

**SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN  
(PUBLIC HEARING – MUNICIPAL COMPLEX)**

**June 29, 2010**

**6:00 PM**

Mayor Gatsas called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Craig, Ludwig, Long, Roy, Osborne, Corriveau, O’Neil,  
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Shaw, Greazzo, Ouellette, Arnold

Messrs: K. Sheppard, D. Mara, T. Clougherty

**Mayor Gatsas** advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on the proposed Municipal Complex. Each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; comments shall be limited to three minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair. Any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

**Mayor Gatsas** requested Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director and Police Chief, David Mara to present the proposed Manchester Municipal Complex.

**Mr. Kevin Sheppard**, Public Works Director, stated thank you for allowing us to come before you tonight to give this presentation on the City of Manchester Public Works and Police Department site. My name is Kevin Sheppard for those in the

audience who don't know me. To my left is Chief Mara from the Police Department and to my right is Tim Clougherty, Deputy Director of the Highway Department. Tonight we are going to go through a presentation that was presented to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen last night. I'll speak for the Department of Public Works and Chief Mara will speak for the Police Department.

**Mr. David Mara**, Police Chief, stated this is a shot of the Police Department at 351 Chestnut Street. When this presentation was made last week not much detail went into describing what you are looking at. I am going to talk about some of the things with this Police Department that are insufficient and what we hope to be corrected in a new police department. First of all, the building itself was designed back in the mid 1970s. I believe it opened in 1976. It was built in 1975 and it was built, as is my understanding, for approximately 165 police officers. Our current complement at this time is 227. Right now we have approximately 217 police officers so we have outgrown the building and some people are going to be talking about the working conditions that some of the employees have. A city our size similarly situated in an urban area typically has at least 250 police officers. In the future, when we need to grow, this building is not going to be able to handle any more. As a matter of fact, we have a new unit that we got a federal grant for. It is a three person unit for the sexual offender compliance unit. We couldn't find any place to put their office in our building. We moved them over to the federal building, the Marshall's leased space and they let us have a couple desks. That is just to illustrate the size problems we have. Moving along, this is Manchester Street right now and these are all department vehicles. The City has invested millions of dollars into the City vehicles, including the police cars. These vehicles are unsecured. They are in an unsecured area. This street is a public way. People walk back and forth. We do have instances of vandalism, sometimes minor and sometimes major. Over here is about the only parking that you can find during the day that is exclusively for civilians if they want to access the Police Department.

Most of these other spaces are usually filled from Superior Court employees. The Superior Court is being renovated so there are some extra spaces here. We took over this parking lot to afford more parking. This used to be employee parking, but we took that so we could get more of our police vehicles in there. In this parking lot right now, which isn't shown, because we ran out of space for evidence, we have two rental trailers that we have out there. They are positioned here. Where this blue square is we have a temporary garage, a tent, where we keep one of our SWAT vehicles. It was getting wrecked by being in the inclement weather. Over here is the Gladys Garage. It is owned by the law firm that is on Hanover Street. We keep a crime scene vehicle there as well as another one of our SWAT vehicles secured there because it doesn't fit inside the garage and there wasn't any room to park it. The current site can't be expanded. That was looked into. We are busting at the seams inside and it is not the friendliest place for visitors to come in. There is not much room, there isn't a community room and I'll leave it at that for now. As we go to future slides I can tell you more about it.

**Mr. Sheppard** stated in front of you now is the existing Highway Department site. Over here is the existing office on Maple Street. Maple Street is where we have our maintenance facility. This is to the south of our office space and later on we will see part of the reason why we need vehicle storage. Our vehicles are parked tight in there and with the hydraulics it is important to keep them stored inside, especially in the wintertime, so we can respond to all operations. On the southern end of that is the garage operation. The new City of Manchester Municipal Complex will include Public Works and Police in a centralized location. When we are centralizing these departments we are talking about a meeting facility that will oversee the Highway, Parks, and Police and Fire Departments maintenance of all equipment. Right now, each of these divisions have their own vehicle maintenance facilities and we feel that there would be a great savings by maintaining the vehicles in one location. This is the central plan

showing the potential layout of the buildings. The Police Department would now be located on the corner of Valley and Maple Streets and the Highway Department would be located on the corner of Valley and Lincoln Streets. We will get to other slides that show the layout of the site, but this is a conceptual plan put together by our department. The intent of this project is to develop a centralized campus to serve the City for over 50 years. Our existing facility is 60 years old so we would anticipate a facility like this would last at least that long. We anticipate having over 500 employees on site. It will be a public service campus and there is potential that this could be the largest green project of its kind in New England. With the centralized maintenance, we will have centralized efficiencies. The Highway Department will be consolidating our offices. Currently, we have a Highway Division office located on the site, we have a Facilities Division office located on Clay Street and those employees would move over to the site and our Parks, Recreation and Cemetery office that is located at the Derryfield Country Club would move over to our site as well. This is the proposed site. It is still a conceptual layout of what we anticipate being on the site and the layout that we are currently working on with the architect. Again, the Police Department would be over here and the Highway Department here. We would have secured vehicle parking for the police cars. Just to the left of that is vehicle parking for employees and just to the left of that is the vehicle maintenance garage. That is all on the existing block that the Highway Department is on. If you go to your left looking at the site, that is the vehicle storage building. That is the existing Water Works property. To the left of that is the workshops. The workshops consist of basically storage areas for our drain crews and our carpenter shop. It is not vehicle storage. We don't anticipate vehicles being in those facilities. It is more of a storage area for our equipment. To the north you will see the new salt shed and to the right of that is a vehicle wash and the fueling station. The City of Manchester, as I mentioned earlier, operated five separate facilities for vehicle maintenance. We have a fleet of over \$30 million in value. We feel that it is necessary to maintain

these on one site. We think we will see efficiencies versus having five different inventories and five different stock materials. We will be able to keep that in one facility on one site. Again, it is going to be Public Works, Police Department, Fire Department, and Parks and Rec vehicles maintained at this facility. We are hoping and there is potential that this could be the largest green facility of its kind in New England. We definitely want to get the LEED certification on the site. We are looking at the potential of putting solar at this facility. As far as water, we are looking at a rain water collection system for toilet flushing and non-potable use of a valuable resource. We expect to reduce energy consumption by 50%. Currently, we are using some biodiesel, but we want to continue to use biodiesel on this site to reduce that dependence on foreign oil. We are looking to maximize the use of locally manufactured construction materials and significantly reduce the facility's environmental impact. This slide shows the cost for the project. Due to the economic times we feel that we could get some very good pricing on the site and right now the estimate is at \$43.5 million. This covers the financing for the project and the Mayor did a good job of explaining this last week, but I will go through it real quick. A lot of this funding is coming through Hillsborough County for \$25 million and the City of Manchester has roughly \$6 million. The rebate on the right hand side is interest forgiveness. This is available funding for the City and the City wants to take advantage of this. Below this is the Build America Bonds that has 35% interest forgiveness. This is the construction schedule. It may be difficult to see. We're looking at completing our design towards the end of this year, construct a fleet maintenance facility beginning in January 2011, construction of the Highway building in February 2011 and beginning construction of the Police Station in August 2013 with this being completed by March 2014 or the end of 2014. These are some of the pictures that we were talking about earlier of the existing condition of our garage. You can see here that there is poor lighting. Right now, our garage, believe it or not, with all the heavy equipment that we maintain, has no vehicle lift. Two years ago we got a

light vehicle lift that is good for cars, but other than that, we don't have a vehicle lift for all our heavy equipment. Heavy equipment is jacked up and then blocked and that is one of the biggest reasons we need a new facility. Not only is the facility 60 years old, has single pane windows and old heating systems, but the safety in our garage is one of the highest priorities for us. This is what a new facility could look like. I think having these floor jacks in place for our employees will increase efficiencies and increase safety. I think it is very important to stress the safety of our employees. Here is a picture showing the existing parking layout. We park some vehicles indoors. On the left you will see our refuse packers. Those are parked indoors during the winter months. On the right you will see our sidewalk tractors. You can see how closely they are stacked and this is actually an accident waiting to happen. These trucks have to back up within inches of each other and for the operators to get out of the equipment it is very difficult and dangerous. Currently this is how we load our trucks during the winter plowing operations. You can see the loader on the right hand side dumping the salt into the top of the truck with the operator on top of the grate. The operator needs to be there to clear any chunks and to fix any problems they have in loading the salt. Our new facility, with indoor storage, we would anticipate, storing this equipment indoors, preloading our trucks should a storm be anticipated so when the employees are called in they can get directly on the road and they wouldn't have to be loaded with the salt. Also, this indoor facility will increase the longevity of our trucks. A lot of our trucks are ten or fifteen years old and thankfully the City went into a motorized equipment replacement program a few years ago and we have been able to replace our equipment and we anticipate carrying this equipment for ten to fifteen years and an indoor facilities will not only help with the safety of the employees with the pre-trip inspections that we require, especially in the winter months, the longevity of the vehicles, but also allow us to preload the trucks and allow the trucks to get on the streets a lot quicker during snow events. This shows a section of our garage and this is how we clear our equipment during

the winter months. We get a high pressure hose and the trucks pull in. After every storm, if time is available, we try to wash down our trucks because the salt that adheres to the body...with a vehicle wash this won't be necessary. I think it will add to the longevity of the trucks. Again, this is the picture showing what we do. We pull the salters off the back of the trucks if possible after every storm, wash everything down to reduce rust and increase longevity of the trucks. On the left hand side you will see the typical storage in the Highway Department. Our site is very tight. There is not enough parking at this point in time. You can see that the equipment is stacked and not much space is available and on the right hand side you see three loaders and in the middle is another loader on a ramp that goes down to our old boiler plant. Our fueling station is currently two pumps with a single island. The new plan would be four pumps with a dual island. We would anticipate fueling all City vehicles at this location. Our fueling station was constructed back in 1985 and we have concerns of liability going into the future. The way the site works, all vehicles, including the public, come off of Hayward Street to the south and circulate to the site along with our City vehicles. The interaction between vehicles can at time become a dangerous situation, especially as you can see on the right when we have our plowing operations going. Our trucks line up, get loaded and go out of the yard. They are working on the same circulation that the public does. This is just a picture showing what is typical of our building. Our building was built in the early 1950s, late 1940s. It is 60 years old and made out of concrete. The building is literally falling apart. If people want to come down and visit they are more than welcome to give me a call and we'll show them our site. On Maple Street, if people walk along that, they will see falling concrete from our building. Our building is literally falling apart. On the left is showing storage again. We have minimal storage. This is not set up. Many people think it is set up, but this is how we work on equipment and it is typically blocked. The safety of our garage employees is one of the most important pieces of this whole project. They work in not the best conditions and I

don't think any vehicle maintenance facility would ever work in the conditions that these employees work in. This is just the site. I'll turn it over to Chief Mara at this point. Any public that is here and wants a tour of our site and building, my name again is Kevin Sheppard and the number is 624-6444 and we're more than willing to take anyone on a tour of the facility.

**Mr. Mara** stated modern police stations are designed differently than the ones that we currently use. A good example of just how precarious that building can be is when we had the flood a couple years ago and that almost knocked us out. If it wasn't for the Fire Department and the Highway Department coming to our assistance to keep us so we could answer calls...we were almost completely knocked out. A newer building is designed to withstand a lot more than this building that was designed in the 1970s. This building that we are in now was not designed as a police station by people who design police stations. This new facility has a consultant who has built hundreds of police departments and he knows the safety factors and what a new modern facility needs. If you look here, this is what the offices have. The locker room was designed for so many lockers. The ones that you see that are bolted down with benches are the lockers that came with the building. If you look down to the end, those are temporary lockers and if you were facing the other way, there are more temporary lockers. There is no room for the officers to store their things. They are very small lockers. The shower space, when you have probably 160 patrolmen during a shift change, gets very crowded. The ventilation is poor and it is not the best place to be. For a police officer or the line officers their sanctuary is the locker room. That is where they have time to be away from the public before and after shifts as well as privacy from supervisors. It is their sanctuary. A lot of times the officers don't enjoy that here because it is so crowded. If you look at the female locker rooms, we have about ten female police officers and they have a very small locker room. They have one shower and one toilet and we are trying to attract new female

police officers and it is a tough sell when they are looking at that locker room. Female supervisors and female police patrolmen have to be in the same locker room. This was designed back in the 1970s as I said. Back then, there weren't as many female police officers. What the male officers have now at least, although it is crowded, is a locker room for police supervisors and a locker room for male patrolmen. Everywhere we look for storage space. This is the SWAT Team and this is at the top of a stairway. These bags don't fit in the locker room. If there is a fire or people want to move around...we can't let them keep their bags in there. We also have our civil defense team...we are going to talk about our storage space and we are going to talk about evidence soon. We are in a very precarious situation. Even though this building...and we are very thankful for the possibility of this building being approved, but this is going to take four years and we are very worried about planning how we are going to survive to that point. This is our office space. This is a supply room where we have one of our transcriptionists. We don't have any office space so she sits in there. There is not much ventilation so we have a fan there. Just to the left of her is the domestic violence unit with traffic, no storage and desks crammed in there. This is where the detectives are. They don't each have a computer so if their desks are next to each other they can't work on a computer at the same time and we can't fit any more computers. I already told you how we can't fit the sexual predators unit in the police station at this time. Evidence is where we are in a critical situation. Evidence should be stored in one central location. This is the evidence office room. We have things stored here. This is on the second floor where we have evidence lockers in the hallways with padlocks on them. This is the actual evidence room. Before the flood this was even more crammed. This is just since the flood how much stuff we have in here. On the second floor we have evidence lockers where the officers take evidence in on a daily basis and they have to lock in the lockers. It meets accreditation standards and we do everything we can to make it secure to make sure we don't lose evidence. There is no problem with evidence being secure, but

evidence should all be in the same place. We also have refrigerators there so if we have any blood evidence that we need to preserve or anything of that nature, we have to lock it in the refrigerator. This is the third floor, up in the mezzanine, where it is piled to the top. These are all knives. If you go down the other end we have all our guns and drugs in a separate secured area and that is packed and sealed. In here we have the cabinets that roll and periodically our two evidence techs, it is amazing what they do, and like I said, we don't have a problem losing evidence because of the way they keep track and know where it is, but they have to purge evidence just to keep up with the flow. We have a couple of storage trailers that are out in the parking lot for evidence. We also keep bikes that are found at YDC because we don't have room for the bikes. Also, at the bank, we use one of their vaults to hold homicide evidence in cases that are closed, but we can never get rid of that. We have evidence stored at a lot of different locations. This is the booking area. This is not designed for safety. Prisoners can get around if they made an effort and then they would have to be stopped. This is a bench here so if someone is waiting to be booked, we have to handcuff them to the bench. If we arrest people we can get overfilled. It is not designed for that many people. Model facilities have two booking windows so if need be, we can safely book more prisoners in a quicker fashion. The sally port is not safe to back in here. Prisoners have to get out of the wagon and we have to get them out from the back. A lot of facilities, instead of walking down to the bottom of the wagon you come right out to a level surface and then you get into the booking areas. In the winter, our maintenance people do a great job getting the snow out of there so we can get our cars jammed in there. This is where, if we have any kind of explosive materials, we store them. It is no danger to the public, but it is probably not where we want to do that. We have a big tent now. This vehicle had to be put in the tent. We got that in a grant. It is an invaluable tool for the SWAT Team. There is a special paint job on that and we had to go get it redone and we don't want to have to do that again so we keep it in the tent and we can plug it in to keep it warm.

This is our squad vehicle and that is stored across the street along with the evidence technician. If you look here, people can just walk in and out of here, nothing is secure. People could come around. We have cameras and we do catch that sometimes, but we don't have the man power to keep a guard out there to watch this. Just to summarize, the way this building is designed, communications should not be on the central floor where people can walk in and out. Those people need to have their undivided attention. It should be separate. I have looked at different facilities, read about different ones, talked to the architect and he talks about that as well. If you see the type of work that the officers are actually able to do in here, when I say it is at a critical phase, I'm not being dishonest. I'm telling you that the men and women of the Manchester Police are going to continue to do a great job, but they need better tools and a better place to house them.

**Mr. Sheppard** stated I'm going to ask Tim to go back one slide that shows our site. I failed to describe how this facility is going to be built on our site or work on our site. If you take a look where Tim is pointing at right now, Lincoln Street between Hayward and Valley Streets we plan to discontinue that street. That will be a site access to our facility, but that street will be discontinued for public use. Also, Hayward Street between Lincoln and Reynolds Streets we anticipate discontinuing that as well. Again, that would be used for our site. We did realize the need for abutting properties and business to maintain access into the area. Lincoln Street will be maintained, south of our site and you will be able to make that corner. The entrance to our site will be right on that corner. There will be a gate. Lincoln Street will be maintained south of our site and Hayward Street to the west as you can see from Maple Street up to Lincoln Street, as public streets. The other piece just to the left of our salt shed is the old railroad right of way, which is under City control right now. In this plan, at the present time, we don't anticipate encumbering anything within that old railroad right of way, but people should know that in the future. The City does anticipate, as part of our CSO program,

putting a large box culvert through this right of way and once that is completed we would anticipate the construction of the Rockingham Trail coming through this area.

**Mr. Mara** stated I would like to add one more thing about how we are coping. For instance, this Board approved the crime analyst and now we have to find space for them to go. What we ended up doing was finding some smaller desks to move into this other office so we could fit three desks in there instead of two. As far as space, we have done everything that we can in that building. There is no more room to expand so what we are looking at is things like smaller furniture. We are going to start looking at converting supply rooms and closets into offices as need be.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated just for clarification, you say that you are closing Lincoln Street up until the gate, but past that Lincoln Street will continue to be open.

**Mr. Sheppard** stated Lincoln Street south of Hayward Street will remain open to the public.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated what you have is just from Valley Street and that will still be a public way.

**Mr. Sheppard** stated I'm sorry, you're right. On this plan, where it shows the office furniture building, Lincoln Street from Valley Street until that gate will remain a public street to maintain access for that business. I apologize for that; that's right. That will be a public street. The office furniture place does have access on Valley Street as well as access on Lincoln Street and both those accesses will be maintained. You are correct.

**Alderman Craig** stated Kevin, you mentioned that this may be one of the largest green facilities, which I am thrilled to hear. Is there a premium that we need to pay or you anticipate us paying for that and if so, what would the payback time period be?

**Mr. Sheppard** replied those are the types of items that we are looking at right now. We don't anticipate paying much more to get a LEED certification. I think there are plenty of things that we can do on site to get a LEED certification without making much effort.

**Alderman Craig** asked and there are grants that you will be going after?

**Mr. Sheppard** replied we are chasing any money that may be available, correct.

**Alderman Craig** stated something Chief Mara mentioned...is the same design firm designing both the public works building and the police station?

**Mr. Sheppard** replied correct, yes.

**Alderman Craig** stated something you mentioned piqued my interest in terms of companies around that specifically build police stations. Does that design firm have extensive experience designing police stations?

**Mr. Sheppard** replied Tim can probably answer that as far as the details, but they have brought on experts.

**Mr. Tim Clougherty**, Deputy Public Works Director, stated our architect, Lavallee Brensinger, brought on a specialized consultant for Public Works who specializes in garage layouts and things like that. We were told to incorporate the

complex and that is what we did on the police side as well. Lavallee Brensinger is leading a team that has, as components of the team, an expert firm in Public Works as well as experts in designing law enforcement.

**Alderman Craig** asked so you are satisfied with their experience and moving forward on that phase?

**Mr. Clougherty** replied we are.

**Alderman Osborne** asked how many stories is the Police Department and Public Works going to have? How many stories are there to satisfy the Union Leader?

**Mr. Sheppard** replied I believe the Public Works is anticipated to be three floors and the police has four floors.

**Alderman Osborne** stated I thought it was four and four, but it is three and four.

**Alderman DeVries** stated if my recollection serves me correctly, there are considerable things that had been mentioned as needing to be updated to have some sort of compliance or safety compliance with Homeland Security issues at your existing facility. Because there is so much in that block it was also an extreme concern with the federal building, court house, fire station and police all being located in one area as very problematic from a safety component.

**Mr. Mara** stated that's correct. We learned that during the flood because we are connected to the central fire station and if something happens to both of those then we are in trouble. We were doing everything from taking electrical cords and using generators.

**Alderman DeVries** stated if I recall some of the designs that needed to be implemented or they wanted to be implemented in the area it seems like there is even, to the extent of securing the area underground and the outside streets and such...Is that something that will be designed for the new facility? I'm sure it will, but you will be looking at all the communication manholes in the area so that we will immediately fall into compliance with any concerns that Homeland Security may have.

**Mr. Mara** replied that is correct. The person who they brought on as a consultant, we had done some research before that and the person is confirmed throughout the country and we are very satisfied with the person they picked.

**Mr. Sheppard** stated you bring up a good point. In July we have a meeting with Homeland Security and we will continue to look at funds and grants that may be available. We will meet with the Department of Safety as well.

**Alderman Osborne** stated we have three stories in the building. The four stories are with Police?

**Mr. Sheppard** replied three stories are at the Highway Department and anticipated four stories at the police station.

**Alderman Osborne** asked would there be a basement at the police department to store all these files? Is that included or not?

**Mr. Sheppard** replied there is a basement in both buildings.

**Alderman Corriveau** stated Kevin and Chief, I know there has been some talk about why this is being built where it is. Could both of you speak to the

importance of being located at a central location such as this and why this particular site is advantageous?

**Mr. Sheppard** replied I can start. The Highway Department actually looked at various potential sites throughout the City and believe it or not, it was difficult to find larger sites. That being said, the Highway Department took a look at our own site and asked if we could fit here. Once we did take a look at it we realized that we can fit on the site. This is the best site for us. It is a central facility for our salting operations, our winter operations, as well as any other operations that we do. This is a centrally located site for when we have plowing operations so all our trucks can come from this hub and go out like spokes on a wheel.

**Mr. Mara** stated from our point of view, it is a centralized location. With police, it has been shown in other cities that it is not imperative that a police station be downtown because we are mobile and we have routes and they are still going to be on those routes and there will be coverage throughout the city. But with that said, this is very centralized and we are more in the middle than we were before. From our point of view, we are looking to convert to a totally different community policing approach in the future and this is more in a neighborhood. This is where we are going to be more accessible to people. We anticipate, with the way modern police facilities are designed now, that there is going to be a community room. We are hoping to bring different community groups into the police building and have them utilize it so it will act like an anchor to the neighborhoods that are right there. I think it is a great location.

**Alderman Corriveau** asked so you see both community and community policing benefits to having it at this location?

**Mr. Mara** replied I do and for someone to come down to the police station now a lot of times it is a hassle just trying to find parking. We have the federal lot but it is mostly permit parking. The superior court and the businesses downtown take up a lot of parking. A lot of times is it tough for people to come downtown. Some people think that it is too much of a hassle and they don't come downtown. I think it will be more accessible.

**Alderman Corriveau** stated you mentioned that there is a concern on your part about the four year interim time period in which you would still be located at your current headquarters while the new headquarters would be constructed. Has there been any thought of possibly constructing the police department first as opposed to the fleet maintenance facility or the Highway building?

**Mr. Mara** replied I think that would be a great idea. However, the way the plan works and it makes sense, plus you saw the safety concern, but the site of our building is right where they are now.

**Alderman Corriveau** asked do we have any update from the Water Works on their amenability to this proposal?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied the Board voted for moving forward with this proposal. It was a unanimous vote. I want to say that it was about a month ago. They are currently working with the designers so they can get the efficiencies and cost savings by constructing their building with a joint venture with us at the treatment plant. They are moving forward by looking at their facilities and costs. I know that they have had some conversation with the Finance Officer regarding bonding. They are moving forward in a very aggressive way.

**Alderman Corriveau** asked and will they be coming forward to this Board with their proposed additions?

**Mayor Gatsas** replied because they are an entity. I don't know if they have to. I think they present it to us for bonding, but I'm not sure that this Board has an up or down decision because they are a utility and they are a stand alone department. I think they come to us for their bonding, but not for their design or procurement of that building.

**Alderman Shea** stated being the Alderman in Ward 7, Kevin, I assume that the constituents who we addressed today, the Holly Oil as well as LeBlanc's Hardware and people on Roger Street would be notified in sufficient time so that they could make preparations for whatever adjustments they have to make. You would be or someone would be in a position to do that in ample time for them?

**Mr. Sheppard** replied I would really like to meet with our abutters. I didn't have the opportunity to do that over the past week. Either Tim or myself will make ourselves available to talk to everyone.

**Alderman Shea** asked about how sequentially the different projects would impact them...in other words, the closing of Lincoln Street from Hayward Street to Valley Street as well as the closing of a portion of Hayward Street from the east side of Hayward Street up to Roger Street...All of these people would be given sufficient notification.

**Alderman Shaw** stated I wish to apologize to the people. I need to excuse myself because I have a ward meeting at seven o'clock in Ward 9, but I promise that I will watch the rerun.

The Clerk called on those wishing to speak.

**Mr. Real Pinard**, 294 Brennan Street, stated:

I am the former Alderman of Ward 6. I am very familiar with the City yard. I have been going there for 40 or 50 years and I can remember living on Candia Road and Lake Shore Drive with the Manchester Water Works. I think that is a great plan. I support the complex of the Highway and Police Departments. I think it is about time that we move forward like you say, Mayor Gatsas, and the longer we wait the higher the costs are going to be. Thank you very much for your time, Board of Mayor and Aldermen.

**Mr. Jeff Kleiner**, 31 East Meadow Way, stated:

I have been a resident of the City since 1999 and homeowner since 2004. I grew up in Nashua and never thought that I would live in Manchester because that was the rival, but that was just sports related. I am a proud resident of this City and a proud supporter of the Police Department. I'm here to speak in support of this project. With all due respect to Mr. Sheppard, I don't know enough about his department, although I can see from the visuals of his building that he needs a new one. I have had the opportunity to meet many people in this City. Many of my friends are members of the Police Department so I have had the opportunity to be on the inside of that department as an invited guest. The pictures that the Chief showed you are real. I have seen it. I hope that some of the public will have an opportunity to see that. Those are real. It has been 18 months or so since I have been in there. My daughter was working on a project involving crime scenes and one of my friends who is a retired lieutenant gave us the opportunity to come in and spend a few hours with him so he could help her out and show her what it is really like and not what it is like on TV. I was mortified to see how these guys

have to operate. Just trying to find some things to help her out with her project we had to climb over boxes. Having to look for something as basic as evidence collection boxes for weapons and not being able to find certain things in the closet is unacceptable. This is a mid-mature City. Some of you may not know that term. I guess you only hear it during the college basketball season and the facility that that department has is for a city population of 70,000. I love the location and I want to publicly thank the Mayor and the Board for even giving the green light to move forward because it is long overdue. I love the location from the standpoint that that area needs police presence. I think that will help revitalize that entire ward and block. From what I read and understand, possibly other City offices may move into the existing police department. I would like to see some of that even maintained as a substation. I think that we need police presence. There was a statement made back at a small gathering back during a beautiful January morning at the Palace Theater. It was made by the guest of honor and it was imagine the possibilities. This possibility has to be a reality without question.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated just for clarification purposes, the only vote the Board took the other night was to have them move forward with an RFQ. We didn't approve any project, we just told the department to move forward with an RFQ because we knew we were going to have this public hearing. Again, just for clarification purposes.

**Mr. Brad Cook**, 150 Heather Street, stated:

As you may recall, the Mayor appointed a Committee on Consolidations and Efficiencies and we reported on March 15<sup>th</sup>, not quite two and a half months ago, and it has been very gratifying to me and to the other members of that commission or Task Force how many of our recommendations that you have been able to accomplish. We didn't imagine that it would go this quickly and we really appreciate it. The second recommendation in our report read as follows, "in the

Public Works Department, the Task Force finds that it is in need of a new facility that will allow greater savings for the City government. Presently Manchester has six, we were wrong and there are five, vehicle maintenance facilities and it should have one. There are several central dispatch facilities, Police, Fire and Public Works and there should be one. There is no central facility to provide these services. The Task Force finds that there is need for a Public Works facility that can house Police, Fire, Water Works and six vehicle maintenance facilities. This will entail significant investment and bonding to construct a facility that will allow the City to perform functions together that will allow the efficiencies of scale. This would most probably be at the same location where the present Public Works facility and Water Works exist.” Our Task Force thought that that was the most aggressive and significant recommendation that we made. We didn’t think in our imagination that we would hear about it for some time. We commend you all on it and we are very excited about it. It is critical and we support it tremendously. While you consider this and as you work out some of the details because there is nothing in the recommendation that contradicts any of this, but we would commend some of the other recommendations that we made, which was the consolidation of dispatch and perhaps the administration functions of the Fire Department. When you consider the use of the present facilities and I heard the Mayor the other night, even though I only listened until quarter of twelve, I think you should consider the other recommendations that we made to consolidate services to have your Health and Human Services functions consolidated into one place, what we whimsically call the Sanders recommendation to not sell City Hall, but to consolidate the business functions of City Hall, perhaps in a centralized location where the Health and Welfare facilities are. We support this. I support this. It is tremendous and we commend you for moving this quickly.

**Mr. Dan Garrity**, 25 Mill Street, stated:

I am an employee of the Manchester Highway Department. I would briefly like to state that this is a very sensitive issue for us employees. I feel that we are dedicated employees to report to where we report to work on a daily basis. I don't think the average citizen would do it. I have been there a considerable length of time and have seen a lot of people come and go and I think what Kevin Sheppard showed you, the pictures, don't do it justice. It is a lot worse than that. I can give you a quick example. The garage area where they work on the equipment during snow storms, if a truck comes in with a plow broken that they can't pick up, over the years they have ripped up the concrete flooring. If there is a lot of equipment, which there is during any given storm, you have to walk through a pond three or four inches deep to get from one end of the garage to another. There are not many people who would work in those conditions. That is just the tip of the iceberg; the list goes on and on. The other thing I would like to mention, without getting into the doom and gloom, is the consumption of heating fuel that we use there to try to heat that building. On any given day in the winter it is 500 gallons a day. If the wind blows in January it can be 600 gallons per day. At the very least, that is a violation of Mother Nature in these times. We have equipment stored at the drop off that gets vandalized. We had a tanker truck over there and they broke all the windows out of it. In the long run it is costing the taxpayers more money. The taxpayers of Manchester cannot afford to not build a new facility in my opinion. The list goes on an on, it truly does. We have come along way with the equipment and we have a lot of new equipment that was badly needed. This would do wonders for the morale at the Highway Department. I'm speaking for myself, but I believe it is true for the office personnel also. It would give them the self respect and self esteem that we all should have when we come to work. I honestly don't see that today and it is a sad fact. I could go on and on and on, but fortunately for you I only have three minutes. I want to thank you all for your support in the past. You have been very understanding and I have the confidence that you will support

us again and do the right thing. One other thing that I would like to mention is that the electric buses are great. I think it would be nice if we had all electric buses, especially for the runners, walkers or bikers on Elm Street.

**Mr. Eric Sawyer**, 40 Wilmot Street, stated:

I haven't been around for a while because I have been too sick, but I would like to make a couple comments on this. First off, let me tell people that I am engineer. I earned my way through graduate school as a police man in New Orleans. I have a few things to say here. If it was uneconomical to move the Highway Department to where the sewer treatment plant is on Queen City Avenue because of the extra time it took to move, it certainly could apply to the Water Works too. Just doing some basic numbers, that put about quarter million dollars in extra costs on the Water Works if you consider just the basic travel time from the Water Works to the treatment plant and figure 30 minutes at \$20 an hour. I don't know who figured that out. You are also going to be building a new facility at the Water Works where the pollution hazard is the greatest to the lake and the drinking water. Who is going to build across that new facility? The Water Works is an enterprise department and that's fine, but the City is the victim now. Who is going to pay for that? Look for some other alternatives for the Water Works. Maybe you can incorporate them into the current plant or add some stories to the office building. Keep the garage there and expand it a little bit. I'm sure that there are things that could be done there. When it comes to the police station, I think one of the things that you definitely want to do is EMP harden their communications. It is very cheap to do while you are building the building. It is very expensive to retrofit. You have the best people in the world who can build weapons in Nashua. I'm not a very good engineer, but for \$1,000 I could do it and I could destroy your phones, radios and computers for under \$1,000. That is just basic common sense. As to reusing the current police station I would not put any critical City department in there like Health that you need to rely on in a time of emergency.

That building is the most susceptible building to a car bomb or external explosive. A car bomb on Chestnut Street would bring that building down like a house of cards. I'll remind you that before this police station was built in 1972 or 1973 someone tried to blow up the other police station that was on Chestnut and Manchester Streets. Just keep those in mind. Overall, I think it is a good plan and you should move forward.

**Mr. Bill Varkas**, 833 Mammoth Road, stated:

Your Honor and Honorable Members of the Board of Aldermen, thank you for this opportunity. I have sat through many Aldermanic meetings and one of them that I sat at, I sat with Mr. Cashin who used to be a student of mine at West High School. He called me one day and told me that I had been appointed to the Fire Commission. What does that have to do with what we are doing here? As a Fire Commissioner, when I first got onto the Highway Commission after serving on the Fire Commission, I said to the director that if I was still on the Fire Commission I would work to get this building demolished. That is the shape that that building is in. I'm not here to talk about the plan because you know. You have the expert opinion. I'm here to talk about the workers in Manchester. The City of Manchester has dedicated workers. They are fine and great people. When you get up in the morning and the snow is about six feet and the guy goes by you say thank you because the streets are cleared. When the garbage goes away you are happy. We have a dedicated employee system in Manchester that is just as dedicated as some of you Aldermen who have served here long and faithfully. I think that I am speaking on their behalf. You will make their life easier, you will make your life easier and somewhere it will save you some money on the whole deal.

**Ms. Jeanine Tousignant**, 471 Lowell Street, stated:

I have been a homeowner in Manchester for the past ten years. I'm here to speak on behalf of this project because I believe, as the gentleman before me stated, we owe this to the people who work and keep us safe because really that is what this all comes down to, safety. The Police Department, the Highway Department and Public Works do some of the most difficult jobs in the City and if we woke up tomorrow morning and none of them had adequate facilities in which to do their jobs, we would find a massive hole in the City. I don't think that any of us can afford to do that. Their jobs are so difficult that the least we can do is give them a proper facility in which to do their jobs. When I saw some of the pictures of the garage in particular I was really appalled because I know how difficult it is to maintain some of those vehicles and they are so important. When we wake up in the morning and our streets are plowed we are so grateful, but what if we woke up and that wasn't able to happen? This facility is very important. I have been fortunate enough to have gone through the Leadership Manchester Program and as part of that we visited the Police Department and also did ride-alongs with the police. I was able to see first hand, as many of you have, the facility in which the Police Department is housed. It is amazing to me that they can do the fine work that they do. If we gave these individuals facilities that were commensurate to their skill set imagine how much better our City could be. If we look at this from a very positive standpoint and give the folks who have the skills to do the jobs the tools to do their jobs even better our City would thrive even more than it already does.

**Mr. Nate Boudreau**, 351 Chestnut Street, stated:

I'm a training officer with the Manchester Police Department and I have been an employee for 12 years. Our main focus in training is officer safety, not only for the officers on the street, but when we actually train; the safety of them during the different training blocks that we do. At the department we are very challenged to

get equipment or the space to actually train the officers adequately. Right now we have a range that only has five lanes. We really have to train 240 officers because of our auxiliary unit. They have to use the same firearms and make the same decisions that we do. At this point we can only train with one weapon system, the pistol. With that five lane range there is no space to move. It is not a stationary role anymore. Bad guys don't stand still. We have to train in motion and we have to train with scenarios and we cannot do that. There is no space for an instructor to give instruction and obviously, in a firearms type of situation, it is absolutely crucial. There are times where we have to become great artists in order to design training that would even somewhat fit the need of our officers on the street. We don't have the kind of facility to do any type of potential attackers training. We have to travel to train and that is a logistic nightmare. We have to try to get classes of 40 or 60 officers to different locations to get them trained; to do it properly it is impossible. We are talking about the open-hand skills for subject control, the baton and the tools that the officers need to make quick decisions on the street. We have to have some type of environment where we can actually stress that officer so they can have the kind of scenario that they would come close to on the street. The conditions that we have to train in during the summer are extremely hot. We are looking at dehydration and fatigue as an issue. In the wintertime when we move we are looking at being cold and muscles being tight, making it hard to stay loose. The training unit itself, we host quite a bit of training, and when we bring people in we're in classrooms that are too small, the roof leaks, there are stains all over the ceiling and it is very hard to have the professional look and maintain professional standards. It is a very challenging thing as a training officer to find space and design training.

**Mr. Steven Gilcrest**, 351 Chestnut Street, stated:

I am a citizen and police officer of the City of Manchester and a team leader with the SWAT team. I would like to speak to you briefly about the shortcomings of

the building in relation to our SWAT Team. The SWAT Team is utilized in situations that neither an average officer is trained or equipped to handle. These include barricaded subjects, snipers, hostage situations, VIP protection, forced entries and high risk surveillance to name just a few. It is often said that when a citizen calls or needs help they call the police and the police have to call SWAT when they are in trouble. In Manchester, the SWAT Team has handled in recent years increasing numbers. Over the last year they have handled over 45 calls for service activation not to include community service events and VIP protection details. Through these extreme situations that SWAT handles, it makes failure or mistakes not an option for us. We have to accomplish our mission every time and in the current building that we have it makes it very difficult for us to accomplish these goals. Currently, the limitations that effect SWAT have been seen from the PowerPoint from the Chief. The gear is stored in hallways, it is stored on different levels, it is stored under desks, it is stored in closets and it is stored in multiple level of the police department so it is not centrally located. It is difficult for officers to gather their gear in a rapid manner to properly deploy to any of these situations. With that said, the team needs a central location in which they can store their gear to include their weapons. Right now their weapons are stored in hallways and lockers. They are stored in the armory; in individual lockers in some of the halls as well as the locker rooms that you saw that were overcrowded. Again, it is not centrally located with the equipment so that officers can rapidly deploy to situations in which they are called upon. Special weapons and ammunitions that the team has to use, for example, noise flash diversionary devices and chemical munitions are currently stored in an area that is not designated for those devices. It is not by federal regulations where there is proper coding on the walls or labeling to help fire personnel in case of an accident. There could be injury to personnel and maybe affect the entire building. As you saw on the video, some of our special equipment is housed in those vehicles. Without climate control some of the special equipment that we use is impacted by the

climate and can be rendered useless over time and it is not going to be there for us when we need it on these dangerous calls. The armored vehicles are also stored in an area that is very visible to the public and we have had instances with the media and citizens following us, jeopardizing officer safety and the mission. We have had multi-jurisdictional instances where we have had to use our building and it has not been able to house all the personnel to get proper briefings done to include when we have had to call in other SWAT teams to help with the amount of calls that we handle. We would wish to see this plan go forward so we have the proper tools, accommodations and space for the safety of not only the citizens, but our fellow public servants to accomplish the SWAT missions.

**Mr. David Dydo**, 351 Chestnut Street, stated:

I am a technician for the Manchester Police Department. Believe me when I tell you that we are busting at the seams. Our two in-house permanent bulk storage areas are at capacity. Although I am very appreciative of the two pods that we have in our north parking lot, it is just a band-aid approach and not the answer. We desperately need a new building with enhanced storage. Last year, we took in 11,419 pieces of evidence. We purged 607 cases. It doesn't sound like a lot of purged cases, but to us it is a big deal. So far this year we have taken in 6,393 items of evidence and we have been able to purge 102. You can get the idea that more comes in than goes out. We are regulated by rules of evidence when it comes to purging. It is not like we can just go up there and start throwing things away. We need special motions to destroy things. We have the public auction once a year. It is very challenging and I'm not sure we can wait four years. I'm afraid that when you drive by the police station you are going to see four or five more pods out there. I desperately ask for his project to go through.

**Mr. Richard Ranfos**, 351 Chestnut Street, stated:

I am the building and fleet maintenance supervisor for the Manchester Police Department. I am in my 30<sup>th</sup> year so I have been around for quite a few years. I have seen a lot of people come and go. One of the biggest concerns that I have is the heat pumps, air conditioning and ventilation that is just outdone itself. Years ago when they built the building it was adequate at the time, but we have had a lot of people added since then so we have rooms that didn't have anyone in there that now has two or three desks in there with computers, wiring and extension cords. We have outgrown the building for what we really need. I think that is one reason why we need a new building. The Facilities Division does a great job keeping the building up. We have had drains plugged that don't drain properly. As you know, a couple years ago we had that major flood, since then we have taken care of it, but we still get a little bit of water occasionally in the lower area of the garage where I have to keep anywhere from 30 to 40 tires stored because I have no other storage area. I keep on average anywhere from 150 to 200 tires in stock because of the amount of vehicles we have. The garage has outgrown its space too and we are working in a very limited space. When you bring vehicles in to impound for evidence they are brought into the garage and tow trucks can't back into the garage properly. They have to drop the vehicles outside the ramp and the garage and the garage technicians or the policemen have to use dollies outside and then roll it into the garage which is an accident waiting to happen. With this new facility hopefully they can back right into the garage. Another area is up top in the mezzanine. That is where our building supervisor works out of because of the repairs that he can do to the building without having to call Facilities. That is where we keep all our custodial supplies. We should be able to keep custodial supplies on each floor for the custodians so they don't have to keep running up two or three floors to get toilet paper or paper towels. If you came in and looked upstairs in the mezzanine you are going to see boxes and boxes, even on top of the duct work, which shouldn't be there. We have boilers up there; we have hot water

heaters that are crowded with all these files. Anything that can be stored up there is stored up there. We are in dire need of a new building with space.

**Mr. Joe Wagner**, 1630 Lakeshore Road, stated:

I live directly across from the water treatment plant. I have a few concerns about the complex. I am all for it. I think everyone on the road is. We do need upgrades, but it doesn't seem like the Manchester Water Works has a choice in the matter. As the gentleman said earlier, it seems like they are being pushed out, they are the stepchild. Above and beyond the cost of them moving and the vehicle mileage that they will be driving will be huge, coming to an already busy road, the last road in City limits before you hit Auburn, there is a huge concern. I know that since 9/11 they went through all these upgrades to make sure the water treatment plant was safe. They put up gates, no one can walk around there anymore, the water patrol has stepped up their controls in the woods and whatnot and it seems crazy to bring the whole Water Department from Lincoln Street over there and allow all the public to come down there and pay their bills and bring all that where it shouldn't be. They worked hard removing all the underground storage tanks of fuel in the last couple of years and resorted to natural gas to keep that safely out of the drinking water and now we are looking at bringing all the equipment, tractors, diesel fuel, hydraulic fluid, pipes or anything that may leak or go into the lake with the drinking water. I hope that you take this under strong consideration. It seems like there is probably some place at this complex for them or maybe an alternate site that is not so close to the drinking water.

**Mayor Gatsas** stated just for clarification, the Water Works has the ability to stay on this site if they so choose.

**Mr. Wager** stated I understand that, I just think that the loopholes that they jumped through before to keep it safe...it seems like we are bringing everything

back now that a terrorist threat is lax. It is the drinking water supply for the City and to allow a secure area and then we are going to build and allow all the public to come down and pay bills and increase traffic is going to be crazy down there.

**Mr. Mike Skelton**, 154 London Street, stated:

Thanks for the opportunity to speak tonight. I am here tonight in my capacity as a representative of the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce. Just a little background on the Chamber; we represent approximately 1,000 businesses from across the region, 500 of which reside here in the City of Manchester. We are excited to be here tonight in support of the proposed Manchester Municipal Complex. The Chamber has long believed that investing in infrastructure is an important practice for maintaining a safe and vibrant community and clearly this project is a big step in that direction. In terms of some of the details, I think the comprehensive review that Chief Mara and Director Sheppard gave really answers all the questions and the images that they showed were very compelling. Some of the positive aspects of this project that we see, certainly from a business perspective, make a lot of sense. The cost savings that are going to be realized by centralizing the City fleet are very compelling. Also of great note is the improved efficiency in services by bringing multiple departments together on one modernized central campus. It is also important to note that this is going to create jobs, hundreds of construction jobs in this economy. We are also very excited about the fact that it is going to be a Green facility. I believe it will be the City's first LEED municipal building, which is a major accomplishment and really continues with the great strides Manchester has taken to become a green community. It also takes advantage, from a financing standpoint, of Federal Recovery Zone bonds and Build America bonds, which will allow the City to enjoy some significant rebates on our interest payments, which, from a taxpayer point of view, is also a positive step. Overall, I think the choice that we face here is that we have an opportunity to invest in a modern facility that is safe, versus

continuing to invest in band aids and unsafe facilities that aren't viable so when you put the decision in that context, I think it makes a lot of sense to make that investment now and enjoy the benefits for decades to come. Certainly with any major investment of City funds, we would also encourage the Board to explore and take advantage of any opportunities to lessen the financial costs this project will have, whether it be selling or repurposing existing buildings that are no longer needed or pursuing additional federal support in conjunction with our congressional delegation. In closing, again, this project has the Chamber's full support and I would like to thank the Board and the Mayor for their quick action on it and I would like to recognize the department heads and the employees for their work in making this project a reality.

**Ms. Stacey Howe**, 351 Chestnut Street, stated:

I am a detective at the Manchester Police Department. I have been with the department for 20 years. I have seen the department grow and grow. However, the building has not. When I first became a detective 14 years ago, we had an office that was separated by cubicles. It was orderly and neat and easy to work in. We had moved other departments like the domestic violence unit into our office due to the changes in domestic violence laws. We had to give them office space so we had to take down cubicles just to create room for more desks. Like Dave Dydo said from evidence, we are bursting at the seams. It is a safety issue. We have two interview rooms within our division. These interview rooms are located in the center of the office. People who we interview in these rooms are people who have committed stabbings, shootings, rapes and murders. We walk these people through an office that is filled with civilian employees. It is not safe at all. At one time we had three interview rooms. We had to give one up to Dave Dydo for his evidence. We need to have a better secured office. We need access to these interview rooms from the booking area. Again, when you walk some of the worst criminals in this City through the center of the office with civilian

employees it is not safe. I share a desk with an officer who has been on the job for about seven years. The only reason we share a desk is because we have one computer because there is not enough room to have two. It is not a bad thing. He is learning quite a bit, I hope, but the problem is when other agencies come in and see the way we work it is embarrassing. I will tell you that we have had officers come in from other offices and they have said to us that they thought their office was tight. In closing, I would just like to say that we are, as evidence technicians, bursting at the seams. We need more room.

**Mr. Maurice Pilotte**, 98 Lancaster Avenue, stated:

I came here tonight with the hope of asking you not to encroach on the rail corridor. Mr. Sheppard's final point in his presentation stole my thunder. He said that it is being kept open with potential of connecting it to the Rockingham Trail. This is important for the City's commitment to inter-neighborhood non-motorized connectivity. I want to thank you for keeping it in the plan and I thank you for this opportunity.

**Mr. Jeff Marion**, 395 Lincoln Street, stated:

I am an abutter of the project. I want to thank the people who are working on this for communicating with us before they did it and letting us know what is going on and working with us so they don't interrupt us. I would like to thank them for really looking into it first. We do appreciate it.

**Mr. Ron Lemay**, 264 Wilson Street, stated:

Thank you, Your Honor, for allowing me to address you and the Board. I am an owner of property in direct contact with Hayward Street and Roger Street. I also have a commercial property on the corner of Wilson and Hayward Streets. I will contact Mr. Sheppard with a lot of questions and concerns that I have for him in

regards to this project. We will meet and I'm sure that he will be able to help me out with his concerns.

**Mr. Bill Houghton**, 218 Kenberma Street, stated:

I am the Chairman of the Highway Commission. I would like to thank you in advance for your support of this facility. I think it is long overdue. For years this Board has talked about the need for a new Highway Department facility and a new Police Department. I am glad to see that you have made this proposal and I hope we can all work to get it done as soon as possible. The Highway Department is over 60 years old and I do not believe there have been any updates to the facility since it has been built. Also with the purchase of the new equipment and vehicles that we are getting, I think it is imperative that we have some type of facility that is going to maintain those vehicles and equipment to meet the life of the vehicles. I would also like to speak to the safety concerns of the employees of the Highway Department. For years it has been an accident waiting to happen in the yard and in the maintenance facility. Thankfully nothing serious has happened. As far as the Police Department goes, I want to point out one thing that Chief Mara didn't. Ambassador Bruno's Democracy 101 and the National Guard's State Partnership Program brings a lot of police officers and military officials into the state from around the world and one of the biggest stops that they bring them to is the Manchester Police Department. I think that we need to have a facility that not only meets the needs of our City, but also showcases what we are in the City.

**Mr. Glenn Ouellette**, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

I am not against this project. I think it is a good project. Way back, since 2001, I have been fighting for a new Public Works Department. As the last speaker said, it is a shame that we waited this long and we are lucky that there have been no serious injuries at the Public Works Department. At our Police Department, I would have preferred seeing the extra story risen as it was built back in the 1970s.

I also see that the City is growing and we have had to increase our force to the amount that the facility is too small. There is a parking problem. It is sad that for the last seven years we are still tweaking a ten year plan that has not been approved by the past Board nor this Board and the garage that was suppose to have been built behind the federal building never got built. That would have resolved a lot of our problems. That aside, I am in favor of this building because it is the best for the City in the next 50 or so years. We are an old City and we need to redo our infrastructure. I have always been in favor of that. I do want to say that of the present police headquarters, I hope that we don't turn that building into bigger government, but we take some of our smaller departments that we are renting space in other offices throughout the City and redo that building because it is a good building. It is not that old. We must build that extra story that it was built to hold and put other departments in there so that the City won't have so many places for the public to go do their business. I congratulate the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for finally creating a campus that will take care of a lot of departments. My biggest problem is that I am saddened that the MTA and school buses were not included because that in itself creates an area where a lot of equipment and vehicles have to be fixed. I was hoping that the Highway Department and the MTA could be put together. That would have been a cost savings. I am also very much in favor of the green building. That is a good thing for the City. Remember, you need to pass the ten year plan. You can't follow a plan and keep tweaking it. It has been seven years now. So please, before the year is over, accept the ten year plan. Do you remember what happened with the train and bus station? You threw it out the window. It is in the ten year plan, but it is not going there anymore. That is not very welcoming to the public when they think they have a ten year plan then it is not being followed. I do like this project and I will support it.

**Ms. Nichole Ledoux**, 351 Chestnut Street, stated:

I have been employed with the Manchester Police Department since 1995. I am also a resident of the City of Manchester. I am currently assigned to the juvenile division, but prior to that, I spent eight years as a K-9 handler. Our K-9 handlers are required to bring a substantial amount of equipment for their partners to work. They have nowhere to store that. They bring that equipment to and from home everyday. They have nowhere to put their dogs should they have a call that requires a long time. They remain in the cars with the air conditioners running with the hopes that that air conditioning doesn't fail on hot summer days like today. The only place they have to put their dogs is in a crate in the garage, which is full of cars that are running on and off during the day and a rather unhealthy place for dogs so they don't use it. There is no kennel for a dog should a handler get hurt and the dog needs to be put somewhere for someone to come get it. Basically, the facilities are not equipped to handle a K-9 unit with nine K-9 teams. The juvenile division holds 17 employees, seven school resources offices, three chase investigators, which I am one, child abuse investigators and several delinquency investigators. There is one interview room for all of those detectives to use so we are required to schedule our interviews around each other. There is one cell to hold juveniles who are being held for CHINS offenses, runaways, unruliness and truancy. Often we find those kids in groups because they run away together and we are required to put three or four juveniles in one cell because they are not allowed to be put in locked cells and it is the only juvenile cell that we have that doesn't lock. Sometimes we have three or four kids waiting in the same cell waiting for parents or transport to come get them. Not only is it unsafe for the kids, but it is very small, it has one toilet that is not separate so if we have a female in with males we have to put the female in the interview room while they are awaiting transport. There is just not enough room in that division. We, like Detective Howe said, don't have cubicles. We don't have any privacy when we are doing our investigations. We have no waiting room for parents whose children

are being interviewed as victims or defendants so if we have a parent sitting in our office, all communications about cases must stop because juvenile information is privileged and those parents can't hear about other cases that we might be working on. We can't make phone calls and we can't discuss cases because there is a parent sitting in our office as there is no waiting room. The last thing that I am going to address is the locker room. I am the only female officer who is going to address you tonight. Our locker rooms are just too small. They are not designed for the amount of officers that we have now. We store things under our lockers, on tables, on the floor; we hang jackets and coats all over the place. There is one toilet, one sink and one shower for over ten female officers. It just doesn't work anymore. We are the best Police Department in the State and we need a building that shows that.

**Mr. Rick Reilly**, 17 Mollie Drive, stated:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you about our community policing. I am in charge of community policing and I have to tell you that the community policing division is probably the least accessible division at the Police Department right now. Most of you have been to my office and it is in the basement. Approximately two years ago, I had four feet of water in my office. That being said, I want to address it from a different perspective and that is from the user and the citizen. If you look at our current department, if citizens are fortunate enough to get parking, they are faced with entering our lobby area. There is no place for them to go. There is no community room for community workshops, the citizen police academy, watch groups and a variety of other programs we would hope to run in our Police Department. Most of the events that we run now are done in the roll call room and that often requires us to clear the room of sensitive information. We have to hurry away undercover officers. A lot of organizations that are coming to meet with us at the Police Department have to gather at the lobby. Often times there may be suspects in the lobby and a variety

of other folks who aren't desired by our clientele who are participating in community programming at the Police Department, which is very important to us. It is my job to promote community participation in policing. Therefore, it is very important that we have a building that will enable us to encourage that community participation and a facility that will promote people to come to our department and take part in our program, the citizen academies, watch groups and other community workshops. It would be an exceptional addition to this City and would encourage a great many more people to participate in what we are trying to do at the Police Department. That being said, we would love to see a community room off the front lobby where it could be used for a variety of training purposes and a variety of other programming. Again, as a member of the command staff, I certainly want to extend my gratitude towards some of the favorable comments that have been directed towards the support of this project as well as that of the Highway Department. That being said, thank you very much.

**Ms. Gloria Pilotte**, 98 Lancaster Street, stated:

I had not anticipated speaking tonight, but people that know me know different. I came here to observe and I want to tell you that I like what I have observed. I thought that this was a great opportunity for me to thank you all tonight publicly and that is what I want to do. I want to thank the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, the City Clerk's Office, specifically our City Clerk, Matt Normand, the Highway Department, specifically Kevin Sheppard, and the Committee on Traffic and Safety in regards to French Heritage Month in Manchester. From June 24<sup>th</sup>, which was La Fête de la St-Jean to Bastille Day, which is July 14<sup>th</sup>, we had requested to have the Franco American flag flown over City Hall on those two days. That request was granted. I know it wasn't an easy task for the people in the office to find the flag and do the work and also, I hope you had noticed, or if you haven't you will now, the fleur-de-lis is painted on the street on Concord Street in front of the Franco American Center and it is on Elm Street in front of City Hall. When I

observed it there it really made me feel good to see that it is right side by side with the shamrock. That says to me that we really are a multi-cultural City. I really appreciate your help and support for all the cultures in town. I thank the City fathers and mothers.

*On motion of **Alderman Shea**, duly seconded by **Alderman Ouellette**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and to receive and file any written documentation presented.*

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk