayor's \$175,000 for the design of a library at the Brown School. Thank you.

Jim Prive, 199 Manchester Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here representing New Horizons for NH, Inc., better known as the Manchester Soup Kitchen Pantry and Shelter. I can tell you that I am here representing Louis Craig. He wanted to be here this evening but we have a Board of Directors meeting that is happening right now. He told me that I was a poor second, but that I would have to suffice. The Soup Kitchen serves about 200 dinners per evening and services about 500 families on a monthly basis with our pantry and in addition to that this evening we are probably going to have somewhere between 120 and 130 people sleeping at our shelter. That facility is at 199 Manchester Street. It is three floors and currently we have no access for somebody who has disabilities. Part of our request is to install a chair lift for us to be able to handle people in a significantly better manner than physically carrying them and their wheelchair up or down the stairs for them to be able to access our services. The request is for \$25,000. That is not the whole amount. We estimate that it is about \$50,000 total for the lift and the various renovations that need to take place and we certainly would like your support and also thank you for your past support. The City of Manchester has been generous with us for ongoing operations of the Shelter, Pantry and Soup Kitchen and hopefully you have it in your heart to be able to help us out. Thank you.

Paul Schneiderman, Manchester, NH stated:

I am Dean of the Graduate School at NH College and partner with the City of Manchester in the small business incubator. I appear here to day with our Director, Julie Gustafson, in support of the request for program funds to support emerging businesses in the incubator. As you will hear from our director, this partnership between NH College and the City of Manchester has been very successful as an economic development initiative. I am pleased to introduce our Director, Julie Gustafson.

Julie Gustafson, 57 McCawley Street, Manchester, NH stated:

On behalf of NH College and the incubator, we would like to thank very much the City of Manchester for their past and present support of the incubator. We are here today to express how important the recommended \$20,000 in CIP funds for the continued success of the incubator is. The incubator is currently running a deficit higher than this amount that NH College is absorbing. If it is at all possible for the City to consider an additional \$5,000, it would be greatly appreciated. It would be used to continue to support the programs in the incubator. We are working on plans to expand the incubator and an expansion in the future would mean that the incubator would have the ability to break even. It is very hard to put a tangible value on the impact of the incubator on the City of Manchester. I can tell you that we are accomplishing our mission, which is to provide a place for small businesses to grow, which in return will create jobs and economic activity in the City of Manchester. The incubator currently provides space to 19 businesses and it is close to full occupancy. All of the businesses in the incubator in one way or another have increased economic activity in the City of Manchester by hiring, expanding, and increasing revenues and profits and by using local businesses and local vendors. As I mentioned, our mission is to create jobs in the City of Manchester and this has been accomplished. Over 100 jobs have been created as a result of the businesses in the incubator. Lastly, we are partnered with many individual businesses and

organizations in the City to provide services to the businesses in the incubator. Not to mention the countless hours of support and consultation that has been provided by NH College professors, staff and students in the City of Manchester. We feel that we hold an exciting place in the City of Manchester. We cater to small businesses, which have become the backbone of the State and of the country. We thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Bruce Bourgeois, 37 C Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here on behalf of my wife, Ann, as well. We have a seven-year-old daughter who attends Parker Varney Elementary School and we are here in support of the School Capital Improvement Program. We are concerned with her elementary years at Parker Varney. Thank you.

Jill Colabro, 130 North Bend Drive, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to address the handicapped accessibility at Webster School. I have a son who is a second grader there and for two and a half years now I have been trying to get into the school. The school has been so accommodating to me. They are in need of an elevator, but more importantly they are in need of moving the handicapped spaces that they have. They are located on Bennington Street. There is one there. They do have a teacher who is handicapped and uses the space. What happens is that if any grandparents or another parent like myself wants to do any kind of activities or just get into the school, it is impossible. We have to cross the street on a hill. There is no accessibility at all. They did put in a ramp last summer and I have contacted the Disability Right Center up in Concord and they put me in contact with Maureen McCarthy, the ADA Coordinator here. She told me that there was a whole project underway to redo the whole back of the school and move the playground and put a small parking lot there with handicapped spaces and then I would have access to the ramp. The ramp was put in but nothing was done and last week we found out that the whole plan was cancelled. Today I just found out that there is money there for the elevator, but there is no money there to do anything else. What I don't understand is why is the elevator being put in when there is no accessibility to the door. We appreciate, you know all of the disabled people appreciate having the elevator there, but it is not going to do me any good if I cannot get to the door. There is no way for anybody to get there. The ramp goes absolutely nowhere. It goes to the stairs. There is nothing else that can be done. The handicapped space was moved across the street because of traffic problems, which is totally understandable but it is on a hill and you have to cross the street in order to get to it. It makes no sense to me or anybody else who is trying to get into the school. Thank you.

Artemis Paras, 1275 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here this evening to mention how important it is, based on your introductory material on the Resolution as to classified projects for inclusion in the CIP budget based on priority needs and urgency needs, after hearing the presentation by the gentleman regarding Parker Varney School I cannot emphasize that point enough – urgent need. I will address a project under the Highway Department City Cash table and this is the Candia Road project, which was presented to City and State officials last May. It was a general understanding that the cost for the project is an 80% Federal/20% City match and was going to cost in the vicinity of \$2.6 million. At the

Commercial Street UNH Center last fall for the 10 year presentation plan I heard that the cost went up to \$5 million. I called the State and found out that a letter had been sent to the Highway Department indicating that the cost was now \$6 million, excluding the cost of moving all underground public utilities. I would like to suggest to the Committee that will be reviewing this project, there is \$50,000 now but this is not the total share of the City, that sidewalks are being proposed for the entire stretch of Candia Road and because of this huge increase I would like the Board to consider that part of Candia Road is zoned I-2 zoning and that is Industrial Park zoning. I know that several businesses on that stretch which is zoned commercial have spoken about their dissatisfaction with sidewalks on either side of the street because it affects their non-conforming business status and these buildings have been there for years. I would appreciate the Board looking at the point I am making that sidewalks may not be reasonable and that the City could reconsider and revisit and let the State know that there is an opportunity for amending the Commissioner's report, which has already been amended once. I would also like to speak to the Capital Improvement Program. I do support it heartily and I would like the Board to know that there is an RSA 34, which is enabling State legislation for cities under the capital reserve fund and perhaps Manchester should consider capital reserve funds. I also think Manchester should consider acquisition of land for investment purposes. A City of this size, it is almost embarrassing to believe that we do not have this kind of planning in our respective City and please I have to let you know that I support the funding that is included for Meals on Wheels.

Albertine Morrissette, 34 Trolley Court, Manchester, NH stated:

I live at 34 Trolley Court with my husband, Dennis, and our four children ages 4-15. About a year and a half ago many of my neighbors and I banded together to form the Committee for the Preservation of Pine Island Park. Many of you will remember the cause for which we are fighting. A community organization wanted to acquire the site of Pine Island Park on which they proposed to build a private summer camp to operate for members only during a few short weeks in the summer. Our position was that Pine Island Park should be a public park open to all Manchester families as a beautiful outdoor recreation area and playground. It's convenient location, it's natural beauty, which includes Pine Island Pond and its lovely wooden trails make it hard for one to believe that this is an inner City park reminiscent of a rural setting. You will remember that our campaign was successful and that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen voted unanimously to have the City of Manchester retain title of the land and to begin development of the site as an outdoor recreation area for family use and to install a playground for children ages 2-12. Insurance money that the City had received in compensation of the 4H building for the total loss due to a fire provided the seed for the start of development of Pine Island Park last fall. Grading, tree and brush removal, driveway and parking improvements all were started under contract by a private construction firm. In the meantime, residents and City officials worked together to develop a realistic plan for the equipment which must be acquired to make the park viable. I have a rendering of that plan here. That is why I come before you this evening. The site development budget was already approved and the funds were released last year so that the site work could be completed when spring arrives, but money is needed, approximately \$75,000, to build and install playground equipment, benches, picnic tables and other items to complete

the facility. What concerns us most, the members of the Committee for the Preservation of Pine Island Park, is the possibility that City planners may have put such a low priority on the completion of this project that it may never get done. I wish to respectfully call to your attention the fallacy of not appropriating the funds needed to complete the work here. One, unless the site work is finished, all of the expense of what has been done to date will be wasted. It is the nature of nature to want to recapture what is hers. From that standpoint, completion of the site work and the year round use of Manchester residents, along with routine maintenance will help to minimize the groundskeeping needed to prevent the park from reverting to its natural state. The second consideration of a list too long to be presented here tonight is that one of the largest wards in the City in which thousands of children ages 2-12 live have no alternative facility where they and their families may enjoy outdoor recreation close to home. Without traveling long distances away from our neighborhoods in Ward 8, there is nowhere but Pine Island Park or our own limited backyard spaces where our children and grownups alike can go and play and picnic and revel in nature's blessings right next door. In closing, I ask that you please understand my concern and the concerns of Ward 8 residents that when you consider all of the City work that must have high priorities that this project should have high priority too. Please, ladies and gentlemen, think about the low cost per user factor that completing Pine Island Park will have in the budget you are developing. Please don't let this historic site and the potential it has for great pleasure of the citizens of all wards of the City become another victim of what appears to be the City of Manchester's budget shortfall. If you have any questions regarding my statement, I would be happy to entertain them at your convenience. I want to thank you for your kind attention, in advance, and for your favorable consideration of my appeal tonight.

Joanne O'Shaughnessy, 1700 Brown Avenue, Manchester, NH stated:

I have lived in Manchester all my life on Brown Avenue for approximately 30 years. I raised my family here and I have a childcare business here in the south end of Manchester. I have watched what has happened to the south end of Manchester with its growth. We have a South Willow Street that is overcrowded. We have an Airport with its noise and pollution. We have the sewage treatment plant with its odor. I think it is time that the Aldermen and Alderwoman as gracious as they were last year to save the park for us and consider giving back a little bit to the children that live not only in Ward 8, but Ward 9 and south Manchester. I have parents who come to me through my business and say where can I go this weekend and bring my children. You can go to Livingston Park, you can go to Merrimack, you can go to Auburn, or you can go to Bedford. They have beautiful parks. We have nothing. The Manchester south end does not have a pool or a park with a playground. I implore you. The site work is almost completed. We need \$75,000 to purchase equipment to make this a park that the families of south Manchester can enjoy. Thank you for your consideration.

Tim Connors, 271 Oak Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am a physical education teacher at Bakersville and Hallsville Elementary Schools. This morning I noticed that the improvements to Prout Park were not in your list and I am here to ask you to reconsider that decision. In addition to the many ways that the park is used, the park is also used for physical education for Hallsville School. Thank you very much for your time.

Sue Connor, 22 Partridge Lane, Derry, NH stated:

I am the Director of Volunteer Services for Southern NH Services and as such I oversee the Voluntary Action Center here in Manchester. Three years this July the Voluntary Action Center joined Southern NH Services and we have been very, very happy to have them with us because it kind of completes the circle of volunteer services with our RSVP Program for the senior citizens and our Family Matters Program, which addressed opportunities for families to volunteer as a unit. There is a lot of talk today about social capital and about how a healthy community needs to build social capital. There are a lot of panels and discussions and articles written about how much social capital we have. Well, I am not real sure that I know what that means. I imagine that we would all have our own opinion about what social capital is if you are an economist or a developer or a stadium builder or a highway construction person. I, however, am a human service person so social capital means a little something different to me than it may mean to other people. To me, social capital means participation and the power of participation and creating opportunities for people to participate in a positive way to enhance themselves, their families and their community. That is exactly what volunteerism does. Volunteerism doesn't happen by magic at midnight. It happens with a framework, an organizational framework that fosters it and allows an opportunity for people to come together who want to volunteer at a place where there are opportunities to volunteer. I have to commend Jean Desinay, our Program Manager, who I have known for the past three years and has done a wonderful job of doing just that. We are on the map. We have newsletters and newspaper articles. We have all kinds of speaking engagements. She addresses everybody. One of the best examples of that is the Mayor's Luncheon where she is responsible for bringing up to 100 volunteers together to pull off this luncheon. Now granted it is a wonderful opportunity for the seniors to have a great time, but when you can see a group of 6th graders from a Christian school come to volunteer with a group of at-risk 7th graders who are at an alternative school to who stand and look at each other at 7:30 AM thinking who are you and where did you come from who by the end of the afternoon are clearing tables and joking and laughing and dancing with the seniors and really beginning to form a relationship, to me that is building social capital in your community. I thank the Board of Aldermen for their support in the past and I hope that you will see the value of building social capital in our community. Thank you.

Tom, Litchfield, NH stated:

We are just going to do a little testimony of Family Matters and what it meant to us. I have been volunteering for years in Manchester even though I live in Litchfield because they have the Soup Kitchen. I can't get my kids there because there is an age limit on how old the kids have to be before they can start serving there. My daughter is just getting to the age when she can come, but I have two others who are younger. I have been looking for something else and Family Matters provides that link to us. They asked for family volunteers to serve at the VA Hospital in November and so I was able to go with my daughter Jennifer. My son, Timothy, is five and he served there. We made cards for the residents and we just spent time with them and I thought well is this going to make a difference and it did. It was amazing. They really appreciated it and what I noticed was that my son who is five made a card for himself along with

making cards for others and what happened is he had this card and he was holding this card and we were going around to the rooms and we ran out of cards and we went to one more room and this guy who nobody had gone to see was paralyzed from the neck down. The TV was right in front of his face. He couldn't even see us walk in. The Director was there and she moved the TV away and said Tom and Tim are coming to visit and they have a card for you. Well, we looked around and we didn't have a card. The only card left was Timmy's and I say oh, oh, Tim can you give the card to the man. He said sure Dad and he gave him his card. It was just amazing because the man smiled and said thank you and it really made a difference. We are going back next month with a bigger group and it is all through Family Matters.

Tom's daughter stated:

I want to say how much fun I had singing and talking to the people and I think it did make a difference and it was really a lot of fun. I remember Jack and we helped them make cards and stuff and they said thank you after and that made me want to go back again.

Jeanne Desinay, 1915 Front Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Program Manager of the Voluntary Action Center. The Voluntary Action Center supported 159 agencies throughout greater Manchester in 1999 with technical support and volunteer referrals. As I sat here tonight, I think with the possible exception of two of the agencies and institutions who have addressed the Board tonight, we have partnered with each one of the agencies that has spoken here. The City of Manchester is a major financial supporter and has an active volunteer program of its own, which the Voluntary Action Center administers. In the City, 142 volunteers provided a total of 31,253 hours of in-kind services to 11 City departments at 18 different sites, which amounted to more than \$446,000 worth of in-kind services. The cost to the City was 4 cents an hour. This is 37 times the initial investment and the increase over 1998 was substantially due to number one discovering hidden volunteers in the City departments. There are a lot more of them out there and I keep finding more every day. That and the positive effects of the Family Matters Program that you just heard some remarks on. The Manchester VAC was the only volunteer center in the northeast to be awarded funding for Family Matters during its inception two years ago and it is one of only five to receive partial third year funding. Now, I am pleased to present a check to the Mayor, the Board of Aldermen and the Greater Manchester community in the amount of \$4,633,014, which represents in-kind services supplied by VAC to those 159 agencies in the Greater Manchester area. Now let me tell you Earl, I have never met Earl but I have nothing but glowing reports about Earl, maintains the restrooms and the grounds at Veterans Park and spends 40 hours a week doing it. He takes personal pride in his work and he is a volunteer. Raymond owns a small business in town and the going has been tough, but he happens to speak German and juggle on the side. How is that for a combination? The results, happy people from kids to elders. He is a volunteer. These are the types of people that you have here in the Greater Manchester community. We thank you wholeheartedly for your longstanding report and with continuing that support, the Voluntary Action Center can continue to be a vital resource for the City of Manchester and its wide array of non-profit agencies. Thank you.

Richard Girard, 517 Hevey Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here because I have taken a good look at the CIP budget and I have some concerns with some of the directions I see the City going in and I wanted to take a moment to address them to the Board. As has been noted here tonight, there has been \$175,000 proposed by the Mayor to begin renovating the Brown School as a Library for the West Side. I think that is a nice idea, but I think at this point in time I don't think it is a wise idea. If I remember correctly, the Library's operating budget will increase by somewhere over \$1 million if the Brown School is renovated as a Library and I think budgetarily that is something the Board has to consider. I also think that given the Police Department's needs for space and given the facilities available and the budgets available to the City, it has been proposed by others on this Board and it is something that I have spoken to others about, I believe the Brown School would serve very well as a Police Station, one that would alleviate the pressures on the Central Police Station and one that would provide services and visibility in a neighborhood, which I am sad to say requires that visibility. I live in that neighborhood about three blocks away from the Brown School and I can only tell you and I won't take my time here to tell you of the difficulties crime-wise and drug-wise that the neighborhood has faced. I do have a proposed solution to the desire for an elderly center and a better facility for the Library. The Rimmon School currently has 4,200 square feet vacant at the corner of Dubuque and Amory Street. That space is all fit up and can actually be designed in any way to accommodate any variety of needs and can be and would be made handicapped accessible. That 4,200 square feet is more space than the Library currently has at the West Side right now, which is about 3,600 square feet and because it could be fit up any way the Library saw fit or the elderly center for that matter, it would be very viable. Those uses are daytime uses and I don't believe that it would impact the residential neighborhood. Once one use has moved out of the West Side Community Center, that facility could be renovated from top to bottom and there are about 11,000 square feet on three floors there to serve either as a full service elderly center or a Library. I know that parking is a concern and if you move one use out you may be able to address the parking need, but the triple decker or the three-family apartment building that is directly to the south is for sale. I believe it is on the market for \$135,000. If the City really needs parking that badly, it could buy that apartment unit, which is adjacent to the land and create a parking lot. I would propose that for your consideration. The other thing I would like to say is in the area of housing and I know, Mayor, that you have made an effort to address housing concerns in the City, affordable housing, and I just want to caution the Board about the direction that has been proposed. By the 1990 census, over 40% of the housing in the City of Manchester was qualified as affordable housing – low and moderate income. 40%. Now that hasn't abated in the last 10 years and I think the new census is going to show us even closer to 50%. At some point there is a break point where the community cannot support the ever growing amounts of so-called affordable housing. I am a landlord in a neighborhood that has affordable housing and I can tell you what that market is like and while people are talking about rents and how expensive they are, rents now are only reaching the levels they were back at in 1989 and with the growth and the percentage of housing in the City that is already deemed by the Federal government to be affordable, I think if we make greater commitments in that area we are going to be saddled with a burden that we will not be able to sustain. This shouldn't be taken in any means other than the City cannot provide for its needy if

the City cannot support the services that are necessary for every citizen. One final point to address specifically allocations to Neighborhood Housing Services. I have long been a supporter of Neighborhood Housing Services, but when Neighborhood Housing Services was brought to this City, it was not brought to be a landlord. It was brought to redevelop the inner City and provide home ownership opportunities. In recent years, and increasingly since their merger with Manchester Housing Trust, they have taken increasingly large buildings and they have been landlords, institutionalizing their presence. At some point, it was envisioned that Neighborhood Housing Services would serve its purpose and go away.

Sal Steven Hubbard, 20 Delaware Avenue, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here representing Manchester Neighborhood Housing Services at 434 Union Street. I really didn't know that I was going to follow concerns about Manchester Housing Services, but I would be happy to address any of them. I do want to talk about what we have done and where we have been since 1992 when we were first formed as a residential led partnership of the City of Manchester, the corporate partners and as I said residents of the City of Manchester. Since 1992 we have grown enormously and I think our CIP request this year reflects a lot of that growth. It goes from supporting the renovation and rehabilitation and retention of affordable housing on North Elm Street to the opening of our new home ownership work center on Elm Street right downtown to continuation of our rehab loan program and also continuation of our rebuild program, which is a program by which we purchase, rehab and resell to first time homebuyers problem housing in center city neighborhoods. Certainly, when the job is done we will go away but the job is not yet done. We have expanded from our original core target area because a lot of the job there is done. There is still more work to do, but we continue to do it. We want to move into other areas of the City. I think this year's CIP request reflects that growth, that move and that enlarged scope of services that we can provide to the City. We have had a great working relationship over the years with the City of Manchester. That working relationship continues. We want to continue to work with the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the City Planning Department and use Federal funds in the way they are meant to be used and support affordable housing in Manchester. Just one little note, eight years ago the vacancy rate in Manchester was about 20-25%. Currently, it is under 2%. There is a major housing crisis right now. Thank you very much.

Megan Brady, 15 Stanstead Place, Nashua, NH stated:

I am the Executive Director of St. Joseph's Community Services. We provide Meals on Wheels and congregate dining throughout Hillsborough county. I am going to keep my comments brief. I wish to express profound gratitude for the assistance received from the City of Manchester this past year. I would like to share with you today how important this program is to the people we serve. I thought the best way to do this would be to share with you an incident report from this past year. This was written by our site manager. "Upon arriving to deliver the meal, the Meals on Wheels driver found the participant in a great deal of pain. He was also having trouble breathing. She called 911 and stayed with him until rescue arrived. He was transported to the hospital. He was released later in the day and back on the route the next day." It turned out that he had several cracked ribs probably caused by coughing. They found out that he had walking

pneumonia. He told the driver and I quote, “you always told me that you had to see me in order to leave my meal. I never really understood that. Now I understand and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.” I think it is important that the daily safety check that we provide is as important as the hot and nutritious meal that we deliver. For too many of our homebound people, the driver is the only person that he or she will see that day. They depend on this visit. I invite the Mayor and any of the Aldermen to visit one of our three Manchester congregate sites or to go out and accompany one of our drivers on a meals route. Again, I thank you for your assistance in the past and I thank you for whatever consideration you can give in the future and I thank you for your time tonight.

Senator Eleanor Poddles, Manchester, NH stated:

I just want to add a few things to Megan’s comments. We provide 441 meals in Manchester and that is per day. We also support the only Kosher meal site for the elderly in the State and that is at the Jewish Federation on Beech Street. This is the frail segment of the population and the poorest of the poor. I also want to thank you for your past funding, which we got last year and please consider our present request. Thank you.

Jill Guild, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here representing the Homemaker Services of Child & Family Services. It is a program that services the elderly and disabled in their home. We provide homemakers who go in and assist them with daily living chores doing light housekeeping and laundry and preparing nutritious meals. So many of our clients are homebound and we are the only person that they see all week long. Sometimes it is every day. It depends on the need of the client. Very often, many of our clients would not be able to remain in their own homes if we didn’t send a homemaker to take care of them. I just wanted to say that the best way I could describe what happens when a homemaker goes in is I brought a quote from one of our clients. She wrote, “after my stroke I was unable to function as I used to. I was so ashamed to have company. My once clean home was a shambles. I became depressed and didn’t even want to care for myself. My family tried to cheer me up. They called in counselors. I didn’t want to see anyone. Then your coordinator talked me into trying a homemaker for just a couple of weeks. In three short weeks, your homemaker had turned my house into a home that I could be proud of again. She cleaned and pressed my favorite clothes, made a fresh apple pie to share with company and she turned my life around. I welcome visitors now. How can I ever thank you and your wonderful staff enough?” This is just one of the clients that we take care of, but there are many. We service up to 300 clients per year. Homemaker Services has been in the City of Manchester since 1959, but as you know the elderly population is growing and the need is always growing. I would like to thank you, on behalf of the clients we serve and the elderly and the disabled in the community, for the support that you have given to them over the years and I just wanted to say that a community that supports and respects their elderly is a community with great integrity. Thank you.

Mayor Baines stated for everyone’s information, we have about 40 more speakers and I would appreciate it if you could keep that in mind when you address the Board.

Gail Starr, 99 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am also from Child & Family Services and I represent a different population, the Runaway and Homeless Youth Programs. In the past, you have very favorably supported us with \$12,000, which enables us to access more of our Federal funds because there is a requirement of a local match and this is a wonderful opportunity and I want to thank you for doing that in the past and hope that you will continue doing it in the future. Our program is one which does a lot of outreach, prevention services, working with basically teenagers, young adolescents and their families offering emergency shelter and licensed foster homes when that is necessary, but always looking to do reconciliation when that is possible and we work with about 350 youth and their families per year with about 90% favorably reconciled with their families. Thank you.

Irene Robie, 1046 Hayward Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I represent the 2,000 seniors who signed my petition for the new senior center. I am also on the Mayor's Special Senior Center Study Committee. Last year, we were promised a building and we were going to be getting \$15,000 for a feasibility study. We were elated. Now we thought we can relax and stop running around all over town and we just settled down and tried working out the problems of what is going to go into this building. Two months later, at the Mayor's meeting we were informed that we must wait five years before we can see this building go up. Now that is a shock. That is a shock to a committee where the ages range from 70-91. I am 82. Where am I going to be in five years? I asked them why we had to wait and the answer was the tight budget. If you have a tight budget what do you do? You look around and see where you are wasting your money and you don't have to look very far. Just look up at 66 Hanover Street, the East Side Center. That place has absolutely no parking space in the front or back. Very few people go there because of that. There are no programs worth mentioning and no attendance because of all of the above. Surely, you must have become aware in the last 12 or 13 years, the Commissioner and Aldermen who created the problem are not here now but you are and you must be made aware. In the past 12 or 13 years the City has squandered \$500,000 to \$750,000 on this facility. That is between \$70,000 and \$80,000 a year. For what? I would say for nothing. Yet, in November of 1996, the lease was extended to October of 2001. Was this done with your eyes shut to the waste? Stop the waste. Close this place tomorrow. Bus a few people over to the West Side Center and put that money into the future center's budget. With all due respect to our City fathers, the forgotten generation, the neglected generation has a message for you. They will not wait five years so Mr. MacKenzie please get that site, put the shovels into the land and if we have to hurry this thing along we will by getting out there and shoveling and digging up the foundation ourselves. Thank you.

Norma Pariseau, Manchester, NH stated:

Mr. Mayor and Board of Aldermen, you wanted a short speech and this may be one of the shortest ones you get this evening. I just want to thank you for appropriating the \$175,000 for the design of the West Side Library and I think that the West Side Library would be a definite asset to the community. Thank you very much.

Cindy McGliori, 65 Highcrest Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to speak about Webster School and the fact that it does not seem to be fitting into the plan with the CIP budget. I have been a parent at Webster School since 1991 and have been very involved in the PTO there since 1994. During those years, we have continually expressed concerns with regard to safety issues and the asphalt playground with water and drainage, the handicapped access as Mrs. Calabro very clearly spoke about her personal situation in trying to gain access which has been a concern for all of those years. As she stated, there is no way for people with a handicap to get into the building. Clearly, that poses concerns for the involvement of those parents, as well as the children who have may have handicaps trying to attend Webster School. The safety issues are involved with the outside site at the school both with the walkways, drainage, asphalt play area and generally the facility itself. We had received information that the improvements were going to be phased in starting in 1996 and somehow that has not been done and we are not sure where it is on the list for long-range planning.

Karen Heller, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here individually and also on behalf of Sister Florence Therrien, the Director of St. Peter's Home. Sister Florence had hoped to be here today to speak in favor of moving the West Side Library to the Brown School, but unfortunately she called my office at 4 PM and she is very ill with the flu and asked me to please speak on her behalf. If you people aren't aware of Sister Florence, she is one of the most outstanding citizens that the City of Manchester has. She has been running this non-profit preschool at St. Peter's almost forever. In case you are not aware, there are over 325 children in the school and she can name every one of them. She is very interested in this project to move the West Side Library to the Brown School. She used to have the book mobile and would have the children involved in getting books from the book mobile. There is no more book mobile due to lack of funds. We hear all of this talk about parking. She wanted me to tell you people that she has 325 kids who don't drive cars, but who are going to use that West Side Library once it is there. She is going to make it part of the curriculum and she is going to walk the children there as part of their curriculum at her school to use that Library. These are 325 kids, mostly from the City of Manchester, who will directly profit from it. That is per year. Now, speaking on my own behalf, I am a strong supporter of the West Side Library and I am there at least twice a week. If any of you have any doubts whatsoever about needing a new West Side Library, just go there at 4 PM. The good news is that at 4 PM you can park because the senior citizens are gone. The bad news is you can't get a seat in there because it is loaded with high school students. This is where they go, the kids from the West Side, instead of being latchkey kids at home they go there and they do their work. Most of the kids that are there do not have computers at home. I know that computer classes are going down, but the reality is it is \$25/month to hook up to the Internet. I was reading in Dear Abbey's column where it said the importance of becoming computer literate and if you don't have a computer you can always go to your Library. Well she has obviously never been on the Manchester West Side because there are only two computer terminals there and the kids sign up for 15 minute increments. In 15 minutes you can do nothing on the Internet and only one of those computers even has children's programming. If you go there on a Saturday, I can't bring my husband's grandchildren because the West Side Library holds only four children. The children's area seats

four so if you have any doubts, go there. I just want to comment very quickly on what Mr. Girard said. I was quite frankly stunned when I heard it and I would have been more prepared had I known. His proposal is to move from where they are, which is 3,800 square feet to a facility that is 4,200 square feet. That is hardly worth renting the truck. That is a 10% increase and it is entirely inadequate. The second part, which I might be wrong but I thought there was a police substation on the West Side.

Mary Sliney, 20 Merrimack Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to speak about The Way Home. I want to first of all thank the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for the concerns and the interest that you have given to the development of neighborhoods and decent places for people who live in Manchester to reside and all of the issues that go along with that. I prepared some packets because I realized that sometimes you see a name in the budget with proposed amounts and you don't necessarily know the who, what and where of the organization and particularly with The Way Home. We changed our names a couple of years ago. We used to be the Security Deposit Loan Fund of Greater Manchester, Inc. and that was because we were founded when the housing market was very hot like it is now but in the late 1980's because one of the needs identified in the community was how can we help people access decent housing. It is so hard to get the first month's rent. How can we help them compete? A group of community leaders created a revolving loan fund for a security deposit and that became known as The Way Home. So since 1988, we have worked with thousands of very low-income tenants and their landlords to build strong, business-like working relationships so that they both can be successful in maintaining decent neighborhoods in our community. We have done this through the creation of what is called supportive services that go along with rental housing. We don't provide any rental housing, but we provide a tremendous amount of supportive services and I want to tell you very quickly a couple of the things that we do. We have housing advocates that work with families at risk of becoming homeless. This past year we had a 58-year-old woman who had been working all of her life, but because of health problems she ended up in a situation where she lost her job. When she lost her job, she lost her apartment. She had no money to fall back on. She was in the hospital and was going to be released from the hospital into homelessness. She couldn't go out and get a job. She couldn't even go to the Social Security office to fill out the paperwork because of the medical condition that she was in so our housing advocate called the hospital social worker and said look you have problems here and you have a woman who will be homeless when you release her, let's work on a plan. They managed to work out two weeks worth of nursing home service because the extent of her medical need was so significant then the insurance ran out. In the meantime, our advocate worked closely with Manchester City Welfare and got the woman all of the paperwork from the Social Security Office. The end result was finally getting her into safe, affordable housing within two months. The request that is currently in the budget and we encourage you to support it is for The Way Home to open a facility, which will have supportive services that we will provide to over 1,000 households a year. It will also include short-term transitional housing to meet some very special needs. Some of the needs are childhood lead poisoning prevention. The Manchester Health Department called us up last summer and they had a family that they wanted us to house a child who was poisoned and needed a place to go.

Mayor Baines stated there is a housing conference this week down in the Millyard. Could you tell us where and when?

Ms. Sliney replied on Thursday of this week at Springfield College, 500 Commercial Street there will be a conference on housing and homelessness. I have some flyers that I will make available in the back for those who are here and I have them in the packets for the Aldermen. It is an opportunity to hear the issues and hear about who is doing what to address the issue and to really generate comments about it and strategies.

Denise Tomasco, 40 Rosewood Lane, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Assistant Principal of Webster Elementary School. Mr. Dalairé, our principal, is presently at an educational conference out of town and sends his regrets. I am here today on behalf of our school. I am here to ask you to carefully take into consideration the safety and handicapped accessibility concerns of Webster School and place this as a priority in the CIP budget. Webster School has been part of the City plan, long-range I might add, for the past 10 to 13 years. We have patiently waited for a complete site renovation. We are the last school in the City and we are still waiting. The site improvement was to be phased in over three years with the first year addressing these major safety and handicapped accessibility issues. We house 519 students. We accommodate seven full size buses, two small buses and three vans. There is no student drop-off and pick-up area for school buses and parent vehicles. This has had a tremendous impact on our neighbors. The traffic issues have been enormous, as most of you probably already know. We have other safety issues. We have to put our dumpster inside the playground. We have had rodent problems. We have had to move the dumpster. We have moved the dumpster now over by the building. It is a safety issue because we need to be accessible for the garbage truck to come in and unload the garbage. The two ends of the garbage dumpsters stick out. We have had numerous accidents with that safety concern. Accessibility has also been addressed here tonight. We don't have much accessibility. We need to get our dumpster out and we need to provide handicapped accessibility. We need the first phase. We have waited for 10 years and we don't want to wait any longer. Thank you.

Dick Campbell, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the site manager at the Congregational Church on Union and Hanover Street, which is managed by St. Joseph's Community Services and we do service the elderly and Meals on Wheels and also congregate dining. We are the youngest site in Manchester. You can see that the need for that type of service has increased in the City. We have been in service for about 18 months. I just wanted to be brief and thank you very much for the opportunity to come before you and urge you to continue your support of this service.

Diane Prive, 382 Lake Avenue, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here with my daughter Keesha. I am here tonight to talk about the YOU/YMCA program that we have at Beech Street School. My daughter has been going for six years and without the YOU Program she would probably be a latchkey kid because first of all I wouldn't be able to

afford daycare after school and I can't say enough about the YOU Program. It is a place for kids to go after school. We have 100 kids in our program. 100 kids that are not out on the streets or waiting outside their houses for their parents to come home or sitting in a house by themselves, which is very dangerous in the center city where I live. I just want to say thank you for helping us, but we would like you to keep us in mind when the money is being divvied up.

Eileen Phinney, Goffstown, NH stated:

Although I live in Goffstown, I spend most of my time at 521 Maple Street, the Latin American Center where I am a full-time volunteer and have been for 28 years since we started. When I first came to Manchester from my native Uruguay, Latin Americans were being recruited to work in the mills. There were no services for them and nobody spoke Spanish to help them and that is how the Latin American Center was created; to meet this need. A lot of things have changed since and I am going to try to be brief although I have a lot to say. Although the community has grown and many members have prospered and we have homeowners and second-generation kids who are going to college, we also have many people who are working two jobs to put bread on the table. So, the needs are changing and yet they remain the same. We have to create new things for the people who have been here for awhile but also for the newcomers because there is still a need for labor and there are always new Hispanics coming to fill those jobs. I want to thank the City of Manchester because we have had a hard job but we have had the support and encouragement from the CIP and the people of Manchester and I feel that we have also, the Latin American Center, has contributed to the growth and the richness of Manchester. I would also like to invite the Mayor to visit us because I know he visits people and I think it would be nice if he came to visit us at the Latin American Center.

Mayor Baines asked would you please call and set-up a time for me to come.

Ms. Phinney answered okay. I would like to introduce our new interim director who has been part of the community and has been a volunteer. He has taught Spanish and has been a board member and now he is coming with a lot of new ideas and a lot of new energy. His name is Humberto Correa.

Humberto Correa, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to represent the Latin American Center at 521 Maple Street. By the way, congratulations to Mr. Baines in your new position as Mayor. I knew you as principal at West High School where you did an excellent job. Now the people of Manchester have the opportunity to have you as a leader in our community. Currently, we are the majority of the minority not only here in Manchester but in the United States. The population of Spanish in Manchester is growing. This is due to the small, close community, as well as the low crime rate. In the City of Manchester, we have people who represent us at the City level. Mr. Mike Lopez, Alderman. We have lawyers, teachers, teacher aides, company managers, businessmen, mechanics, social workers, and doctors just to mention a few. All of these people are part of our community who can bring new ideas and new support for the City of Manchester. Now that I am representing the Latino community through the Latin American Center, I realize how much

we need support from the City. Please keep us in consideration for any funds available. For the last year, the Latin American Center has helped about 5,000 people in the City. We provide interpretation and translation for those institutions, which do not have bilingual people. Most of the time, the service we provide is free. We also have the Escuelita program, which is a summer program for the Latino kids. We are teaching them values and morals and most importantly to keep our language. We also provide many different types of services for the Latino community. We would not be able to do this without the support of the City of Manchester. I have a copy for everyone here of La Voz, which is our newsletter.

Ted Kroll, 135 Becker Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am President of the Parker Varney Parent-Teacher group. I am here to ask your support to insure that the proposed improvements to the Parker Varney School, which have been included in the CIP budget for next year, remain in the budget and are completed. These improvements include replacing exterior doors and windows. Some of these doors and windows are in terrible shape. On some of them, the casings are actually pulling away from the building. The bathroom partitions need to be replaced for the stalls. As you heard earlier, they are rotting away. Some of them can't even be anchored to the wall anymore. Also, the carpeting throughout the building needs to be replaced. The carpeting is over 12 years old and is currently being held together with duct tape. It is a safety issue, but also the carpeting is so old and matted that it can't properly be extracted and, therefore, you have germs and bacteria growing in that carpet. It is a health risk to the kids. These items are in extremely poor condition and adversely affect the safety and health of the students at Parker Varney. These repairs and upgrades are long overdue and some have been documented up to 10 years ago. Please insure that they remain in the budget and are fully funded and addressed next year. Thank you very much.

Rainey Denton, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Director of the Manchester Community Resource Center located at 177 Lake Avenue. We provide employment, education and training services to the residents of the Enterprise community in the inner city of Manchester. We put in an application for \$75,000 so that we could expand our services and purchase the building located at 163 Lake Avenue. It is a vacant historical site and is an absolutely beautiful building. It has been vacant for many, many years. We would like to get the building and get it before somebody else gets a hold of it. We are located directly across from Flo's and next door to Mike's Pub & Grub. We need to put something in that building and clean it up. We have been maintaining the outside of the building for at least the last six months that I know of. It is starting to look good out there, but we need to do something with the rest of the building. This City has done an absolutely wonderful job trying to bring back the inner City and clean up what has been going on there and I must applaud you. You have done a good job and thank you very much. We need to continue this and get rid of this vacant building. So, we appreciate any money you can give to us. I am also here on behalf of Southern NH Services Info Bank. Part of our program is developing partnerships with other agencies within the community, which is the only way we can utilize our resources to benefit the people there. We leverage our funds with resources from other

agencies. They have asked for \$22,000. They are located within our facility. They offer walk-in services. They offer phone-in services and we also have a web site. Last year, the Info Bank alone served 20,000 people for information related to Manchester services. We have the HELP book, which they sell for \$3 and give to those who can't afford it. It has a complete listing of all social service agencies in the area. They also have a complete directory of licensed childcare services for people out looking for those services. We have a complete listing of support groups. We are the only one around who has this type of service. We really benefit from the money that has been offered to us and we thank you very much.

Phil Sapienza, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here to speak about the reinstatement of Phase II of the Prout Park project. I believe Phase I was funded last year. At that time, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen said that they would fund Phase II this year and the following year Phase III would take place. As you know, Prout Park is a neighborhood park that Hallsville School uses. It is also a park that the whole City benefits from because it is the home of the Manchester Babe Ruth League and the Manchester Bears. So we provide a service throughout the whole City to the teenage boys and girls of our community. Remember back in the mid 80's and all through the 90's when the economy was poor and there was no money so projects like this were neglected and the City's line on that was well it is time to cut, cut, cut and we need to tighten, tighten, tighten and when things turn around we will be right there for you? Well here we are in the new millenium, the year 2000 with record low unemployment, the stock market out of this world and property values rising and again the City's line is money is tight and we have to cut. Things haven't changed so I would like to borrow a line from Senator Bill Bradley. If not now, when? If not us, who? If you are not going to do it, that is fine. Just let us know. If you are not going to spend the money in those areas, let us know and we will carry on. I have heard in many meetings and read in the newspaper that if the city of Manchester was a business this wouldn't happen and if the city of Manchester was a business that wouldn't happen. Well, the city of Manchester is not a business. You go into business to make money. This is a municipality and we are here to service the people and provide things to them so they can have a quality of life and we can all reach our capacity. If it were a business, any CEO or CFO or Board of Directors or President or whatever it may be would stop looking at that line of where are we spending and where are we spending because you guys do a great job with that. You really know how to tighten the belts and cut the pork out of everything and that is great and I mean that, but the other side to that coin and I am not going to say taxes, God forbid we say that word, but revenues. I would love to see everybody get on the same page with revenues. It doesn't have to be taxes. Talk to your people at the State House and talk to your friends at the White House, Mr. O'Neil and help us out. Talk to the big business people. If we all get together and get on the same page to look at revenues, the 14 of you and the Mayor, really concentrate and put your heads together on revenues like Alternative Schools, ski areas, another golf course...there are a million ideas out there. Not only might we raise some money but we may get along instead of coming here and watching people bang heads all of the time. Thank you.

Ken Edwards, 91 Smyth Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I represent the Manchester Housing & Redevelopment Authority. We would like to thank the Board for its support with regard to improvements at Elmwood Gardens – public streets and drainage systems. We are in a three-phase improvement program there. The first phase was funded three years ago. You have the second phase on your list for this year and we hope that you will fund it. We have a drainage system in failure that created major puddling and street deterioration throughout the neighborhood and with the funding we will be able to correct that condition. We would also like to thank the Board for its support in the past and we hope it will continue with funding of the Southend Latchkey Program and also the Youth Opportunities Program. Thank you very much.

Manny Contact, 155 North Adams Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I have lived in Manchester for 32 years. My family came here from Haiti. My dad brought us here for a better life. I, in turn, grew up and moved to the north end for a better life. I have children that go to Webster Street School and I have a job that takes me to most of the schools in the southern NH area so I have something that I can compare to. The conditions at Webster School need to be addressed. Never mind the cosmetics. Never mind the age of the school, just the safety issue. We have sidewalks that have roots of trees that are heaving. I coach sports out of Webster School and kids all of the time have bumps and bruises and when asked how did you get that they say I tripped on the sidewalk in front of the school. That is an issue that needs to be addressed. Handicapped accessibility. It is the year 2000 folks. We have to address that. Parts of the building people can't even go into. How can you let that happen in this town? There are other issues at the school. I am in the school a lot and I walk into the building and thank God I am a friendly face. You go by two full classrooms of students before you get to the office. We all know what kind of a world we live in. Would you want your kid to be in one of those two classes knowing the kind of people that we have in this world? We have to address Webster School before something happens and somebody seriously gets hurt. Let's at least look at the school. I invite each and every one of you to go up to that school and look at the condition. I am not talking cosmetic. I am talking safety issues. No drop-off areas for your kids, cars double parked at 2:30 PM, kids running around all over the place. We have to have a better plan than we have now. Hopefully, you guys will hear what we are saying and at least address it. Thank you.

Maureen Beauregard, 106 Market Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am with Families in Transition. At Families in Transition we provide housing and services to homeless women and children for up to 18 months and we are requesting funding for emergency shelter grant funds, as well as home funds to continue our mission of serving the homeless. Specifically, we are asking for home funds to increase the number of families that we can serve. On a daily basis, we provide shelter and services to 40 women and 60 children and we would like to increase that by 19 families a day. I am also speaking on behalf of continual care, which is a group of homeless providers who work together to help homeless folks transition from homelessness to permanent housing and one of the things that we would like to do is start a

database that we all can work out of and be able to track people as they go through the continuum of care from homelessness to permanent housing. We appreciate your support in the past and we hope you continue to do so in the future. Thanks.

Bill Padia, 83 Hanover Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Executive Director of ALPHA, the Alliance of the Progress of Hispanic Americans. I would like to thank the Mayor and Aldermen for considering our proposal. The ultimate goal of the Peer Program is to pair low-income at-risk Hispanic Latino adolescents to graduate from high school and to have one of three options – going to a four-year college, a vocational technical school or on-the-job training. The singularly most distinct quality of our program is that all of our staff speaks Spanish and are bilingual and bicultural. 75% of them are alumni of our teen program that has been in existence since 1992. During this past year, we set three historic milestones. The first is having worked collaboratively with the Latin American Center in recognizing Hispanic surnamed high school graduates. The second is setting an all-time attendance record of 158, which is 43% higher than last year and finally coordinating a visit from the Vice President of the United States at the original location of the Latin American Center. The Vice President met with 53 Hispanic and other English as a Second Language students from Concord, Manchester and Nashua. Also in attendance was Mrs. Eileen Phinney, the founder of the Latin American Center who was very impressed with how our young people carried themselves. The ALPHA Peer Program is totally committed to helping our young people learn English and fully embrace the philosophy that English equals education and education equals a job. Please help us in this noteworthy endeavor.

Gail Cormier, Manchester, NH stated:

I am Director of the Alliance and Community Support Project Renew. We are at 250 Commercial Street, Room 4017. The Alliance is a non-profit community agency and Project Renew is a program dedicated to keeping kids who are mentally ill or at risk in school and pursuing their careers in education. Project Renew has demonstrated immense success and in doing so we got some good news. We got a grant from the Governor's Office for Drug & Alcohol Abuse to start a teen center. A teen center that would concentrate on the arts and I don't know if anyone knows the Art of Living Program, but it would keep kids off the streets between 3 and 7 PM where they make the highest unhealthy choice and keep them in school. As the *Manchester Union Leader* had recently spoken about the high drop out rate, Manchester really needs to find some way to keep these kids in school. The hook is that Project Renew will also be housed at the teen center and we will help them embrace the culture and the diversity of the arts that they want to do and put it into what they want for an education and career program. The one problem with the grant was that we got red lined on our rent and we had asked for \$8,000 from the City of Manchester to help support the rent for the teen center. Outside of asking for donations from the City for a housing place in the Enterprise zone, I would like to ask for \$8,000 so we can help with the rent to start the teen center. We would like to locate it right in the Enterprise zone and if you have any specific locations in mind, we would appreciate it.

Joanna Ekstrom, Manchester, NH stated:

I represent the American Red Cross of Greater Manchester at 1800 Elm Street. The Greater Manchester chapter has been in existence since 1917 and we have been at our current location at 1800 Elm Street since 1941. The Red Cross is primarily known for its services providing disaster relief to victims of fires, floods, hurricanes, and other natural and manmade disasters. Our work is conducted by volunteers and we are one of the only organizations in the world that has a Congressional charter to deliver its services to the public free of charge and yet we receive no Federal funding, which is why we are here this evening. To seek funding from the municipality that we serve. Disasters don't just happen in other communities. They do happen here in Manchester. A case in point is that since July 1 of 1999, our Red Cross volunteers have responded to 57 incidents of disasters, mostly fires, and assisted 27 families to recover their lives. Assistance from the City of Manchester in the amount of \$7,500 will allow our disaster services to continue so that no person is ever turned away and this assistance will also help provide the tools for members of our community to receive training and CPR, first aid, and other life-saving techniques thereby diminishing the effects of a disaster on a community. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Dennis Langolier, 412 Hevey Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here this evening as the representative for the Manchester Bears Senior Football Club. I am the President of that organization. We are a youth organization. Youth football. We draw our membership from the entire Greater Manchester area, generally 6th, 7th and 8th graders and I am here tonight to encourage you to please put back the funding for Phase II of the upgrades at Prout Park. Our organization uses that facility as a practice field from mid-August until the end of September. We have been there now...we are entering our ninth season at that park. Literally nothing has been done to that field in the time that we have been there and through a lack of maintenance and neglect, it is getting to the point where I am getting concerned for the health and welfare of our kids using that park. August tends to be a dry month. There are nights when we are out there practicing and you get 45 boys out there playing football literally they cannot breathe. It is a desert out there with grass and weeds growing. We have to give them breaks every 15 or 20 minutes so they can go have some water. They are choking. I stand on the sidelines. I am not even on the field. I am yards away and when I go home I have to take a shower because I am covered in dust. I have to wash my car and that is parked on the street because it is covered in dust. Also, that park serves as a back-up facility for our home games. We are very lucky that we play our home games at Gill Stadium, but the high schools take priority at that field, as they should. We haven't had the occasion yet, but I am aware that if the high school has to use that facility on one of our dates, we will be bumped. We have been told that Prout Park will be our back-up field. It will hold a football field in there. Unfortunately, right in the middle of the field is a manhole cover and if you put that field in there, one sideline is a fence. I may have to jeopardize my kids health or forfeit a game rather than play on that field. Something has to be done. Please put the money back in for Phase II. I appreciate it.

Sylvio Dupuis, 451 Coolidge Avenue, Manchester, NH stated:

I have to tell you that I put 65 after my name because that was my age. I didn't realize that there would be 65 people speaking in front of me. Seriously, I learned a lot this evening just by listening to the comments by so many people from so many different walks of life with so many priorities for our City and our community. I am here to talk a little bit about our heritage and about the arts and about culture. I am here, first of all, to thank Mayor Baines for including an investment in the Palace Theatre. I hope that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen will find it possible to support that. Sometimes the question is raised as to what has the public sector done or what has the private sector done. In the last 25 years, banks and business and insurance and private citizens have invested about \$2.5 million in the Palace Theatre just in the building and in the facilities themselves to improve them. That is about \$100,000 a year that we have gone to the banks and the business community for support. As you know, in the last few years the Palace Theatre has had a very challenging time in terms of its operations. We have gone and restructured the Palace. We have gone back to the business community and asked for another \$300,000 or \$400,000. We have raised about \$250,000 already. Tickets and ticket sales will never support the Palace. We look at the Palace and certainly I do and I have been involved with the Palace for 26 years. We look at it as part of the economic engine that drives the City. On a given weekend, we bring 1,500 to 1,600 people to downtown Manchester. They not only go to the Palace Theatre, but they go to eat and they go to listen to music and they go to do a lot of different things. As we go out and try to raise money in the community, we are always asked has the City ever done anything in terms of tangible support for the Palace Theatre. We are asking for this investment and how that money will be used will be number one to match with other grants that we will get to support youth programs and to support senior citizens programs and for us to be able to provide free tickets for the elderly and for our young men and women who should become involved in the theatre. I know that you have a lot of very important priorities and very important things to consider but I ask you to take a moment and give serious consideration to this request. It is one thing to talk about the Palace and to say it is wonderful to have in our downtown and it is part of our community and it is important. It is another thing to show your support so I hope that you will think about us and find it possible to support this initiative and I can assure you that the private sector will continue to do its job to make us proud of the Palace Theatre and what it contributes to our community. Thank you very much.

Bob McKeckney, 603 South Main Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I would like to recap some of the major issues that I have heard here tonight. One of them being schools. The second one being your parks. The third one being elderly services. I just find it amazing that everyone has to come in here and fight for these three things. These three issues should be top priority in this City. Top priority above everything else in the City. I just can't believe that 70 people are in here and out of the 70 people about 80% of them are talking about these three issues. This is crazy. One of the comments I want to make is that haste makes waste. The haste being moving too fast on new projects. The waste being forgetting existing things. It is time to take another look at this budget by putting more emphasis on the schools, parks and grounds and elderly services. A lot of things are in disrepair right now, especially with our parks and our schools and elderly services. One of my definitions for Aldermen is also maintenance people. You are maintenance people of your wards. It won't hurt you to get out

there and take care of these wards. Fight for these three issues. We need you out there for us. Thank you.

Harold Gulley, 603 Weston Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the officer in charge of the Salvation Army in Manchester located at 121 Cedar Street. I want to speak briefly and specifically about the Salvation Army's interest in the CIP budget. We requested roughly \$14,000 to help fund the cost of a full-time staff person to address the needs of our teen program. That need comes out of a program that started five years ago. This past December, we celebrated the fifth year anniversary of a program we call Kid's Café and most of you probably have heard of that. That program has been arguably the single most successful program the Salvation Army has done in its 100-year history of serving this community. During that five-year period, literally thousands of kids have been provided a meal, as well as a safe place to interact with each other and caring, meaningful adults as well as receiving tutoring services and other such activities. The difficulty surrounding that success is that after five years of providing that kind of service, that program has given birth to a whole other population of needy and that is the teens. We have literally seen our children grow up through that program and outgrow it to many degrees. As a result, we found it necessary roughly a year and a half ago to open up a brand new teen drop-in center that started off operating just on Friday nights, but has now moved to a second night on Saturday nights. On any given Friday evening, you can go to the Salvation Army and find anywhere from 60 to 140 teenagers involved in meaningful, supportive, safe activities. I am not sure if there is anyplace else in the City where you can find that. Real briefly, from a more general standpoint, it has been asked in the past by some of the Aldermen and some of the other folks involved in this process whether or not it is appropriate for the City to contribute to non-profit agencies in helping provide their services. I can only say to you that the City is what benefits from the services we provide and in my view that means that the City should contribute to some degree. Taking my fancy Salvation Army duds off for a moment and speaking as a citizen only, I can only echo the many comments that have been made about the importance of funding the school projects that have been talked about here as well. We need that in our schools.

Chris Herbert, 20 Old Wellington Road, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Ward 4 School Committee Member. I am just here on behalf of the School CIP request. I think overall the Mayor's proposal is a good one and I urge the Board of Mayor and Aldermen to support the list that he has proposed and if you have any additional areas that you think warrant funding that you add them rather than take money out of the programs that are already in the Mayor's proposal. I know that it is a tough job and I have heard the same speech from the Mayor about our financial situation and hopefully he is maybe a little more conservative than the reality will turn out to be but nonetheless I sympathize with your jobs. I think primarily in your case the object is to support and get as much good funding as you can and hopefully have the City spend the money wisely that you allocate. On the School side, I know that if you look at the funding items that are in the budget for the schools you are basically reminded of some pretty embarrassing headlines in the last 12 months about heat coming out of Central High School and buckets being used at the Manchester School of Technology and the

McLaughlin Middle School. You have heard about Parker Varney. Parker Varney is a very organized school, but it is not the only school that has the same type of problems. We can't solve everything at once and we know that but I think the Mayor has done an intelligent job and I would appreciate the support of the Board of Aldermen as well and hopefully you pass the whole thing intact. We can't do everything at once, but maybe next year things will be a little better and we can continue to move forward.

John Charamella, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Executive Director of the National Council of Alcohol & Drug Dependency, which is NCADD. We are the only crisis site for alcohol and drug rehabilitation in a 30-mile radius. We have been serving Greater Manchester for over 22 years now and our site continues to serve a minimum of 500 to 600 people a year. We are closely involved with Corrections, the Academy Program, the Soup Kitchen and many, many other community resources in our area. Not being prepared, we have asked for \$8,500 to upgrade the floors in the facility. They have been there since the building was there for years and years. The tiles are coming up. For safety and sanitary measures, we are looking to improve the floors and some shower stalls. We are a co-ed facility. We are partially funded by the Bureau of Alcohol & Substance Abuse in Concord and have been for 20+ years now. They provide 79% of our funding, which leaves me to dig up another \$85,000 to \$90,000 a year just to keep our program going. We have improved our program every year that I have been there as Executive Director in terms of more TV's, more VCR's, more educational material. We have offered...I got a grant two years ago for \$5,000 in educational material. We have offered that to West High School and other high schools. They have come down and borrowed the films and other community resources can do that. The CIP budget has been very, very gracious to us over the years to help us maintain the upgrade of the building to get it to where it should be. We have not asked for any personal funding or personnel funding or program funding, just money to keep our building up where it should be. I hope that you will consider this grant again. Thank you.

Anna Fish, 129 Donald Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here speaking on behalf of the parents of the Parker Varney Building Improvement Committee. Some of you may recognize my face because of all of the meetings that we have been doing to. The request for new doors, windows, bathroom petitions and the carpeting, which is held together with miles of duct tape, has been submitted to the School Board for the last 10 years. We are happy to see our request make it to this point. We believe these issues not only affect the safety and security of the children, but also their self-esteem and respect for the school and community. Thank you.

Paul Joseph Hartz, 34 Everett Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am one of the co-founders of Access Manchester, which is an advisory committee. The sub-committee is CIP ironically. I have heard about a lot of worthy, very worthy programs. I have heard about funding for our schools, libraries and various programs. What I am here to do and to talk about is that all of our citizens have equal access to these programs. That is why I fully support every dollar spent for disability access. We have some good news and some bad news

stories in this City. I will tell you the bad news. The bad news is that we are, in some cases, 25 years behind our Federal obligations to meet equal access to people with disabilities. The good news is that we have made some good strides, in large part due to some of the monies from CIP. I want everybody to throw out of their head what the Americans With Disabilities Act is about and the other laws that guide us. They are not building codes. They are not ramps or Braille or whatever. They are access. They are fundamental civil rights and for our more than 15,000 citizens who in the consolidated plan in 1994 by the way so there are a lot more now, but there were 15,000 citizens documented in 1994 with disabilities and they have the right to equally access all of these wonderful programs that we are talking about today. Our libraries made accessible to people who are blind. In part, there is funding from last year's CIP budget going to that. Putting the technology so that blind people such as this citizen of this municipality can go down and use the public library just like everybody else or insuring that we have the physical access so that people can get into the healthcare programs, the welfare programs, the other programs that are talked about here today. Equal access to the programs, benefits, services and activities of our entire City is what the Americans With Disabilities Act is about. There is another thing that it is about and that is thou shalt not discriminate. Some of the budgeting for the training, which these things are pretty low cost items and common sense things but we deal with human beings and they don't sometimes know when they are discriminating. So Americans With Disabilities Act training for various staff and making sure that we have ample funding for interpreters for the deaf, for materials with people who have vision impairments, etc. will guarantee us equal access. All of our citizens. We are not such a rich community that we can afford to waste anyone, whether that person be a student trying to access Webster School or whether that person be an elderly person trying to access the City's elderly services. The final thing I would like to say is we want to be part of our community, not apart from.

Kevin Collamore, 529 Bedford Road, New Boston, NH stated:

Because I am a lawyer, I feel like I live in downtown Manchester at Devine, Millimet and Branch at 111 Amherst Street. I am here on behalf of the Hanover Street Coalition. I was hoping to be here to thank you for your support. Unfortunately, I am here to ask for your support. We requested a line item for pursuing an engineering chart regarding improvements to the Hanover Street area. We are part of the action team for Manchester called the Hanover Street Coalition and I have been involved also with the Cultural Arts Quadrangle, which you supported in the past with respect to the Hartnett Parking Lot. We are still actively involved in that and helping to get corporate backing and community backing for the greening of the park and putting in trees and benches and things like that that the City presumably isn't going to have to pay anything for. We would like to expand that to the Hanover Street area. The committee is made up of tenants and businesses, restaurants, the Palace Theatre and a lot of great institutions down on the lower part of Hanover Street who support improving the area down there. One of the critical things, and I know that you have been invited to about 15 different places tonight, but this is an easy one. If you ever use Hanover Street, just look out the window of your car and if you take a look at the sidewalks as you go by and the bare wires that are hanging out of the City lighting that is on the southern side of Hanover Street, I think you will be pretty amazed. I didn't pay much attention to it until it was brought to my attention so our plan is a pretty simple

one and that is why I am here before you. We want to improve the lighting on the street. We want to fix the sidewalks and make the downtown area of Hanover Street more inviting to people so that tenants feel safer and more welcome, so that businesses can do better and so that we can expand the community surrounding Hanover Street improving downtown Manchester. It is a pretty simple concept. I don't want to keep you guys any longer than I want to be here so I will wrap up saying one of the focuses that I have noticed some people who I deemed to have been effective tonight have used is to say what are you getting back for your dollar. Why am I here with one hand out and what do I have to offer you? It is the same thing that we offered on the Cultural Arts Quadrangle. We have dedicated volunteers. We have meeting for over a year. We are very concerned. We have a vested interest in improving that area of Hanover Street, but we can't really get off the ground. I wish I brought a giant check because that seemed to be effective too, but I didn't have time to make a giant check. We have invested thousands of hours in thinking about what is best for Hanover Street. You folks have supported Stark Street and we would like to expand that onto Hanover Street and we request \$25,000 to hire an engineer and get a schematic done for the lower part of Hanover Street. Thank you.

Mayor Baines asked would you call and set-up a meeting for me to meet with your Coalition because I am doing an urban design project associated with Hanover Street and I would like your input on that.

Christoff Ream, Concord, NH stated:

I am the Executive Director of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater Manchester. We provide one-to-one mentoring services to the children of Manchester and we have been doing that since 1966 and we have plenty of experience. During the last year alone, over 85 volunteers donated 14,000 hours and gave quality guidance and friendship to the children of Manchester. This shows results. You can see it in our research. It shows that they do better in school and are less likely to hit a peer. They are more likely to trust adults and less likely to use drugs. You can all understand that that is a very good result for not a lot of money. We have done a lot over the past year, but one of the most exciting things and our biggest challenge of course is volunteer recruitment. 85 volunteers sounds like a lot, but we need more. We have 40 boys on the waiting list. Some of them have been waiting for a couple of years. We have been working hard over the past year to reduce that waiting list time and we have been quite successful. Right now it averages about one year and girls get matched right away so we are pretty fortunate. Over the past year, we have worked with YDC and St. Anselm's College. We have partnered up to be able to provide mentoring services to the girls that reside at the Saunders Cottage at the Youth Development Center. This is a pilot program and hopefully next year we will be able to increase that and match them all. I think you can understand and appreciate the importance of providing mentoring services and positive role models to children who reside there. We thank you for the funding that you have provided in the past and in the future the funding that you will give us will add to what we have already received and enable us to increase the services that we are providing. Thank you.

Jane Beaulieu, Manchester, NH stated:

I am usually not in the position of having to ask for money because I try to get money in writing grants as much as I can but this is a bit more money than I can find anyplace. I am going to talk a little bit about the Huse Road Manufactured Housing Cooperative. I think you heard about it at the last hearing. It is not being considered but I thought as the Chairperson for the Conservation Commission that I needed to speak to the Mayor and Board of Aldermen about this project. They are requesting sewer and water infrastructure improvements. This 36 mobile home park on 3.8 acres of land is located 300' from Great Cohas Swamp and it abuts the two lovely Marriott hotels that have recently been built in that area. The Manchester Conservation Commission has been charged with the responsibility of restoring the City's urban ponds. The Great and Little Cohas Brooks have been identified as part of the project. We feel that the current condition of this onsite septic system warrants prompt attention. The Coop is currently served by a 40-year-old onsite septic system in varying states of failure. We are concerned about the possible health risks associated with the failing system. There is also the potential for nutrient loading that could effect the delicate balance of this urban treasure, meaning Cohas Brook. We believe that the proposed infrastructure improvements would have an immediate and positive effect on the swamp. The Coop is also located only 200' from the new Cohas Sewer Interceptor and sewer extension would provide the maximum environmental benefit at a low price. The Coop is able to leverage matching funds for the proposed project at 25%. We hope that you will be able to assist the Huse Road Manufactured Housing Cooperative in their request. I do have information and I believe you all have information about that. One other thing that I wanted to bring up is the money that...the \$100,000 that is set aside for a southeast Manchester community park and other parks, I just want to mention that currently there is a project proposed in the Crystal Lake area. It is a building project to build 95 homes around Crystal Lake. This has nothing to do with funding, but it really does. These 95 new homes are going to have three bedrooms each that are going to be really impacting Crystal Lake, as well as the schools so when you are setting aside \$100,000 for park land, I don't really understand how the City can allow 95 new homes to be built in the Crystal Lake area because it is really going to impact the park land that we don't even have. Thank you for your time.

Doris Tousignant, 536 Montgomery Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I work in the capacity of site manager for the Meals on Wheels Program at the West Side Senior Center. We are a very busy little area. If any of you have been there on a Tuesday when we have our line dancers in and then of course our meals program, it does get kind of crazy but once a month we have a special dinner where we fill the house to capacity. Unfortunately, that capacity is only 70 where we have hundreds of people who would like to attend. I have the unfortunate duty of refusing people access. It is very difficult to do. I sometimes wonder whose mother I am turning away and what is that person going to do this afternoon. Sit at home and stare at four walls or fall asleep in front of the TV. It can be very depressing for some of these seniors and medication can work wonders for depression, but the best medication for them is interaction and the only place they can get that is at the senior center and so I ask that you consider a new senior center so that we can accommodate many more seniors and allow them a quality of life that they deserve. Thank you.

Roger Tousignant, 536 Montgomery Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I wasn't really going to say anything tonight, but I really have to right from the bottom of my heart. Earlier this evening you heard Claire Dachowski speaking about the senior center. You heard another lady put together a petition with 2,000 signatures of seniors in the City of Manchester who are looking for a place to go during the day time. They are looking for activity. They are looking for support but they are looking for support because all these years they, themselves, were younger and now they have reached the point that they are the elder. The senior center on the West Side, if you stop by there any day of the week, you will absolutely see that it is pathetic. There is parking for probably three vehicles in the handicapped section and only an accommodation for 70 to 80 adults who can visit at any one given time. I would be a fool here tonight if I wasn't here to support my wife also on the Meals on Wheels Program. Otherwise I would go home and you know what would happen or would not happen. Listen, it has been a long night for each and every one of you and you know that these meetings are very trying and I just wanted to end it with a good joke. I have worked closely with the Board in the past and I have worked closely with the CIP. I managed one of the toughest budgets in the City for a period of nine years. Spending money with what you are allocated is very difficult and whenever anyone came to me looking for a buck, I was the tightwad. They had to be sure that they really, really needed what they were going to get and I am here tonight...I am glad that I am one of the last ones because I hope I leave you with a final thought. When you make your decision, think of the seniors in the City of Manchester. They are the heart of Manchester. They are the ones that Manchester is all about. They are the ones that brought Manchester to where it is and you can't forget them or abandon them. They need you. They need you every single day of the week. Thank you.

Marsha Sink, 117 Everett Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Executive Director of the CASA Program for the State of NH. I am here tonight...I am overwhelmed first of all with the services that our City has and the incredible dedication of the people who deliver those services and the significant need obviously that still continues. I am here on behalf of CASA and I wanted to thank you for the support that you have shown our abused and neglected children who live in the City of Manchester. Our organization is based in advocacy for children in our district court here in Manchester. We have served over 650 abused and neglected children. These are children that come to the attention of the court because they have been physically or sexually or emotionally abused by their biological families. Our volunteers, of which there are nearly 100 here in the City of Manchester, are advocating on a daily basis for these children and hopefully finding their way out of our child welfare/child protection service system more rapidly. I want to thank you and I urge you to continue to support the CASA organization here in the City of Manchester. Thank you.

Michelle West, 148 Rochelle Avenue, Manchester, NH stated:

I am here on behalf of Parker Varney PTG. I wasn't originally going to speak, but I do want to stress that you have a very nice building here at City Hall. I know you spend a lot of time here and you probably waited a long time to have this facility upgraded and renovated, however, our

children attend a school that most of you would probably be ashamed to walk into the bathroom or to bring somebody up to our library to see the duct tape on the floor that you could literally walk on from one end of the hallway to the other. We don't want a new building. We just want a safe environment for our children. A bathroom that is clean with partitions that stand. Rugs where they don't have to trip over duct tape and windows and doors that shut. If you could keep that in consideration, that would be greatly appreciated along with all of the other schools because it sounds like they are in the same situation.

Peter Leonard, 35 Andrew Street, Manchester, NH stated:

For the situation at Parker Varney, they do have duct tape on the carpet because I saw it myself and the other schools are so bad that it may happen and it may not that the parents are getting fed up that the Mayor and Aldermen are not addressing the safety issues and the environment of the schools with the education and with the fixing of the stuff that needs repairs and if Central doesn't get fixed there will be a lot of lawsuits paying the doctor bills. Those kids are getting sick left and right because they have no heat. In the other schools, if they don't get fixed the way they should be...we have to put additions or build new schools because of all of the new houses being built with families that have two or three kids. We don't have any room in the schools now. Thank you.

Kim Valdez, 27 Shaw Drive, Bedford, NH stated:

I work at Child & Family Services at 99 Hanover Street and I would like to talk to you about childcare which is not an issue that has really been talked about and I wondered about that but I realized that all of the children who are in childcare are home in bed now so I would like to talk about that issue a little bit. Currently, you may not be aware but over 75% of moms are now in the workforce and with the impact of the welfare reform program, there is a large number of moms returning to work and childcare is just not available to meet their needs. I could talk to you about the lack of childcare resources. We estimate that there is a lack of between 7,500 and 14,000 slots in the City right now. I could talk to you about the many childcare programs that have had to downsize or eliminate classrooms because they are unable to hire or retain qualified staff. I could also talk to you about the many challenges that parents face in finding a program with an opening for the hours that they need and can afford and that is accessible to them. I could also talk to you about the money that businesses are losing. There was a recent survey that was done and it has been estimated that businesses lose over \$24 million a year because of childcare related absenteeism. There are many people who are affected by whether adequate childcare resources exist but what I want to talk to you about are the children. These children deserve safe, nurturing environments where they are cared for by loving, well-trained childcare staff. Through the funds that you provide for the position of the childcare coordinator, which is a position that I currently serve in, families, providers and community agencies are provided free technical assistance and support in addressing Manchester's childcare needs. I work in partnership with other agencies and programs to maximize resources to address the needs I have outlined this evening. I encourage you to continue to fund childcare and youth related services that are outlined in this budget. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Doug Rickert, 46 South Maple Street, Manchester, NH stated:

I am the Executive Director of Helping Hands Outreach Center. We are a 28 bed transitional housing program for men who are in recovery from substance abuse. A large percentage of our population are veterans and I would like to say to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that we currently serve homeless veterans and we are meeting that need though there is an even greater need for services to the homeless veteran population. We want to thank you for the proposed amount of \$10,000 to help us with our utility costs. Our facility has been across the street from the Red Arrow Diner at the old St. Joseph's High School building since 1991. We have been assisted through the City before with CIP funds in a number of renovations. When we first moved in to the facility, there were over 30 code violations and because of the City's generosity we were able to install a sprinkler system and upgrade the kitchen facility to make it possible for men who are coming either from prison or detox centers to transition into a solid life with dignity and self-respect and I just want to thank you on their behalf for what you are doing.

Mayor Baines stated I have a few closing comments. In terms of Parker Varney, they are receiving under my proposed budget the largest share of the \$1 million in Cash. Also, for Schools we have recommended \$6,248,000, for Parks, under bonding, \$2,215,000 and under Parks Enterprise, \$2,200,000. So, it is really a matter of priority and how we are going to spend the money. I would like to also explain to the community that as you go through this process for the first time, I am enlightened by the fact that some things may happen in reverse in terms of listening to the needs of the neighborhoods in advance of this kind of a proposal. As we started to do with our neighborhood meetings and will continue to do as you listen tomorrow night when Sylvio Dupuis and Mary Mongan talk about the Task Force for Manchester's Future that the idea of the process is to gain citizen input in terms of exactly what the priorities of the City need to be. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank all of the people still here this evening and those who perhaps are catching us at home for coming forward. This was really not as I perceive a battle but really involving the City in the priorities of the community. The purpose of a public hearing is to listen to you, to regroup, to think about what you have said and perhaps shift or change priorities based on the input received from the public. Just to reemphasize further, this will now go to the CIP Committee who will do exactly that and finally to the Finance Committee for the final recommendation to the Board. I want to thank you very much for your participation and your thoughtful presentations on behalf of organizations and projects, which mean so much to our community.

Alderman Thibault stated I want to have the guys on the Board look at the letter that I passed out earlier and try to understand the problem that I am coming up with. Although I know about the restrictions and the problems with the financial situation for the City this year, I believe that the Granite Street Bridge widening project is such an important issue that I don't believe the CIP Committee should let this go through without funding \$1.3 million for that study. Having seen the Department of Transportation willing to spend \$22 million in order to build an interchange on Granite Street in Manchester and also almost \$9 or \$10 million for a new 600 car parking garage next to Singer Park, I cannot imagine that we will not be ready to work with the State as they build this interchange to widen the Granite Street Bridge and fix Granite Street the way that

it should be. I feel that if we don't do this, with all of the work that we have put it with the civic center, the Riverwalk project and everything else that we have done in this area, people are going to get off that turnpike and they won't have anyplace to go. Granite Street is congested as it is right now. Imagine what it will be like with two other lanes coming in down there and no place to go. I urge the CIP Committee to look at this very carefully. I think it is a very important project and can you imagine the nightmare of construction that will go on there on the West Side. If we don't go exactly when the State is coming in, we are going to extend the construction phase by two years, which would mean five years that the people of the west side will have to put up with construction. I really implore the CIP Committee to look at this very seriously. I think it is a very serious problem.

Mayor Baines stated just so everybody understands now, we have discussed this with the Chairman of CIP and I have discussed it with Alderman Thibault and the Planning Director and there is some difference of opinion in the urgency, however, we have agreed to bring the people in from the State to emphasize exactly what needs to be done but we are not interested in spending \$1.3 million if we don't need to spend \$1.3 million. We are going to find out exactly what we need to spend and the community and Board must also know that we are looking at a \$16 million project for the bridge alone for Granite Street and this is something we need to approach with a great deal of thoughtfulness and planning. We have engaged in conversations with the Planning Department and we welcome this conversation and this analysis. That is what this process is all about.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I want to reiterate my colleague's comments. He doesn't sit alone on this Board. The State did come to us and bring to us a thoughtful plan for this interchange and I thought enough about it to save it in my desk because I knew that we would be discussing this in this budget year. I honestly thought that we promised them four months ago that we would, in fact, fund the design phase and I don't remember a figure of \$1.3 million or any figure but I do remember a commitment. Mr. Kennison asked us for a commitment and we as a Board sat here and gave him a commitment to follow-through because of the downtown initiative including the civic center and the Riverwalk. We told him that we really wanted that highway ramp improvement, north and south, to help the downtown access to Manchester and I thought this Board gave a commitment on that aspect.

Mayor Baines replied there isn't any disagreement on that and as Alderman Thibault understands we have had discussions about it and I have had discussions with Alderman O'Neil about it. I think it is important right now that the Planning Director address this because he is the one that has been advising us on the process but there isn't any disagreement that we need to do that. That project that you have there is posted in the Mayor's Office. We are very cognizant of that but the question is how much money do we need to spend and what is the proper way to do it.

Mr. MacKenzie stated as you have heard tonight, there are clearly far more demands than there is money available for and I would like to go over with the Board at some point looking at the

future funding of the City. Again, we have identified that over a three-year period the City would have roughly \$40 million in bonding. There are some very, very difficult choices that this Board is going to make in reviewing park projects, senior centers, fire stations on Bodwell Road, fire stations on Hackett Hill Road, west side library, police station, Granite Street and schools. Clearly we have to evaluate Granite Street. I think it is an important project to move ahead, but that would be the single largest project out of this three-year period. We have to look at what the options are. I think that we are taking an approach where we can fund the first part of a feasibility study looking at the options and begin the engineering. It is going to have to be funded over several years. Clearly, if you look at the options and the demands on the public infrastructure that we have, it cannot be done in one year. It cannot be done in two years. The Board still has more decisions to make that will allow this project to happen so the first steps have to be taken. We have to start the process. An engineering firm has to be selected through the Highway Department. The options have to be reviewed. Those options would come back to this Board to make some really tough decisions and those options may be difficult ones. For example, the full scenario proposed by the State and again the State has indicated to this Board that this is an optional program for the City to consider. I do believe, myself, that we have to do something on Granite Street but the State is moving ahead with the interchange project and they said this is an option to the City. We have to take the right steps right now. We have to take the steps that we look at all of the options. The full bill as proposed by the State is a seven lane wide roadway, which will impact on our property tax base. Properties will be taken on Granite Street and that affects our tax base. I think this Board has to be appraised of all the options. Would a six-lane facility work? What would be the traffic and the impact and congestion options if a six lane facility was considered because clearly when it comes to voting on the final project next year when you are comparing Granite Street versus the schools, the parks and the fire stations, it is going to be a very tough decision and this Board has to have those options to consider when it does review that.

Mayor Baines stated my understanding having gone through this for the first time, is that this was just the beginning of the process and the idea is that there is collective wisdom out there with all of you who have some history and some foresight and some experiences that will be brought to bear to make some shifts in priorities. I never thought that my CIP budget or proposal was the end all. It was the beginning of a process. I am very much willing to accept that and make adjustments and support adjustments if they are in the best interest of the community and the tax rate. If anybody thinks that this was it for me, I am looking for input from everybody.

Alderman Levasseur stated I know we have to go through this once in awhile but you were quoted in The Union Leader and I know that is not a big thing to rely on at this moment, but you were quoted as saying, "get ready for a tax increase." You have done a good job of paring down the CIP probably to the bottom bone that you could go with. Could you, at this time based on your projects tell us what that would be or at least a vicinity so we can start to digest that and see if we can explain that away? I am a little worried about what the tax rate increase might be based on what you have now.

Mayor Baines replied we can share that collective worry as we go through the process, but I will have a budget message next Thursday.

Alderman Levasseur responded you did say that there was going to be a tax increase. Do you know what kind of a tax increase it is going to be or were you misquoted?

Mayor Baines replied I was not misquoted at all. I think Alderman Wihby made some comments that I thought were right on in terms of the process. I have given all of you the information on what we are facing. We have meetings scheduled tomorrow and perhaps almost every day right up to the 30th. I have until April 1 to deliver my budget and I can assure you there will be a budget and it will be a fair budget for the City of Manchester that I can support.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated we know where about \$3.5 million of that tax increase is going because we did see that the \$50 million for the civic center was bonded at 6.7% so I only have to multiply \$50 million by 6.7% to find out that the interest alone is going to be \$3.5 million a year. When we come to neighborhood projects, I would just like to reiterate what Ms. Beaulieu said about the development in the south end of Manchester and Alderman Pinard realizes because his ward is growing a tremendous amount as we are in Ward 8. We have that 95 home development going in perhaps at the corner of Mammoth Road and Corning Road and that is going to put a tremendous strain on our schools – Green Acres, McLaughlin and the schools in the southern part of the City. I hear all of these comments about the west side and I certainly think the library is very important there. I use the library myself, but I would say as a resident of the south end of the City I live farther from the library up here than people on the west side and I think that when we think in terms of putting airports and sewage treatment plants in the middle of the south end of the City that perhaps the people down there deserve a little something more and as Albertine Morrissette commented, a little bit of green space for \$75,000 at Pine Island Park I don't think would be too much to ask.

Alderman Shea stated you mentioned a process and the way your mind words you mentioned that a process is the most important way to approach City problems. Prout Park is a process. We began that process after three years of struggling and let me give you a little bit of background. The first year I got nothing. The second year, I got \$10,000 and Alderman Wihby over there is laughing because he knows full well that went into a process. The process has now begun and I implore the people here. Prout Park is used by seven different teams or organizations and I will name them. Babe Ruth, Lebel Babe Ruth with 150 youngsters, the Manchester Bears, West High School JV Baseball, Hallsville School, Memorial High School, and St. Joseph's. It services the needs of all of the people in Manchester. It is a process that should continue. I have pictures here that show a man tripping and splitting his head open because of the condition of the area. A woman scraped her knee. It is a need that should be addressed and if you are a Mayor that realizes the importance of neighborhoods, you should put that into your budget right away and not include it in some other budget that includes West High, which is a necessity as well as Livingston. This is a necessity, which should be addressed.

The second point is that there is a track at Memorial High School that is falling apart and needs to be repaired. These are needs and not wants. They should be repaired because we can't, as a community, be putting money into a civic center, a Riverwalk, a proposed parking garage, and Granite Street and neglecting the people who pay the taxes. I implore you to make sure that these things are included. Thank you.

Mayor Baines stated hopefully we will be able to address most of these needs through some adjustments that will be made in the budget. I am not antagonistic to those things at all, Alderman. I think we all need to work together to figure out how we can prioritize these things for the people.

Mayor Baines advised that all wishing to speak having been heard, all comments shall be taken under advisement with reports to be made to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen at a later date, and on motion of Alderman Pinard, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk