

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION/INFORMATION SYSTEMS

April 15, 1998

6:30 PM

Chairman Pariseau called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Pariseau, Thibault, Girard, O'Neil

Messrs.: Grace Sullivan, Dan Mueller, Diane Prew, Thomas O'Rourke

Chairman Pariseau addressed item #3 on the agenda:

A communication from the Director of Information Systems, requesting approval to issue a request for proposal in lieu of a bid for a new real estate assessment system.

Alderman Girard moved to approve the request. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. Chairman Pariseau called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Pariseau addressed item #4 on the agenda:

An update by the Director of Information Systems on the City's Comprehensive Integrated Municipal Information System

Ms. Prew stated the City, the School Department, and Water were now on the HTE system and that the entire City was now running on the HTE financial system. She said there are still a couple of pieces that haven't been implemented yet, a bid management and a loan management piece, which are to be put in place. Several departments are working with Work Order: Highway, Info, and Parks & Rec., and Info is hoping to spread that through more departments as time goes on.

Alderman O'Neil asked, on a percentage basis, where did she think the City was at, in deploying HTE.

Ms. Prew said that HTE was not just financial, there was a lot more to it and they were looking at a good 18 months to wrap up the complete installation of the system. Tax still has to go in, utility billing for Water and EPD, and all the community-based applications like building permits, code enforcement, planning

and zoning, business licensing, voter registration -- maybe, depending on what the state decides to do. So maybe about a third of the way through.

Alderman O'Neil asked if there was a summary that gives an overview of what, hopefully, will be accomplished with HTE.

Ms. Prew said she could get something. Maybe a diagram of how all the modules fit together.

Alderman Girard stated that he still hears complaints about the information that HTE is spitting out and asked if it was a matter of garbage-in-garbage-out or is it a matter of the system not functioning.

Ms. Prew said it was a combination of factors. The Chart of Accounts was designed to take a lot of factors into account, and it's recognized that the Chart of Accounts needs to be revamped. Part of it is people still getting used to the system, some is that errors were made in the beginning when information was put in, and we're still trying to clean that up.

Alderman Girard asked if there were departments that simply haven't inputted data.

Ms. Prew said she didn't have that information and that the thing that makes HTE different from the previous system was that once the software was up and running, it would be completely controlled by the departments involved. The only time Info hears about it is when there is a problem with the system, like checks not printing the way they should.

Chairman Pariseau asked if the HTE people were still here.

Ms. Prew said that HTE is going to be with the City, in terms of implementation, until we're done implementing and then will stay with us as long as we have a support contract. because every year there are enhancements, there are changes to the law. So they will be with us as long as we have the system.

Alderman Girard asked if we had any outstanding software problems at this time.

Ms. Prew said there are still some outstanding issues that we're working on with HTE. There are certain areas within the financial system, there are some enhancement that we're waiting for in Payroll/Human Resources. We've been helping some of the other departments generate reports that they need. We're not always aware of problems; people need to let us know so that they can be

addressed. She continued, we're also getting a new reporting system which should make it easier for the individual departments. It's Windows-based. We also have the desktop part of this project, getting the PC's out to the departments. We have not moved along as quickly in this area as we would have liked because we had staffing problems for a long time. I was down three of my own staff members and the Fire Department was down a staff member so we were supporting them on a full-time basis. We have been successful in hiring two positions for our department and the Fire Department has filled their position. The Library still hasn't received the PC's that they should, so they're next. After that I've got seven or eight pages of outstanding projects that need to be done. That list is going to the Systems Advisory Committee for prioritization. In the area of communications, Internet access is becoming a very big thing with departments. Those department that had immediate needs we gave standalone PC's. We didn't allow those on the network because of security issues. We now have a contract with a professional services organization and we hope to move that forward. The ability will be there for every PC on the network to access the Internet. It will then be a question for the Department Head to decide who needs that access and for what purposes it can be used. We're also working on e-mail. There are nine departments that can communicate. The rest will be coming on-line, shortly, as we work through some of the upgrades. There will need to be some city policies that will need to be put into place which would probably come before this Committee for review. The next item coming up is the Year 2000. HTE is taking care of that for us on the financial and the taxes and utilities. They will be compliant for Year 2000 by mid-summer. That will give us time to make sure it functions properly. The PC's are a different item. We need to go out with each of the 500 PC's and inventory what's out there to see if the hardware, operating systems, the applications software, and the files are compliant. That's going to be a time-intensive compliant. We know that we have 84 or 86 PC's out there that are probably not compliant. Since the 1960's, dates have been carried in computer systems in six digits: the two-digit month, the two-digit day- and the two-digit year. And the system knew it was 1960 or 1998. When we get to year 2000, it gets "00" and under present circumstances, it would read that as 1900. This is going to cause all kinds of problems in calculation of interest, exemptions, sorting, aging of loans, etc. There is also potential for problems with any kind of equipment that has microchips in it: telephone systems, elevators, copiers, fax machines, security alarms, environmental systems, VCR's. Some of it can be fixed, some of it will need to be replaced. This is a very pervasive problem. We did have our first meeting with the department heads to make them aware of what was happening. We're going to work with the Mayor to put out a letter. Then there will have to be more meetings and, hopefully, a committee put together to coordinate all these efforts. The city needs to have a plan so it can respond and we need to do the same thing with our vendors and service providers. There are legal

issues that need to be addressed, too. There are some states that have passed legislation saying that they cannot be held liable for Year 2000 issues. On staffing, we did make an offer for a land administrator which is a very technical position. We were able to offer \$45,000. He was offered \$60,000 plus a \$2,000 signing bonus and all moving expenses. We can't compete with that. So we've outsourced some of that. The other big project that is going on is City Hall and Annex. We anticipate that we will start re-occupying the Annex sometime in August. We'll be moving everyone back and installing new telephone systems, so that's another major project. The wiring is all there for the new telephone system.

Chairman Pariseau asked if the computer setup at the Library was limited to city administration and who takes care of their computer needs.

Ms. Prew answered "yes," the computers we install are for city administration systems. The consortium has its own support system. We have assisted them in the past on behalf of the library and once in awhile get involved in a consultant capacity. We'll work with the Library. What happens is that with the networks it all eventually will connect together, so there needs to be a dialogue.

Alderman O'Neil asked if there had been any discussion going forward about auditing the phone system.

Ms. Prew said there were some technical difficulties that have to be taken care of with the Procurement System. Maybe it would be appropriate to have some discussion with the Solicitor and Dick Houle because the Procurement Code right now is going to be under review for possible revision based on the purchasing audit that was done.

Alderman O'Neil explained that there is an outfit that will come in and audit the phone system. They found all over the country that governments are paying for phones that were disconnected 20 years ago. And if they don't find anything, we don't pay.

Ms. Prew said that's the problem with the Procurement Code. They get paid out of the savings that they find. The amount depends on the organization that they are doing it for.

Alderman O'Neil said he would like to see the City take some steps forward because he thought Albany, NY found \$400,000 - \$500,000 that they had been paying on phones that weren't there any more.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Girard, it was voted to send a letter to the Solicitor asking him how to resolve the excess phone equipment issue.

Chairman Pariseau addressed item #5 on the agenda:

Communication from Fred Harris, President of Riverfest, Inc., requesting that the City Clerk be instructed not to issue permits to any vendors in the area of Riverfest (Elm Street to the east, Brook Street to the north, Granite Street to the south and the Merrimack River to the west) during the celebration scheduled for September 11, 12 & 13, 1998.

Chairman Pariseau asked what loss the city could incur relative to Riverfest.

Alderman Girard stated that he used to be on the Board of Directors for Riverfest and that they had started asking for this about four or five years ago. What was happening is that people weren't necessarily pulling legal permits, but they were moving in around Riverfest. It was difficult to enforce, so the Police Department asked to ban it outright so they knew that anything within this area was illegal and they could shuffle them out. So the City never had any revenue from those vendors because 99% of them weren't licensed anyway.

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Girard, it was voted to approve the request.

Chairman Pariseau addressed item #6 and #7 on the agenda:

Communication from Thomas O'Rourke, MediaOne, regarding annual notice to cable television subscribers regarding quality of service, and

Communication from Thomas O'Rourke, MediaOne, regarding adjustment of certain monthly equipment and installation prices, effective May 1998.

Chairman Pariseau invited Mr. O'Rourke to speak before the Committee.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that he had promised to follow-up on some issues that appeared before the Committee at a previous meeting and had some information he wanted to share.

Alderman Girard asked if MediaOne had developed any marketing materials along the lines of what the Committee had shown an interest in.

Mr. O'Rourke stated that he had put something together, but they weren't really marketing materials.

Alderman Pariseau stated that 99% of the complaints he received were from the elderly and he thought it was because the type was so small, that they couldn't read it.

Mr. O'Rourke said that one of the limitations was that MediaOne tended to do things as bill inserts and the size of the material is determined by the size of the envelope. He handed out a rate sheet and stated that he thought it was the kind of information the Committee was looking for, the lowest level first. In some of their communications they tended to say Standard Service Package and then, underneath, what that package was made up of. But this one begins with the basic broadcast and shows the services involved and the price and shows how you can build up from there. Any cable customer with Media One needs to begin with the basic broadcast level of service. That's the minimum requirement. They can pick and choose above and beyond that. There's no buy-through provision above that basic service.

Alderman Girard pointed out that one thing was missing: under each tier you should list basic broadcast as a building block under cable tier 1.

Alderman Pariseau said no, you have to get basic broadcast and then add whatever cable tiers you want.

Mr. O'Rourke said you don't need cable tier 1 to buy cable tier 2. But any combination of tiers requires the purchase of the basic broadcast tier.

Alderman O'Neil stated that the problem we've run into is that standard is listed as the very first item and that's basic plus cable 1 plus cable 2 and you have standard and I commend Tom for addressing that part of it. This would clarify it. How far away is the company from going out to the public with this? I would encourage it for as soon as possible.

Mr. O'Rourke said it's information that's available publicly, but as far as getting it distributed to all of our customers, I don't know what that insert schedule is. It won't make it in this form. It's also something we could make available through the City Clerk's office if that's appropriate.

Alderman O'Neil asked if Tom had appeared on any of the community forums on Manchester Community Television.

Mr. O'Rourke said he hadn't, yet. We have talked about it, and there has been an invitation. I'm warming up to the idea.

Alderman Thibault stated that a mailing to all of MediaOne's subscribers would solve a lot of our problems.

Mr. O'Rourke said that the next thing he had brought were some sections from the 1996 regulations that deal with regulation of rates and also municipalities' authority to condition, prohibit, or require programming services. That's a question that came up last time. I'll just share those two sections, 623 and 624, for you to review. Maybe at another time we could talk about it. He also talked about the municipality's ability to become certified to regulate the lowest level of service which is the basic broadcast tier. He pulled some information off the FCC website on what that certification process entailed. If it's something the aldermen want to pursue, this is how they would do it. This is the only tier that a municipality could regulate. Cable 1 and cable 2 tiers are regulated through the FCC. Historically, we've found that municipalities stay away from it because basic service is the most affordable level.

Alderman Girard said, so what you're telling us is that municipalities have no authority to regulate price or channel above the basic broadcast tier.

Mr. O'Rourke said, currently. What happens at the end of 1999, we'll see. But through that time period, that's the way it stands. That's in 624-A:2(a), I believe, under regulation of rates.

Alderman Girard said we can't make you add channels to that broadcast tier and we can't make you take channels away. Correct?

Mr. O'Rourke said the only thing you could do is, through franchising renewal, you could do something with the local access channels. You have the opportunity to require additional or eliminate the ones that you have. As channels are added or deleted, the prices are adjusted accordingly.

Alderman Girard asked who set the rates for that tier.

Mr. O'Rourke said it was done in accordance with the FCC standard. The next information piece he had was a list of the communities in New Hampshire where Media One is the service provider.

Ms. Sullivan asked Chairman Pariseau if she could ask Mr. O'Rourke a question. Chairman Pariseau consented. Ms. Sullivan asked Mr. O'Rourke what the significance of 1999's date was. Mr. O'Rourke explained that was the sunset period for the current rate regulation. And we think at that time, depending on who you are talking to, that we'll see effective competition in every marketplace and probably rate regulation will go away.

Ms. Sullivan asked so you think, this is good until 1999 and that's something we have to be looking at in the cable contract.

Mr. O'Rourke answered, yes, I think you always have to be forward-looking in terms of what you can do. You may even want to include speculative language, though I don't think I would endorse that.

Alderman Girard said our contract runs through 2000. So if something doesn't get renewed in 1999, we're going to know it, aren't we.

Ms. Sullivan said yes, but the other thing is that -- having been through the last process -- this is going to be a long process.

Mr. O'Rourke said that certainly one of the things you could do going forward is to reserve your rights after 1999 to do whatever is available for municipalities

Alderman Girard asked what would happen if the franchise agreement expired but we had not come to terms on a new agreement.

Mr. O'Rourke said there were a couple of different ways it could be approached. The way that Media One has approached it historically where we've negotiated in good faith and we just have issues that we've been unable to resolve, or we find that we need an additional period of time, we will do an extension of an existing agreement. New Hampshire's pretty flexible, so we could do a 30-day extension or if we felt we were definitely going to need more time we might want to look at something as long as a six-month extension. And all of the conditions and obligations of the existing agreement would carry through that period. We prefer to get them done in time, but we do have the protection to fall back on. There are some operators in the state that have let their agreements lapse and are currently operating without a license, but that's not a situation we would ever want to find ourselves in because I think you have some exposure there.

Alderman Girard asked what would happen if no agreement was reached. Would they shut off the tube? Mr. O'Rourke said we could probably safely say that would not happen. They hadn't done it yet.

Mr. O'Rourke said he also had a couple of subscriber letters dealing with religious programming which had been forwarded to him and which he wanted to get to as well. Both were regarding a change made on December 3rd of last year with our religious programming offerings. Historically, we had provided full-time carriage of EWTN which is a Catholic religious programming service. With our channel realignment project, we chose to introduce shared carriage of EWTN and the Inspirational Network on one channel. So what had been full-time EWTN became part-time. As we're going through and standardizing our cable offerings we are committed as a company to provide a minimum of one channel for multi-denominational religious programming and this is what we chose. In some areas we're sharing with three and in a couple of areas even four, religious services on one channel. We're also trying to determine if Inspirational is the complement that we want. There's another service that we provide to some of the Seacoast communities called the Odyssey Network. We're trying to achieve a little balance. We have heard from some customers that they wanted something a little different from what they had.

Alderman Pariseau said he did not think that would sit well with people who lived for the Catholic channel. Are you going to add a third program?

Mr. O'Rourke said no. We may replace Inspirational with another program, but we wouldn't carve it up even further.

Alderman Girard said Inspiration has been a big flop with the people who made a point of talking to me about it and there have been more than a few.

Mr. O'Rourke asked if he could give him a sense of what kind of numbers.

Alderman Girard said he couldn't even begin to say how many people have talked to him about it, but perhaps there is enough room to offer the Catholic channel and Inspirational or some other channel.

Mr. O'Rourke asked if he could have some numbers because it would be helpful when he talked to the programming people. Was it between 5 and 50? 200?

Alderman Girard said it wasn't 200.

Mr. O'Rourke said he knows that when they initially introduced the split we got a lot of calls in the first couple of days. And the way he would describe "a lot" is probably a couple of hundred who either wanted to communicate their displeasure, or ask what happened? Since then, we haven't seen a lot of continued phone traffic so I don't know if we're continuing to hear these issues raised.

Alderman Pariseau asked if they had received a letter from the Elderly Services Center with several signatures relative to this.

Mr. O'Rourke said that they would hesitate to make a program switch based on petitions, but before making the switch they actually received a petition with between 800 and 900 signatures from customers who were looking for an alternative, who were looking for something other than EWTN. So I think it supports the decision, though that's not how we arrived at it. Maybe I should ask the Committee if there's a way to take the community's pulse. He left behind copies of recent contract renewals done in New Hampshire.

Chairman Pariseau asked the Clerk if he would take the rate sheets down to City Hall and put them on peoples' desks. The Clerk said he would.

Alderman Girard moved to receive and file the communications. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Chairman Pariseau called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Pariseau addressed item #8 on the agenda:

A communication from Attorneys Pestle and Miles regarding federal preemption of cable franchising and submitting suggested letters to the FCC.

Alderman Thibault said we should oppose it.

Chairman Pariseau said he read a little bit of the letter and he thinks they are working for the telephone company and they want us to get excited on behalf of their client.

Alderman O'Neil said they have to be working for somebody.

Alderman Girard said he really didn't know much about what was going on and wondered if Dr. Sullivan had any information about this letter.

Ms. Sullivan said she hadn't seen the letter.

Alderman Girard said that not knowing anything about it, he would suggest sending a letter off to the Congressional delegation asking them for information or asking the Mayor to develop information for the Committee to consider.

Alderman O'Neil asked if the Solicitor had a recommendation.

Atty. Mueller said he had looked at the letter. It appears that this firm purports to represent, among others, the City of Chicago. There are two cases before the FCC. One dealing with Wedgewood and the other dealing with ECI. And it appears that in the past franchises had to put their cables through this, but what they're trying to do here is to lease the telephone lines from the telephone companies and, therefore, essentially avoid the need to put up cables and therefore the need for a franchise. At least that's what they are claiming.

Alderman Girard asked if the Solicitor thought the cable company wanted to rent an existing line and bypass the franchise authority of the local community.

Atty. Mueller said that's what they are afraid of.

Alderman Thibault said that's why we should send a letter opposing it.

Ms. Sullivan said you already have some of this. There are apartment complexes that you don't get a franchise agreement from.

Chairman Pariseau asked if it would really amount to anything. With this new technology coming out, with wireless technology.

Ms. Sullivan said it's still right of way. Whether it's a wire on a pole or the public space, it goes back to broadcast where you could regulate more because it's the airways. You are still a municipality and there's a space that has to be governed. So don't get hung up on the technology because it's new.

Alderman Girard said that typically the National League of Cities and organizations like that have kept up on franchising authority and they are a good source for reliable information as to what is in the best interests of a city or town. We might want to ask the Mayor's Office to get information on this act from either the Congressional delegation or the National League of Cities.

Ms. Sullivan also suggested they contact the Alliance for Community Media which MCTV is part of, which is really the lobbyist group. I could get to their website tomorrow and get information on this.

Alderman Thibault asked the Solicitor if he thought we should oppose this.

Atty. Mueller said, based on what he's read, if this goes through and the FCC essentially decides for these two companies and in the process pre-empts state law and every other law, based on what I see here -- that would be the case.

Alderman Thibault said he thought they should oppose it, but let's ask the Mayor to get more information.

Alderman Girard said he would be hesitant to send anything out unless he really knew the issue.

Alderman Thibault said he was concerned that there was a deadline in the letter and he did not want to get in a position where they missed the deadline.

Alderman Girard moved that the Committee send a letter to the Congressional delegation expressing grave reservations over this material but requesting additional information, and further, that the Committee ask the Mayor's Office to contact the National League of Cities to get further information about this matter. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion but said he wanted to go on record as opposed to it if there was a deadline for the response. Chairman Pariseau called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Pariseau stated that a motion would be in order to remove items from the table for discussion.

On motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to remove item #11 from the table:

Peddler's License Application submitted by Christopher Cannon

Alderman O'Neil said he could not remember why it was tabled last time.

Alderman Thibault said it was because the Police had a problem with it.

Alderman O'Neil said they could have problems with a lot of things, but we're trying to give a new image of downtown.

Chairman Pariseau asked Deputy City Clerk Paul Bergeron to fill in the Committee on the background of this application.

Deputy Clerk Bergeron said it was put on the table because there was a question of whether or not the Police Department was going to be consistent with its request

to keep peddlers off the streets during late hours. This particular peddler had wanted to be there from 10:00 in the evening until 2:00 in the morning. As an example, peddlers that were placed in front of the Salty Dog in the past came up in the discussion. And the Committee asked what are we going to do going forward? Is it going to be everybody's banned or are we going to allow only certain people to be licensed. Once it was tabled I did speak to the Chief. They would like to flat out prohibit anyone from being on the streets peddling during early morning hours. Their position remained the same. They feel it encourages people to congregate on the streets, encourages cruising up and down the street between vendors, that anybody that's coming out of the bars at that time of night has probably had several drinks, people are cutting in lines, and it just was not a comfortable environment. That's the Police Department's position.

Alderman O'Neil said other communities do this and he didn't know why it was a problem here and not in other communities. He suggested giving it a 6-month try and if it didn't work and there were problems, then ban it. We're trying to give a new image to the city, we're trying to give a new image to the downtown, and I think it's part of the whole equation. You go to Portland, Maine, Portsmouth, Boston...these things are all over the place and operate very successfully without any problems. That's only my personal observation. Just to say no because there have been problems in the past is not good for the image of the city.

Alderman O'Neil moved to grant the license on a six-month probation, inform the vendor and Police of that, and if there are problems, the license will be revoked. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Girard said it should be considered that this particular site was right next to Caesario's and that whole building above the storefront has been renovated and is now residential. So I think there is a concern about having people congregating outside of what is now a residential building because it effects the people who live there. I know the Salty Dog was a horrific mess when they had their vendor out there. I really do have concerns given the track record. If the track record had been marginal I could understand, but given the problems we had at the Salty Dog, I'm hesitant.

Alderman O'Neil stated that now we had a new business, the Black Brimmer, who seemed to work very hard at being a good neighbor, a good downtown business, and they don't have a problem. Give it a shot. If I'm wrong, I'll admit it. The problem with Manchester is we think about what happened five years ago or ten years ago and say it won't work. Let's give something a try; see what happens.

Chairman Pariseau called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman Pariseau asked what the Committee was going to do with item #9 on the agenda:

Communication from Alderman Reiniger recommending that Section 150.01 of the Housing Code Ordinance, Chapter 150, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester be amended by deleting paragraph (A) (2).

Alderman Girard said it was left on the table because we wanted to see what the Acting Building Commissioner was going to come up with for changes to the Code.

This item remained on the table.

Chairman Pariseau said that under New Business he had one item: Dr. Sullivan has offered to take us to the Lowell Telecommunications Center in late May. Chairman Pariseau asked if the invitation would be for all the Aldermen. Dr. Sullivan said she would like it to be. She added that as we go into the renegotiation period for cable and looking at what the city needs in terms of community media. Lowell went through its renegotiation a couple of years ago and they went and got a space in downtown Lowell in the millyard. It's a large space for public and government access television and now they're doing a separate educational access channel. So we started here in Manchester and kind of did everything out at MST because when we came up with the idea back in the beginning of the 90's, it was kind of new. Now it's something everybody knows about. And I thought if we could look at a comparable city that's gone through recent negotiations and the kind of facility, television station, and studio facility that they have in expanding space, that it would be good for you to see how they operate. If May 27th at 6:00 p.m. is OK, we'll get the bus.

Alderman O'Neil asked if it would be possible to get a summary of what they've done before going down so the Aldermen would have a chance to read about it so if we want to ask question we're not winging it that night.

Alderman O'Neil moved to accept the invitation from Dr. Sullivan to tour the Lowell Telecommunications Corp. and that notice be sent to the Aldermen, the Mayor and the City Solicitor that they are cordially invited to participate and to RSVP the Clerk. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. Chairman Pariseau called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman O'Neil said he had one item under new business. He believed that the Aldermen had received a communication from the Firefighters Union Local 856 some information on the ambulance contract. I was wondering if we should have them in at some point.

Alderman Thibault said he had some major questions too.

Alderman O'Neil said they feel there's a trend for ambulance service to go back to the fire departments. In my discussions with the Chief, his only concern is how they do it financially. I understand that there are some things going on where the city should be getting some of that money and not Rockingham in regards to some of the charges that go on. I wondered if we should have someone come in. The International would gladly send up an expert that they have in their own group on ambulance contracts and I certainly would be interested in hearing what they have to say.

Chairman Pariseau said he did not know how that would effect the current situation.

Alderman O'Neil said we either decide to go back out or we continue the existing contract.

Chairman Pariseau said that our instruction to the Fire Department was to negotiate with Rockingham and come back to this Committee.

Alderman Thibault said that since we met with Rockingham, he has had some questions come up and he would like them to come back before the Committee.

Alderman Pariseau said he, too, learned afterward that Rockingham was affiliated with Optima.

Alderman O'Neil said that the Fire Department has provided services -- such as putting oxygen on -- but Rockingham bills and gets the money for that service.

Alderman Thibault asked who pays for the firemen that go out to all these calls?

Alderman O'Neil moved to invite a representative of Local 586 and whoever else he would like to bring to come in and talk...

Chairman Pariseau said his concern was what kind of message would be sent to those people we've already addressed.

Alderman Girard said his concern was process. If the Local wants us to review this proposal, they should put it before the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and the Board should refer it to this Committee. Technically, Committees can only work on matters that have been sent to them. That's the way the rules are structured, that's the way the process works. Right now the Committee is working on a negotiation for contracted services. If the city were to make a policy decision that it wanted to not go with a private vendor and bring the service back in-house, that is not the purview of this Committee. That belongs to Traffic and Public Safety because they have policy jurisdiction. We have this matter in this Committee now because it is an administrative matter. If we have concerns that the city should look into recovering part of the costs for services provided, then I don't have a problem in sending something to the Fire Department to find out if it's possible to recover some of these costs. Whether we were paying Chalk a million dollars a year or when we were paying Rockingham one dollar a year, did either give anything back to the city for services provided. No, I don't believe they did. There's been a continuing pattern of behavior that was not changed by Rockingham.

Alderman Thibault said he did care because the billing patterns just came to light and he would like to see them come before the Committee and find out some of the answers to his questions. If it's the feeling of the Committee, we could advise the Fire Department to hold off further discussions with Rockingham and come back to the Committee.

Alderman Girard asked why we would want to do that? If Local 856 wants to address this Committee...

Chairman Pariseau said no. They ought to sit down with their management, not this Committee.

Alderman O'Neil said he agreed that if 856 wanted to sit down with a Committee they should go to the full Board and let the Board decide. They're not making a proposal. They are trying to provide some information. That's all.

Alderman Thibault said he would like to have Rockingham come back before the Committee because he had some questions that he would like to get some answers to.

Alderman O'Neil said this Committee was requested by the Board to oversee the renegotiation of the ambulance contract. If we need to have Rockingham come in here, that's certainly within the scope of what we were directed to do.

Alderman Thibault said he believed that the people of Manchester who are being serviced by the ambulance company needed some answers.

Chairman Pariseau proposed that representatives from Rockingham Ambulance and Fire Department management appear before the Committee.

Alderman Thibault moved that representatives from Rockingham Ambulance and Fire Department management appear before the Committee. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Chairman Pariseau called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Girard being duly recorded in opposition.

There being no further business to come before the committee, on motion of Alderman O'Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of the Committee

Poll conducted on March 31, 1998 for the use of the parking lot at Stark Landing from April 5 through 19, 1998 for the 5th Annual Pappy's Pizza Carnival. Unanimous approval received.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of the Committee