

## COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

**February 8, 2000**

**5:00 PM**

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

**Present:** Aldermen O'Neil, Wihby, Clancy, Cashin, Lopez

**Messrs:** Lt. Glennon, M. Hobson, T. Bowen, B. Beaurivage, F. Thomas,  
R. Ludwig, R. Johnson

Chairman O'Neil welcomed Aldermen Vaillancourt and Shea to the meeting.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

Communication from the Manchester Police Athletic League requesting \$85,000 to purchase the parking lot adjacent to St. Cecilia's Hall at the southeast corner of Lake Avenue and Beech Street contingent upon appraisal value.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the Clerk would like to note that there was delivery of a letter that Alderman Hirschmann requested that we distribute to the Committee regarding this item.

Lt. Glennon stated this is regarding the PAL building and what we would like to do is ask the Board to table it for the time being until next month's meeting. We just had an appraisal done of the building and the parking lot and that has just come to us...actually it is not in my hands yet. That was just completed recently and in light of Bob MacKenzie being in the hospital and him attempting to find a funding source, we just ask that you maybe hold off on this until the next meeting.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to table this item.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Resolutions:

"Amending the 1999 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Six Thousand Six Hundred Eighty Six Dollars (\$6,686) for the 1999 CIP #221199 Refugee Health Program."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2000 650200 1037 Elm Street Rehabilitation Project."

"Amending the 2000 Community Improvement Program, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2000 650500 Section 108 Economic Development Loan Fund."

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to approve the Resolutions.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

CIP Budget Authorizations:

1999	221199	Refugee Health Program - Revision #2
1999	610099	HOME Project - Revision #1
2000	650200	1037 Elm St. Rehab. - Revision #2
2000	650500	Section 108 Economic Development Loan Fund

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to approve the budget authorizations.

Alderman Lopez asked for an explanation of the HOME Project.

Mr. Hobson answered the HOME Project is an employee benefits program that was brought to our attention by Fannie Mae and Citizens Bank. It was sent to the full Board of Mayor and Aldermen during the last cycle. The Board sent it to the Human Resources and Insurance Committee to review some details in how it would be worked out. The Human Resources Committee sent it to our department. We came up with a program that would allow Citizens Bank to bring to the table \$30,000 in grants that would be given to our employees who are

homebuyers in Manchester only. They must qualify under particular financial guidelines. The City, through these Federal funds, would also match that grant with a five-year loan that would be forgiven at 20% per year so if the employee stays with the City for five years, then that total would be theirs towards the purchase of their home in Manchester. If they leave earlier, they must repay the City based on a schedule that will be worked out through Citizens Bank for the total amount of money that was given to them. The total amount of money we are talking about is less than \$5,000. It goes towards the closing costs and other items attached with the purchase of the home. The employees must be eligible per the City's guidelines.

Alderman Lopez asked would you get reports from Citizens Bank for the City.

Mr. Hobson answered it would be monitored by Citizens Bank, but mostly by Fannie Mae, their housing agency.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Report of Special Committee on Riverfront Activities, if available.

Deputy City Clerk stated this was put on the agenda because the Special Committee was meeting last evening. Ordinarily, this Committee does not report to CIP but because of the fact that the Board of Mayor and Aldermen had so much controversy about the project not too long ago, we did place the item on the agenda. The Committee met last night and as a result of that meeting, they are going to make some recommendations to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen and at the Board's request, there is going to be a special meeting held. That tentative date is February 22. The reason that this Committee should be made aware of it is because it is a CIP project entailing two program years and there was substantial money involved. The Special Committee itself was a Committee established by the Board at the recommendation of this Committee originally. Some of that history, I am sure, will come forth to the Board when the whole project is presented on February 22.

Chairman O'Neil stated there is no action needed. There was some question on whether or not the Riverfront Committee had to refer anything to CIP, but it is the determination of the City Clerk with support from the City Solicitor that it doesn't have to happen.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Manchester Water Works regarding their 2000 budget transmittal and report of 1999.

Mr. Bowen stated the item that is actually on the agenda is simply the transmittal of our budget, which has been approved by the Board of Water Commissioners and our summary of activities for the previous year. However, there were questions raised at the last Aldermanic meeting about water rates and whether or not our water rates were artificially high. If that is what you would like me to address, I would be more than happy to do so.

Chairman O'Neil asked are there any points that you would like to talk about from your memo that you sent.

Mr. Bowen answered just to say that the water rates as they are presently within the City of Manchester as well as outside the City are the lowest of any water rates in the State of New Hampshire. There is no question that the Water Works does operate in the black and we essentially have to in order to pay for our capital improvements. The amount of our rates are outlined in the letter that I sent out to the Committee and as you can see, our water rates as listed by a report that was conducted by the NH Department of Environmental Services listed them at \$167 per year. That actually is a weighted average of our in town and out of town rates. The in town rates are actually \$144. They are actually lower than even Merrimack that I listed. With the average State water rates at just under \$280, the fact that we operate in the black and what we do with those funds has been the point of numerous discussions before the Water Board for the last two or three years. The Water Board has constantly been monitoring it. It is their feeling that our rates are appropriately set. We essentially have taken those excess funds and rolled them into capital improvements. Some of those projects that we have done include projects such as the rehabilitation of all of our reservoirs in town that have taken place over the last two years. We put new covers on the reservoirs on Mammoth Road and one of the smaller structures in Derryfield Park at the tune of about \$750,000. We constructed a new 8.8 million tank in Derryfield Park last year. The project is in service, but not fully accepted yet. They have some site work that they have to do. The cost of that project was \$3.5 million. We constructed a new raw water intake out into Lake Massabesic in 1997 at the cost of \$2.5 million. All of these major capital projects were done without water rates having gone up since 1990. We feel that we must be doing something that is correct if we can do that without raising water rates. I guess in order to maybe just get to the bottom line of the question, sure the Water Works could cut back and cut rates but then we would be forced to do one of two things. Either cut back on the amount of capital improvements and preventive maintenance that we do on our facilities or we would be required to borrow more money. Now we have looked at both scenarios. We look at it every year during our budget process and it is not the position of the staff, nor is it the consensus of the Water Board that votes on the budget that we do either of those two things. I would be glad to answer any questions that you may have.

Alderman Wihby asked if you were to take the extra money that you do the capital projects with, how much is that. \$1 million? \$2 million? \$10 million?

Mr. Bowen answered it is in the range of \$1 million.

Alderman Wihby asked what would that mean if you reduced rates. What are you talking about, one cent?

Mr. Bowen answered about 10%. We are talking in the range of \$3 per quarter, per household.

Alderman Wihby asked \$14 per household you are talking a year.

Mr. Bowen answered right.

Mr. Beurivage stated I think the public is better served to take those excess revenues and reinvest it in the infrastructure of the system. The piping system, improvements to the treatment plant, increasing or improvement water quality and improving fire flows to the City than they are in giving customers back a small rate decrease. I think the public is better served by reinvesting constantly.

Alderman Wihby stated I don't think the argument wasn't not to do that. I think the argument was to bond it rather than pay the cash.

Mr. Bowen replied we have taken a look at that scenario and we have taken a look at a scenario where if we had reduced rates by \$400,000 a year, which essentially is half of that amount, over an eight or nine year period you end up borrowing more money than you are saving. If we were in a scenario of escalating rates, if there was a lot of pressure on water rates to be increased, then yes we do agree that might be an opportunity to borrow and defer rate increase for several years, but where we have been successful through some economizing on our part and for some moderate growth within our distribution system, as well as some very unusual weather patterns that we have seen in the last five or six years...every year for the past five or six years we have seen a very dry period whether it is at the beginning of the summer, the mid summer or at the end which have helped to support the rate structure. Now if some of those hadn't occurred, we might be sitting here talking about a rate increase but we have been very fortunate.

Alderman Clancy stated I have to compliment your department. I notice that you haven't had any major water breaks this year and I contribute that to the cleaning of the drains and pipes and stuff like that. I notice that other surrounding towns have had major water main breaks. Like you said, you are only going to save \$14

per household and if you can better use it by using the money up front to do your job, I think that is the way to go.

Mr. Bowen replied we do too.

Alderman Cashin stated you have to go to the PUC for approvals don't you.

Mr. Bowen replied the rates out of town do have to be approved by the PUC. The rates in town are at the discretion of the Water Board.

Alderman Cashin asked they have never had any problems, have they.

Mr. Bowen answered no. The thing, though, it is a long process to get water rates. That is the other problem that we would have and we would roll back rates. I am sure it wouldn't take as long to roll them back as it would to increase them, but then assuming that we had to go and increase them within a shorter period of time, you are looking at about a year to increase water rates to get through the process of the PUC, particularly now because they are bogged down with electric hearings.

Alderman Cashin stated I think you run a tight ship and I am really happy with you.

Mr. Beaurivage stated just to point out, the last rate case that we did in 1990, we expended about \$200,000 at the PUC. It is a significant cost to go up there for a rate case.

Alderman Clancy asked \$200,000.

Mr. Bowen answered yes. It is recoverable in rates, but it is a large effort. Not only in terms of dollars, but in terms of man hours and effort.

Alderman Lopez stated I know the independence that you have for doing the water rates in the City of Manchester. Would you inform this Board if that was a decision that you were going to make because it effects the entire community?

Mr. Bowen asked would we inform the Board if we were going to be raising rates.

Alderman Lopez answered yes.

Mr. Bowen replied absolutely.

Alderman Lopez stated I understand from my reading that the rates would be raised for two or three years or something along that line if you were going to increase the rates.

Mr. Bowen responded what we have attempted to do is set rates so that they are stable for a three to five year period. What we don't want to do is go through that large effort that Bob was talking about only to have to come back the next year. If we raise them 5%, and this is just hypothetical, but if we raised them 5% and then had to come back the next year and raise them another 5%, then we are spending \$200,000 and all that effort year in and year out. What we have attempted to do is raise them to the point where they are stable for a longer period of time. Now the PUC won't let you raise rates unless you have known and measurable increases. We are not artificially raising them and trying to skate for 10 years or anything like that. This period that we are in right now, we have been fortunate.

Alderman Lopez stated in one of your policy statements, the free water to the City was...I know from Parks & Recreation that they use a lot of water, what value do you put on that.

Mr. Bowen replied it is about \$600,000 and that includes about \$400,000 in fire protection for municipal hydrants.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked since it seems that you have an excess cash flow at times, how do you invest that and what rate are you getting.

Mr. Bowen answered all of that is done through the City Finance Officer and it is in his hands.

Alderman Shea stated I concur that they do a great job.

Alderman Clancy asked how long have you been running in the black.

Mr. Bowen answered probably since the last rate increase in 1990.

Alderman Clancy stated so you have been doing that for a number of years by taking this money.

Mr. Bowen replied yes. Actually, last year we did have a cash shortage in the middle of the year because we were in a cycle where we had not received the bond funds from the sale of a bond, but by the end of the year we were fine.

Alderman Clancy stated I just bought a piece of property out of town and the water works there charges the condo association \$1,100 for a hydrant. Do you do that in the City of Manchester?

Mr. Bowen replied there is a quarterly charge for private hydrants, both in town and out of town.

Alderman Clancy asked what do you charge for each hydrant. Do you have an idea?

Mr. Bowen answered about \$300 per year.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to accept the budget transmittal and the report of 1999.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Discussion with representatives of the Highway Department relative to current CIP projects and other public works issues as may be appropriate.

Mr. Thomas stated hopefully you have been handed a package. What I have done is prepared three separate files with three separate status reports because we do have three separate operating budgets. One for the Highway Department, one for Building Maintenance and one for EPD. I would like to start off with the one entitled Manchester Department of Highways. I am not going to go through everyone of the projects. If you see one that catches your eye, just put up your hand or holler and I will try to touch on ones that I think will be of some interest. The first one is #2, Sanitary Landfill. This is an ongoing project. To date we have spent approximately \$7.2 million. We are scheduled by DES to go into Phase II work this fall. That is going to be approximately \$7.9 million. The reason why the project is in two phases is because of the amount of settlement that is going on in the landfill. In some areas up to 2 feet a year. If we went ahead with final closure at this time, there would be damage done. Going down the list to #5, Chronic Sewer and Drain Projects. Last year we allocated \$200,000 to do miscellaneous sewer and drain projects. Out of that balance, there is about \$70,000 and we will be coming back to the CIP Committee with some suggestions on how to spend that money by spring. Moving down to #7, Sidewalk Construction, there was \$350,000 allocated and actually \$50,000 of that amount is revenues for matching 50/50 funds. The breakdown of the funding on that \$350,000 is \$200,000 in bond funds for school sidewalk construction, project design this spring for the construction of a Jewett Street sidewalk, Milton Street sidewalk from Sunnyside to Main Street and a section on Varney Street. As I

mentioned, \$50,000 is for the 50/50 sidewalk program and that generates an additional \$50,000 from the homeowners to do isolated locations throughout the City.

Alderman Clancy stated Mammoth Road last year was kind of high in priority between Nelson Street and Lake Avenue. What happened to that sidewalk improvement?

Mr. Thomas replied I will have to check that. The locations that were identified were on the priority list and were approved, I believe, by the CIP Committee last year.

Alderman Clancy stated I thought that we were right in line after Françoise Elise had her sidewalk done.

Mr. Thomas replied if that is the case, #6 on the sheet, we did find some balances in completing sidewalk work up on Mammoth Road by the golf course area so there is a possibility with the approval of the CIP Committee that we could use that \$118,000 for that project. Before I recommend that, however, I would like to go back and check the priorities and come back to the CIP Committee.

Alderman Clancy stated the reason I say that is either side of the street on Mammoth Road between Lake Avenue and Nelson has a sidewalk. Either side.

Mr. Thomas stated I will look into it. In addition, this is the first year that we were given some discretionary money. We were given \$50,000, which allowed us to go out and check areas for missing sidewalks, etc. We did do one project down on Maple and Hayward Street. Next spring we will be looking at going into Alderman Shea's ward, Merrill Street near Hallsville School.

Chairman O'Neil asked could you send to the Committee or the full Board the priority list on sidewalks.

Mr. Thomas answered yes. #8, is CDBG sidewalk work which included Concord and Ash Streets. We hope that when the construction is done there will be a surplus. Most of these projects are either contracted for or are in project design ready to go in the spring. #9 on the next page is \$150,000 for wheelchair ramps throughout the City. Jumping down to #14, Annual Right-of-Way, that is our resurfacing program. We were allocated \$800,000 to buy materials. \$550,000 is in bonds with a balance that we haven't spent yet of about \$400,000 with \$250,000 in our operating budget. The majority of that money has been committed. There is probably \$200,000 out of that remaining balance that hasn't been committed. We will be working with this Committee and the Aldermen to

get a list together. Typically, if an Alderman has a request that they want to be considered, they can submit it but the final decision is with the Highway Department.

Chairman O'Neil asked with strong recommendations from the Aldermen.

Mr. Thomas answered we always consider Aldermen's requests. #17, Intersection Improvements. That balance is totally committed to River Road/W. Webster Street, Jewett/Weston Road, Hackett Hill/Front Street and the fourth location is Wellington Avenue and Edward Roy Drive. That one, there is not enough money to complete.

Chairman O'Neil asked where is that on the priority list.

Mr. Thomas answered they were approved in the CIP budget process last year, those four, at a set amount of money, however there was not enough money to do all of them.

Chairman O'Neil asked including Wellington Avenue and Edward Roy Drive.

Mr. Thomas answered that is correct. On the last page, #18, South Willow Street Improvements, the reason there is a balance is because there is money that was given to the City by developers doing projects in the South Willow Street area. It has been sitting there for some time. We are going to be making a formal request to take that balance and do some resurfacing.

Chairman O'Neil asked what is the balance number, \$304,000.

Mr. Thomas answered correct and depending on how things are looking in the budget, we will either do the work ourselves or get a contractor to resurface South Willow Street.

Chairman O'Neil asked the CIP staff how we are doing with the City departments in getting balances in projects.

Mr. Maranto answered we will have to come back with that.

Chairman O'Neil asked are we a month away.

Mr. Maranto answered yes.

Chairman O'Neil asked, Frank, do you think you have a pretty good handle on the balances from your department.

Mr. Thomas answered yes we do. We met with Sam today and have fine-tuned our budget. There aren't any major balances. There are a lot of \$2,000 and \$3,000 ones.

Chairman O'Neil stated but we can put those to work throughout the City. If we put a number of these \$2,000 and \$3,000 ones together we can take care of some of these old chronic problems.

Alderman Lopez stated when I look at Item 18, Frank, how long of a time do we keep this money. It says FY94 and we have \$304,000. What is the timeframe for that money or somebody to come back and say look the project is done, we have \$304,000 left? Is there a timeframe here?

Mr. Maranto replied we have been getting funds each year so back several years money was spent. Each year we get money so it is not like this money was allocated in 1994 and hasn't been touched. There have been expenditures on that in the last few years. We continue to receive funds each year into that project.

Alderman Lopez stated I understand, Frank, if I heard you correctly that the \$304,000 you are going to come back and tell us where you want to transfer it to.

Mr. Thomas replied that is correct. Where that money has to be really spent is in the South Willow Street area. If you have been down on South Willow Street, it is starting to break up and we want to make sure that we invest in that section of South Willow Street with resurfacing before it goes downhill too fast. I think it would be a good investment. Just to follow-up on what Sam said, part of that money was spent to make the improvements at the intersection of Mammoth Road, Weston and Mooresville Road. It is that same pot of money that was used to make those improvements. Moving along so I don't put you to sleep, parking facilities. Listed is a total allocation of \$725,000. The projects below that are what has been committed to that money. Some of those projects are completed. Some of those projects are in the process of being designed, but we are moving forward with all of them. What is not noted on this first part, Highway Department, last night the Special Committee on Riverfront Activities is going to be recommending that we take over the administration of the design and construction activities for the Riverwalk and so that will be another project that will be appearing on our sheet. There is approximately \$4 million allocated and I think there is about \$500,000 of work completed with the next phase of the work estimated at \$1.1 million so we are kind of excited about potentially getting involved in that area.

Chairman O'Neil stated before we do anything with that, there is going to be a meeting with the full Board to clear up any of the problems.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked could you specify what part of South Willow Street you are talking about.

Mr. Thomas answered it will be the section from 293 back into the City as far as the money will go. The section from 293 down to Goffs Falls Road is fairly new construction so we don't feel that we have to invest any money in that area.

Alderman Clancy asked under miscellaneous, it has been brought to my attention that people who park nightly at the Victory Parking Garage are getting stuff stolen from their cars by kids who jump the fence when the garage is closed. I don't think it would cost that much more money to fence in the Victory Parking Garage. Part of it is done, but they just need some more fencing. If you could look into that, I would appreciate it. I think it would cost about \$10,000. They did have an estimate at one time.

Mr. Thomas answered certainly. Victory Garage is slated for a request in this upcoming CIP budget for major work. Actually, we would like to put down a membrane on the slabs in that garage. We will definitely look at this fencing one way or another. The next section is the Building Maintenance Projects. These projects are what we put together...well these are the projects that have been approved through both the CIP, the School Department, the Committee on Lands & Buildings and the Joint School Committee. Just to go down here quickly, high school stages, that had a lot of controversy. We just awarded a contract to replace the rigging in some of these schools. Even with that contract, we did some structural work to support the lights and whatnot. You saw the results at the Inauguration. Now we are awarding the rigging contract and that is still going to give us a balance of about \$140,000, which we will be working with the School Department and the various principals to decide how to spend the rest of that money.

Chairman O'Neil asked will that stay in the three high schools.

Mr. Thomas answered we are going to have to discuss that because the original allocation came from two schools, Central and West, and there was a lot of priority placed on certain improvements by the groups that represent those schools so if we don't need to spend that money on all three, it will probably go back to those two schools in some proportion.

Alderman Lopez asked do you have a construction engineer assigned to you for the entire City.

Mr. Thomas answered we have a facility engineer now who is on staff with us who is taking over these facility type projects. His background is in this area and he is working out excellent so far. It appears that I will be getting by Deputy back who has been working full-time on these school-related projects. I think he is going to be a real asset to the City. Going back to Parkside, that work is pretty much all done except as noted. Northwest Elementary School. Actually, the facility engineer and I have had some discussions about setting a method of inspecting warranties by contractors on these facilities before the time runs out and we are going to be formalizing that process so that a project like Northwest Elementary School, before the warranty expires, that we get in there and inspect it and make sure that we are protected. McLaughlin Middle School. The major issue there is still the gym floor. We have had second opinions asked for as far as how to address the issue. We are still negotiating for the resolution, but we are holding out enough money to make the needed repairs to it or take corrective measures. Central High and West High, #8, the HVAC work is ongoing. The next year's CIP will be requesting \$1.4 million to continue with that work. #10 just to finish off this area, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Project, \$3 million. That was the NORESKO project that was ongoing to replace lights, upgrade motors, etc. That work is completed and NORESKO will be staying on over the next 10 years to provide maintenance on the work that they have provided.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think in the short time...you haven't had the buildings quite a year yet and I think you and your people have done an outstanding job with it. The fact that you are involved in the budget process for next year, I think, is going to be a major improvement so well done.

Mr. Thomas replied thank you. The last packet of information that you have is from the Environmental Protection Division. Again, I will run through that quickly touching on some of the highlights. First of all, we have pretty much completed odor control measures down at the treatment plant totaling close to \$6 million. This was a very high priority for the department and the commission and I think if you are in that area now compared to a few years ago, you will notice the improvement. The open tanks, the majority of them, have been covered up. The air from those tanks is basically sucked off and put into a bio-filter in the ground. We are still doing a little bit of internal odor control measures, but basically this is completed. Cohas Brook Interceptor. To date, we have spent about \$12 million. That has gotten the interceptor up to Bodwell Road and the area of Lone Pine. The next phase, which will be between \$3 and \$3.5 million will bring it under I-93 into the area of Bodwell Road and Cohas Avenue. The Green Acres area, that is Island Pond Road area, we have done a lot of testing of those lines, smoke testing, flow monitoring because there is a lot of infiltration into that system. That work has...the testing work or the survey work has been completed and we will be

starting repairs in the amount of about \$450,000. CSO Program to date we have spent a portion of this \$4 million. Part of that has gone to purchase the wetlands up in the Hackett Hill/University of New Hampshire. EPD with sewer user fees are actually buying that land at about \$1.2 million and paying the City so in one respect it is coming out of one pocket and going into another. It is money that we would have had to spend in some fashion under the CSO agreement so I think it is a good deal. By-pass piping down at the treatment plant. That provides preliminary treatment for some of those storm flows before they get into the Merrimack River. We are basically over doubling the capacity of the treatment plant so that is a benefit to the river. Crystal Lake Project on the bottom of that page. That has been awarded \$2.1 million. When you add on design and construction administration it is up to \$2.5 million. The contractor is R.D. Edmonds and they started. They have done some clearing down there and some pipe work. That is a good project to see finally come to pass because of Crystal Lake and the need to preserve that water body. On the second page, we are starting the CSO separation work over on the west side. The first project is in the Theophile Street area. That project is being advertised now. It is noted that there is \$6 million for those two projects, but it is actually up to \$7 million. As a side note, in our CIP request for this upcoming year, we have asked to raise our discretionary money to a higher limit because what we would like to do is when we are doing the separation work if the streets are going to be dug up, they are going to be completely overlaid. If there is a sidewalk in the area that is disturbed, the sidewalk will be redone under the CSO monies. However, if we are in that area and we see the need for a sidewalk, it would be nice to be able to put the sidewalk in, but unfortunately we can't use sewer fees to do that type of sidewalk work. This package summarizes the projects that we have going now. If you would give me another five minutes, I would like to put in a pitch for some of the projects that we will be looking at requesting or programming in next year's operating budget. Again, we are going to be focusing in on infrastructure maintenance projects, the type of projects that we can do in-house so we will be asking for resurfacing money. We have asked for \$1 million of resurfacing money in the CIP. That, supplemented with money in our operating budget to the tune of \$300,000, will give us a good jump on resurfacing work. In addition, we will be pushing for sidewalk monies again. In our request this budget year, we are requesting \$75,000 for the 50/50 sidewalk program. We are asking for the discretionary money to be upped to \$350,000. \$50,000 for us and \$300,000 to be made available to potentially use in the CSO project areas. In addition, we are also looking for a major allocation of funds for school sidewalks and chronic sewer and drain money. Again, a major emphasis is going to be in those areas.

Chairman O'Neil stated you specifically mentioned leveraging some money with the CSO projects. What about the interceptor projects? For instance, this issue came up a year or so ago with Bodwell Road.

Mr. Thomas replied we could potentially, if we had some of this discretionary money, if there is an area that we are working on with our Cohas Brook Interceptor, we could potentially put in sidewalks or expand the pavement restoration type of work. I think on these big projects it does make sense to have that type of discretionary money because again by law we are only limited to a certain extent of what we can spend those sewer user fee monies on. I, on one side, would like to resurface the whole area with sewer user fees, but the State regulatory agencies will allow us a little flexibility, but they won't allow me to go crazy.

Chairman O'Neil asked might we want to look at bumping that discretionary money up a little bit.

Mr. Thomas answered I am always willing to take more money, Alderman, so yes we can take a look at that.

Chairman O'Neil stated this has been a pet peeve of Alderman Cashin's since I started serving with him. Tying sidewalks in with work that is done in the road. I don't want to speak for him, but I think we need to leverage as much money as we can while we are there.

Mr. Thomas replied I think, quite frankly, this is a good first request. I would always like more money, but I think if I got something in the range of \$300,000 in discretionary money to go hand in hand with CSO or Interceptor work, I think I would be happy. Keep in mind that a lot of the work that we are going to be doing is going to be off on side residential streets, which in my opinion really don't need a sidewalk. I mean if we are looking at a heavily traveled, high traffic volume roadway or whatnot than those are the kind of areas we would want to spend that discretionary money on.

Chairman O'Neil stated Bodwell might have been a good example of that.

Mr. Thomas replied Bodwell would be a good example to have been able to have spent a little bit more money. I agree with you 100%. Also, one of our main priorities in our request in the CIP this year is going to be \$1.1 million to do the design of the Granite Street corridor. The State is fast tracking the construction of the Granite State interchange at a tune of around \$35 million, which is great. I think that is going to be a tremendous boom for the City to finally have a full interchange in the heart of the City. However, you will be able to get off the road all right but if you don't widen the Granite Street corridor from Main Street up to Elm Street, you are not going to get the benefit of it. The project, as I mentioned, to design it is \$1.1 million and we are looking at a construction cost of about \$14

million to widen that corridor. You have to widen the existing bridge across the river and the roadway again, as I mentioned, from Main Street all the way up to Elm Street. That is an important project that we have at least requested. As far as our requests in the Buildings Maintenance area for FY2001, we put together our request and they were submitted to the School Department and quite frankly the School Department pretty much agreed or we agreed with them depending on who looked at what first. The projects that we are going to be looking at will be, as I mentioned the continuation of the HVAC work at Central and West, continuing with sealing asbestos abatement and lighting projects, re-roofing work. We have requested \$2.4 million to start fixing some of the leaks in the roofs of our facilities. Again, ongoing SCIP money. We are requesting \$1 million again. Replacing windows at Central High School. The request that we made totals \$11 million. I don't know if we will get all of that, but at least we are on the same page as the School Department.

Alderman Wihby asked do you know what last year's number was.

Mr. Thomas answered off hand, I don't know.

Alderman Wihby asked is this a lot more.

Mr. Thomas answered it is more.

Chairman O'Neil stated that is specifically schools. Are there any other facility needs in non-school areas.

Mr. Thomas replied there are but most of those will be taken care of out of the operating budget of Building Maintenance. One thing that I do need to mention is that our number one priority was to perform a facilities audit. As you know, the School Department had a study done that basically looks at area needs, i.e. student capacity type issues. The Building Maintenance Division has had this capital asset preservation plan that has been put together over the years. I feel strongly that we need to have somebody come in and basically do a survey looking at maintenance issues and prioritizing what they find by life safety issues and whatnot and developing some long term funding strategies; similar to what we have done with our bridge program. If you remember, back in the early 1980's, our bridges were falling down and this is how we brought that around so that our bridges are probably better than the ones in the State overall. The same thing happened with the City's parking facilities. If you remember, we had parking garages shut down. We went out and had an audit done of all of our facilities prioritized and now we have annual programs. We would like to see something along that line for the City's buildings. We have talked to the Mayor about this and when he was down in Washington he did talk to somebody from the core of engineers that may be

able to do something along what I am proposing for a fee and we will be meeting with this gentleman next week some time hopefully. I think it is very important that we put together a roadmap dealing with maintenance issues so that we can have a focus and a long-range plan so that you people who are making the decisions know the magnitude of the project and can make some reasonable, intelligent decisions on how to fund it. In this upcoming CIP from our Environmental Protection Division, we will be programming \$17.7 million in CSO work so CSO is going to be a major issue in the upcoming years from our EPD Division. Again, that is a sewer user fee. It is an Enterprise fund. We have \$58 million worth of work to do over the next 10 years and we will be pursuing that to meet our obligations. In addition, on a side note from EPD we do have a few small sewer projects going. Now that we have the Cohas Brook Interceptor completed in some areas, we are going ahead with the Crystal Lake Project. We are going to now run a sewer up Mammoth Road into the Green Acres area so the first phase of that will be going on next year. Also, the State of New Hampshire is going to be reconstructing Candia Road. This is a project that we have been programming with them for some time now. We are going to be putting in a dry sewer in Candia Road to the tune of about \$650,000 just so that we don't need to dig up Candia Road once we have the Cohas Brook Interceptor up there. The last pitch I want to make is over the last year when we did pick up Building Maintenance or PBS, we also picked up city-wide fleet responsibilities and as a result we are putting in a request and I am glad you are sitting down, for \$4 million to start the proper replacement of the City's fleet. The City's fleet is valued at \$30 million. A study that was done only a year or two ago recommended that on the average the City fleet get turned over every eight and a half years so some pieces of equipment would be longer and some less, but on the average eight and a half years. Well, it doesn't take a mathematician to figure out that if you have \$30 million worth of equipment and you want to change it over or replace it every eight and a half years, you have to be funding the program at \$3.5 million a year. Over the last six years, the average allocation for equipment replacement was \$1 million. So, the City has adopted a 30-year replacement cycle. Now I don't know about you, but no matter how long I stretch my car, it is not going to last 30 years. The problem with this philosophy is that the older the fleet gets, the less dependable, efficiency goes down, the costs go up because of maintenance, the cost of the service goes up because of the down time and as a result I think the Board of Mayor and Aldermen have to start looking at replacing the City's fleet at a proper or more reasonable level of funding. Just to add to that, from the Highway Department's side, back a few years ago we were required to bid against the private sector for refuse collection services and street sweeping services. We were successful. We beat out Waste Management, BFI and a couple of street sweeping companies. In our bid, we had to provide for the replacement of our equipment and we did and we were still successful in being the low bidder. We have met our obligations as far as collecting trash and sweeping the streets,

but I think the other party to our proposal hasn't. We haven't had any refuse equipment replaced and our street sweepers haven't been replaced.

Alderman Wihby asked when you are talking about fleet you are talking about some of your trucks and different things like that but how about the regular departments that have cars and stuff. Does that all come out of there too?

Mr. Thomas answered that is correct.

Alderman Wihby asked wouldn't it make more sense to have each department pay out of their own budget for the fleet that they have.

Mr. Thomas answered the recommendation in the study that was done, and it wasn't done by me, it was done by a private consultant and some parts of the study I agree with and some parts I don't, but one of the recommendations the consultant made was that every department should be funded the cost of leasing their equipment. So like the Highway Department in its operating budget may be given say \$1 million a year. That \$1 million a year would then be turned over to a replacement fund so that this replacement fund would then be able to replace the equipment on a proper cycle. What that would do is give the Board of Mayor and Aldermen a better idea of what the true picture of running say the Highway Department because right now equipment costs are not directly connected to our operating budget. So that was one way that it was addressed in the study. They looked at equipment...that each department did not own their equipment but would lease it from another party.

Alderman Wihby asked so the money would be in each individual budget, right.

Mr. Thomas answered that is correct, but then it would be turned over to this account and then the account would administer the equipment replacement program.

Alderman Wihby asked what about something like Information Systems who has a couple of cars or whatever. Parks has some cars that go out. You have some cars. Why can't that be funded out of individual budgets? I mean when you do your budget why couldn't you individually say what you want to replace and put that in your number so that it comes out of your budget?

Mr. Thomas answered it could be, but the recommendation was that we should set-up a city wide equipment replacement program so that you could take a look at the whole picture and better determine...like with a fire truck you may be able to get 20 years out of that where say in a small department with a pick-up truck you may only get 4 or 5 years out of it. You have been on the Board for quite awhile,

last time we had an update of the MER program was by John Snow and we were at a critical stage at that time because the equipment was in pretty tough shape and it was revised at that time and I think for a year or two we might have gotten some reasonable funding, but it has slipped over the years again.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I just want to make sure that I can put a period at the end of this sentence and I want to make sure that I understand you correctly being new here. You are telling us that for the last six years we have been spending about \$1 million a year when we should have been spending \$3.5 million a year. Is this the first time this Board has heard this or have all of these other gentlemen heard that they have been underspending by \$2.5 million for the past six years?

Mr. Thomas replied this is the first year that I have been given the responsibility for the City fleet. That was turned over to be slowly but surely since last February. The Highway Department has always identified a need. Actually, our request in the MER account or request as part of the whole package is going to be for \$7 million. That is how bad our fleet is. We need to get back up to snuff with \$7 million allocated to our department alone. The Highway Department has been identifying this in the budget process all along, but this is the first time that I have had any authority to represent the City's fleet needs.

Alderman Shea stated my understanding is that if the Fire Department wants a new fire truck that someone in the Fire Department is the one responsible. Is that correct? Are you going to be able now to make a judgement concerning whether or not a particular vehicle is going to be purchased?

Mr. Thomas replied no. There is a total listing of the entire City fleet and the Building Maintenance Division sends out this listing to all of the departments and asks the departments to prioritize their requests. We get that information back and submit it as part of the CIP process or the budget process. In the past, I am not sure where it went from there. I know that when typically we got some funding at the Highway Department we would get funding for our first, second, third or fourth choice; priority. It usually came down on how much money there was to allocate and a decision was made to allocate what was available to certain departments based on their priorities. This year if we were given \$4 million we would be able to allocate that based on priorities by all departments.

Alderman Shea stated my point is are you going to now assume control over a particular purchase of a large piece of equipment or vehicle or is that still going to be the responsibility of the department head or a designee within a department, whether it be Fire, Police or Parks & Recreation.

Mr. Thomas replied the process is going to stay the same. The MER budget gets turned over to the Highway Department and once a determination is made on what equipment will be purchased, our department will be working with the other departments to put together the bidding documents and put it out to purchase.

Alderman Shea asked so your answer is you will both work together.

Mr. Thomas answered we will both work together, but our department will maintain the allocation. So if there is \$4 million allocated, we will administer that \$4 million.

Alderman Wihby stated in the past what happened was that all of the departments did their MER account and they sent that to the Mayor and then the Mayor would decide which ones he was funding and he would put that in his CIP budget and that would come to the CIP Committee to approve it or not.

Mr. Thomas replied that is correct, but that all went through Building Maintenance.

Alderman Wihby stated right but when we were done and the budget was passed, you knew how much money was there and what pieces of equipment were going to be purchased and what departments were getting equipment.

Mr. Thomas replied that is correct.

Chairman O'Neil stated the biggest problem I see is there never was a plan. It was just put out fires. At one point we are on a little bit of a role buying one fire truck a year and supplying loaders and then something happened and we stopped buying them and then the fleet starts to fall apart.

Mr. Thomas responded actually last year half of a fire truck was bought and the other half is being bought this year.

Chairman O'Neil stated one of the things I hope is that Frank and his people put together a plan and we can get on this thing.

Alderman Lopez stated I agree with Alderman Wihby. If you take that responsibility away from the department head, then you become the complete maintenance person for the entire City and I think the department heads should take care of their own fleet and work with you because if you get \$4 million and they say well they will take care of it, that is it. That is just a comment.

Mr. Thomas replied I agree.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Discussion with representatives of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department relative to current CIP projects.

Mr. Ludwig stated I have Ron Johnson, my assistant, here with me. He handles most of our CIP projects and I have also asked Edwin Wojnilowicz who is sitting to my right to come along this evening. Ed handles all of our Enterprise projects, which involve Gill Stadium, Derryfield Golf Course and McIntyre Ski Area. He is here to answer any questions you may have in that regard. I will start by saying if you look at the back of the packet we provided, that is our activity summary list and I would call your attention to the fact that this is a working document. We were at the School Department the other night and they wanted to know why all of their projects weren't listed 1, 2 and 3 and we tried to explain to them that we are a Parks, Recreation & Cemetery Department and this is an integrated list. Our first seven items are typically the items that we use for programming. Fun in the Sun, etc. and then our basic projects, which are mostly ongoing projects, are listed after that. So, again this is a working document. You may see your item way down on the list, but that doesn't mean that it isn't going to receive attention or funding for that matter. We do have about \$7 million in requests and, of course, that is not what we ever receive. I would also call your attention to the fact that a significant amount of the dollars we typically receive are used for school sites, which we are also in charge of overseeing. We have been doing about two school sites every year depending on the funding level, averaging somewhere between \$200,000 and \$250,000 each depending on the size of the particular project and we take into consideration ADA requirements, bus drop off safety issues, etc. This department is in charge of the school accounts as well. We deal with all of the various kinds of funding; State, Federal and others. One issue in case Ron doesn't hit on it and you may see that it stands out in your mind is Item 7, Southeast Manchester Community Park. That may look like a new item to a few people and it is kind of new in that we have discovered that in the southern tier of the City it has been recently brought to my attention as a member of the Planning Board that there is a considerable amount of development. I always thought that Memorial High School was south Manchester and there is a whole other City that is being developed to the south of Memorial and it seems to continue. What we are trying to bring to your attention here and that figure may be high as a land acquisition figure, is that there is a definite need for the City to take a look at securing a parcel of land in the south end of Manchester. I don't know if you want to call it land banking or whatever, but something that we can develop in the future. We wanted to bring that to your attention. The Rose Cliffs and the Megan's Meadows and the Trolley Crossings are all coming up and there is now another proposal in front of the Planning Board for the corner of Corning and Mammoth Road, another 90-

house development. I sit there and typically try to get something out of the developers who come in. We are not really in a position to secure dollars from them, but some of them do come forward with some money on occasion so we are just trying to bring to the Board's attention that there is a need and the time has come to try and look seriously at a parcel of land in south Manchester so if anybody has a question there, that is what it is about. I will let it go at that. We are certainly here to answer any questions. Ron will run down the list as quickly as possible and I think he can do it in 12 minutes.

Mr. Johnson stated I will try to make this quick. As Ron mentioned, what we thought we would do...a lot of our CIP projects are multi-year so they are being phased in over years so I think we have been able to show some of those. Typically on the front of our request each year we have these three programs: Youth Activities, Fun in the Sun and Project Green Street. They are typically funded each year. Youth Recreation Activities helps to operate the Beech Street School after school program and the youth center. We have additional funding requests this year for the new Skateboard Park and that is why our request is up this year. The request is for skate guards and just administering the new Skate Park. The other programs are...each year Fun in the Sun is a summer program and Green Streets is our tree planning program. Typically, they are right at the beginning of the list. The southeast Manchester community park we rated high as Ron mentioned. In 1993, the City's Master Plan, done by the Planning Department, identified this section of southeast Manchester. This is 93 coming up into Manchester. This is 293. This is the Green Acres/McLaughlin Middle School complex, but this whole corner of Manchester has seen an explosion of growth and in the past 10 years there has been even more growth out there and as Mr. Thomas mentioned, with a new sewer coming through, all of these big parcels of property are going to have more development. So really, the demand for recreation down in this portion of the City is now exceeding the leagues up at South and East Little League and South and East Soccer cannot absorb the number of kids so we have identified this...it has been on our CIP list. It was down further, but with all of this new growth, we really pushed it up. I will go quickly through our project summary. This was the Park Capital Improvement Program that was appropriated last year and the Planning Department decided to put \$1.85 million into this project and then it is divided into six individual projects. Livingston Park, Phase III which was the construction of the Gatsas Building and also the new playground, West Memorial Field and I will quickly go through these. Livingston Park – the new athletic building is about 98% complete. The playground was completed this summer. We also did some site improvements with those funds, i.e. new guardrail, fencing and utilities. We currently have a bleacher system out to bid, which we will put in this spring. What we are looking to do next year is landscaping along the highway and throughout the park, which we have been holding back on; reconstruction of the Dorr's Pond parking lot and

access to the trail. We have also been contacted by a foundation here in Manchester that is interested in contributing some money toward the trail development around the pond so we would like to tie into that. We will also do some site lighting throughout the park and new sports lighting for the main field. Over at West High School, again it is a multi-year project. This year we have been working on the stadium – all of the area that surrounds the park doing slope work. We removed the existing buildings, the old storage buildings and we constructed a new field house, which unless you get down to the field level it is down in the southwest corner. It provides storage for track and football. It has a couple of restrooms and a team room. That is down at the track level. That building has been completed. What we are looking to do next year is the construction actually of the athletic field. We are looking at artificial turf. You will see that our number is a little over \$1.3 million. It includes the whole artificial turf surface, the construction of the track, the grandstands along the slope, sports lighting and landscaping. We have to look at...a lot of those different projects are interrelated. We have slopes so once we construct the track we can't cut across to get access to the slopes so we are looking to try to get the funding to complete all of that in this next phase.

Chairman O'Neil stated that artificial turf could be a discussion in itself. Can you get a sample of that. It is not the traditional, like we all think of as a carpet of artificial turf, correct?

Mr. Ludwig replied it is a new product.

Mr. Johnson stated it is a relatively new product.

Chairman O'Neil stated we may want to discuss that at some point so everyone is familiar with it.

Mr. Johnson stated over at the Clem Lemire Sports Complex this year, we constructed at Memorial High School six new tennis courts along South Porter Street and we rehabilitated the field house down along Jewett Street. That was done this year with the funding that was appropriated. Next year we would like to develop a Master Plan and take a long-range look at that whole facility. The track is now in need of renovation. It had been used by all of the high schools and everyone in the community. It was the only track at one time so it got a lot of use and it is really worn out. There is also a need for parking, grandstand seating and fencing and general site improvements. We would like to do a Master Plan for that area just like we have done for West Memorial and Livingston. Some of our neighborhood projects...over at Prout Park we got funding last year and we started work on a new playground. There has also been site lighting, fencing and walkways that are planned. We are also putting in a new irrigation building to

accommodate the plan. That work is ongoing. It will continue into the spring. We have a request in for Phase II, which would just be additional site work and then there is a Babe Ruth field there that is in dire need of improvements. We would like to get that done and that would be the next step to focus in on that area. The Skate Park, we actually had gone out to bid a few weeks ago. We didn't get a lot of interest. We only had one bidder so we are reassessing and we are going to put it out to bid again. We are requesting an additional \$50,000 this year to help. We have expanded the scope. The project is going to be behind the Youth Center on Maple Street and we need to knock out some windows to get visibility to the back of the Skate Park and also to build a shade shelter off the back of the building. We would like to do some more fencing and signage so we are asking for another \$50,000.

Alderman Clancy asked what about lighting.

Mr. Johnson answered there is some existing site lighting there. I think we have taken the approach that at least in the beginning we can modify the lighting, but it would be closed at dusk and we do have security lighting off the back of the building and for the pool. I don't think we are taking the approach of it being used...in the summer months it could be used late into the evening but once it gets dark, we would like to close down the park. Over at Precourt Park we have seen a little bit of funding. This is off of South Willow Street behind Wendy's. We did a Master Plan there and identified some needs. One of the big issues there was the need for land acquisition. All of those kids that I mentioned from this corner of Manchester, southeast Manchester, had been going to South Soccer and South Little League because there was no park down in that area and they were needing additional fields down there, but they are surrounded by commercial development. It is right next to Nutt's Pond and the price of land is astronomical in that area so we are kind of reassessing and deciding what we would like to do. It has been recommended to at least improve the entrance, provide better parking and a new playground so we will take a look at that. Ron mentioned that we do work with the school facilities. This past year, we received \$550,000 and we reconstructed Hillside Junior High, the parking entry, we did new site lighting and drainage improvements. We would like to follow-up with another project. Over at Northwest Elementary we reconstructed the upper and the lower playground. We couldn't work right in front of the school because of the roof project that was ongoing. They had that as a staging area. We have asked for \$875,000 for this year to do Phase II of both Hillside and Northwest and also to begin a project at Webster School. Just quickly, there are some of the things we did last year. I mentioned Hillside and Northwest. At Webster, the Phase I project, we had a community meeting last week and we would like to reconstruct the paved playground. There is a real need when we go...especially to the elementary schools, there is a real problem with congestion, parent drop-off and bus drop-off

so we are taking a look at that and proposing a new drop-off area. We are also doing a lot of handicapped accessibility improvements and tying it in with the recommendations from the study that was done by Human Resources on the facilities. They are proposing a new elevator for the school so we will tie into that and we have to provide adequate parking and a new service court. Pine Island is another project that is being phased in over a couple of years. We only got \$13,000 in City Cash last year and then we had \$111,000 that was from the insurance money from when the building that was there burned down. So we used that and we got the project going. We were not able to include in the bid the playground equipment so that is what we are coming back with requests for. It is for playground equipment, benches, some landscaping and a new park sign. A few years ago, the Planning Department created this park improvement program which essentially was a catch all program for a lot of small projects that would come up throughout the year. We used the funding last year for various playground improvements and we also did a little rehab on some tennis courts up at Livingston Park with that. It is a good project. Things that come along, whether it be fencing or just replacement of playground equipment, gets put into that project. The Neighborhood Playground Program, we started a project and this one is being funded by Community Development Block grant money. The project is Enright Park on the corner of Lincoln and Merrimack Streets and we selected a consultant and have done the preliminary designs and had a community meeting. Now the final design is really dependent upon some additional funding. We did get \$70,000 last year and we expect to redo the park and we need another \$100,000 in Community Block grant money to finish that work. We also have another Community Development funded project called Downtown Park Rehab. We are looking at Kalivas Park right behind the proposed new civic center site. We received \$90,000 last year to start the project. We have hired the consultant. We had some community meetings and again we are at that stage when to get to the final design we are looking for some additional funding. We are looking for \$200,000. That would be a complete rehab of the park to tie into the new civic center and to follow on a lot of the improvements that we have done in the downtown parks, i.e. the Amoskeag lighting, new benches, replace all of the sidewalks.

Chairman O'Neil asked, Ron, all of these projects that are CDBG there is no match, correct.

Mr. Johnson answered it is all awarded through the Planning Department. They get the block grants and they divide it up to the different departments. Another project that is ongoing, we call it the Piscataquog Trailway Project. It is the renovation of the former Goffstown Branch Railroad that cuts through the west side. We have received ICTE or transportation enhancement funds through the State on this. Our initial grant allowed us to purchase the property. There are a

couple of safety issues. We removed a bridge over Second Street and we are in the process of doing a Master Plan, which will be completed next month. The second grant was also awarded and we have enough money to focus on about half of the trail, about a one-mile section. We went before the Special Committee on Riverfront Activities in the fall and they asked us to focus on the area between the Merrimack River and Second Street, which would tie into the proposed Riverwalk. The Planning Department has made a second request through the ICTE Program for transportation enhancements to renovate the trestle bridge over the Merrimack and they are waiting to hear on that. Some other proposed projects we have the Piscataquog River Park. We did a Master Plan a few years ago and we just haven't received any money to start the first project.

Alderman Lopez asked are you talking about Item 27 in reference to that \$300,000.

Mr. Johnson answered yes. Down at Wolf Park we had done Phase I, which concentrated on part of the park. Harvell Street bisects the park and the little league field to the south has been reconstructed. We put in a new playground there. We renovated the old tennis court into a basketball court. Now we would like to look on the north side of the street where the softball field and the bleachers are and try to address that. Derryfield Park is in dire need of a Master Plan and a lot of improvements. The playground is in poor shape. Stevens Pond Park down on Bridge Street Extension, again they have the demand from this area of the City because all of these kids are going up to play soccer and baseball and they are maxed out. Another big item that we need to look at is the Livingston Park pool. It is about 65 years old and each year, Ed is here, he crosses his fingers when they open up the pipe to fill it. We always have leaks and problems. The bathhouse isn't compliant. The filtration system doesn't meet State code, so it is inevitable that at some point we are going to have to face either a close down or we need to put some money into that.

Alderman Clancy asked what about Hunts Pool.

Mr. Johnson answered we rehabbed it about five years ago. Hunts Pool is in pretty good shape.

Alderman Clancy asked what about Raco Theodore Pool.

Mr. Johnson answered that is our second project. That one is probably not as big a scope. The bathhouse is in fairly good shape. We can go through and do some improvements. The roof needs to be done, accessibility improvements and the filtration and mechanical system needs to be done but these are big-ticket items that we are eventually going to have to take a look at.

Alderman Wihby stated in here it says \$75,000. What is that?

Mr. Johnson replied that is for the planning study. I will get to the end of the sheets. It is just this year's money. We are looking for the planning and engineering money this year. Our department also takes care of cemeteries so we have to prioritize and put those into our overall list. The Cemetery Administrative Office down at Pine Grove Cemetery has handicap accessibility issues. A lot of elderly go down there when they need to make arrangements and the main office isn't accessible. The roof is leaking and has problems and the restroom facilities need to be updated. We also have some requests for outdoor columbariums. It is an area where niches are placed. A lot of the private cemeteries in and around the area are going this way so we would like to upgrade and put in some of these columbariums, which would help to generate some more revenue and make Pine Grove more attractive for the community. Valley Street Cemetery, there is a need for replacing the fence. It is starting to deteriorate around the perimeter. We also have Amoskeag Cemetery, which is on the west side and that also needs some fence repair. Also in Pine Grove Cemetery there is an old restroom building that they would like to convert into another columbarium for niches. The Recreation Enterprise Fund is also on our list. This is part of the Enterprise Fund, which traditionally usually gets the money depending on what we can bond. Up at McIntyre Ski area, this past year we renovated the site and the parking and we would like to now look at snowmaking and some trail improvements for a snow tubing run. The Derryfield Country Club, we had a Master Plan done and we would like to start looking at renovating a few of the holes and tees and greens. Over at JFK we have done several years of projects and we are getting near the end and we would like to address the air handling system and the parking lot. At Gill Stadium we would like to address the grandstand and some additional handicap accessibility improvements. That is pretty much it. The end of the sheet is our priorities. I guess Ron and I and Ed will address any questions you may have.

Chairman O'Neil stated out of respect for the Accounts Committee that has to meet next, are there a lot of questions because I was going to suggest that you get a hold of the department individually. We do have three quick items to do. Is everybody comfortable with that? If you have any questions or concerns, please get a hold of the people at Parks & Recreation. Thank you very much for coming and being patient.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

Communication from Blanche Grondin regarding litter on Daniel Webster Highway near Livingston Park and Dorr's Pond.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to refer this item to Parks & Recreation and Highway and request that they report back to this Committee.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 11 of the agenda:

Petition to discontinue a paper street known as Felton Street submitted by Jim and Jennifer Boisvert.

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Lopez, it was voted to find the subject area of the petition to have been released and discharged pursuant to RSA 231:51.

Alderman Wihby asked should this, in the future, go to Lands & Buildings.

Deputy Clerk Johnson answered for discontinuation of streets, no.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 12 of the agenda:

Petition to discontinue a portion of Leandre Street submitted by Cal Colby, Jr.

On motion of Alderman Cashin, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted refer this item to a road hearing.

There being no further business to come before the Committee, on motion of Alderman Clancy, duly seconded by Alderman Cashin, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee