

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

September 9, 2003

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Shea, Smith, Lopez

Absent: Alderman Wihby

Messrs: S. Tierney, F. Thomas, J. Hoben, Chief Kane, Deputy Solicitor
Arnold, K. Dillon, S. Maranto, Deputy Chief Simmons

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 3 of the agenda:

Communication from Alderman Lopez regarding snow removal and vehicle compound.

Mr. Steve Tierney passed out a hand out regarding snow removal. He stated we have looked at several areas and when it came to the parking lots we felt that Arms Park would be the best place for a car impoundment area because of capacity. It can hold approximately 350 cars and if we wind up towing more than that we have the overflow area underneath the Notre Dame Bridge, which can accommodate another 50 cars. Tom Lolicata asked that we take a look at the National Guard Armory. I contacted a Major General up there and his secretary called me back and said that there was a possibility that we could use it but they wanted us to maintain the parking lot all winter long, which included plowing, sanding, salting and snow removal.

Mr. Frank Thomas stated in addition that parking lot isn't as large in capacity as the Arms Lot.

Mr. Tierney stated they have capacity for approximately 200 cars. They would need spaces for their own vehicles and the spaces that the trailer would take up.

Alderman Lopez asked don't they rent some spaces at the Arms Lot.

Mr. Tierney answered most of that lot is rented out. We had talked with the Traffic Department and they felt that it might be some loss of revenue for the City but it could be worked out – maybe the following month give the leases a credit. If we use it for two days the next month their rates would be adjusted accordingly.

Alderman Lopez asked how many cars are down there that lease spaces.

Mr. Tierney answered I am not sure how many they have.

Mr. Jim Hoben responded it is totally leased out.

Mr. Tierney stated it is totally leased out but we took a look at it yesterday and it was only about 1/3 full.

Mr. Hoben stated the two major owners are Dean Kamen and Tom Madden. The only problem is dealing with them.

Mr. Tierney stated the other benefit of this lot is if some of the people did come in and the vehicles are still there they could park in the Bedford Street Lot. That is not really that well utilized right now and under the towing they would have to be out of there within 24 hours or else the Police Department tows them out or the wreckers tow them out to their site.

Chairman O'Neil asked why don't we use the Bedford Lot then.

Mr. Tierney answered it is too small. It is probably 150 or 200 cars maximum.

Chairman O'Neil stated it appears that part of your recommendation in the long-term is the purchase of a snow melter. Some city I remember on the news had one last winter and it seemed to work pretty slick.

Mr. Tierney responded we were just talking about the impoundment lot right now. We didn't get to the snow dumpsites yet. For the snow dumps we are looking basically at Southside Junior High School or behind Southside Junior High because it would be a good place to dump at night. We just found out that the contractor who is working on the schools may be bringing in 72,000 cubic yards of fill into that area. I talked to Kevin Dillon a couple of times before and I contacted him yesterday and he has a section of land that is basically in front of the Post Office and to the south of the Post Office. It is between the Post Office and Bildor Drive. We could use that. All of the land in there doesn't belong to the Airport; some of it belongs to the Post Office. I have contacted the Post Office but I haven't heard back from them. We are well aware that there might be some

residential concerns in the area but the houses were soundproofed by the Airport and we would probably be 250' or 300' away from the closest residence on Westwood Drive.

Mr. Thomas stated the Airport is also looking at some additional properties that they may be able to allow us to use in lieu of the site on Goffs Falls Road. We share the same concern regarding abutting residential homes. What we are looking at is both Jewett Street and Goffs Falls Road and maybe using Jewett Street at night and Goffs Falls Road during the day or something like that. However, Kevin Dillon is now telling us that there may be another potential location. However, just to jump ahead a little bit the problem is we don't have a long-term solution for a snow dump area and as Steve is recommending at the bottom of his handout I think we have to start seriously looking at a snow melting piece of equipment. It is similar to what the Airport now has down at their facility. It would be a mobile trailer type unit and we have a handout on it.

Alderman Shea asked is it possible that we could get some kind of emergency act or grant through any kind of Federal funds that might be available because of security reasons so we could implement this. To me it seems like the sooner we could get a machine like this, the better.

Mr. Tierney answered it takes five months.

Mr. Thomas stated we are going to have to have a dumpsite somewhere this year.

Mr. MacKenzie responded we can look at it but the most money available right now is for Homeland Security, which I don't think this would qualify for. We could check to see if there are any funds out there.

Chairman O'Neil asked is there a possibility that we could rent one. Generally you can find just about anything for rent.

Mr. Tierney answered this particular company only had one that was still available and I think it is \$1,400/month with a minimum of four months rental.

Alderman Shea asked does that go toward the purchase of it.

Mr. Tierney answered we didn't discuss that with them.

Chairman O'Neil asked couldn't we rent it for six months or something if the Board came up with the money to just get us through this winter.

Mr. Thomas answered first of all the machine that Steve was talking about was a demo they had, which is a lot smaller. It is about half the capacity of what we would be looking for. We would have to check if it was available. We can look into it.

Chairman O'Neil stated they rent everything now. They have portable boiler rooms...I don't know where you would find it but...

Mr. Thomas interjected we can look into it but I think what basically Steve and this team has done is say well okay in the interim we still need a fallback position and what is our fallback position for snow dumping. I think the two locations that we potentially have available are Jewett Street behind the school and some Airport property. Hopefully that will be enough to get us through this winter but again I think the City has to start seriously look at pieces of equipment like this – possibly even two. One for the Highway Department and one for Traffic because Traffic is going to have similar problems. One of these units will not accommodate both operations – snow removal in the downtown and parking lots.

Chairman O'Neil asked does the snow that is melted just go into the storm water system.

Mr. Thomas answered it goes right into the storm drainage. There are different fuels but the one we would be recommending is diesel fuel and it basically just heats the water a little bit above freezing. It is not hot, hot water but then the water in the bin circulates as you dump the snow in.

Chairman O'Neil asked and you can do it at any spot in Manchester.

Mr. Thomas answered yes. You just drag it behind a payloader and you can pull up to a catch basin or actually you don't even need a catch basin.

Alderman Shea stated I know that Alderman DeVries will jump in here but when you dump tons of snow in the back of a school like Jewett what happens to the residents who live on Woodgate or the other places that are impacted.

Mr. Thomas responded obviously those are concerns. Neither of the locations are ideal. The Goffs Falls Road site has some benefits because from the downtown area you can go down Elm Street, Queen City Avenue, and South Willow Street so you are going down basically a commercial area until you dump but then when you are dumping you are fairly close to a residential area and of course you are going to have the beeping of the trucks backing up. In the area behind South Jewett Street I think we are far enough away from Woodgate Court. It is close but...

Alderman Shea interjected you have a wetlands there, too, you know.

Mr. Thomas stated and we also have tannery brook that runs through there. The problem with that location is in order to truck from the downtown you have to go up Cilley Road and Jewett Street so you are going to have truck traffic in the middle of the day. Both locations are not by any means good and that is why Kevin Dillon is looking at another site which may be perfect but again it is short-term. We are looking at getting through this one winter season and starting right now to plan for next year.

Mr. Tierney stated what is nice about hauling down towards the Airport is all of the lights on South Willow Street are put on flashing so there is no delay time for the roundtrip between the pick-up and the dumping.

Alderman DeVries asked can we talk a little bit about what we are looking at. How high are the piles that will accumulate there? Salt residue left behind after they melt?

Mr. Tierney answered how high the piles are depends on the winter. We can only go 20 feet because of Airport restrictions.

Alderman DeVries asked what about salt residue when it melts and contamination problems.

Mr. Tierney answered it is minimal.

Mr. Thomas stated there will be high salt levels in that area but it will dissipate over a period of time once you move out. It is not like you are going to make it a hazardous waste site by utilizing it as a dump. The biggest problem we have...actually the State DES recommends that you dump this snow abutting water bodies so that it can melt and go into the water body. Our snow dump down at the end of South Commercial Street from the State's point of view was an ideal location. The biggest concern that the environmentalists had, quite frankly, was the trash and debris that is typically in the snow that you can pick up.

Alderman DeVries asked what do you do to address that.

Mr. Thomas answered it is scraped up and if an area has to be it will be reseeded.

Alderman DeVries stated the additional location that I think Kevin Dillon was going to get into presenting in my viewpoint is probably the best of the locations because it is off South Willow Street approximately across from the Harvey Road

firehouse in the Triangle Mall area where the runway lights are located. It is an industrial area. There are no residential homes immediately on top of that area. It already has a road in to maintain the runway lights or do you call it something else Kevin?

Mr. Dillon answered localizer.

Alderman DeVries stated the problem with that site which I would want to hear from Urban Ponds or somebody a little more environmental. I hear you saying that they like to have it near a water body. Cohas Brook is right there. I think there is enough room within that site. Somebody said the salt is a problem for Pine Island because it doesn't turn over or whatever. I think there is enough room to still give it enough leeching space on that site so that one winter certainly wouldn't impact Pine Island Pond. I would like to hear that opinion from DES or...

Chairman O'Neil interjected I think the intent here is we need one season to...I hope the Board whether we are all here or not gives purchasing these snow melting trailers...and I agree I think the City needs two of them, a high priority in next year's budget.

Alderman DeVries stated I certainly concur that the third site we just spoke about on South Willow Street is the best of the locations.

Mr. Thomas answered we agree and if we can overcome Kevin's concerns. We still have to check into lighting and obviously the environmental issues.

Alderman DeVries asked and you can maintain no higher than 20' there. That is not a problem.

Mr. Dillon answered in that location the height really isn't a problem. The problem is the possible interference with the signal but we think it is going to be okay. One other site and I haven't even had the opportunity to talk to Steve and Frank about this one but we are going to look into is the six acres that we own behind the Taje Inn. We are not going to use that for parking this winter so it would be available but that is subject to the hotel operator's concurrence as well. He may have some issues with the trucks coming in and out.

Mr. Thomas stated again that may be an option for a day operation. I think the exercise has been beneficial because we have identified some short-term dumpsites.

Alderman DeVries stated the last question that I have is are you aware of any phosphates that are released. Chlorine is certainly what I would expect with salt.

Mr. Thomas answered I am not aware that that is a problem.

Alderman Lopez asked what about the safety of putting the snow behind the school.

Mr. Tierney answered we would only be using that at night. They would probably play on it but it is basically just snow.

Chairman O'Neil stated based on the conversation that we have had tonight can you lay out for me what you think the plan looks like. I heard four different sites come up.

Mr. Thomas responded again I think we are going to continue to investigate all of these sites. Right now the most formidable site is the one that Kevin is raising across from the Triangle Mall. That to us is ideal because again we are staying on a commercial area and we are away from residents and we will be out there by ourselves. Now if we can overcome the issues that have been brought up, that will be our primary site with potentially back-ups on Brown Avenue behind the Tager Inn. That would be the day site. I think Kevin is right. I think it would be very difficult to get approval to be dumping there at night.

Alderman DeVries asked is there nothing else in another ward.

Mr. Tierney answered we have looked at several areas. We looked up where French Hall is but that is for sale. Public Service owns a big chunk of land up there and there is a big paved parking lot and they basically told us no. You also have the Great Cedar Swamp up there, which might be a problem.

Chairman O'Neil asked what about the parking lots that are already built at Hackett Hill.

Mr. Tierney answered they are not sure where the drainage goes and they have the Cedar Swamp up there.

Alderman DeVries stated which is no more cherished than the Great Cohas Swamp, which this property backs up to.

Chairman O'Neil asked what action would you like from the Committee tonight.

Mr. Thomas answered I think basically this was just a status report that the Committee asked for. The last issue was the odd/even parking. Again, the committee met on that and basically we are recommending that it stay in place and that the police do a little more enforcing of the odd/even parking. There isn't really a good alternative. The alternative is either going back to no parking on City streets, which I think would be very difficult to go back to or allow parking on both sides. The odd/even does help.

Alderman Shea stated the only comment that I have from constituents is that sometimes the notice for the parking ban is not giving sufficient time for them to move their cars. I know that the even/odd is different but the parking ban...

Mr. Thomas interjected the snow emergency. Is that what you are talking about? The snow emergency we give approximately 12 hours notice. I don't know how we can give any more notice than that. We give notice to every media that we are aware of – radio stations, TV stations, newspapers...

Alderman Shea interjected does everyone know that you have that 12 hour...I am just saying if the public knew that there is only a 12 hour difference between when you know there is going to be a snow ban and you release the information so they are aware of the fact that it is a timing issue.

Mr. Thomas stated again I think that 12 hours is a reasonable amount of time. That is what has been in effect since we started snow emergencies. In addition, a person can sign up with us if they have a computer and we will notify them by computer that there is a snow emergency.

Alderman Shea asked do they know that.

Mr. Thomas answered that is on the website I believe.

Alderman Shea stated well the complaints that I get as an Alderman is I didn't get sufficient notification. I don't know about that.

Mr. Thomas responded quite frankly I think that is a cop out. If you live in the City of Manchester and you know it is going to snow you are going to have to...

Alderman Shea interjected well usually these people move in at a certain time and they are not aware of it. That is all I am saying.

Mr. Thomas stated whether they are aware of it or not I don't know.

Chairman O'Neil stated they can pick up the phone and call the Highway Department or the Police Station.

Mr. Tierney stated we get 300-400 phone calls every time it snows of people wanting to know if there is a snow emergency or whatever and we tell them either yes or no and if it is no we ask them could they stay off the street if possible.

Alderman Smith stated I would like to get back to the snow melters. I noticed that it takes about 15 truckloads per hour. We took a lot of flack for not picking up the snow on Elm Street. Now how many truckloads if we had a normal snowstorm of say 3"...would you be able to do Elm Street in one night?

Mr. Thomas responded there are different sizes and the one that we would be looking at is 153 tons an hour or something like that, which is a fairly good rate. However, we are doing a study right now, I mean we are doing calculations based on the different rates and based on what the manufacturer is talking about. The one that we will recommend for purchase will be one that will be adequate for us to continue to do the same level of clean up that we are presently doing.

Mr. Tierney stated we can't do all of Elm Street in one night. We can do like from Lake Avenue to Bridge Street but we also jump off and do some of the side streets like Amherst Street and Concord Street and Vine Street. On the second night we do Commercial Street from Bridge Street going northerly heading towards Brook Street.

Mr. Thomas stated the downtown portion we do in one night.

Mr. Tierney stated we also don't usually pick up snow if it is only 3". Last year we got hit with two big storms one right after the other.

Alderman Smith stated I am talking about multiple storms when they build up and you can't get to the parking meter.

Mr. Thomas stated last year the problem was we were getting storms one right after the other and we never had a chance to catch up.

Mr. Tierney stated in January it snowed 10 days in a row – from the 1st to the 10th.

Alderman Shea asked where does the Mall put their snow.

Mr. Tierney answered I think they dump it down by...they have a big hole down by Huse Road and I think they dump it down there.

Chairman O'Neil asked will you report back when you have the final locations.

Mr. Thomas answered yes.

Alderman Lopez asked are we understanding that you are taking care of the entire City or is Traffic and Parks going to take care of their own.

Mr. Thomas answered Parks & Recreation has numerous small sites throughout the City and they can take care of their own. The Traffic Department this year will jump on wherever we wind up going, whether it is down on the Airport property or on other properties. Next year again I think the Traffic Department will have to make their own proposal potentially for a snow melter or they can contract out. They contract right now for the picking up and dumping of snow right now. There is an option but again they will have to address that.

Alderman Lopez stated my question is this. When you report back on your final analysis could you also include a report on Traffic and Parks.

Mr. Thomas responded they were part of this.

Mr. Tierney stated we didn't include Traffic and Parks in this because they have their own areas.

Alderman Lopez responded but we want to know where they are going to put their snow.

Mr. Tierney stated they are going to continue hauling to the sites they have.

Chairman O'Neil responded we want to know where they are. That is his question.

Mr. Tierney answered okay.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 4 of the agenda:

Communication from Deputy City Solicitor Arnold regarding draft ordinances requiring large trash containers at multi-family dwellings.

Alderman Lopez stated I got a couple of calls on this. How do we make them pay for this?

Deputy Solicitor Arnold responded they would be required under the ordinance and if they didn't provide them they would be subject to the normal fines.

Alderman Lopez stated and they will raise the rent for it to. Do you support this, Frank?

Mr. Thomas answered yes we do. The toters have proved very successful in the downtown area as far as reducing litter problems. In addition, the more we can promote the toters I think we will continue to see a reduction in our worker's compensation claims, back injuries and whatnot. Quite frankly, at multi-family sites you can go out to any in the City and you see the piles of trash that is out there. I think this ordinance will provide a great improvement to that situation. Yes, we do support this.

Alderman Lopez stated the other question I had was from businesses. Some small businesses want to do it and they are not allowed to.

Mr. Thomas responded the policy and our recommendation is not to promote it to small businesses because quite frankly small businesses put their trash out in one or two barrels. If you start allowing commercial ventures like small restaurants and whatnot that now have private services you are going to be assuming those solid waste costs so there will be an increase in the cost of the solid waste operation. We had to draw the line with the commercial businesses. Fratellos might decide that they want to buy 20 or 30 of the toters and we would have to pick them up. We are trying to stay away from commercial businesses.

Alderman DeVries stated I was going to bring up because I do sit on the City-wide Safety Committee and we certainly have reached out to Frank Thomas to initiate this program because of the concern over the back injuries and all of the worker's compensation claims. I know there has already been a significant decrease in the back injuries with just the residential toters and we are looking for ways to try to enhance that effort so that it becomes more of a citywide program. It would be a win-win for the City. Not only would we look better but it would save us money.

Alderman Shea stated I sit on the Accounts Committee and we find that there are a lot of, for lack of a better word, deadbeats who don't pay what they owe the City. My point is are we going to have Bob Neveu come with the sheriff to get these guys to comply? You know what I am saying? The enforcement is the tough part in all of this.

Mr. Thomas responded we are going to enforce it. Obviously we don't have a crew of people to be out policing this but we do have standard forms and letters

that we send out. I would think that once people get involved with this the cost for one of these toters, which would last for 20 or 30 years...

Alderman Shea interjected we all realize that but it is just the enforcement of all of this.

Chairman Shea stated there is a great example on Pearl Street between Pine and Union that was the biggest trouble spot in the City. It would have piles of trash out there. The guy lived in New Boston or something and after the Highway Department continued to send letters and fining him he went out and bought the containers and you wouldn't even know it is the same place now. That is a good example.

Mr. Thomas stated it won't happen overnight. It is going to be a constant struggle.

Mr. Tierney stated we do send a lot of letters out telling people that they are subject to fines. The only problem is they put their garbage out say three or four days early and we send them a letter and we go out and pick it up when it is supposed to get picked up and the next time it happens it is a brand-new offense instead of being a second or third offense and we are right back to square one. That is one problem.

Chairman O'Neil asked how long do you think this will take to implement.

Mr. Thomas answered three to six months.

Mr. Tierney stated I think I told you once before we should have at least three months. We have to buy the toters and assemble them and stockpile them.

Chairman O'Neil asked so if everything fell into place are we looking for somewhere around December 1.

Mr. Thomas answered we could probably shoot for the first of the year.

Chairman O'Neil asked is wintertime a good time to implement it.

Mr. Thomas answered again with all of the past policies we haven't started coming down with a sledgehammer on day one. Even though it says January we will be lenient for a period of time.

Chairman O'Neil asked so next spring it should be fully implemented.

Mr. Thomas answered that is what I think.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to recommend that the ordinances be approved and referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 5 of the agenda:

Communication from Chief Joseph Kane requesting permission to trade-in a booster pump toward the purchase of a high-pressure Air Distribution System for Rescue 1.

Chief Kane stated what this is and what we have is a booster pump for air. It is a small compressor. It is surplus to us at this point in time. We are looking to get rid of it. The best way to dispose of it is to trade it in. We get our greatest value that way for it and we get a piece of equipment that we can use. The other way to do it is to send it auction and we wouldn't be seeing too much of a return. So, this way we get to trade it in and we get the top value for this surplus piece of equipment.

Chairman O'Neil stated if I understood you right this will allow you...what you are going to use to replace it will actually take air hoses right into the site of an incident if necessary.

Chief Kane answered yes. What we are looking at is a distribution system. Currently if we go into a high-rise you may see us taking the bottles up into the high-rise to replace the bottles on our airpacks or the guys would have to come down. What this system does is allow us to go and drag a high pressure hose into the building, let's say on the 16th floor and set-up a distribution spot so the guys don't have to come all the way back down and go all the way up or haul additional containers into the building.

Chairman O'Neil asked and without this new piece of equipment you currently do not have that capability.

Chief Kane answered we have the hose and that is all.

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

Alderman Lopez asked why do we need to give approval for this. Why do you need approval from us?

Chief Kane answered we need approval to dispose of the surplus equipment. If we have something that is somewhat valuable we can't just go and get rid of it we need Board approval to get rid of it. We are having an auction and we needed to go to the Board to have the auction to get rid of the surplus equipment.

Chairman O'Neil stated we may want to have the Clerk do a poll of the Board on some of these so we don't have to hold things up until October.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 6 of the agenda:

Communication from Robert S. MacKenzie, Planning Director regarding a request from New Horizons for \$9,300 in assistance to rectify code and life safety issues at the shelter, and suggesting that the City's Housing Trust Fund could accommodate funding the request if the Committee so desires.

Alderman Lopez moved to approve the request. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Smith stated I just want to correct the amount. It is \$9,342. The one from New Horizons says \$9,342.

Mr. MacKenzie responded we had rounded it off. We should be using \$9,342.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 7 of the agenda:

Communication from the Planning Director regarding a request of the Police Department to replace a damaged police cruiser, and suggesting that the \$3,600 to complete the acquisition could be funded by balances from the MTA Roof Replacement Project if the Committee so desires.

Alderman Shea moved to approve the request. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez asked is that cash or bond.

Mr. Maranto answered it is cash.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 8 of the agenda:

Communication from Robert S. MacKenzie, Planning Director, regarding the status of the Senior Center project.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I can give a brief overview. Frank Thomas and Sam Maranto are also here. Basically the bids came in. They came in at just about what we expected. The base bid, which did not include a lot of the items that we would ultimately want to have, was a little over \$2.2 million. The Board may remember that we did not have the full amount available. We have roughly \$1.9 million allocated. That was why there was a fundraising group created led by David Nixon. I guess I am fairly happy that the bids came in at about what we expected. Probably Frank Thomas can go into it more but they believe they can proceed with the project.

Mr. Thomas stated the bid as Bob mentioned was \$2.238 million. Through some value engineering we reduced that base bid by \$158,000. We were able to add a little bit of CDBG sidewalk money into the pot to help us out. The bottom line is that the contract we are going to be awarding is \$2.067 million. That gives us a contingency of \$133,000. Looking down the road we hope to be able to receive some additional CDBG funds that may be able to be added to the project. Also, if the fundraising effort is more successful we will be able to add back items that we deleted such as elevators, interior painting, etc. The base project will give us a usable facility but we should not let up on the fundraising efforts and we should not let up on the securing of additional funds such as CDBG money.

Alderman Smith asked has Dennis Hebert submitted a grant.

Mr. MacKenzie answered he has submitted at least two and perhaps a third. I know he has applied to a couple of the local foundations, such as the Hunt Foundation and he has applied to the Community Development Finance Authority. As with most grants though, you are never quite sure what the chances are so I can't predict that. At least we have hit the major funding sources here in New Hampshire and hopefully the fundraising group can raise whatever we can't get in grants.

Alderman Smith asked do you know potentially what he is asking for, the amount of money.

Mr. MacKenzie answered I think the total he was looking for was \$700,000.

Alderman Shea asked who is Dennis Hebert.

Mr. MacKenzie answered he is the grant writer.

Alderman Shea asked is this going to make the building complete. I am not sure how much is going to be done.

Mr. MacKenzie answered it will give you a usable main floor. If you look at the model out there actually the second story is off the main parking area. That will give you the main floor as usable. The lower level would be unfinished until such time as funding was available.

Alderman Shea asked the parking lot will be all set and it will be attached to the library.

Mr. MacKenzie answered the connector may not be done until later. That is something that they said could be done through fundraising or additional funds. You would have one main building but the connector into the old library would not be available.

Alderman Lopez stated as far as the fundraiser we are going to kick it off Friday morning at 8 AM here. We had the brochure out and everything. We are going to get the money. The main thing I wanted to say here is that I don't think this has to go to the full Board because the department heads and you can correct me Sam but you can sign the contract and proceed and get those buildings down without the full Board approval. Is that correct?

Mr. Maranto answered yes.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to bring that up. They are ready to go so we should have no business holding them up.

Chairman O'Neil asked are we holding them up. I thought this was just an informational discussion.

Alderman Smith asked how much are we short. What do we need to make up the difference and do it right?

Mr. MacKenzie answered with all of the bells and whistles fully furnished we would need another \$700,000. I think that is why we applied for that much in grants and I think that has been discussed with the fundraising committee. That would be fully furnished and everything. We could certainly have a functioning center for less than that.

Alderman Lopez asked when do you think the buildings are going to come down.

Mr. Maranto answered once we sign the contract, which will hopefully be this week, they will start working within 10 days. In terms of the schedule they are also going to work until the weather gets a little overbearing and then close down for the winter and start up again in the spring. Because of that they are allowing us an additional \$20,000 off the contract price. We still anticipate a September 2004 completion date.

Alderman Shea asked will that impact the present West Side Center.

Mr. Maranto answered no.

Chairman O'Neil asked are all of the provisions being done for electrical and mechanical for future equipment and all of that. We didn't shortchange or anything did we so if potentially there is a stove going in there the gas pipe is going to be brought to that location or an electrical item or something?

Mr. Thomas answered that is correct. The plan is assuming that the funds are going to be available we will have a completed facility.

Chairman O'Neil asked so it is more equipment and that kind of stuff that is on hold at this point.

Mr. MacKenzie stated equipment and finishing touches on the lower level like the flooring but all of the plumbing, electrical and basic things will be in.

Alderman Shea asked is the furniture included in the \$700,000 or is it in addition to the \$700,000.

Mr. MacKenzie answered that is included.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to receive and file this item.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 9 of the agenda:

Communication from Kevin Sheppard submitting a draft policy/procedure for Fleet Management/Motorized Equipment.

Alderman Shea moved to approve the policy. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion.

Mr. Thomas stated what Kevin Sheppard was trying to do was respond to an inquiry by this Committee regarding an issue with sales and whatnot and at that time he felt that some of the wording should be changed to bring it up to snuff. However, I think that there is a need to potentially modify this policy and what I would suggest is that we take this policy that is in draft form and maybe circulate it to the departments to get feedback so that maybe there is a potential for this Committee to make revisions to it. This policy hasn't significantly been changed for quite some time and it may be time to get input from the departments so that some modifications can be made.

Chairman O'Neil responded we do have here this evening four of the biggest fleet departments in the City between Police, Fire, Airport and Highway and Traffic is here as well. I think the four biggest are here. Maybe at least the four of you in conjunction with Traffic and Parks maybe can talk a little bit.

Mr. Thomas answered where I was coming from is that I think this policy may in some respects be too rigid. I think a policy should give some flexibility to the Committee or to the Mayor and the Committee so that under a certain situation...say I come to the Committee and say for whatever reason that I don't want the City seal on my car because I want to be able to sneak up on my employees or something like that. It may be a good reason to allow us to not do that but as it stands right now that option isn't there. Now I just throw that out but there could be other things. I think that having a policy that doesn't give you any flexibility is not good.

Alderman Lopez asked is this an old ordinance or a brand-new ordinance.

Mr. Thomas answered it is an old ordinance.

Alderman Smith stated I think the biggest change is that instead of the Committee on Transportation it is the Committee on Community Improvement.

Mr. Thomas responded right. The old ordinance referred to the Committee on Transportation, which is no longer in existence. Kevin Sheppard took the old policy that goes back to 1994 and just basically changed it to the CIP Committee and Public Works Director. There haven't been any modifications other than those two changes.

Chairman O'Neil stated I guess I would just like to see one agency kind of coordinate this. Are you suggesting that the Board should hear back from all of the departments?

Mr. Thomas responded no this Committee or if you would like we could send it out from our department to the different departments, get comments back and then come back to you with a revised schedule.

Chairman O'Neil replied I think that would be easier and probably would streamline the process a little bit if we let...

Alderman Shea interjected would the City Solicitor be involved in this at all.

Mr. Thomas answered yes. What we would do is receive all of the comments back, put together a new draft, circulate it again and then bring it to this Committee.

Chairman O'Neil stated I am just suggesting that instead of the comments coming from the departments back to the Committee maybe the Public Works Department could coordinate the efforts and come up with a recommendation in support of you know after talking to Gary or Joe or Jim or whoever.

Alderman Shea withdrew his original motion. Alderman Smith withdrew his second.

Alderman Shea moved to have the Highway Department send out the draft policy to all departments to solicit feedback and report back to the Committee. Alderman Smith duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez asked do they actually send a warrant for arrest for somebody who doesn't pay a citation.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered we could do a warrant through the court; yes.

Alderman Lopez stated I was looking at 71.11.

Chairman O'Neil responded I am not sure where you are looking. I think you might be on the Traffic agenda. I think you have the wrong agenda.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 10 of the agenda:

CIP Budget Authorizations:
212703 Manchester Community Resource Center
410603 Police Department
411004 Youth Attendant Program

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Smith it was voted to approve the CIP budget authorizations.

Chairman O'Neil addressed Item 11 of the agenda:

Discussion relative to municipal building construction and renovation.

Chairman O'Neil stated this is an item that I asked to be put on the agenda. I had asked Frank some time ago...I had voiced a concern coming from the construction industry that it appears sometimes that we have too many hands in on these projects and what I am afraid happens is that we don't get good numbers to work with. I am very concerned about three of the projects going on now. We talked about one of them tonight and I think by the departments working together they have come up with a game plan on the senior center but the Rines Center was another issue. I have concerns about the new country club at Derryfield and I think we need to have one central agency responsible for all building construction in this City. I need to preface that by saying that I think we would exclude Water Works and Airport from it because they have professional engineering staff on board. I don't think there is a need for what we are talking about in those areas. I asked Frank to give it some thought and see what he thought and he has come up with a recommendation or some suggestions for us to consider this evening.

Mr. Thomas stated basically in my handout, and I am not going to go through it line by line but I started off by summarizing that there is probably a need to coordinate and centralize some of the building construction and rehabilitation work in the City and to pay a little bit more attention to the standardization of a structure of the mechanical components, which ultimately lead to long-term savings in maintenance costs. What I did is I put together a proposal and it is basically if you look at the last page I propose to take my Building Maintenance Division and create a Facilities Division. The division would be headed up by a new position, a Chief Facilities Engineer and quite frankly I would be strongly suggesting that Tim Clougherty fill that position. I think he has a proven background. Then the division would be made up of two functions. We would have the maintenance function that would be headed up by our Building Superintendent and the existing staff and create a capital side where the Chief

Facilities Engineer would work with an additional Facilities Engineer, potentially a Clerk of the Works and an existing Program Supervisor to take over the building construction in the City. This is a proposal that is not going to happen overnight. It would be a recommendation that we would propose to phase in over time. Included in this write-up is a summary of exactly what I would be proposing and the cost for implementing the proposal. I would suggest that we could move forward with this now even though the positions haven't been funded in the operating budget. I think we could create the structure now and potentially create the Chief Facilities Engineer position. That position I can probably make up in my operating budget and the fact that over 90% of that salary is charged off now to projects. Now even this year if we see that there is enough potential construction projects going on that we can charge salary costs to the capital projects we may be able to bring in another Facilities Engineer but I think what we want to do is start moving in what I feel is the right direction so that we can position ourselves for the next budget process to get this implemented. I would recommend that the CIP Committee if it thinks it is logical to move in this direction that you maybe approve it in concept and forward it to the HR Committee and the HR Department to review it in a little bit more detail. My intent would be to expand the Building Maintenance Department into a full Facilities Department being both maintenance and capital projects and potentially bringing on more staff and charging as much of that staff time to capital projects. We charge outside engineering now and outside architectural services to these projects so there is no reason why we couldn't be charging some of their time such as the school chargeback and bring it back into the City as a revenue.

Chairman O'Neil stated some of this has already been going on. You had a Clerk of the Works under contract for a period of time.

Mr. Thomas answered right. We have had in the past a Clerk of the Works who has worked with Tim, our Facilities Engineer. That Clerk of the Works has been charged to projects. We don't have that person now but again that same philosophy can be used except we would fund the position and then that money would come back.

Chairman O'Neil responded we have been paying for a Clerk of the Works position. We have just been doing it with a contract person.

Alderman Smith stated that was my point, Frank, when I asked you about Gill Stadium. I would rather have done it in-house than pay \$300,000 to a consultant. So this would cover anything to do with our buildings?

Mr. Thomas responded yes. Unfortunately I don't think we could have had this up and running in time to do that for Gill Stadium and the baseball stadium project

but I think depending on the workload in the future that is a capability I think we will have especially with the size of the Gill Stadium project. Maybe not the big stadium but a lot of the Gill Stadium project could be done in-house if we had the manpower. The problem we have right now and my growing concern is that I have one Facilities Engineer. He is handling the school projects. He is involved with the Rines Center. He is involved with the Senior Center. He is involved with Derryfield. Of course he is getting help from the rest of us but again we are getting overloaded and we can't continue to take on more of the facility responsibilities. My concern is that the ball may be dropped and you don't want to see that happen. I think we are continuing to do more rehab work and more construction work and I think it makes sense to expand this operation.

Chairman O'Neil asked besides the school project what do we currently have between the Rines Center and the Senior Center and Derryfield going for what \$6 million.

Mr. MacKenzie answered there are a few projects exceeding \$6 million right now.

Chairman O'Neil stated and then there is some miscellaneous school stuff going on that wasn't part of the design-build. The system is working and I know that Highway gets involved and they worked with the Police Department on their shooting range issue. They helped out the Fire Department to do some value engineering but it is almost like we really and I will give you two examples. I hear this from the maintenance guys, Billy Conway who is one of your HVAC people. We have something like eight or ten different manufacturers of HVAC equipment around the City so he has to carry all of the material for the eight or ten different products where if we had one design standard, which we will with the schools, that will get streamlined and it will make his job easier. He can carry less and get out and get the repairs done quicker and it is similar with toilet fixtures. Again that is getting under control with the schools but we don't have a standard around the City for toilet fixtures so the plumber has to go out and say okay this school has this and the fire station has that and the Parks & Recreation building has this instead of having one...by having this one entity we should be able to improve our maintenance.

Mr. Thomas stated that comes to light on long-term maintenance costs because again you can standardize and buy in bulk quantity.

Alderman Shea stated this particular situation would control anything coming from say the Health Department, Parks & Recreation Department, the Water Works...well not the Water Works.

Mr. Thomas responded not the Enterprise funds. Anything that would involve new building construction or rehabilitation work.

Alderman Shea asked so say the project at Memorial would you take it out of the hands of Parks & Recreation and put it under this.

Chairman O'Neil stated that discussion started because of financial not because of this.

Alderman DeVries stated would it be applicable I think is his question.

Mr. Thomas stated normally the field work would not be handled through this Facilities Division. They would take care of buildings. Memorial field was an idea to facilitate construction because Gilbane is right there.

Alderman Shea responded I don't mean that. I mean this particular overseer. This particular Chief Facilities Engineer, regardless of whether the work is being done by Gilbane or somebody else, would that person be involved in any kind of overseeing of how that work proceeds?

Mr. Thomas replied that is correct. All building construction will be overseen by this division.

Alderman Shea asked so it would involve working together with the Parks & Recreation Department to say to them in essence we are going to facilitate the operation of this particular situation in the sense that we are going to oversee whatever was being done between the contractor and whatever facilities are going up and so forth.

Chairman O'Neil stated the process would still be...the Planning Department would still be involved early on figuring out how we are going to pay for this. Finance would have a hand in it. The department, and I am speaking for myself, but for instance when we built the Fire Station the Fire Department procured it and under this scenario the Highway Department in working with the Fire Department would have procured the design and construction of that facility. That was...my suggestion when I brought this up to Frank was try to not consolidate but streamline the process a little bit.

Alderman Shea replied well I think that people would be working with the Highway Department.

Chairman O'Neil stated it is just like they do with the schools now. They work hand in hand with the schools.

Mr. Thomas stated we would be working for the departments to accomplish the goal that they budgeted for.

Alderman Shea responded so in other words you would take some of the responsibility of say Ron Johnson's hands in terms of how he...he would be involved but he would not have to be involved with every detail.

Mr. Thomas stated only if it is building construction. We would not get involved with playgrounds or parks or anything else. Just the buildings.

Alderman Shea asked so then you wouldn't be involved with the Memorial field.

Mr. Thomas answered that is correct. That is what I was trying to say.

Alderman Lopez stated I think there is a lot more information that needs to be spelled out here. As far as I am concerned that is the reason we hired the Facilities Engineer in the beginning. That is why the position was created and now we are being told that he can't handle it because he is overworked. Then the question is what is our long-range program for building new buildings in the City or renovations of City buildings. I think there is a lot more information needed before we proceed with this. I don't see any problem in the person who is a Grade 22 now being in that position. I think the justification to go to a Grade 25 is there. I think other departments such as the Health Department and the Parks Department...you have to remember that just because you say you are going to save money we are going to be bonding and maybe Mr. MacKenzie can verify this but the project engineers like we have with the School District and at Gill Stadium, they have a project. Now there is only so much time in the day for one guy to be able to go around and do all of these things. I think in the bonding process we are still going to hire a project manager to report to the engineer.

Mr. Thomas responded without a doubt.

Alderman Lopez stated so we are not saving the money that you indicate here. There is a lot more information needed. I have no major problem with the structure.

Chairman O'Neil stated I have to disagree that there is not potential for savings. There is potential for significant savings because a lot of times in the projects through the architect we hire a Clerk of the Works and they end up hiring a full-time Clerk of the Works for projects that maybe an in-house person could handle two or three of them. We are paying for people to be on projects that we may not necessarily need them on projects for.

Alderman Lopez responded I agree with you and that is the reason we hired this Engineer in the first place. It was for all projects and if he wasn't the right...

Chairman O'Neil interjected he was hired specifically for school projects.

Alderman Lopez replied I disagree with you.

Chairman O'Neil stated that is what the position was created for was for school projects.

Alderman Lopez stated the position was created in the City for all buildings.

Chairman O'Neil responded if it says that I would love to see that.

Alderman Lopez replied I will show it to you.

Alderman Smith stated this is just a discussion and I think that this idea is well worthwhile. Like I said I don't know what it is going to cost us at Gill Stadium but I hate to pay legal fees and so forth because we will probably end up with a Mickey Mouse Gill Stadium if these costs keep rising. I guess it is \$300,000 now and it is \$300,000 down at the riverfront. Am I correct, Bob?

Mr. MacKenzie responded I am not sure.

Alderman Lopez stated well you don't really think that somebody from the City is going to be able to negotiate all of those legal contracts.

Alderman Smith responded no but I am saying right now when I asked Frank and I know because I was an inspector, I mean you can get somebody in-house to do it but Frank doesn't have enough time to go over there. I don't want a fiasco like what happened at West Memorial where you have a brand-new field and no toilet facilities and no concession stand. It is an embarrassment to the City and that is why you have a Clerk of the Works.

Chairman O'Neil stated Kevin Dillon did something similar at the Airport recently. He brought in a little more in-house staff to work because of the amount of construction projects going on down there. We have an awful lot going on here and I am sure there are some little projects we are missing around the City that are going on.

Alderman DeVries stated he and I just had that discussion.

Chairman O'Neil stated the appropriate motion would probably be to send it to the Human Resources Committee.

On motion of Alderman Lopez, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to refer this item to the Committee on Human Resources/Insurance.

Chairman O'Neil asked, Frank, is there anything else you want to bring up on this.

Mr. Thomas answered no. I think it was a good discussion. I just want to follow-up. With all of the building construction work that is going on in the City, the Facilities Engineer that we have does play a role in all of those projects. However, to do it right...he could be spending a lot more time on say the Derryfield Country Club than he is, however, a lot of that time is being picked up by other departments. I think what Alderman O'Neil is saying is we want to take away some of the building construction activities from the departments. They are good but they don't have the same expertise as a person who is in that line of work 100% of the time. By having a project being brought forward by say a fireman, no offense Joe, or a parks person, eventually it could lead to a problem even though you are working with engineers and architects. It depends on how much involvement you want to place on that professional person. I think what Alderman O'Neil is saying is take as much away as possible and build up an internal staff and that way you can focus on standardization and on crossing the t's and dotting the i's a little bit better.

Alderman Shea asked when a presentation is made to the Human Resources Committee and there are three of us here tonight from that Committee, would there be some way that you could make a presentation predicated on the amount of money that possibly the City could save with the type of structure that you are advocating. Could you do that? Is that possible to do? In other words when you make your presentation at a future meeting. That is what really we would be looking at. We would like to compare what we are spending for private people doing the work versus people employed by the City.

Mr. Thomas answered I could generate some of those numbers. Quite frankly I don't put a lot of trust in those numbers.

Alderman Shea stated well you have to trust some numbers.

Mr. Thomas replied again I can put those numbers together for you and I can make them look any way you would like me to make them look. I think the...

Alderman Shea interjected we wouldn't want you to do that. We would want you to do an honorable assessment.

Mr. Thomas stated I think what you have to keep in mind is that if there is one mistake with the senior center or the Derryfield Country Club or the Gilbane project because there aren't enough expert City eyes looking at them...

Alderman Shea interjected could you use past references where a mistake was made and, therefore, it was costly to the City. That might be helpful.

Mr. Thomas stated sure. We will definitely put together something.

Chairman O'Neil stated I need to say this. The intent of this is not to criticize the department. I think Joe has done two fire stations in the last few years and they have done a heck of a job with it.

Chief Kane stated I run 10 or 11 buildings and I know exactly what you are talking about in terms of standardization. The more help that you can get to get that together and the more standardization you can get the easier it is to manage those buildings afterwards.

Chairman O'Neil stated the intent here is Joe can say I want to build a three bay fire station and I need to put so many people there and I need so much training space and sleeping space and that and they can take it and run.

Alderman Lopez stated there is nothing right now. I think we established that the Facilities Engineer is the person who is responsible for all of the buildings in the City of Manchester regardless of what grade he is right now.

Chairman O'Neil responded the problem is that the guy is straight out. We have a lot going on in this City. We have 21 schools. We have 3...

Alderman Lopez interjected and that is why you have project coordinators that report to him.

Chairman O'Neil asked who is the project coordinator now.

Alderman Lopez answered I don't know who he is.

Mr. Thomas stated but again I think if you talk to anybody in the private sector or the municipal sector and compare the workload that one person can handle...yes you can have people reporting to you but you still have to go to meetings and you still have to be knowledgeable and you still have to be able to make those decisions and you can't do that by only spending 10 minutes a week on a particular project. I think that is what we are saying. If Alderman O'Neil wants to

try to bring all of these potential past and future projects under one set of eyes to scrutinize, that is going to mean some internal staff in addition to the external staff to do.

Chairman O'Neil stated this is similar to the structure that you have for roads and bridges and sewers now, correct. You have Bruce Thomas and then he has some junior level engineers and some field people doing inspections.

Alderman Lopez stated I want to make perfectly clear that I am not against this but I thought that is what we were doing. I thought that was the structure that we had in the City when it came to renovation and construction of buildings. I thought we gave those to Highway and his staff took care of it.

Chairman O'Neil responded I don't think that is true.

Mr. Thomas stated we never in the past got involved with fire stations. The Building Maintenance Division never got involved with fire stations. Basically the focus was on City Hall and the school buildings.

Alderman Lopez stated I recall that when the individual position was handled and I don't want to debate this but that person was responsible for all City buildings.

Chairman O'Neil replied if you can dig that up I would like to see that. I don't remember that. I remember schools specifically.

TABLED ITEM

Discussion of graffiti-related issues confronting the City.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea it was voted to remove the item from the table.

Alderman Smith stated we gave \$4,000 to Intown for the purpose of addressing the graffiti problem. Is that \$4,000 still intact or has it been utilized for something else?

Alderman Lopez stated Intown got \$4,000.

Alderman Smith stated I really think that rather than going out and contracting with private companies we need direct control. I think it has to be administered by a City agency, whoever it is. Graffiti is a big problem. I can tell you that they had new construction down at Spruce Street and Union and they put up a traffic

control box and the next day it was decorated and the sidewalk wasn't even paved. This is a problem that we have to address. I know this has been tabled for some time. I don't know what agency can do it but I really think we...

Chairman O'Neil interjected well we appropriated some money and in all honesty the agencies couldn't get together to figure out how to spend it. Did we approve some money in the CIP budget?

Mr. MacKenzie stated there was a balance...this spring we reviewed various balances and there was a balance of roughly \$10,000 but the Committee didn't take a final action on it.

Alderman Smith asked didn't we set aside additional funds up to \$20,000 this year. I have a communication here from David Scannell to Alderman Lopez that says that.

Alderman Lopez stated Tom Lolicata and Intown and other business people and some department heads all had a meeting today and a lot of these things are being addressed. The letter went out to the Board in reference to graffiti. Intown does take care of the Central Business District. There was also a letter directed to department heads from the Mayor to take care of their own buildings. The Police Department is prosecuting one individual to the full extent of the law. The committee has been right on top of this. It is a major problem, not just downtown but throughout the City. The good thing about today's meeting was and I will just go back to what I said to Frank Thomas earlier, some situations came up as to the solutions that are going to be at the next meeting. Some ideas that came out of the meeting were to have someplace centralized to call. I recommended dispatch because they are 24/7 and they could disperse the information there. The sidewalks downtown, not just the graffiti but the beautification of the City. All of this is coming forward through Intown, department heads, Sam was there today to talk about the money that we put in CIP and they are going to come up with a plan, a solution in time for the CIP budget next year. That is where we stand. I don't know if Sam wants to comment. I believe he talked about the money we spent last year, which was about \$150,000.

Mr. Maranto stated the focus at the meeting today was on aesthetics. Graffiti was a major issue. Another issue was just basic cleaning, etc. We were discussing maintenance relative to the Millyard. We had allocated \$130,000 last year to a group headed by Stephanie Lewry who were also working with Parks and Highway and they came back and said they needed additional funds. At this point they have not spent all of those funds and the discussion was once we completely expend those monies and see where they are with priorities we can consider additional funds. There were probably about 20 different individuals who met

today. There were department heads there as well as a lot of building owners. Their concerns were aesthetics and the impact that it has relative to the City as a whole in terms of attracting new investment in the community.

Chairman O'Neil asked so that discussion wasn't limited to graffiti then.

Mr. Maranto answered no it wasn't.

Chairman O'Neil stated I kind of agree with Alderman Smith. We have to grab this graffiti thing. We almost have to assign two people, fund some positions, give them a truck and have them go do it. This hodgepodge of trying to address it is not working. It is not getting done. The most successful program I have seen is in Pittsburg they had some public works people with a truck and a trailer and they acted on a hotline and as soon as they got the call they went out and took care of the graffiti. The worst thing you can do is let it stay for awhile. You want to address it right away and I think if it is an issue in this City then we have to come up with the money and take care of it in-house. They can't be going out to take graffiti off McLaughlin School. This is something the City has to address. Unfortunately it is like patching potholes. We have a couple of crews or at least one crew that does that. It is a similar issue. They get complaints and they go out and patch them. I don't think the Board of Mayor and Aldermen brought graffiti to the level it should and I think it is about time...Alderman Shea chaired a committee for a number of years. They plugged away at it and did the best they could but...

Alderman Shea interjected at the time there were some people who were caught and as a way of punishing them they had them remove it. I agree with your thought. The main problem is identifying where this graffiti is. We used to have the police on the beat call in and so forth. We need to have, as you indicated, people working exclusively on this issue. I think we can't overlook the fact that a lot of focus has been put on the downtown but we are a community. We have additional places in the community...we are actually in a sense bringing the problem out because the people from Intown are quite concerned about it. We don't hear the voices out by Massabesic Lake or Crystal Lake or Raco-Theodore Park and so forth. We don't hear those concerns.

Alderman DeVries stated I hear them.

Chairman O'Neil stated I appreciate Alderman Lopez working on this issue but we just have to bite the bullet here and do something about it. We have been studying this thing and we have been talking about it...for six years that I have been on the Board we have been talking about it.

Alderman Lopez stated I agree with you wholeheartedly on that issue. I know that Alderman Shea has more experience with this than I do but it is not as easy as just going and taking the graffiti of a building. If it is our building that is fine. If it is in the Central Business District they have to get release forms from the owners.

Chairman O'Neil responded I am just talking about our buildings – any public property and bridge abutments.

Alderman Lopez stated bridge abutments belong to the State.

Chairman O'Neil stated but it doesn't do any good...the State is going to take their time getting down and doing it and all it does is fuel...when the kids see bridge abutments that is where...we are allowing an excuse. All we need to do is get permission from the State to allow Manchester employees to remove the graffiti. We shouldn't use that as an excuse and we can't wait for the State to address the issue.

Alderman Lopez stated I agree with you. There are things in the works where the Mayor has contacted the State about the bridges and I think all of this is going to come together as to what the plan is. I don't think that hiring somebody is going to do it. We have to know what the solutions are and I think at the next meeting, which is in the next week or two they will have what the problems are and it will be laid out on paper who is responsible for what. They have done a terrific job.

Chairman O'Neil responded but they are talking about the Millyard. They are not talking about Mammoth Road or Webster Street or down in the south end of the City. This problem is all over the City of Manchester. It is not a Millyard problem. They think it is limited to the downtown. It is all over. I bet Jimmy and Tommy could talk about control boxes in every corner of this City that have paint on them.

Alderman Smith stated I was talking to Frank Thomas about this and he brought up some good ideas. It is just like the Fire Department. If we are going to hire somebody we are going to have to train these people in chemicals and solvents and so forth because depending on what it is done on you have to use different things to clean it. I really would like to address the City before we get involved with Intown or anything like that. If you go over to Raco-Theodore you would think the building has been painted. That is how much graffiti is over there. Thank goodness hopefully next year the pool will be renovated. It is a problem all over. There are swear words and descriptive adjectives all over the City and we have to address that.

Alderman Lopez stated Intown is taking care of the graffiti downtown. They have the money and they are doing an excellent job. The department heads have been directed by the Mayor to take care of their buildings. Now if Frank Thomas or Tom Lolicata can't do that is the issue that is going to come back as to what the solution is. If the solution is to contract somebody out to do our buildings than that is a different situation but I don't think any department head would come back to the Mayor and say that they couldn't do the job they were directed to do.

Mr. Thomas responded I think we are all doing it. I just heard that Traffic is taking care of their control boxes. We have been addressing bridges in the City and Amoskeag Bridge is a good example. We painted that out a couple of times. We have been out on the riverwalk painting. What is under our jurisdiction we have been addressing. It sounds like Traffic has been doing the same.

Mr. Hoben stated we did Elm Street as soon as we got the directive from the Mayor. The next day they were all tagged again.

Chairman O'Neil stated we could keep two people going just between traffic controllers, bridge abutments and school buildings. We could keep two people going year round. I am convinced of that.

Alderman Shea stated one of the things you are not treating in all of this is the bad guy doing the dirty work.

Chairman O'Neil responded the Police Department has done a pretty good job...you had a whole gang last year didn't you of...

Alderman Shea interjected well if they are made to pay the cost or some kind of felony...

Chairman O'Neil interjected then we need a State law change and we need the judges to...they can only arrest them.

Alderman Lopez stated I would like to bring one thing up that this Committee could do and we need to put some cameras up to catch these people.

Deputy Chief Simmons stated the idea of cameras has been brought up and Red Robidas is looking into that. That is an area where you put a camera where you have an area that is tagged all the time. The camera is moveable and the way the City is being set-up now you will be able to do that so that is one thing to look at for criminal prosecution. It is a difficult task. We prosecute everybody we get for graffiti. They either go to OYS, which was Regis Lemaire's place and a lot of

those people go out and actually paint some of the stuff over. We have zero tolerance for graffiti.

Alderman Lopez asked do we have any cameras now.

Deputy Chief Simmons answered no.

Alderman Shea stated I think that is a good idea because then we would be hitting it from three different angles. The angle of having certain kinds of visual types of thing along with immediate clean up and then the punishment. I think there might be other components that we haven't really thought about.

Chairman O'Neil stated this would be a good time to talk to our delegation about getting some State laws changed.

Alderman Shea stated we have someone on the Board we could talk to.

Chairman O'Neil responded absolutely. We could get a piece of legislation introduced that makes it a more serious crime. I think we have to come up with getting some people out there. That is part of it. I think what the Police Department is doing and the camera thing is probably going to work but you can't have a camera on every street corner.

Alderman Shea stated what has been very helpful to is if we educate people. The schools should be involved somewhat. I don't think a lot of these kids are necessarily schools kids but obviously the more focus we can put on it if we can educate kids to the point that it is a destructive act and there are certain consequences maybe some of the kids who are thinking about it won't do it.

Alderman Lopez stated one other thing that came out of the meeting today and it will probably be in the *Union Leader* is how we are dissatisfied with the graffiti and dissatisfied with everything else so we can make the people aware that the Mayor and Aldermen are speaking on their behalf. We are sick of it too and we are going to do something about it somehow. It is a major problem.

Deputy Chief Simmons stated you were talking about immediate clean up and there have been a lot of studies done and we have looked at this for years and as frustrating as it is to paint these things over and see them tagged again the next day in the long-term if you keep on attacking that a lot of it does go away. Studies have shown that and Pittsburgh is a prime example of that.

Chairman O'Neil stated I will support any motion to get a couple of bodies on that.

Alderman Smith stated there are two different segments of money.

Alderman Lopez stated we have \$19,000 left according to the last report we got.

Mr. MacKenzie stated there is \$19,000 that is available from older surpluses or cash balances.

Alderman Lopez moved that the \$19,000 be allocated to remove graffiti from City buildings.

Chairman O'Neil asked how are you going to do it. Are you going to contract it out?

Mr. Thomas stated you have to approach this in a planned manner. Training and I don't know who said it but training is the key here because you have environmental issues. You have different kinds of solvents that you can use on different types of structures and there are different ways of addressing it. Unfortunately \$19,000 or what not will buy you maybe a couple of temps and a paintbrush.

Alderman Lopez stated but you are all set in your department.

Mr. Thomas replied we are continuing to address it.

Alderman Lopez asked and you, Jim, don't have the money to do it.

Mr. Hoben answered we don't have the manpower to do it.

Chairman O'Neil stated Frank is addressing it by painting over. Some of the issues aren't paint over. You have to get in there with a pressure washer and all of that. So Frank is doing the best he can but it may not be the perfect solution.

Alderman Lopez asked didn't we buy a pressure washer for Intown.

Chairman O'Neil replied we bought a little rig. They have to get a hose hook-up at every location they go to. I have seen this twice. I saw it in Pittsburgh and I saw it in a parade down in Newburyport. The Essex County Sheriff's Department has one of these. It is a self-contained unit that carries a water tank on it. It has a generator and they go out and take care of the issue.

Alderman Lopez stated may I suggest that we talk to the Mayor and see what direction he wants to go in. In the meantime, the committee that has been

established will be coming in with some ideas and I don't know if Red is going to put up a camera down by the bridge but if there is money needed we have \$19,000. We have to have some solutions. There is no question about this.

Alderman Smith stated we could talk about this all night. I am very concerned about the graffiti. I think what we should do is like Alderman Lopez said ask the Mayor and get his suggestions and report back to the CIP Committee. The same thing...I addressed the sidewalks here on Elm Street. Remember I asked for money because I was disabled and I found out that Jane Hill fell down and the mortar is gone and the bricks are raised...

Chairman O'Neil interjected the new sidewalk design is pretty good but we still have a lot of the sidewalks with the old...I know that Frank had Dave Cross doing some repairs at Merrimack and Elm because a woman fell there. The problems don't go away.

Alderman Shea stated I think that when the Mayor brings all of the department heads together I don't think the discussion should center strictly on downtown. It should center on the City in general.

Alderman Lopez stated everybody said that today it is just that Intown was concerned about the businesses downtown.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to receive and file this item.

There being no further business, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee