

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

May 5, 2008

5:15 PM

Chairman Garrity called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Garrity, Shea, O'Neil, Gatsas, Smith

Messrs.: J. Burkush, K. Sheppard, G. Simmons, P. Goucher, S. Maranto, C. DePrima, T. Arnold

Chairman Garrity addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Discussion relating to the proposed FY2009 CIP budget.
(Note: letters have been submitted for discussion as follows:)
 - a) Communication from Alderman Lopez requesting discussion of various bond programs including Police, Fire, Parks and Highway projects;

Chairman Garrity called Fire Chief Burkush and Deputy Police Chief Simmons forward.

Alderman Lopez stated I wanted to bring to the attention of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen that I believe that there are other ways with Police & Fire. I have had some discussions with the Police Department in reference to expansion of the Police Department. I briefly had some discussions with the Fire Chief regarding why I am opposed to doing a \$1.4 million renovation even though they need it. I believe that we have a new chief of police and a new fire chief. I believe in some long-range conversations that came up before the Board as being the right direction that we should move forward with in the City. If we renovate for \$1.4 million on Calef Road, and it is not that it doesn't need it...I am not saying that and I don't want anyone to take that the wrong way. I voted for the Fire Chief to be the Fire Chief and make some long-range decisions. Is this the best thing for the City of Manchester to do or should we have a study of Police and Fire as I recommended...put a committee together in such an urgent time, as the City is in dire need of trying to salvage a budget going into 2009? I don't believe that this is the number one priority in the City at this time. I believe that we need a fire station. Whether or not it is going to be over there or Litchfield and Manchester

together, which I think has some possibilities or Manchester and Hooksett on Hackett Hill, which I believe has some possibilities...I believe we are rushing to judgment here without a complete plan. In reference to the Police Department, I know that they need more space. I have been over there. Deputy Chief Lussier took Alderman Smith, myself and a few other Aldermen through that place. It is crowded. I threw out the possibility then and I still throw out the possibility...now it is not for me to tell the Chief where to put his fire trucks. There are always fire trucks being repaired and there are always places for them to go and this is not an overnight thing. That is why a good planning committee should be put together to make sure for the future that we are moving in the right direction and not just doing the same old thing. That is why I don't think we should spend \$1.4 million on the fire station and the \$300,000 I believe should be seed money to move forward. I noticed a report that came from the Building Supervisor in the Highway Department. I think if he is capable of putting something in for the fire station; he is capable of going over there with a committee and looking at those two bays over there. Now it is not going to happen six months or a year from now but I think we are in dire need to find other ways to do things. That is why I am saying it is not a good idea to do this.

Chairman Garrity stated I will strongly disagree with you about the condition of the Calef Road fire station. Chief, do you have those pictures? If you just want to pass them out to the Committee please. I don't know how many of my colleagues have been in that station but the conditions are deplorable. If it was a private home or a private business, the City would not give them a Certificate of Occupancy to occupy it. There are no screens on the windows. Go ahead and take a peek in their kitchen. The kitchen is circa 1962, cabinets are broken...these are living conditions. Let's call them living conditions because firefighters, when they go to work, live there for 24 hours. There are tiles falling off in the showers and bathroom stalls. There are some pictures and you folks can take a peek at them. I know there was earlier talk about moving the fire station further south. After doing some research, the Airport purchased...this is that land behind the Holiday Inn Express. The Airport purchased it for \$2 million and I believe it was with some FAA funds. Currently they don't want to let the property go. They have a future use for it and even if we were to build a fire station there, we would have to give the Airport back its \$2 million. It is \$3.6 million for a new station and \$2 million just for land acquisition. That makes the total \$5.6 million. I don't think that makes any financial sense but this fire station is in deplorable conditions.

Alderman Lopez replied since you referred to me Mr. Chairman, may I respond? I know it is in deplorable condition. It has been that way for a number of years but I want the Fire Chief to tell me that is the best location for a fire station in the City of Manchester. I don't know the terminology but I know some of the Aldermen...

and I wish Jim Roy was here but I think Alderman DeVries could enlighten me. I understand there is a different type of team out there and maybe the Aldermen can help me to help the Chief.

Chairman Garrity stated I would like to hear from the Chief first. Do you have an opinion on the Calef Road station and where it is on your priority list?

Mr. James Burkush, Fire Chief, stated I know that project was brought forward with Chief Kane; the possibility of renovating Station 9. I did, as Alderman Garrity said, do a little research about the land location and my information initially was that it was City land but subsequently we found out that it was Airport land. We have two stations that are currently in bad condition - Station 4 at Hackett Hill and also Station 9. We don't have a definitive price of \$1.4 million to do the project. By looking at the economic feasibility of where we are at right now, I think we should put some money into that station, upgrade the living conditions, put a sprinkler system in the building and make it more livable. It is probably not in the ideal location but it is a neighborhood station and it has value for the neighborhood. It has been there since 1963. Obviously the City has grown and changed since then. The response time is moved farther south but the economic realities of building a \$5.5 million station...I think it is economically feasible to put the money into Station 9 and I had discussions with Tim Clougherty and we don't know what the number is. I had ideas of putting another bay on but probably more realistic is a smaller phased renovation, so that is where I am right now.

Alderman Lopez asked so you are really not sure from all of the answers you just gave me whether that is the best thing to do, using the \$1.4 million to say we need this stuff? We absolutely need new windows and stuff like that? My question to you, Chief, is if there is an area and if you could make a deal with Litchfield or Hooksett where maybe the fire station on Hackett Hill would be better served in the long run...you are telling me on one hand that it is not in the right location but you want to put \$1.4 million into it and you are not sure if it is \$1.4 million. It might be more to renovate or put in another bay. I don't think any plans have really been made in detail as to what is going to happen. I know it is a neighborhood station but you indicated that it is not in the right location. What I am saying to you is this is a hard time. This year is hard and we are trying to survive going into 2009 and we are going to make...how long have the living quarters been there? Another year. If there is a \$5 million station that you want down the road it could be piecemeal in two or three years and get what we really want for the City of Manchester for the future rather than just taking the \$1.4 million and throwing it in there for cosmetics.

Mr. Burkush responded I don't believe, and correct me if I am wrong, but I don't think the economic situation is going to get any better for us. I think there are some immediate needs to that fire station. The \$1.4 million number, I am not sure if that is correct but we do need upgrades to that building in the kitchen and living quarters and expansion of the front of the building so that the apparatus bay is a little bigger, and we need a fire suppressant system in the building to bring the building up to current codes.

Chairman Garrity asked Chief, is there any ventilation system in the building when the trucks take off?

Mr. Burkush answered it has a partial ventilation system but not a full, complete one. I think the one that it is referred to in the plan is...the building has significant air exchange problems. It has had mold in the basement and we had remediation projects done but it needs an air changing system is what Mr. Clougherty was referring to. Like I said we have had water problems in that basement where during spring floods there will be water and there has been a mold situation in that building.

Alderman Lopez stated Chief you waited all this year to do this. One more year it could wait while we look through all of the plans and make sure we are moving in the right direction. Wouldn't that be something that you would be in favor of?

Mr. Burkush replied we do need to do a study and I said it in front of the Board before for all of our station locations. We need to do a strategic plan city-wide and we have other needs at other stations that would be more pressing. An example for me would be Hackett Hill. That station...if we could do a renovation of Station 9 and then put more money into Hackett Hill in the future that would probably be the best plan right now.

Alderman Shea asked Chief can you give me some background please? How many men work out of Station 9 now?

Mr. Burkush answered 12.

Alderman Shea asked how many at one time?

Mr. Burkush answered three.

Alderman Shea asked so in other words three men stay there for 24 hours?

Mr. Burkush answered 24/7, that is correct.

Alderman Shea asked and then three more come in and replace them and so on and so forth?

Mr. Burkush responded correct.

Alderman Shea asked so at one time the most men that are there are three correct?

Mr. Burkush replied on occasion we will have four but most of the time it is three.

Alderman Shea stated I know having been the principal at Hallsville School that if you think the condition of that particular fire station is bad, Hallsville School was a terrible mess. So some of these things I can understand but I am just wondering whether or not the City at this stage is moving in the right direction by giving \$1.4 million or more for renovating a fire station when you are expressing obvious needs for Station 4 as well as other stations. Where are we going to get all of this money to do all of these things? In other words, if you had your way right now you would say that Station 4 is in...

Mr. Burkush interjected the problem with Station 4 is the state hasn't given us a new location of Hackett Hill Road so we don't have a location where we could put the station. When they opened Station 4 they said that they were going to have an off ramp off of Hackett Hill Road and there was a Master Plan for that area. So Station 4 needs to be done. I don't see that being on the horizon. I see this as an opportunity to get a station we have, and we could probably bring the price down below \$1.4 million due to the economic situation. Rather than put a bay on it, maybe we should rehab it as best we can with windows since they haven't been changed since 1963. The wind blows through them and the heating system needs to be redone and fire sprinklers should be in that building. We could tone it down to reasonable money and not \$1.4 million and have a place that is livable because I don't see Hackett Hill getting done in the near future.

Alderman Shea asked how long do you anticipate Station 9 if it were to be renovated to be in existence without the need for other facilities in that section of our City?

Mr. Burkush answered I think that area is built up as much as it can be now. We have the new Airport access road so there isn't much land left that is available.

Alderman Shea responded but I am saying, do you envision that Station 9, if it were renovated, would service the needs of that section of the City for the next 20 years or 15 years or...

Mr. Burkush interjected a good renovation would last at least 20 years.

Alderman Shea asked so you wouldn't say that there would be any additional facilities that would be needed there if we were to provide you with the necessary funding now for the next 20 years? Is that what you are saying?

Mr. Burkush answered yes. I don't see that neighborhood changing or the needs changing in that neighborhood. It is not like there is going to be a significant development in that area that I can foresee.

Alderman O'Neil stated I don't disagree that the facility is tired and needs rehabilitation but something we have failed to do in this City for many years...I think the Chief used the term and I wrote it down "strategic plan." I have been here 16 years and I have never seen a strategic plan for the Fire Department or Police Department regarding facilities. I know we have had...and I don't mean to shift over to Police but I see the same issue with spending \$300,000 to do a study on whether or not we can put an addition on there. I think there needs to be a strategic plan by both departments on where we are going in the next 10 or 15 years. They obviously have to work with the Planning Department on it. I know there are a lot of different opinions by Aldermen on our public safety facilities. Originally I had concern about the number, \$1.4 million, and was that enough to do everything that I was told was going to be done. I was told there were going to be at least one or two new apparatus bays put on. I don't think that can be done for \$1.4 million. If there is money that we can commit to rehab and fix the windows and the ventilation system, I am just seeing Mr. Clougherty's letter tonight for the first time, I am not opposed to that. Without spending money for a consultant I would like to see both the Police Department and the Fire Department do a strategic plan on their facilities. We have heard discussions about...five or six years ago or maybe longer than that when Chief Driscoll was still here we passed a bond for a brand new police station. The problem was we never had land to put it on so that went away. Do we need a new police station? I spoke to Chief Mara earlier today. He believes we need a new facility. There are others that think we can do an addition on the site. I don't want to put Deputy Chief Simmons on the spot. He may agree with putting an addition on the site. Alderman Lopez thought we could take over some of the space of the Central Fire Station next door. Years ago I can remember having a discussion that it would be cheaper for us to move the fire operations out of 100 Merrimack Street, not the second floor but the apparatus that is based there with the people living there. Then we would build a fire station someplace else in the City and give the Police Department the whole first floor and keep fire operations and dispatch upstairs. I think we need to have some kind...and again I will go back to Chief Burkush's comment about a strategic plan. I think we need both departments to spend the next six months or more coming up with a strategic plan for the next quarter of a century. We continue to do these band-aid approaches. We were forced to build a

brand new fire station out at Cohas Avenue because the City grew. We never took a look at the delivery of fire services out there as the City grew. Then it grew to the extent that we were not providing adequate facilities and we actually had a death that in my opinion led to the serious discussion about it. Chief, I have a couple of questions for you regarding this. Am I correct that originally the plan for the budgeted amount was for new bays?

Mr. Burkush responded we talked about what we were looking to do and I think we have toned it down significantly. I think it needs in the short-term...I think committing money to it is worthwhile.

Alderman O'Neil asked was there a price tag for putting those new apparatus bays on?

Mr. Burkush answered no. I think Tim estimated it was going to be \$475,000 just to put a bay on the building. Since then we have re-looked at it and said let's tone it down and make it a more livable single bay station.

Alderman O'Neil asked so when you talk about rehab are you talking about rehabbing it on its existing footprint?

Mr. Burkush replied maybe there will be a small addition for a community room because it is a neighborhood type fire station, but that would be it. We would not be looking to put a large apparatus bay on it.

Alderman O'Neil asked do we have a cost for the community room?

Mr. Burkush answered I talked to Tim and he was waiting for a commitment on the amount of money that is funded and we will go forward from there.

Alderman O'Neil asked during the rehab and the small addition, will the station still be in service or will the firefighters need to be relocated?

Mr. Burkush responded I think at some point the firefighters will be relocated for a few months as they have been during other station rehabs.

Alderman O'Neil asked so more or less you and the Facilities Division of Public Works are waiting on what is the amount we fund and you are going to try to make something work for that amount?

Mr. Burkush answered that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked is there any way we can get from the Facilities group...and the Public Works Director is here, some type of price range for if we do what originally was thought it is this cost and if we do more of a rehab staying on the same footprint it will be this much and then if we do the small addition for a community room it is this much? We have no breakdown on any of this stuff. I have no idea what \$1.4 million buys. I am not blaming anyone. We just don't have any detail on it.

Chairman Garrity responded maybe I can answer your question Alderman. Originally it was \$1.6 million because that is what it cost for Station 2. That is the number they used. Obviously this is a smaller station so it was \$1.4 million in the Mayor's budget. The Chief is right, we toned it down a little bit but the \$1.4 million does include a bay. Is that right, Chief?

Mr. Burkush replied I believe so.

Chairman Garrity stated so that includes a bay, which is \$475,000.

Alderman O'Neil asked so are you saying then if we took out the bay it is a \$1 million project including adding the community room?

Mr. Burkush answered I don't have the numbers, Alderman.

Chairman Garrity asked Kevin Sheppard, can you help us out? You probably don't know. I had a conversation with Tim Clougherty today and he had a previous engagement so he couldn't make it this evening.

Mr. Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, stated the budget...as Chief Burkush was saying, we would do everything we could to try to get everything the Chief wants within that budget. Obviously we don't know until we get into design what will be able to fit into the \$1.4 million. I believe the additional bay that is being considered is part of that \$1.4 million. Maybe we will have to cut back on other pieces of that project and I know those are discussions that our Facilities Manager and Chief Burkush had. The Fire Department has to help us set the priorities for that fire station but we could provide further back-up if that is what you would like.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think we need some more details on what the \$1.4 million buys. We have known with other projects what we were getting like Derryfield Country Club, South Main Street fire station, etcetera. I think we need some more detailed information on this as to what \$1.4 million is buying us.

Chairman Garrity responded I would agree with you, Alderman O'Neil.

Alderman O'Neil stated secondly, and this won't necessarily predicate my vote at the end of the day on CIP but I can't implore everyone more that we need to direct the Police and Fire Departments to do a strategic facilities plan internally. I don't think right now they need a consultant to come in and help them. They need to figure out where they are going. They have all kinds of data based on calls for service, what the types of calls are, how many personnel are involved, etcetera, and I think we need to do a little internal work within both departments. At Police it is probably one facility but the West Side precinct talk continues to resurface. I thought it went away but it hasn't so we need to take a look at that. Can that be part of the solution for solving their facilities problems? A new police station with a West Side precinct? I don't know. Secondly, every move we make with a fire station has an effect on the next fire station, so that is where I think a strategic plan by them would be helpful. If we rehab Station 9, what does that do to the service in the rest of the City of Manchester? It may have no impact. It may have some impact in the future. I would like to see how this all ties together with Hackett Hill and I am sure Mammoth Road and Harvey Road are coming up on 30 years old at some point here.

Chairman Garrity asked on Station 9 do I think we need a bay down there? I don't think we do. I think the important thing is we need to make it livable down there for the guys. It is pretty bad.

Alderman Gatsas stated Chief, I am not an expert on deployment time but I would say if you were going to place a station today, if you didn't have the one on Calef Road and you had to pick a spot to place a station in the North End you wouldn't put it where it is at.

Mr. Burkush responded not a modern station, but there are other considerations when we look at fire stations. In the history of the City I can remember Webster Street station specifically. The Fire Department did not want to put it there, but again, it was a neighborhood issue. It becomes a neighborhood issue. Webster Street was that way. I believe Somerville Street...with the information we gathered, it came back and was changed to fit the neighborhood. So there is a component in this City of neighborhoods that people want service and they want their neighborhood fire stations.

Alderman Gatsas stated but I think those times have changed drastically from the neighborhood stations where there was a lot of interaction in those neighborhoods because the neighborhoods have expanded. So if I was to ask you what is your time to get from Calef Road to Trolley Crossing, the furthest point that you have to service in that ward, what is your travel time?

Mr. Burkush replied probably over eight minutes I think.

Alderman Gatsas stated obviously you didn't think that Calef Road was the best location for a new station because you were looking at the land that takes you further south. So again my question is if you were laying out a new station today and there was not one on Calef Road, would you choose the land on Calef Road or would you move further south?

Mr. Burkush responded obviously I would move the station further south but there were other reasons. We need a training facility and that parcel was almost six acres of land so we could put a training facility at that location.

Alderman Gatsas asked what training facility?

Mr. Burkush answered that is just it. We don't have one but we could if we...

Alderman Gatsas interjected oh training. I thought you said train.

Mr. Burkush stated well Station 9 is currently there. It is what it is and it would be a lot less money...if you ask me if I want to take the money to rehab a falling down station right now, I would probably say yes because I know in reality I am not going to get \$5 million to build a new fire station.

Alderman Gatsas replied let me just help you out because renovating that 7,400 square feet is \$188/square foot. I could probably tear that one down and build you a new one cheaper.

Chairman Garrity stated but that is with the added bay too.

Alderman Gatsas stated I could build you one cheaper if I tore it down. That is \$188 per square foot.

Alderman Shea stated what I would be primarily interested in and I am not sure if Tim Clougherty is going to do it but a timeline as far as what are we going to get for \$200,000, what are we going to get for \$600,000 and so on. That way we can make a judgment concerning where we stand in terms of what we are getting for our buck. Rather than saying for \$1.4 million this is going to happen, give us some kind of an indication as to what we can do to make the station at present more livable at least from the point of view of the men going in and out of that station and try to find out from that point of view where we are going to go tying in with what Alderman O'Neil said in terms of strategic planning for Fire, Police and so forth. I think that we have to know what we are approving and what we are going to get. Would that be an impossible task, Kevin?

Mr. Sheppard responded no. Working with Chief Burkush we can build that budget and give you an estimate.

Alderman Shea stated and take into consideration those things that he said he needed like new windows, etcetera. Those are the important things in my point of view.

Chairman Garrity stated Chief, we recently spent \$1.6 million on Engine 2. Is that station in the place you would like it?

Mr. Burkush replied I would say it is okay. I haven't studied that location.

Alderman O'Neil stated I think one of the things...as I mentioned earlier the strategic plan that I would ask the Chief to do I think with the present day computer systems they can look at where the calls for service are, who responds to them, what types of calls they are and I think that can be part of the strategic plan to figure out how can we best provide the facilities to deliver those services in the future. I think the Police Department portion is important. It is not uncommon in cities the size of Manchester or cities bigger than Manchester where they have a neighborhood police station. Deputy Chief Simmons is probably going to get mad at me for calling it a precinct. I know that is not one of his favorite words but times have changed. Cities are incorporating multiple facilities into one building. It is not uncommon to have a fire station with a library or something like that. We always seem to be very parochial. We are going to build a police station. We are going to build a library. We never seem to tie city government in general together and at least if we knew what the strategic plan was from a facilities standpoint from both departments, we could then put it together. I am going to talk about the West Side. The Chief may say, you know what, at some point we are going to need to build a new station in the center of the West Side. We know the building that was built on Amory Street was a response to a fire station that burned down. It was a very low budget, cheaply-built building. We would not build a fire station normally like that but it may be an opportunity down the road, maybe 10 or 15 years from now to say we are going to build a new fire station in the center of the West Side and we are going to have offices for the Police Department there or offices for other departments. That is the strategic plan I am talking about.

Alderman Smith asked Kevin, on the South Main Street fire station we had Eric Krueger there and we met with the Chief on a monthly basis and everything was planned and we proceeded right along and the plan didn't deviate from what the Fire Department wanted. Couldn't you do the same thing with regards to Station 9 that we did in Station 2?

Mr. Sheppard answered yes and I believe that is what Alderman Shea was asking for, some type of breakdown of costs and what we get for the costs based on priorities of the Fire Department.

Alderman Smith stated there was a West Side precinct over on Clinton Street at one time. I just want you to know that the West Side had police protection.

Alderman O'Neil asked am I correct that if we held a spot for it it doesn't necessarily mean we have to spend the money or the full amount of the money in the CIP? Maybe Pam can answer that.

Ms. Pam Goucher, Interim Planning Director, stated I will let Sam answer that.

Mr. Sam Maranto, CIP, responded we can authorize the funding but it doesn't mean that Finance has to go out and sell the bond later on if it is determined you don't need all of those funds.

Alderman O'Neil asked so even if we approved it at its dollar amount today it doesn't necessarily mean we do the project?

Mr. Maranto answered that is correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated very similar to the police station that was once approved for \$13 or \$15 million and never got built.

Mr. Maranto replied correct.

Alderman Gatsas stated then we moved the funding that we had in place to another project.

Mr. Maranto responded right.

Alderman Gatsas asked Alderman Shea, can you remind me what that project was?

Alderman Shea answered it probably went up to Derryfield Park.

Alderman Gatsas replied I don't think that is where it went.

Alderman Shea stated it has gone everywhere but what I was going to say is if, in fact, we were to, as Alderman O'Neil said, put a bond in that would obviously add to the tax rate, which I think we are looking at. I am not willing to do that at this stage. I would like to see exactly what it would cost us because we do have

problems with our tax rate and we have to work together. Everyone is going to have to sacrifice no matter who it is – Fire, Police, Highway, Schools, whatever. We are going to have to look at everything.

Chairman Garrity stated I think \$1.4 million builds you a rehab that is like the Taj Mahal. I don't think that is necessary. I think we just need to make the place livable. That is absolutely necessary. Is it going to cost \$1.4 million? I don't think so.

Alderman Lopez stated in looking at some of the things here, I think it is possible that some of the renovations could take place to make the living conditions better and I am willing to agree to that but I do not agree with bonding \$1.4 million at this time until we have a final budget analysis going forward. I can think of other major things that I could use or the Aldermen could use \$1.4 million for.

Alderman DeVries stated Chief, there is no doubt that Station 9 needs a facelift. It was in deplorable conditions when I was on the department and I can tell you after being there last year for the park opening that it hasn't improved, so there is no doubt that there is a need for a facelift at Station 9. What I had suggested at the prior meeting that Alderman Lopez has been speaking to was that the City go ahead and look at, as part of their strategic plan, collaborations with our surrounding communities. I don't know if we have had a detailed conversation on the possibilities for Hackett Hill but two years ago I had the Mayor sit down with the Town Manager from Hooksett and a couple of their Selectmen and they had considerable interest in collaborating with the City of Manchester in one fire station in the region of Hackett Hill. I am not saying whether it would be located in Manchester or Hooksett but collaborating to save both communities tax dollars. I was just suggesting a couple of weeks ago that there could be similar conversation with Londonderry, not with Litchfield but with Londonderry because in Londonderry there will be shortly in the next few years a new thousand acre industrial park. I don't have any idea what the plans are for protection of north Londonderry but I am curious to have that conversation to see if there is, again, any opportunity for collaboration and the savings of tax dollars, maybe even folding in the Airport operations. You may find that if several of these departments are working together, towns and the Airport working together, maybe we could finally get that training facility that would be very worthwhile for our communities if we look regional. I don't know that that can come about immediately because in Londonderry I don't know what their immediate needs would be obviously. They will be building that industrial park. It is not built today but within that they will have their own master plan on what they need for fire protection. I couldn't agree more with Alderman O'Neil that in this City we need to have a strategic plan for Fire and Police. We have had some conversation on that and I truly believe that we need to look at all of our opportunities and plan

how we are going to go about building out both of these departments so that we make the best use of not only our opportunities but our tax dollars. I am hoping that that can go forward since we have had some good conversations about it and that we can get the strategic planning initiated this year. I would agree that at least on some level...and I am hoping that it is nowhere near \$1.4 million, that we can rehab Station 9 because I do think that will be the station in service at least for the next several years. We need to make that a better living condition for the firefighters that are stationed there today but please look to the area south of Station 9 because most Manchester residents don't even realize that we have streets on the other side of Corning Road, which is a road in Litchfield, and Robert Hall, which is the other piece in Londonderry. Then, Barbara Lane and Vandora, which are even further south of Trolley Crossing. It is a piece of Manchester that has gone with inadequate protection from both Police and Fire and their needs are not huge or I am sure you would have heard from them before but when you need the emergency services, you need them quickly and not an eight or ten minute response time. So I am sure that part of your strategic plan is going to be looking at that area of the City and seeing how we can better cover that, but I am hoping that we do not spend considerable tax dollars today on something that we regret three years from now when we have the opportunity to really plan it out and build what we need for the City.

Chairman Garrity stated I have a suggestion for the Committee and that is that Tim Clougherty and Kevin Sheppard meet with Chief Burkush to figure out how much it is going to cost to make the place livable. When you guys go down to the station tell them when you are going to be there and they will just walk around with you and tell you what is wrong with the place.

Alderman Shea asked Sam, when Mr. MacKenzie was here we got a little bit of insight into the new Master Plan. Would the Master Plan or has the Master Plan any kind of provisions for Fire, Police and so forth? Are they considering such things as strategic plans like Alderman O'Neil is talking about?

Ms. Goucher answered it is one of the areas within the Master Plan that we are looking at – Community Facilities Public Infrastructure. That chapter of the Master Plan, if you will, has not been completed. We have about half of the chapters completed but that is definitely something that will be looked at.

Alderman Shea asked when do you envision it being completed? Sometime in 2008 or 2009?

Ms. Goucher answered before Mr. MacKenzie left he had said this spring. I am meeting with the steering committee this Wednesday and we are actually going to be looking at a completion date and I am hoping that the end of the summer is a more realistic timeframe.

Alderman Shea stated I know initially there were thoughts about it being completed in April 2008. You are saying now it would be completed possibly in September?

Ms. Goucher responded I am hoping by the end of summer or beginning of fall we have a document to look at.

Alderman Shea stated so this is another thing that we should take into consideration.

Ms. Goucher stated if I could just add one item about fire stations, as you know back in the 1990's when we implemented some impact fees for schools and fire stations there are two areas of the City where we still currently collect impact fees for Fire and that is the Hackett Hill and Cohas area. There is not a lot in there because the amounts that were collected were fairly small compared to what we collect for the school impact fees for the whole City but given what the discussion has been tonight about the potential for some areas needing additional bays, that is capacity and I don't think back in the 1990's we were talking about capacity issues other than in those two locations – Hackett Hill and Cohas. So perhaps one of the things that needs to be looked at is if there are capacity issues throughout the City that might mean we need to look at the impact fees and the methodology that was used back then to see whether or not we need to collect impact fees throughout the City and not just in two designated areas.

Alderman O'Neil asked Mr. Chairman if I understood your recommendation it was to ask the Facilities Division to come back with a budget?

Chairman Garrity answered correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated you mentioned a community room. I think that was well done up at Station 7. I don't know how often it is put to use but I know sometimes it is put to use by the residents of the area. That is not a bad idea. Also we may want to look at if we are going to stay...my guess is that Station 9 is going to have to stay in place for some period of time even if the strategic plan is done so maybe we should consider...and they don't take up a lot of space but maybe we want to make it a mini police substation as well. At the one over on Maple Street, there is enough room for maybe two desks but they are hooked up to the system. To me it

is better than being in these trailers that they are in some of the locations in the City. We may want to look at that as part of it. A budget would be good. I don't know, is it this Committee's prerogative to ask the departments for a strategic plan or to start the process of a strategic plan or is that something the full Board should do?

Chairman Garrity responded I don't know the answer to that question.

Alderman O'Neil stated just one other point, and this ties into...and I apologize because I am digressing a little bit from Station 9 but Alderman DeVries' discussion regarding Hackett Hill...I just read in the newspaper, and Alderman Mark Roy was trying to look up for me, I know I saw in the paper that there is a fire station and I don't know the exact location but it houses a Revere piece of fire apparatus and some surrounding town and we were trying to figure out some of the surrounding towns. Very innovative. I don't really know but maybe Chief Burkush can do some research on how that took place. It is very innovative on how two cities are sharing a fire station. Maybe that is what we need to be looking at for Hackett Hill or the extreme southeast section of the City.

Chairman Garrity stated let's move on. That was an hour long discussion.

Alderman O'Neil stated well that was an important discussion and if we don't talk about the future and just kind of live year to year that is where we get into these budget problems.

Chairman Garrity asked Alderman Lopez, do you want to continue with your communication?

Alderman Lopez asked are you talking about the police station?

Chairman Garrity answered yes.

Alderman Lopez stated I believe that we have in-house people who can go down to the fire station and say what can be done there. I think in-house people can go down and see if we can do what I said. Again, I must say I am not talking about something overnight. Let's take this year that is a very lean year and I agree with Alderman O'Neil and I think we might need to go to the Board regarding directing them to do a strategic plan, or that would be my opinion, but I think we need to really look at this thing. Everybody wants something; there is no question about that. Sometimes the obvious thing is, well, let's do this or we are not going to do that. The Highway Department needs a new building. We had many discussions and I think Alderman O'Neil, Kevin Sheppard, Frank Thomas and I sat down month after month. It is not a new idea that we do it in three phases. The money

is there in the end. I think CIP will tell you we have a five year program and if we lay out a plan for five years and say in three years we are going to do this and in two years we are going to do that, that is how a lot of things got done in this City. Sam, I think just to verify we have a five year plan on many things in the City but we don't have enough money to do them so we have to take the priorities and build on them. I can remember when this Board said, okay we are going to put \$200,000 away this year and \$200,000 away next year and \$300,000 to buy a truck for the Fire Department. Remember that? I think we need to do those things but I strongly agree and I am going to leave it up to the Police Department to bring something back. If they decide they need a new Police Station and we don't have the money for it, what is the next option? We need a West Side precinct. We don't have the money for it, so what is the next option? My simple option in the meantime, while we do all of these things, is if there is a way to utilize one of the bays of the Fire Department and put a wall up and put the lockers down there that would give you more space temporarily. It is not what you want. It is not the Taj Mahal but until we have the final documents that tell us how we are moving forward I think that is the way I would like to go.

Chairman Garrity asked Alderman Lopez, would you like to expand to your questions about the trails?

Alderman Lopez stated I brought up the trail there and I wanted to find out what the obligation was on bonding \$450,000 for a trail at this time and why it couldn't wait until 2010. Is there some obligation here?

Chairman Garrity responded I think there are some grant funds from the state.

Alderman Lopez asked Sam, can you tell me why we need to spend \$450,000 on a trail at this stage?

Chairman Garrity stated I think it is part of the Parks Master Plan.

Mr. Maranto stated yes it is.

Alderman Lopez responded I realize that, but is there other money or is this \$450,000 bonding for the trails?

Mr. Maranto replied for this particular project it is strictly bond funds. It is actually several million dollars over multi-years. This is just one portion of that trail. In terms of the recreational master plan, it was very much desired by the citizens that were surveyed that they were looking for recreational facilities and this was consistent with the Master Plan as well. We felt that it was important to invest in the bike trail throughout the City. The other funding you were talking

about with the grant was a recreational trail, which we have state funds for. This would be strictly bond funds.

Alderman Lopez asked this is strictly bond funds? If we don't bond this we don't get the state money?

Mr. Maranto answered this is strictly bond funds right now.

Alderman Lopez asked and that is a top priority versus other things in the City?

Mr. Maranto answered that was one of the higher priorities in terms of...when we did the recreational survey in terms of what the community wanted to see. A bicycle path ranked very high in that.

Alderman Lopez stated right and I sat in some of those meetings but I am saying in 2009 and going into the FY2010 budget is that the most important thing or is it more important for us to buy vehicles in order to keep moving forward?

Mr. Maranto responded that is a policy decision.

Alderman Lopez replied I knew that was going to be your answer before you said it. I think at this time that spending \$450,000 on trails is not the best use in the situation we are in.

Alderman O'Neil asked Sam in the basic description in the packet it says partial construction. Can you define what partial construction means?

Mr. Maranto answered the request was actually for \$850,000 for that project. In terms of the bonding capacity we felt that it was an important project that we wanted to initiate but we couldn't come up with the entire \$850,000 so we figured we would do part of it for now and fund the rest at a future date. Like I said, I think there is a three or four year multi-phase for that project.

Alderman O'Neil asked so what does the \$450,000 buy us?

Mr. Maranto answered based on \$850,000 I imagine it would be half of what it says from Spring Garden to Gold Street. Maybe Chuck could explain more.

Alderman O'Neil asked some of that is done already isn't it?

Ms. Goucher answered part of that trail is done but they are doing it in increments and sections at a time and I think what Sam is trying to explain is \$450,000 isn't going to do that whole portion.

Alderman O'Neil replied I understand that Pam. My question is how far does it go now? Where is it starting and where is the \$450,000 finishing?

Chairman Garrity stated I was under the impression that this was for up by Lake Massabesic.

Alderman O'Neil asked is this an item that we can get some further information on. Before Chuck speaks we could make a policy decision if we wanted to put this \$450,000 to work doing something else and for some reason I think Chief Burkush, \$500,000 might get us a Pumper if we decided the \$450,000 with a...

Mr. Maranto answered now you are talking about life terms. A Pumper may not be bonded. You may want to pay cash for that.

Alderman O'Neil responded that is not my question to you. That is a policy decision of the Board if we want to bond a Pumper. Last year we paid cash but for most of my time here we have bonded Pumpers. The life expectancy is 15 to 20 and knowing us we are probably getting 25 years out of them so that is a bondable item correct? We know we have spent tens of thousands of dollars on rust repair so we have to do something with the fleet but we could take that \$450,000 and put it, if we decided our priority was to purchase a fire truck, we could put the \$450,000 towards that.

Mr. Maranto stated yes.

Alderman O'Neil asked Mr. DePrima, what does the \$450,000 buy us?

Mr. Chuck DePrima, Acting Parks & Recreation Director, answered right now I have the engineer who did the original design looking at that to find out what that buys us. In my opinion the next logical point for that trail to break off since...the \$850,000 that I originally requested was to get us to Goffs Falls Road. We know we can't do that now. In my opinion the next logical point would be to the commercial area near Toys R Us. That is where we are hoping the \$450,000 will get us.

Alderman O'Neil asked Chuck, how are you paying for the engineer to do the work? Is that something we already approved?

Mr. DePrima answered yes, it was approved several years ago. The design was complete as part of the original funding all the way to Goffs Falls Road. When we did the construction we were only able to get to Gold Street so the engineering is complete.

Alderman O'Neil asked so this would go from Gold Street further south?

Mr. DePrima answered correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked so this would get us from Gold...can you get back to us with a ballpark of...you said it doesn't get you all the way to Goffs Falls so does it get you to the Interstate? Alderman Gatsas said that Toy R Us is the other side of the Interstate so...

Mr. DePrima answered right.

Alderman O'Neil asked this is strictly construction dollars? This was already designed?

Mr. DePrima answered correct.

Alderman O'Neil asked we don't need to pay a consultant any more money for design?

Mr. DePrima answered we need to pay them a little bit more money to repackage the project to bid it out in that phase.

Alderman O'Neil asked can we just get some detail on what the \$450,000 gets us? It is not buying us all construction then?

Mr. DePrima answered most of it is.

Alderman O'Neil asked how old a number is the \$450,000?

Mr. DePrima answered it is essentially half of my request for the entire project for this year so it is fairly recent.

Alderman O'Neil asked so we think that \$450,000 will get us to Toys R Us? We don't know until we bid it obviously.

Mr. DePrima responded exactly.

Alderman Shea stated Chuck we do have an existing area there where people either ride bikes or walk. Do we have any idea how many pedestrians or how much use there is of these trails in terms of the number of people and so forth? Do you have any statistics on that?

Mr. DePrima responded I do actually. The state, when the project was finished, actually requested that we do a count out there and on an average day we estimated roughly 350 people a day, or actually in an eight hour period, use that trail.

Alderman Shea asked you said 250 people a day?

Mr. DePrima answered 350 people in the eight hour period that we monitored.

Alderman Shea asked they walked from in back of Shaws down to...

Mr. DePrima interjected yes from Shaws to the Beech Hill apartments or to the Gold Street neighborhoods.

Alderman Shea asked and that is in good weather? In the winter time do they still do that?

Mr. DePrima answered probably not because we don't plow that or maintain that in the winter time.

Chairman Garrity stated I can tell you there are a lot of people down there.

Alderman Shea asked is this in your ward too? We are talking about a fire station first and this second?

Alderman O'Neil asked Chuck is there a logical point...it sounds like the \$450,000 gets you about halfway but is there a logical point behind Toys R Us where people could get off the trail and is that part of this \$450,000? Are you taking it to that point? Do you follow me?

Mr. DePrima replied I think I do. There is a large parking lot there where people could exit the trail into that South Willow Street...

Alderman O'Neil interjected so the \$450,000 gets us to the Toys R Us parking lot?

Mr. DePrima responded that is what we are hoping.

Alderman O'Neil asked and we know we can get access by Toys R Us for the public to be on their property and all of that?

Mr. DePrima answered they would just be exiting from City property onto commercial property.

Alderman O'Neil responded well that can be an issue going onto private property. Any of the Rails to Trails we have done so far has been public property to public property.

Chairman O'Neil stated I will let Alderman DeVries speak to this because she spent a lot of time on it.

Alderman DeVries stated I can't answer Alderman O'Neil's specific question about the access point being on private property or near private property except to state that Shaws when we developed the first part of this plan was very instrumental and worked with all concerned parties to help with the access point and have really facilitated a nice jump off spot. They allow the parking there and it is to the rear of their facility. One of the beauties of partnering...the trail was obviously laid out with the rail line but having Shaws developed at the same time and be so close. One of my favorite times was when the Moore Center had been located up on Mystic Street and watching individuals who are in motorized wheelchairs and wheelchairs being able to motor their way down from the Mystic Street area by utilizing the trail and the access points into the neighborhoods and go shopping at Shaws. It really brought freedom to that group. So it is not just the traditional users that you might think of like families with young children on bikes and pedestrians and dog walkers. It really does bring a world of access because it is all ADA compliance. Hopping off and getting closer to Goffs Falls I think is instrumental at some point when we finally do reach Goffs Falls. We have one final leg that we need to have designed and laid out that will hopefully connect us on to the bike/pedestrian trail that should be constructed as part of the I-93 project. That is going to come all the way from Salem up to Manchester and stop just shy of the Airport. We are getting closer and closer to being able to get significant connectivity of our bike/pedestrian pathways and that is a good thing and I think most of the residents that have been on them have resoundingly applauded our efforts.

Alderman O'Neil stated not to debate this but I agree with what Alderman DeVries said. Between South Beech Street and Gold Street it opened up a whole new world for the residents all along there with Nutts Pond because it is in the back of Nutts Pond and Shaws and the other businesses in that mall. I am not sure this section right now opens up that same world if we head south from Gold Street right now. I tend to agree with Alderman Lopez as to whether this is something we can wait a little bit on.

Alderman Lopez stated I just want to make it very clear that I am for bike paths. I spent 18 years on the Parks & Recreation Commission but to do this project at this time I would not vote for it for the simple reason that you can't just walk...in the area that the Alderman was just talking about I was there and it is great for the

Little League and everything and it is a great area out there. There is no question about that whatsoever. We have a Hands Across the Merrimack bridge and we are going to go all the way to the Piscataquog. There are plenty of places to walk in the City of Manchester. This is not the right time and it should be done maybe in a year when we get over this tough year. This is a tough year like we all said before. I don't think it is a good idea to bond \$450,000 for something like this. Now I want the Committee to go over this \$450,000 for toters and a truck. Is this an obligation for the toters and the truck or just the toters? In answering that question do we keep stock on hand and what kind of stock do we have on hand and what is the procedure?

Mr. Sheppard stated the contract calls for Corcoran Environmental to actually purchase the toters and the City to reimburse them. It is actually \$400,000 to \$450,000 over five years. It is almost \$2 million to purchase toters for the complete recycling program. As far as the truck goes, the contract also calls for once they get to a certain point and the numbers justify the need for another truck. They would purchase it and be reimbursed by the City versus front loading the contract and saying they are going to need four trucks at some point in the future and you are going to pay for that Day 1. The City said start with Day 1 and we will give you the ability to add trucks at some point in the future. This is part of the single stream recycling program. Our hope is that we will get this program going and our hope is that this single stream program will reduce our curbside tonnage or solid waste tonnage, which will in turn save the City money. So I guess this is...it is part of the contract. We can negotiate anything out of the contract potentially but it is part of the contract so at this point I don't think it can be removed. Hopefully this is an investment in the future. We will be saving solid waste tonnage costs down the road.

Alderman Lopez responded I understand that. Let's say that Corcoran goes out of town. Do we have to give them \$450,000 or up to \$2 million?

Mr. Sheppard replied I can't answer that. It may be more of a legal question as far as the contract goes. Right now our contract says...

Alderman Lopez interjected shouldn't we wait until we know what they are going to do? This has gone on long enough. If they move out the City tomorrow and we are committing \$450,000...Mr. Arnold can you help us out here? I know you might not be prepared for it but can you give us some advice?

Mr. Thomas Arnold, Deputy City Solicitor, responded unfortunately Alderman, I am not familiar enough with that contract to be able to answer your specific question.

Mr. Sheppard stated I can attempt to answer that question. Even if they do go out of town, I guess it would be up to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen whether they want to pursue the single stream recycling. I think there are benefits to the single stream recycling, and with single stream recycling you typically use a toter so whether Corcoran is providing that service I think these toters are an important part of that project.

Chairman Garrity asked Mr. Arnold, if you are not familiar with the contract who is?

Mr. Arnold responded Mr. Clark has been working on this project primarily. If I had been aware, I certainly would have become familiar with the contract but I didn't know.

Chairman Garrity asked did anybody in your office read the agenda?

Mr. Arnold replied I couldn't answer for Mr. Clark. I took the last three days off and I first saw it this morning.

Chairman Garrity stated it is right here. It is a request from Alderman Lopez and you didn't think a contract question was going to come up about recycling and toters and buying trucks? I just hate to have two meetings when we really only need to have one. I would like to have the staff who have the knowledge here to answer the questions.

Alderman M. Roy stated as Chair of the Solid Waste Committee, I can answer that. Attorney Clark has answered this question for us. If the contractor decides to go out of town it would be a change in the contract which would bring, much like the revenue situation when we were talking about the location, the entire contract to come back into light so all of the recycling program would be up for discussion, which would include the toters, as well as the truck. That being said, the toters and the truck as Mr. Sheppard mentioned, are part of our future efficiencies in the Highway Department in reducing our waste stream and putting it into the recycling stream. Those are really in my eyes things that we are paying for in order to get the revenues, which is the reduction of cost we are paying Waste Management to haul away our garbage. So even though there are costs there is a very good benefit from this.

Alderman Shea asked Kevin, when would you need to have these items in place?

Mr. Sheppard answered the first payment is based on the opening of the single stream facility. Like I said, it is a five year program to purchase the toters and the first year was based on the opening of the facility, which right now per the contract is March 2009.

Alderman Shea asked it would be 2009?

Mr. Sheppard answered March 2009 correct.

Alderman Shea stated so basically it would have to be included in the 2009 CIP budget in order for these things to be actualized.

Mr. Sheppard responded correct, and we have not heard otherwise that they are not on track to hopefully meet that date.

Alderman Shea asked is there any type of thinking in your mind that if we were not to include it in the 2009 CIP budget that they would...would they allow you to come aboard in say July 2009?

Mr. Sheppard answered their thought is that they want the City to go single stream as soon as their facility is available, so I am not sure how willing they would be to reconsider that section of the contract.

Alderman Shea asked how would you go single stream? In other words would that take place regardless of what their particular decision is regarding recycling or is that something that is predicated upon that?

Mr. Sheppard answered the contract calls for Corcoran Environmental to have a single stream facility and provide single stream services to the City of Manchester by March 2009.

Alderman Shea asked will they be able to do that though?

Mr. Sheppard answered I believe at the last Solid Waste Committee meeting or maybe the Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting they said they are looking at a site or sites and they believe they can meet that March 2009 date. That is the last we heard from them.

Alderman Shea stated it is now May 2008. They haven't picked a site yet. Let's assume that through all of the negotiations and so forth they decide that in September they are ready. Would they be up and running by March 2009?

Mr. Sheppard replied it is difficult for me to say. It depends on the site they choose. I know one of the sites they looked at had an existing building on it so basically they would just have to bring the machinery in. Again, a month ago they were saying that they could be on a site and open by March 2009. Is it feasible? I think it is feasible. Sure, come September if they wait until September it becomes less feasible but today I cannot say that that will not happen.

Alderman Shea responded but still there are a lot of negotiations going on at the Aldermanic Board regarding a site and so forth. What I am saying is if we set aside \$450,000 in bonding, which we could obviously use this year for other things, are we just saying in essence that that is going to stay there and not do much? The raiders will be out I am sure and that money will be moved from one place to another but I am just asking should we have it there at all? That is the concern I have and you are saying well it depends.

Mr. Sheppard replied well it does. My concern is if we don't have it there and they are on line the contract does say that the City owes that money.

Alderman Shea stated right and we would have to find a source if we didn't put it in the budget.

Chairman Garrity asked are you all set Alderman Lopez?

Alderman Lopez answered I'm fine. One thing that intrigues me though is the facility has to be up before we are obligated.

Mr. Sheppard stated maybe I should talk to Tom Clark because I am not sure whether the facility has to be operational or whether they can go single stream.

Alderman Lopez responded I understand. The \$450,000 we have to bond it to meet our obligation but Alderman Shea brings up a good point. The longer they wait they will never meet the March 2009 deadline. I don't know what their hold up is.

Chairman Garrity stated we are not going to make any decisions on any of the CIP items tonight I assume. We will have a follow-up meeting.

Alderman Smith stated I would like to take out "consider elimination of all cash projects in CIP". I am definitely opposed to this. I will tell you why. It would wipe out the Highway right-of-way resurfacing of \$500,000. It would wipe out the American Red Cross, Child Health Services, and City Year.

Chairman Garrity asked what are you referring to?

Alderman Smith responded Alderman Lopez's letter where it says "consider elimination of all cash projects in CIP." It is just so severe. We have the Weed & Seed Program and other things like that. I think it is too drastic and we shouldn't consider it at all.

Alderman M. Roy stated with respect to the City cash, we see the same organizations coming in year after year and they are very good organizations and they are people that we want to partner with the City, but it eliminates those start-ups and some of the things that I believe the City cash was destined for years ago. So I would just like the Committee to look at maybe a three year funding or two year funding or start-up funds to get a project going instead of having organizations rely on the City for certain parts of their funding. I would just ask that the Committee look at that as setting a level of whether it is three years or five years that you can remain on the CIP budget and then you have to find those funds somewhere else.

Alderman O'Neil stated with all due respect to my colleague from Ward 1 I look at some of these programs like Boy's Club Inner City After School Program, City Year Young Heroes. Are we including or not including in this discussion the City Weed & Seed and Fun in the Sun? I mean unfortunately they are not one or three year programs. They are ongoing programs. They provide great service to the citizens of this City. My point being although I respect Alderman Mark Roy's point, if we didn't have some of these groups to take up some of these services they would be put on us so I just don't think on the City Cash program that some of these can be eliminated after three years.

Alderman M. Roy responded in the Weed & Seed...and I will use that as a particular, or the Fun in the Sun, I believe those should be ongoing budget items, not necessarily CIP cash. For us to go ahead and put Weed & Seed outside of the Police Department budget I think gives a false number for the Police Department budget. I believe Weed & Seed is very integral to the City. It is something I will always vote for much like Fun in the Sun; two very opposite programs but I believe those should be accounted for in the budgets they belong in.

Alderman Shea stated I find...and I am not sure if cash is that but there is somewhat duplication of services at times and the only thought I had was that somehow we have to gain control over how many different organizations are rendering services to the same group. By that I mean there might be some group that is doing something for a particular group but it is overlapping and another group is within that. The only other point that has been brought up is the fact that many of the organizations that we tend to support within the City do not really pay back in lieu of taxes. There are some and I am not sure how well we examine that

kind of a concept in forming budgets. I think that was brought up by your predecessor, Alderman Pariseau, many times. Times are tough and everyone is going to have to sacrifice so any way we can find to help out would be helpful. I sort of agree that there are certain projects that should be from year to year and I think Alderman Lopez is trying the best he can to look into different situations to see whether or not we can make adjustments. I applaud Alderman Mark Roy for that too. It doesn't hurt to look into things and to analyze and scrutinize.

Alderman Lopez stated I appreciate my colleagues having this discussion. That is all I wanted to accomplish because I think it is important that we know the difference between CIP cash versus operational needs. Alderman O'Neil brought the Drugs and Guns in and all of a sudden we got it into CIP instead of putting it in the Police Department's budget or a special account so we are raiding the CIP in order to help other facilities get along. Secondly, I wanted to bring to the Committee's attention on Table 2 and Sam you can probably help me out here because there are more Table 2 items than in any other CIP budget I have ever seen...

Chairman Garrity interjected Alderman Lopez we are going to stick to the agenda. I am not going to get into Table 2. Your item was CIP Cash and I want to move on to Alderman Shea's request.

Alderman Lopez stated Mr. Chairman if I may please, this has a direct response here because what we are doing in the Community Block Grant Emergency Shelter is we are raiding that particular thing in Table 2.

Chairman Garrity replied I want to stick to the agenda.

Alderman Lopez responded you can stick to the agenda but there will be a full Board meeting on it.

Chairman Garrity stated we can have more discussion on the CIP budget. I just want to get to the established agenda first.

Alderman Lopez replied I am trying to bring the point that we should have discussions on this.

Chairman Garrity responded well you should have put it in your request and we could have had a discussion on it. I want to move on with the agenda.

Alderman Lopez stated my discussion is on CIP Cash and it has a direct effect on Table 2.

Chairman Garrity replied that is not in Table 2.

Alderman Lopez stated in Table 2 for many of these items when you give cash to one and not the other then we are suffering in other community block grants that have been so successful in our City and now we are raiding grants instead of doing CIP Cash.

Alderman Gatsas stated I have a parliamentary question. The CIP budget, isn't that at the Finance Committee? Why are we having these discussions here?

Chairman Garrity answered we have always done it this way.

Alderman Gatsas stated well it was never moved to the full Board. This is now moved to the full Board. Never before other than last year was it ever moved to the full Board. These discussions should be held at the full Board level because that is where the CIP budget currently is. It is not before this Committee anymore. Not that I want to rock the boat but I just like staying with protocol.

Chairman Garrity stated we have been at it for two hours here.

Alderman Lopez stated I can clear that up if you will allow me to. I did make a motion that the CIP Committee...I referred this to the CIP Committee and they were supposed to come out to the next Board meeting regarding what they want to do. If they want to send it to the full Board that is fine too but I did make the motion and it passed the full Board to send it to this Committee.

Chairman Garrity stated I think it is proper that we do the heavy lifting in the Committee rather than at the full Board.

Alderman Gatsas responded this budget though is in the full Board. It is in the possession of the full Board right now, not this Committee. I know it always was before and I don't disagree with you but last year it was moved to the full Board and I think it was overlooked and it was moving along. This one now is at the full Board. If the Board wants to relinquish that position on it that is one thing but it is at the full Board level where the budget is.

Alderman Lopez stated I agree with what you are saying Alderman. I am just saying that at the last meeting when I made the recommendation that all departments send us information I also made a motion that the CIP budget be sent back to the Committee and come back to the full Board by the next meeting. So they can either have recommendations or have no recommendations or whatever the case may be.

b) Communication from Aldermen Shea regarding requests for various drainage improvements projects;

Alderman Shea stated when conditions at Engine 9 were mentioned I have conditions in my ward where people are incurring human waste and so forth and I am trying to get drainage for these people. So South Cypress Street drainage is a project that I would like funded and I would ask Kevin Sheppard to come forward to go through some of these things because some of these things have FEMA costs and so forth. Kevin, I think we have been working on this for at least four years if not six and this is the South Cypress Drain Project, which you indicated you put in for FEMA funding of 75% if that is, in fact, realized and the City would pay 25% but again the cost keeps escalating because obviously we are not taking care of it from year to year. Could you elaborate on this please?

Mr. Sheppard stated everything we know leads us to believe that the FEMA funding will be in place. There is a \$500,000 bond for major drainage in the proposed CIP and the City's 25% would come out of that.

Alderman Shea asked you know this is something that has to be done?

Mr. Sheppard answered definitely, and that is why we went to FEMA. I think I had mentioned once before at some Committee or Board meeting that we actually got a FEMA grant for a section of drainage on Union Street, a small piece on Bodwell Road, as well as South Cypress.

Alderman Shea stated if I may go to the second point, Ruth Avenue, this started with Alderman Pinard I believe when he was there and then obviously with the redistricting I took over. Again, this has escalated in price but these people have appeared before Committees and when the Mayor was in Ward 7 this was brought to his attention by the people who live there. One of the problems as I listed here is that there is a development that is at the Planning Board that will be on Mammoth Road that will exacerbate the situation because you have the area on Gordon Street and Medford and so forth. Again, work should be done. I am not saying I want to take everything because I am not that type but I would like to have the work started and spread around to some other wards possibly and then maybe next year complete it.

Mr. Sheppard replied actually as part of that \$500,000 bond we were hoping to at least begin some work on Ruth Avenue because that has been on the list for quite a long time.

Alderman Shea stated I am just calling this to the Board's attention here. My next item has to do with Prouts Park. I think Chuck is aware, and if he wants to come up...I am trying to get through this quickly because people have to move on in their life. I think Alderman O'Neil has been contacted by the patrons here. When the renovating of Prouts Park took place, and I must say it was over the course of four years rather than one year, one of the problems that was exposed was the drainage problem on the east side of the park and the west side of Jewett Street. Chuck, I believe you can attest to where the water gathers and so forth. Obviously I have tried to get a little pricing there to put drainage so it can connect to the sewage and it is about \$35,000 estimated that would be required to do that. Could you elaborate on the problem there?

Mr. DePrima stated I have been contacted by the same resident and I was made aware, although I haven't been able to look at it really thoroughly, I am aware that there is a water ponding problem out there that could very well be causing flooding in some people's basements.

Alderman Shea replied well the point is that this gentleman has lived there all of his life and I am not sure of his age but he said that within the last few years all of these houses, which are listed as 212, 218 and 220 as well as others who haven't called me, have all incurred this drainage problem because of the renovations at the park. They blocked up some kind of a drain there when they renovated the park because at one time I believe there was some sort of drainage that was possible. I am just calling this to the Board's attention. My last item is the condition of Candia Road as well as Front Street and other roads coming into the City. My point in bringing this up is that we probably would have to come up with some kind of funding for roads entering the City because anyone traveling along Candia Road better get their car realigned every other day because it is really bad there. Obviously I don't have enough money to cover that because we only get \$4,000 or thereabouts. If I threw that in I would only get one or two streets. Do you guys get anything Dan?

Alderman O'Neil responded we don't. We just support all of the ward Aldermen. We don't ask for any paving or reconstruction or any of that.

Alderman Shea replied well you are lucky that you don't get complaints from constituents like I do.

Alderman O'Neil responded well I do get complaints. I was a ward Aldermen once and I know what you are talking about. Just one item, Mr. Chairman, that is not on here. I stopped and talked to Deputy Chief Simmons. I thought DAG was in the CIP. I can't find it. Can we get Deputy Simmons up for a second? It is unclear where it is. Is it in their operating budget? There is some real confusion

for me on this. I thought we had agreed and put some money in there and moved forward but maybe that was only to the end of this fiscal year.

Chairman Garrity asked wasn't this discussed at a full Board meeting? Wasn't the Mayor's Office going to work with...

Alderman O'Neil interjected that is what led me to believe it was in the CIP budget.

Mr. Gary Simmons, Deputy Chief of Police, stated it was in CIP last year. It was put in our request again this year and we just saw the preliminary CIP budget the other day and we didn't see it in there either. Chief Mara does have a meeting with Mayor Guinta tomorrow and planned on bringing that up to see what his intent was on funding that.

Alderman O'Neil asked can we get some response? If it needs to go in CIP somehow we have to figure out how to do it. Alderman Lopez, you seem to be...

Alderman Lopez interjected that is the question I asked the other night and the Chairman said it was in here.

Alderman O'Neil stated I thought based on some of our previous discussions it was in there but I can't find it in the budget.

Mr. Simmons stated I didn't see it in there.

Alderman Lopez asked Sam, can you help us out?

Mr. Maranto answered it was not funded in the budget.

Chairman Garrity stated let's have the meeting take place tomorrow with the new Chief and the Mayor and we will have it on the next agenda.

Alderman Lopez stated it really disappoints me because I was told it was funded the other night when I asked that question.

Alderman Shea stated at least we know now it is not funded so maybe tomorrow it will be.

Alderman Lopez asked can I ask the Deputy Chief a question? Have you received the money from the state or federal government yet?

Mr. Simmons answered no we have not. We have had several conversations and the previous Chief Jaskolka had several conversations. I don't believe Chief Mara has had the opportunity yet. I believe the Mayor has been working with them as well but we still have no final answers on what those numbers are or when that money will come.

- c) Communication from Alderman Smith requesting the mosquito surveillance activities (arboviral surveillance) be discussed and considered for \$10,000 in funding; and

Alderman Smith stated as you well know at a previous Board meeting I brought this up in regards mosquito control and surveillance. I had the CIP request. It was sent on January 21, 2008, and it was denied by the CIP overseers. I imagine Sam that you were involved in this. The whole thing is that we are getting close to mosquito season and these diseases, I will tell you this, New Hampshire led the nation in Triple E cases and two deaths and all we have to have is one situation happen like that and I believe we should put the \$10,000 back into the Health Department. I talked with a few communities and they have a and probably Tim Soucy can do a better job of explaining this than me but they have municipal pest control in the towns of Greenland, Newfields, Newmarket, Portsmouth and Rye. They all pay into this program. I grant you that it is the seacoast area and they have heavy marshes but I will say once that we did get a bird in an area of a park and I would hate to see something happen with our children or adults playing softball. I would request that the \$10,000 be put back in.

- d) Communication from Aldermen Smith asking that the Committee discuss funding for a project at Wolfe Park.

Alderman Smith stated this request is not for funding but it is for your information. As you well know the CSO, combined sewer overflow, has been over in my ward for about five years and they excavated behind Wolfe Park and Fred McNeil talked to me about maybe putting a walkway from McDuffie Street, which is a dead end outside the softball park and down towards Second Street. I talked to Chuck DePrima and he said he would be more than willing to put in some benches. This would open up the area and the Police Department is favorable with it. At this time it is no cost because it is funded with CSO and Parks & Recreation has enough money for one or two benches. It will open up the park area and I would certainly appreciate some movement on this. In other words, I would like to have the two agencies proceed.

Alderman Smith moved to have EPD and Parks & Recreation move forward with plans for a walkway with benches from McDuffie Street by the softball field down

towards Second Street. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. Chairman Garrity called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman M. Roy stated I appreciate your indulgence. I did have Highway send over a letter, which I thought was in compliance with your request to advise you of requests. I have asked that the Campbell Street and Bicentennial intersection go back in the CIP budget. This would not be a large impact to the taxpayer as construction would be in FY2010. As we look at our, to quote my friend and colleague Alderman Shea, wants and needs this is an intersection that is defunct. There are accidents there and there is congestion there. There are quality of life and safety issues also. I would ask that the Committee go ahead and put a placeholder for the design work and eventual construction in FY2010 for the Campbell Street/Hamel intersection. It has been a request of the Highway Department for many years. It has been a failed intersection for many years and anyone who drives through there definitely knows there are safety issues involved. That also being said, after conversations with you, Mr. Chairman, if there is a placeholder put there it allows me as a ward Alderman to approach local businesses and see if they would look to participate, much like your work on Gold Street, in correcting the situation which would also be of benefit to the local businesses. With that being said, I would look for the Committee's indulgence to add this to CIP.

Alderman Shea asked do we have any kind of accident report from that area?

Chairman Garrity replied that is what I was going to ask Deputy Chief Simmons but he has left. Maybe the Clerk's office can get that for us.

Deputy Clerk Normand stated I can get that for the Committee.

Alderman Gatsas stated not that I believe it is time for the City to move or act on a situation but the state is looking to...they looked at a couple of locations to move the courthouse that we know on Chestnut Street to some other locations. They find that the cost would be prohibitive. If they could find a piece of land within the City that they could do it, that building has 72,000 square feet in it. It certainly would be an opportunity for Police to look for a new home across the street. I don't know if the opportunity is there where we could exchange a piece of land for them to build a new courthouse downtown. I don't know if there is any land that the City owns that could do that but it certainly could work hand-in-hand with the problem we have with the police station. Most of that building...the only problem I see is that it doesn't have a garage to get vehicles serviced but I think we probably could leave the service in one building and have the old police station do some renovations and move some of those units that we have outside who are renting space into the police station to get them off the rental roles. I don't know

if there is an opportunity but if someone wants to have the dialogue they should talk to the Commissioner of Administration in Concord. I know that they are moving very quickly on this court issue.

Chairman Garrity asked isn't there some issues with asbestos in there?

Alderman Gatsas answered I believe after the Addison trial is complete they are going to move everybody...and that is another issue that somebody needs to look at in this budget because they are going to move the district court over to where family court is on Amherst Street and they are going to move some of the other courts down to Nashua. We are going to have to send police officers down there. The overtime...I think they got a letter from our department that said it was \$25,000 and they have the number in their budget of \$198,000. I had a conversation with Deputy Chief Simmons tonight to make sure that the number that they are understanding of \$20,000 is correct because I would hate to wake up one morning after we have had a tough budget time and see another \$173,000 of costs for the Police Department because the court is moving and it is overtime going down to Nashua and travel time.

Alderman Shea asked Alderman Gatsas should the Economic Development person speak to someone there or is it the Mayor?

Alderman Gatsas answered somebody should do it and I am bringing it forward because I don't want somebody to say you sat on CIP and you knew the court house was being renovated and is there land we can put them in because we can do an exchange for the police station. They are under some pretty quick time constraints. I don't know if we as a Board can move that quickly but somebody should be talking to them. Whether it is the Mayor...

Alderman Shea interjected I think the Mayor should. Have you made the Mayor aware of it?

Alderman Gatsas responded I know the Mayor has had conversations where he said he wants the courthouse to stay downtown but I am not sure that he has been in discussions about whether there is land available in the City that we can give the state and in exchange they can give us an asbestos free building that we can do renovations on for a police station. That is thinking outside of the box and I don't know whether we can do that.

Alderman Shea stated let's assume for the sake of discussion that they decide to move outside of Manchester. What happens to that building that is on Chestnut Street?

Alderman Gatsas responded they are looking at a timetable. As soon as the Addison trial finishes along with the other trial, that is when they are going to start moving people out of that building and start the asbestos clean-up. They were looking at a property on South Elm Street but because of the cost of leasing that property it was too expensive. If the City had a piece of land within the downtown framework to give them in exchange for the building...and I am just thinking that it is an opportunity where this building is across the street from the police station; it functionally works.

Alderman Shea stated well maybe the Economic Development Director or you have contact with the Mayor, Mr. Chairman, so maybe you can fill him in.

Chairman Garrity asked can the CIP staff get in touch with MEDO and do some research on that?

Ms. Goucher asked how much land do they need? Do you have any idea?

Alderman Gatsas answered I don't know. You probably have to talk to Linda Hodgen who is the Commissioner of Administration in Concord. The gentleman who handles it in that office is Mike Connor who is working on the numbers.

Alderman O'Neil stated I was going to suggest that the Economic Development Director and the Planning Director work with the Mayor to try to come up with a solution.

Alderman M. Roy stated my first request is going to be to ask for a footprint of the land and my second part was going to be we have a full Board meeting coming up and I would like to have this Committee ask the full Board for a unanimous request that the court does stay in the City of Manchester. From my service on the Seal Tanning lot there are quite a few paved areas in our Millyard and underutilized space in our Millyard that something in tandem with a parking garage would definitely work out nicely, not only for job creation but using some of our space that we have paved over that is under utilized.

Alderman Gatsas stated just to put my colleague at ease, they are not leaving the City.

Alderman Lopez asked is the Bedford Street lot a big enough place for a courthouse?

Alderman Gatsas answered I can't give you that answer. I think the site they were looking at was a six acre site. I don't think that is the highest and best use for that but maybe the Pearl Street lot is.

Alderman Lopez replied I agree that would be a good spot and we own it. The only other comment I want to make real fast is we cannot leave it up to one person. I think Lands & Buildings or this Committee should move forward and get a report back from the Mayor or Jay or somebody. I agree in talking to Lou D'Allesandro that this is urgent and they want to get something done. If we have that piece of land, whether it be the Pearl Street lot or some other place...we don't want them to leave. That's for sure.

ADDENDUM ITEMS

- A) Communication from Frederick A. Rusczek, Executive Director, Child Health Services, requesting reconsideration of the Mayor's proposed FY2009 budget cut of 12% of CIP allocations to that agency.

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

- B) Communication from Tim Soucy, Public Health Director, requesting to apply for grant funds for the Safe Rides to School Program and requesting commitment by the City to expend up to \$15,000 to be reimbursed if selected.

On motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil, it was voted to approve this request.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee