

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

April 5, 2010

6:00 PM

Chairman O'Neil called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen O'Neil, Ludwig, Shea, Craig, Greazzo

Messrs: T. Soucy, A. Thomas, H. Heishman, S. Maranto, J. Hoebeke,
K. Sheppard, L. LaFreniere, C. DePrima

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 3 of the agenda:

3. Presentation by Timothy Soucy, Public Health Director, regarding the Greater Manchester Community Needs Assessment.

Mr. Timothy Soucy, Public Health Director, stated if you recall a few weeks ago we sent every member of the Board a copy of the Community Needs Assessment that was recently published. We want to give you some of the highlights of the findings. With me tonight is Anna Thomas, the Deputy Public Health Director, and Hilary Heishman who is a CDC Public Health Prevention Specialist who has been assigned to the Manchester Health Department for a two year period. I would like to turn it over to them for the formal presentation.

Ms. Anna Thomas, Deputy Public Health Director, stated we are just going to quickly give you a summary and if you have any questions at the end we'll be happy to answer them. A couple things that I want to call to your attention: the Needs Assessment Process is something that we have been working on with all of the major healthcare providers in the City of Manchester. They are required to do that by law by the charitable trust. They have to complete one every five years and the Office of the Attorney General encourages that everyone works collaboratively and produces one on behalf of the entire community. That is something that we help to facilitate as a health department. It is the role of health departments across the country. We were sitting at one table all together. The funding came from Catholic Medical Center, Elliot Health Systems and Dartmouth Hitchcock in Manchester. The technical assistance behind it was provided by not only all of the members of the data committee which represented

the healthcare organization, but several non-profits in the community like Makin' It Happen and Easter Seals. In addition to that, we contracted with the community health institute to provide support for the narrative pieces in the chapter. It covers not only this requirement from the charitable trust, but it also sets the stage for us as a local health department to go for national accreditation, which is a goal of ours. Once this is completed, we will move into completing a community health improvement plan, which is the second leg. What you see in front of you is mainly data at this point. By October, you will get a second installment of recommendations for the community based on the data. We are working with all the community collaborations in the City to help us prioritize those needs and formulate those recommendations. The final piece is that the Health Department has to undertake a strategic plan and once we complete those three things, we can go for national accreditation which gives us a leg up for federal funding sources, which is one of our goals. Tim already mentioned that we were very lucky to compete for and receive a CDC assigned Public Health Prevention Specialist. This is someone who comes to us with a master's degree in public health, has worked at the CDC and comes to us for a two year assignment. It has been an enormous asset to have that and it is nothing that the City has to pay for. It comes compliments of the CDC. We competed against 174 other communities across the country and we were one of 24 to receive a Public Health Prevention Specialist and we are submitting again for another Public Health Prevention Specialist. Last but not least, the whole concept of what we are trying to achieve is essentially a framework that we are going to follow for multiple years because improving the health in the community sometimes takes five or ten years, especially if you are targeting large populations and large health conditions. We would like to show you our priorities and what we expect to follow over the next five to ten years. These mimic the national objectives as well and we have take them and tailored them to the City of Manchester. We essentially have four priorities that we are addressing. One is healthy people in every stage of life and we are looking at everything from healthy start to healthy youth to healthy life for adults and healthy aging; the second strategic imperative is healthy people and healthy places and for the purposes of Manchester's application, we looked at neighborhoods as our place. In the report you will see a chapter that is actually referenced as health neighborhoods. I strongly encourage you to go right to that chapter because it gives you a nice geographic display of where the needs are in the City so it has a little more application to your own ward. The other two are people prepared for emerging health threats and people accessing quality healthcare. We have large collaborations in the City that are working on both of those areas. They have their own plans, goals, and objectives that we are folding into this to help them by supporting them with some of the data in the Needs Assessment. With that, I'm going to turn the floor over to Hilary Heishman and let her go over some of the data points so you can take home some of those messages.

Ms. Hilary Heishman, CDC Public Health Prevention Specialist, stated thank you and good evening. What I am going to talk about in the next few minutes is an overview of some of the key messages and then also some specific points of interest that I want to bring to the attention of the Committee. First is a little bit of demographic information. It is in the first chapter of the Needs Assessment. A lot of the things that we learned from the Needs Assessment weren't necessarily surprising, but there are a few of them. The City's population is growing older. About 13% of the population right now is 65 or older and that portion is growing based on population estimates. In the past few decades, the proportion of children who live in families in which the family income is at or below the poverty level has grown. About a quarter of children now in the City of Manchester live at or below the poverty line. The City is becoming more diverse. There are a lot of ways that we can measure. We can look at the school system and so on, but a quick measure comes from the smaller version of the census that they do every year between the big ten year census. We can tell from 2008 that just under 10% of the population of Manchester was either Hispanic/Latino or black/African American. The non-white population has been growing. Family structure has changed. For example, whereas when you look at the State of New Hampshire as a whole, about a quarter of all households have two parents and a child in the household. In the City of Manchester it is more like 15% of households are two parents and a child. About 10% are single mother with a child. About 35% are single individuals living alone and that is significantly higher than the rest of the State. You learn a lot about the population from birth certificates. You can see from this slide that the sorts of things that you learn from birth certificates are women who smoke while pregnant, the education level of mothers in the City, whether they are unmarried, which doesn't necessarily mean that they are single, but they don't have a partner, and also we know that a fairly high percentage of women get prenatal care on time. Sort of a lesson that we garnered from that is the idea that many children are born into challenging circumstances right off the bat in this community. This has been identified by groups in the community that are interested in the health of families and young children as one of the key areas to figure out what we are going to do about the challenging circumstances and the support that families need. Immunization is one of the key functions of public health because of all the good it can do for populations. Kids get immunizations from their primary care providers or from the Health Department and over time, we have seen how the proportion of kids who get fully immunized for school has gone up in the last decade. Sue Meyers, who is in charge of the Division of Community Health in the Health Department, does the immunization survey every other year to help us track how that goes in the City. Oral health is something else that we have been tracking for quite a while now. This slide shows the proportion of kids who have untreated decay, a history of decay and then on the positive side, the kids who have sealants. It is an important prevention measure for oral health. You can see the blue line is the good line and that has gently gone up over the past

decade and the other two lines we are happy to have seen go down over the last decade. CIP has funded oral health programs in the City for the last five years or so. Makin' It Happen conducts a survey with the school system every other year and the most recent tells us about youth health risk behaviors. These are the kinds of things that we learn about the teenage population in Manchester. We can learn about their substance abuse, binge drinking, marijuana use, smoking, and being offered or sold drugs at school. We can also learn about their mental health in terms of self reported mental health. Those two areas, mental health and substance abuse, have been identified by people who work with youth in the City as key areas of interest. The last one there is sexually activity. Over 40% of the students report being sexually active and that relates to our next slide which is adolescent births in the City. The red line is Manchester and the yellow line that it runs along is the national rate. Manchester is right in line with the rate of teenage births with the rest of the country, but way above the rest of the State of New Hampshire. Premature death talks about dying before the age you would expect people to die. We looked at people who died before the age of 65 in the City of Manchester. Over the years, the rate of death proportionately has been consistently higher than the rest of the State of New Hampshire. Of course, that directs us to look at the causes of death for adults. This is the cause of death for adults 30 to 64 and you can see that they are the same top five as other places in the State and in the nation. You can see the rate for each of those is higher in the City of Manchester than it is in the rest of the State of New Hampshire. The second highest area is diseases of the heart. For the older population, 55 and older, it is the leading cause of death. The color on this didn't come out quite as pretty as it is in the report, but this is showing the portion of deaths in each of these census tracts that are used for coronary heart disease, so the red is the worst, the highest rate of death in the census track, and the gray-green is next. Any of them that have a color have a rate of death in coronary hearth disease that is higher than the national goal, so higher than what we would want to have. The census tracts that don't have a color are at or below the national goals. We looked a bit at our healthcare system in the City and people have been doing that for a few years before we did this Needs Assessment in a previous report from the Health Department. Our healthcare providers in the City score well. They do a good job in a lot of ways when we compare hospitals in the State and in the nation. Related to the amount of access to healthcare that the population has in Manchester we can see that we do well for getting the screening you are suppose to get like cholesterol checks and mammograms. We do well with that in Manchester. When we look at uninsured, there is a difference that we definitely notice. We have a pretty high rate of insurance in Manchester in the City and in the State, but it differs when you look at the demographic characteristics. Lastly, this tells a lot of different stories, the rate at which Manchester residents use the ER is higher than the rest of the State. That directs us to look at why people are going to the ER so much. Does that mean that they are not getting care from a primary care

provider? The last thing that I wanted to point out to you, also through a survey of adults that gets done every year around the country, is the response to the questions about being prepared for an emergency. When we look at Manchester residents compared to the rest of the State of New Hampshire, we see that a little more than 20% said that they don't have a three day supply of food. A little more than 30% said that they are not at all prepared to handle a large scale disaster and a lower percent than the rest of the State said they would not evacuate if asked by public authorities. We are doing better than the rest of the State on that one. This was done before the last ice storm of the last year or two. We have reason to believe that this might be better after all of the public education that we have done in the last three years. There is a lot more information in the report. Those were just a few highlights and in the handouts that you each have, there is an array of those slides that is for your interest. Feel free to ask questions now or to contact any of us with questions in the future.

Alderman Craig stated you talk about Manchester residents. I'm curious of how you define a Manchester resident. Do they have to live here for a certain number of years?

Ms. Heishman replied it varies depending on which source of data we use. For example, the things that come to us through the State via the hospitals states that they only have to be a resident of Manchester at the time that they checked out of the hospital. It is discharge data. That person does have to have an address in Manchester to be counted as a Manchester resident, but whether it is one month old or 20 years old we don't know.

Alderman Craig stated we talk an awful lot about the wonderful services that we have in our City and that many people move here because of the services that we have. Is that taken into consideration at all?

Ms. Heishman replied yes, it is in so far as we are aware of that, but the way we think of in terms of helping the population...They still live here now so we are still thinking of them as a part of a population we are trying to serve now. It also does influence our thinking in terms of prevention. Yes, we are aware of that.

Mr. Soucy stated I think one of our take home messages from this evening was that as we look at how CIP funds organizations in the communities, we would love to see the funding tied back to some of the needs that are identified in the Needs Assessment so that we are getting the biggest bang for our buck as we move forward.

Alderman Shea stated very interesting statistics. One of the statistics that I wasn't able to garner was the family structure. Could you repeat that?

Ms. Heishman replied sure. I will tell you as best as I can from memory and if I realize I was wrong, I will send a correction. We have it right here. I gave you the updated data from 2008. Approximately 15% of Manchester households have two parents and a child and are sort of what people think of as a traditional household.

Alderman Shea asked just 15%?

Ms. Heishman replied approximately 15%, yes. That is closer to a quarter of the households in the State as a whole. For households with a single individual, we are at about 35%. Off the top of my head I don't remember what it is for the rest of the State, but it is something more like 20% to 25% of households have one individual living alone. For a single mother with one or more children under 18 it is 10.3% of the households in Manchester and it is between 8% and 9% for the rest of the State so we are not that much higher than the rest of the State for single mothers of children, but a bit higher.

Alderman Shea stated that is difficult to comprehend as I listen, but the other point is that when you have risk behavior statistics is there a possibility that the same person can be counted more than once? In other words, is the same person a binge drinker and using marijuana?

Ms. Heishman replied yes, it is entirely possible. The kids fill out this long survey every other year. It is entirely likely that a kid could be a multiple offender, yes.

Alderman Shea stated in that instance, even though it is a percentage, that same child could be part of the same percentage more than once.

Ms. Heishman stated we are not able to tell from our results what proportion of those kids who are binge drinkers are only drinking and not smoking cigarettes and not smoking marijuana. We are not able to tease that difference out. For example, how many do all three versus only smoke cigarettes.

Chairman O'Neil stated go back to the changes in Manchester. You said the City's population of older adults is growing and you used some percentage.

Ms. Heishman stated it is about 13% as of 2008, which is the most recent year that we have data for.

Chairman O'Neil asked 13% is?

Ms. Heishman replied 13% of the City population for 65 and over. We use population projections to help us calculate where that proportion is going in the next coming decade.

Chairman O'Neil stated following up on Alderman Shea's question, would it be possible to do a follow up, one or two pages, on that family structure issue? I think that data would be helpful to us and maybe simplify it the best you can. Would it be possible to pull up slide six on immunization? What do we need to do? We seemed to have flattened out on the low income public school population. What do we need to do there? Why are we doing well with the other items but not in that particular category?

Mr. Soucy replied I think some of it, Alderman, has to do with access to care. This is actually a retrospective survey so we will pull the records of first graders to look at when they were 24 months old and how was their access to immunizations. A lot of it has to do with access of care and if they are getting it in a timely manner for those immunizations.

Chairman O'Neil stated so this is a snapshot of the entire population, not solely what we are able to address in the school system. That is how I read it originally.

Mr. Soucy stated that is correct. That is how we capture the information, but it doesn't necessarily mean that these kids were even Manchester residents at 24 months of age. It is just looking at our population.

Chairman O'Neil asked would you be able to break that down in a summary for us?

Mr. Soucy replied sure.

Chairman O'Neil stated I was pleased on the direction they were going on oral health. How accurate do we think the information is for risk behaviors? There are two bullets for offered, sold, or given illegal drugs at school and in the last year almost a quarter of our student population was involved. Do we know if that is just high school?

Ms. Thomas replied it is the entire high school population.

Chairman O'Neil stated that is a number that bothers me if that is true. Secondly, seriously considered suicide is almost 14%. How accurate do you think that survey is? I know it was done by others.

Ms. Heishman replied it is actually a national instrument that every state uses and it can be done in localities for full school districts, which opts to do every other year. I would actually add to that in that the numbers, I would say, don't fully represent some of the risks simply because our drop out rate and attendance rate fluctuates so much more that you are literally surveying kids that are in school that day. If our drop out rate is higher and you can make some assumptions that the kids that are teetering in and out of school might have some other risk behaviors, they are not going to be captured on that day it is done in the School District. Compared to the rest of New Hampshire where you have better attendance on a more consistent basis, I would argue that those numbers might look a shade worse in reality.

Chairman O'Neil asked do those two, the items that I mentioned, bother you more than the other four bullets?

Ms. Heishman replied I definitely think that some of the areas that really seem to bubble up are these issues around drugs and violence, which is a consistent theme. Keep in mind that when we looked at these needs and tried to prioritize them with the community, we didn't solely look at data. We had focus groups, interviewed hundreds of residents and every resident that participated received a \$25 gift certificate to the supermarket, and we interview key leaders across the community including the Police Chief, the Superintendent of Schools and so forth. We look at all of that input plus that data. That data speaks to some pieces based on what you surveyed in school that day, but we also have to weight that in with other community input because not all of these survey instruments are going to be a perfect measure of need in the community. We combine those things together and those two areas have consistently been talked about in circles as priority issues. We surveyed all of the youth serving organizations around that. Violence was consistently their number one concern, even though it may not come up very clearly in this particular graph.

Ms. Thomas stated in discussions since the Needs Assessment has been in the public, we have been having lots of presentations and conversations about what strikes people as most important and priority needs. Both substance abuse, being offered or sold drugs, and mental health of youth have been identified as key areas and priority areas of concern for the health and wellbeing of youth in the City of Manchester. The four areas identified so far for youth are substance abuse, mental health, violence and connection with the community or feeling valued by the community.

Chairman O'Neil asked did someone mention that there will be a follow up report based on these meetings?

Mr. Soucy replied yes. What will come out of it is the Community Health Improvement Plan, which will guide our actions on how we improved the health of Manchester over the next five to ten years.

Chairman O'Neil asked when do we expect that?

Ms. Heishman replied October of this year.

Chairman O'Neil stated I made some notes as you went along about causes of death for adults 30 to 64. Is that skewed based on our population? Do we have older people who live here compared to other communities in the State?

Ms. Heishman replied no. It is age adjusted compared to other communities so we are comparing apples to apples. I think what pushes our rates up are the kinds of things that drive up any of those risk behaviors, whether or not people are physically active and access to health food. All of those things over time are going to translate into some of the chronic conditions that you see presented in that table and I think that is something that we are grappling with and why we are thinking more and more upstream about where we can intervene in those processes. We don't want to wait until someone is 65 and has been diagnosed with that disease. We are trying to get upstream and prevent those events from occurring.

Chairman O'Neil asked would it be possible to define by neighborhood and break it down? It is very hard to understand. Access to care...it talks about the uninsured. Is there any data to back that up? Is this a trend for small to medium cities or is this something unique to a city like Manchester or a city like Springfield, Worcester or Providence?

Mr. Soucy replied I would argue that most of the larger cities our size share the same concern. The biggest driver for that is poverty. What concerns us is the Carsey Institute Report that came out a few months back that indicated that 25% of Manchester's kids are living in poverty which is the same rate that you would find in New York or Los Angeles. When you look at some of the underlying factors that we don't have any control over like poverty those are huge drivers of access to care.

Chairman O'Neil stated you mentioned priorities moving forward and that report that will come out in October. Tim, you made a statement regarding funding from CIP that meets the needs of the community. That is not exactly what you said, but do you have any comments or something you can follow up with us later that would give you some concerns about where our priorities were in the CIP budget?

Mr. Soucy replied I don't think I necessarily have priorities with the CIP budget for this year, but I think moving forward, you have a tremendous tool in this document that you didn't have at your fingertips before. It is both qualitative and quantitative data on what the true needs of some of the drivers are in the community. It is one more tool in your toolbox as you are trying to make those difficult decisions as to who gets funding through CIP and at what level. We would encourage you to use this tool to help you in that decision making process and certainly anything our staff can do to assist in that we are certainly more than glad to.

Chairman O'Neil stated will this document allow you...many times these programs are in partnership with the Health Department or you act as the agent. Is that something you have done or will be doing when you sit down to review?

Mr. Soucy replied we are certainly going to continue to do that. If we are the most appropriate agency to either provide the service or lead the charge, we are going to do so. If there are others in the community who are better geared towards those particular measures we are going to support them in doing it. We look at it holistically as to who can play that role best in the community.

Ms. Thomas stated I want to add one other thing to that too. The other thing that we have done very proactively is worked with all of the other funders in the community and the State so the Endowment for Health, the Charitable Foundation, the Bean Foundation, and Heritage United Way. Every board member at Heritage United Way received a copy of the report. We have sent it out to hundreds of people in the State electronically because it is on the website. We are trying to inform other funders as well so they can come together and consistently fund the same priorities and use data for their decision making.

Alderman Shea stated getting back to the risk behavior and the seriousness of the suicide problem, when you do discuss this type of activity or lack of proper judgment on their part, has bullying come into play? I don't want to prolong this conversation, but that would be one.

Ms. Heishman replied the short answer is yes.

Alderman Shea stated the second point that I think should be mentioned is that the World Health did a study in 1997. The French community and the Australian Health did a study comparing the use of alcohol and the use of marijuana. You mentioned the violence that has taken place is one of the major causes. The major cause would be from alcohol and not marijuana because basically according to studies, there is more serious implications from drinking than by the use of marijuana. I think that when the study is being conducted there should be,

obviously, the implications of when someone does drink and its effects on someone vis-à-vis someone who smokes pot, which is against the law at least in New Hampshire, except for medical reasons and what the implications of that might be. I think that is an important study because the implications that go into family life and structures and so forth. I just thought that would be an important consideration.

Alderman Greazzo stated something that pops out to me that hasn't been touched on is that half of our student population is sexually active. What is the Health Department doing to deal with that?

Mr. Soucy replied it is a long story. When we looked at teen birthing analysis, the solution was not sex education. The solution was comprehension. As a result of that, a comprehensive health education curriculum has been implemented in grades one through eight and then again in the high school level where they have health class that touches on everything from nutrition activity...everything is age appropriate depending on the topic that is being covered. The School District then went and hired health educators to implement the curriculum and that is really the first step in doing that. Some of the discussion has been some of the other risk factors, like alcohol use and other things that contribute to that so as Anna said, it is a self report survey so we look at that, but the data is pretty consistent. It is an issue that we have known about. There are about 135 teen births in the City every year and that is a pretty high number. Over time, as Anna said, we don't necessarily see health outcomes for five to ten years, but we are hoping that the implementation of this comprehensive health education curriculum over time will help to reduce that number as well.

Alderman Greazzo asked what sort of data have you collected on sexually transmitted diseases? Where do you get your information from, Planned Parenthood, people coming into the Health Department?

Mr. Soucy replied we run STD clinics so we have information on people who come to the Manchester clinics. They are not all Manchester residents. It is an anonymous clinic when people come in, but we can track how many cases of Chlamydia, syphilis or any of the other STDs in the community. We maintain that database. It doesn't necessarily reflect what someone goes to a primary care provider or Planned Parenthood or anyone else for. We can only report out for what we are seeing in our clinics. Once again, the data that is reported is self reported versus our clinical data, which we more closely align to ER discharge data where it is pretty solid.

Ms. Thomas stated we additionally get information from the State Department of Health where we can break it out by age group. In particular we look at Chlamydia. It is the most common sexually transmitted infection. We look at Chlamydia and HIV in particular from State data. In the report on page 39 there are the numbers for you to reference. We are statically significant in our rates as compared to the rest of the State so we are much higher than the rest of the State in Chlamydia.

Alderman Greazzo stated I'll have to apologize because I don't have that in front of me. Has the percentage gone up or down in recent years?

Mr. Soucy replied I don't know that off the top of my head, but we can take a look at that and get you some information.

Alderman Greazzo stated not on disease, but on sexually active students.

Mr. Soucy stated we can certainly track that down.

Ms. Thomas stated from 2005 to 2007 it went up and then it was fairly constant from 2007 to 2009 if I remember correctly.

Mr. Sam Maranto, Deputy Director of Planning and Community Development, stated just to follow up on Tim's comments and your questions regarding priorities. CIP staff is presently in the midst of putting together our five year consolidated HUD Plan to develop strategies. We have met with the Health Department and Hilary. We have this document and found it very helpful and informative. In fact, when we do our strategies it will be reflected in the five year plan.

Chairman O'Neil stated thank you very much. I would guess that you are going to be back before us at some point. It was a great report and I think as we digest it as time moves on we will probably ask you back again. We'll look forward to the document in the fall.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 4 of the agenda:

4. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for acceptance of funds in the amount of \$21,544 from the Department of Health and Human Services for CIP project #210110 – Homeless Healthcare Program.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Greazzo, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 5 of the agenda:

5. Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for acceptance of funds in the amount of \$194,115 from NHDOT for CIP project #215010 – Safe Routes to School Project at Henry Wilson Elementary School.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Greazzo, it was voted to discuss this item.

Mr. Soucy stated I want to introduce Jamie Hoebeke who is a Senior Public Health Specialist with the Health Department. Like I said, we are trying to get more and more of our senior staff in front of you so you can put a name with a face. Jamie has been instrumental in securing this grant for the City, which is actually part two of the grant, and I'm going to ask her to give a quick overview of Safe Routes to School and then we'd be glad to take any questions you have.

Ms. Jamie Hoebeke, Senior Public Health Specialist, stated Safe Routes to School is federal highway funding and basically it is interested in increasing the number of kids who choose to walk to and from school. The funding can be used for infrastructure projects as well as education, enforcement and evaluation. For this year's project we are looking to fund different elements of the infrastructure in the Wilson Street area. Southern New Hampshire Planning Commission actually provided a comprehensive assessment of the school area so we can determine what infrastructure elements need to be improved. We have several sidewalk constructions, cross walks as well as ADA ramps proposed within this project. This project in particular has been a great asset within the City for partnership and collaboration as we have many City departments involved in helping us plan the process. Those include Highway, Police, Economic Development, Planning and Parks and Recreation. We also work very closely with Wilson School administration as well as many community partners and most importantly, residents and parents of the Wilson students.

Alderman Shea stated just as a follow up, you mentioned different sidewalks, curbs and ramps, but did you say that there is an educational component as well? What would that be?

Ms. Hoebeke replied we have funding to support education on pedestrian safety and bike safety as well as the promotion of encouraging kids to walk to school. There is an International Walk to School Day Program where we provide incentives for kids to participate and walk to school together to promote safe walking.

Alderman Shea asked now would the bicycle component be that the children would get helmets or things of that nature?

Ms. Hoebeke replied yes, the grant funding could be used to purchase helmets.

Alderman Greazzo asked is there any additional spending attached to this? Sometimes when you accept a grant you have to spend some of your own money to match it. Is there any stipulation on that?

Ms. Hoebeke replied no, there is no match.

Chairman O'Neil stated I know we used this successfully with Hallsville School. That might have been two years ago. This program was done at Hallsville. I'm positive because I am on the Regional Planning Commission.

Alderman Shea stated but it was a different type of program at Hallsville. That was for motor vehicle improvement and so forth.

Chairman O'Neil stated that is what this is all about as well. They don't try to have a cookie cutter for each school; they try to address each school. There were parking issues resolved at Hallsville, but it is the same program.

Alderman Shea stated it is probably a component of that program. I don't think they had any sidewalks, curbing or ramps.

Mr. Soucy stated Hallsville was different.

Ms. Hoebeke stated at Hallsville no, they did not.

Chairman O'Neil stated each school's situation is different, but it was the same program. We were hoping that Weston was going to apply and then they never applied. They have been complaining about a lot of issues.

Ms. Hoebeke stated I was just going to follow up on that. We are in the process of working with Weston to put in a travel plan grant application for Safe Routes to School so it is in progress and we're hoping to submit that.

Chairman O'Neil stated that's great news.

Mr. Soucy stated and really the great part about this grant, Alderman, is the fact that while the Health Department is the recipient of it, it has really been a collaborative effort of all these City departments. The bulk of the money will allow Highway to offset City costs in reconstructing sidewalks and that is truly a benefit to the community in the collaborative effort going forward.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Greazzo, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 6 of the agenda:

6. Sewer abatement request (28 Pine Island Road).
(Note: EPD recommends the abatement be denied.)

Alderman Shea moved to accept this item's recommendation. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Craig

Alderman Greazzo stated item number seven looks to be the same and that has a recommendation to approve.

Chairman O'Neil asked Mr. Sheppard, do you have any background on any of these EPD abatement requests?

Mr. Kevin Sheppard, Public Works Director, replied yes, I do.

Chairman O'Neil stated there was a recommendation to deny the request.

Mr. Sheppard stated correct. The resident thought the pool was leaking, but if you take a look at the backup on item six, you'll see that the previous owner's EPD usage, on page 6-2, averaged about 39 and this current owner averages about 35 so it is actually less than the previous owner. We typically try to look at past usage and the new owner's usage. There was no backup on any repairs from work that was done to the pool. Our recommendation is to deny.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed with Alderman Greazzo voting in opposition.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 7 of the agenda:

7. Sewer abatement request (836 Candia Road).
(Note: EPD recommends the abatement be granted in the amount of \$800.28)

Alderman Shea moved to approve this item. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Craig.

Alderman Greazzo asked can you explain the different between this one and the last one? They both seem to have left the water on or it ran afoul.

Mr. Sheppard stated this one has backup. We ask for backup when we receive these so we can look at usage and past usage. The previous one, like I mentioned, was that the previous owner's use was higher than the current owner so there was no evidence to show that there was a leak or that there was more water usage. In this one, there is evidence that there was increase water usage for some reason.

Alderman Greazzo asked what was the determination that the increased water usage was from in item seven?

Mr. Sheppard replied there was an irrigation system.

Alderman Greazzo asked was there a break in the system?

Mr. Sheppard replied yes.

Alderman Greazzo asked so if someone's water system breaks and they subsequently use the water, whether they intended to or not, they are not responsible for their water bill?

Mr. Sheppard replied typically in an irrigation break the water goes into the ground and doesn't make it into the sewer system. This is a request for the sewer abatement. I'm not too sure how the water works.

Chairman O'Neil stated they pay their water bill I think. They have to pay their water bills for water usage. Alderman Ludwig is nodding his head yes. This is only regarding the sewer charge.

Alderman Greazzo stated okay, my mistake.

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

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 8 of the agenda:

8. Sewer abatement request (42 Caye Lane).
(Note: EPD recommends the abatement be granted in the amount of \$81.00)

On motion of Alderman Greazzo, duly seconded by Alderman Ludwig, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 9 of the agenda:

9. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, regarding Neighborworks Greater Manchester Home Ownership Programs.

Mr. Leon LaFreniere, Director of Planning & Community Development, stated there are three requests before you this evening for loan approval from Neighborworks. This is in accord with the new policy that was adopted by the Committee regarding new procedures on their down payment assistance program. I think all the information is before you. I don't see anyone from Neighborworks in the audience, but I'll try to answer any specific questions you may have.

Alderman Shea stated I know that prior to the meeting I asked Leon regarding the number of people who are purchasing houses beyond their means to pay for them and he indicated that that is what the people are instructed about. In other words, they are cautioned and there has been a very low default rate. I believe that he said that one or two people may have lost their homes under this program. I personally think it is a very good program and after discussions I would vote to approve it.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Craig, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman O'Neil asked Matt, can we make sure that Neighborworks sends someone when they have something on the agenda?

City Clerk Matt Normand replied sure.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 11 of the agenda:

11. Communication from Kevin O'Maley, Chief Facilities Manager, requesting approval to purchase a cargo van for the new HVAC Technician position with funds to come from the FY2010 MER account.

Chairman O'Neil stated my understanding from Kevin Sheppard is that that came during a reorganization where the Facilities Division eliminated a supervisor and created one more HVAC technician and therefore we need a van for that technician. There is funding in the current MER to do that. Correct, Kevin?

On motion of Alderman Ludwig, duly seconded by Alderman Craig, it was voted to approve this item.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 12 of the agenda:

12. Communication from Chuck DePrima, Acting Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, requesting the City consider funding the local portion of the Piscataquog Trailway Phase IV Project.

On motion of Alderman Shea, duly seconded by Alderman Ludwig, it was voted to discuss this item.

Alderman Greazzo asked is Goffstown going to participate in this at all or is this just our portion?

Mr. Chuck DePrima, Acting Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, replied what I am requesting tonight is just the City's portion. Goffstown has submitted a grant request on their own behalf.

Alderman Shea stated break down this list. Maybe you can help me with it. They required a municipal match, according to this in the first section, for a total of \$372,800 federal dollars. As a community, we would be asked to contribute \$93,200 under this. Is that correct or am I incorrect in that?

Mr. DePrima replied if you are going by the total project amount of \$466,000, yes. That is construction and design. Tonight we are just asking for the matching funding to leverage design dollars only. The top part of the chart is a historical breakdown of the funding source.

Alderman Shea stated so that is the historical breakdown. What is the less historical breakdown?

Mr. DePrima replied of the total project amount of \$466,000, tonight all we are asking for is \$25,000 to leverage funds in the amount of \$100,000 to get us approximately \$125,000 worth of design funds so that we can get a better grasp on the \$466,000 total project amount, which includes construction.

Alderman Shea asked so you're asking for how much again?

Mr. DePrima replied \$25,000.

Alderman Shea stated and that is in order to leverage \$100,000 to study to see whether or not there would be more leverage. What does that do?

Mr. DePrima replied it gives us a better construction dollar amount. Once we have an actual design, we will have a better number for construction costs. That \$466,000 you see may go down if we engineer this correctly and have a consultant design it thoroughly.

Alderman Shea stated right, but we would be required as a community, whether that went down \$100,000 or \$50,000 or \$200,000 to level that according to the stipulations so that 80% would come federally and 20% of that remaining amount would come from the City. Am I right in that?

Mr. DePrima asked for the \$466,000?

Alderman Shea replied no, no. You said that you want \$25,000 to leverage \$100,000, but that might bring down that \$466,000. If that were to be brought down, there would still be more money that the City would have to contribute towards this.

Mr. DePrima stated once construction phase starts, yes.

Alderman Shea stated it could be upwards of 20% of \$366,000 so it would probably be \$75,000 or \$100,000 more.

Mr. DePrima stated \$70,000 roughly.

Alderman Shea stated I don't know where we are going to get the money, but thank you for the explanation about how much is required.

Alderman Greazzo stated I'm looking at the balance from phase three as \$23,600. If we gave you \$1,400 would that be the \$25,000 that you would need?

Mr. DePrima replied it would. That is why I included it on the chart.

Chairman O'Neil stated the Board would have to vote to move that money from phase three.

Mr. DePrima stated yes.

Chairman O'Neil stated Chuck, I had asked you if some of these projects could be designed in house. Is this the one that involves the trestle?

Mr. DePrima replied yes. This is a structural project.

Chairman O'Neil asked how much is prior to the trestle?

Mr. DePrima replied there is very little between the trestle and Electric Street. There is maybe 800 feet beyond the trestle to the Goffstown line to complete the project.

Chairman O'Neil asked are we paying the entire trestle cost or is there also a Goffstown component to this?

Mr. DePrima replied the trestle is owned by the City.

Chairman O'Neil asked once it crosses the river it becomes Goffstown's responsibility?

Mr. DePrima replied no, it is still in Manchester.

Chairman O'Neil asked how far on the other side is Manchester?

Mr. DePrima replied approximately 800 feet.

Chairman O'Neil asked it is 800 feet on both sides?

Mr. DePrima replied no, approximately 800 feet west of the west abutment of the trestle is the Goffstown line.

Chairman O'Neil stated let's come back. I asked how much needs to be done from the current work to the trestle. You said 800 feet.

Mr. DePrima stated it is not 800 feet from the current. From the limit of the previous project to the trestle might be 50 or 100 feet maximum.

Chairman O'Neil stated so the entire project now is no more than \$500,000.

Mr. DePrima stated \$466,000 is the estimate, but that is based on the engineer's estimate without any actual construction documents.

Chairman O'Neil asked and then it is 800 feet beyond to the Goffstown line?

Mr. DePrima replied correct.

Chairman O'Neil asked do we have a recommendation on the \$1,400 and where that would come from?

Mr. DePrima replied I don't have any bond balances that it could come from. It could come from my 2010 safety cash account. I have a balance in that that could fund this.

Chairman O'Neil stated if we move forward and we commit to the design, we are committing to design and construction. Why aren't we trying to come up with the \$93,000?

Mr. DePrima replied I understand that the CIP budget has essentially been set. I know it is tight right now for budgetary reasons. I think it is more responsible to get the design done first and that gives you a better idea of the construction dollars and helps to guide that process.

Chairman O'Neil asked how long is the design phase? How long will they have to design this?

Mr. DePrima replied we would like to execute the contract as soon as possible so they work on it for, hopefully, late summer or early fall construction once the Transportation Enhancement Committee makes a decision at the State.

Chairman O'Neil stated if we haven't identified the construction dollars and it is going to be in this year's CIP, how are we going to put anything out?

Mr. DePrima replied only the design funds are in this year's CIP.

Chairman O'Neil stated let me make sure that I understand this. You are going to design and that will be completed by the end of the summer. Correct?

Mr. DePrima replied yes.

Chairman O'Neil asked would you then be looking to bid the work for construction?

Mr. DePrima responded not this fiscal year, no. My mistake. I was going by how we normally do projects.

Chairman O'Neil asked so there will be no request in this fiscal year for construction?

Mr. DePrima replied no, we will request it next year. My apologies.

Chairman O'Neil asked going back, it is possible that the 800 feet beyond the trestle could be designed in-house?

Mr. DePrima replied it could.

Chairman O'Neil asked if you had to guess tonight...the design money is approximately \$125,000. Is it \$10,000 or \$20,000?

Mr. DePrima replied I would say somewhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000.

Chairman O'Neil asked could you try to get back to us on what the number could be?

Mr. DePrima replied yes.

Chairman O'Neil stated I know you have been involved in Rails to Trails so you must have some idea. The request is for \$25,000. There would not be a request for construction money in fiscal year 2011. Is there a motion on that?

Alderman Craig asked is this a time sensitive issue? Do you need an answer this evening?

Mr. DePrima replied we do not. The federal dollars of \$83,600 have been committed to the project already, but there is no time limit set right now on when those have to be spent.

Alderman Craig asked in your opinion, the cash that you mentioned that you had left over in your budget are there any other projects that you would prioritize as higher than this project? I'm wondering if we should take some time and look at that before we approve this.

Mr. DePrima replied those funds are usually spent on projects as they come. That is our funding that we use to address problems as they arise and they are not usually planned projects that the cash funds are used for. It is very difficult to say. I try to make those last up until July 1st of each fiscal year and it's not always easy, but I don't have any particular use for them right now and it is getting closer to the end of the fiscal year so I do feel safe in committing at least that amount. The balance is roughly \$13,000.

Alderman Shea asked if there is going to be work done in a park and there are not funds available because there is something that came up unexpectedly, wouldn't that be a higher priority than putting money into a study for future construction? I mean, that is what I can't really fathom. I know that there are certain parks that need attention and you are saying that at this time you don't have any real need for resources. I don't want to tell you that there are needs; that's your job, but I can cite one that is obviously a necessary need and not a want. I would rather see any cash that is not designated for any kind of payments...in order for that particular project...that is why I concur with what Alderman Craig said. This is certainly a worthwhile project, but I think in view of that fact that there are existing problems in parks and that is what the priority in my judgment should be focused on.

Chairman O'Neil asked ladies and gentlemen, what is your pleasure?

Alderman Ludwig stated I guess I'm missing something if I could ask Alderman Shea. Of course there are prioritized projects in parks.

Alderman Shea asked do you want me to tell you?

Alderman Ludwig replied no, I've committed to memory that there are a lot of them out there.

Alderman Shea stated there are pressing ones now that are impeding the life of people in my ward and I think that is a very important project that should be completed at Prouts Park. If there is no money in the budget for that, this money could be used for that particular project.

Chairman O'Neil stated the balance in phase three that we are talking about to be used towards the local match in phase four can only be used for those types of projects, the Rails to Trails.

Mr. DePrima stated that's correct.

Chairman O'Neil stated it couldn't be used in Alderman Shea's case for a neighborhood park.

Mr. DePrima stated not the balance.

Chairman O'Neil stated the \$1,400 that was suggested could be used towards a park project that Alderman Shea referenced.

Alderman Ludwig stated I understand what Alderman Shea is talking about. I don't disagree with that, but we have this network of trails that has been a large plan that has gone on for a long time. I think that this is leveraging pretty good money against even better money. To come up with the design would better allow the department, in terms of making an application for the grant, to estimate a much better number to be able to tell the federal government that we think we need \$250,000 or \$300,000 versus \$466,000 and I think the award of that grant is going to be placed based on who has the better number. Hopefully the City at that point will be in a better position to leverage a correct amount of dollars in terms of its application for the grant. You may have a different number because you basically had the design completed.

Mr. Sheppard stated I agree with you. What we are doing is leveraging money. It is \$1 for \$4. There are pressing needs in Parks and I'm new to Parks, but Chuck and I have been working very closely. I know the project Alderman Shea is talking about and I think that we are committed to taking care of that problem and I hope Alderman Shea knows that we are committed to addressing that problem one way or another. That project aside, I know there are other projects that are pressing, but we are leveraging 80-20 federal versus City funds and there is a balance in the phase three of \$1,400. Taking a look at the big picture, it is a pretty good leverage for a project like this. I think the trails are an important part of the City's infrastructure. As people know, the parks are important but if you go out and see these trails and the amount of people walking on them is pretty amazing.

Alderman Shea stated I'm not sure, Kevin, if you could give me an idea, but how much have we spent on trails? How much money have we spent on different sections of the City on trails?

Mr. DePrima with both City and federal funds including total project costs we have spent approximately \$3.5 million.

Alderman Shea stated and the City has contributed roughly 20% of that. Would that be a fair assessment?

Mr. DePrima replied exactly 20%.

Alderman Shea stated I'm just thinking that I know the trails are important, but I'm wondering proportionately, what percentage of people...I know you gave me a statistic that a lot of people walk down by the south end. I have been observing there and I don't see the numbers that you are seeing. I see people walking trails, but I don't see the numbers. I don't want to be the devil's advocate all the time, but I'm wondering if the monies that we are putting forth for trails are more important than other situations that exist in our community. I know there is a lot of federal money coming in for those things, but I'm not quite sure exactly whether or not they are. You probably would say that. I'm sure Kevin is working with you and he might agree, but for the casual observer, I'm wondering if the percentage of people using the trails would be justifiably a situation wherein most people would agree with an assessment that it is valuable.

Mr. Sheppard stated what I would like to do, after meeting with Chuck and Jessica from Parks, is maybe come back to this Committee and give an update on the trails in the City. We can show which trails have been constructed, and which are yet to be constructed. I think that would be a good update for this Committee. I need to get to learn that as well. You could ask us our opinion, but in the end it comes down to a policy decision of what the Aldermen want to do.

Alderman Shea stated that is what I am looking for. I know there is a lot of usage in Livingston Park and there probably are a lot of people walking trails, I'm not sure. On the other hand, I hear people saying that they wouldn't want to do that because it is not a very safe situation for me, particularly women who are obviously in a more vulnerable position than men are...men with a bicycle and a child is fine. We really need to examine all these factors. If we were provided the data, I certainly, if it made sense, would open up my mind and be in much more favor than I would otherwise. I am just speaking from my own particular experience and observations.

Chairman O'Neil stated I just went back and reviewed your letter again. Is it time sensitive? I didn't see a date in there.

Mr. DePrima replied it is not time sensitive at this point. The Transportation Enhancement Committee is still deciding about the exact allocation of the funds at this point in time. The application has been submitted and it is under review. We were just up there recently to give a presentation on our phase of it.

Chairman O'Neil asked Kevin, are you suggesting we table this or go forward?

Mr. Sheppard replied my suggestion would be to move forward. I'm sure we could work a plan of the reallocation of the \$23,600 and the \$1,400 out of 2010 CIP cash and move forward with that. Construction is not time sensitive because we could work on the design, but I would recommend moving forward with that and let us come back to you. We are in the process of gathering some information on pedestrian usage on the trails. We talked about that as well. When we come back and talk about the trail system we can show you where the trails are currently, where they are proposed to be and hopefully we can have some data as far as usage as well.

Alderman Greazzo asked could either one of you at least provide us a breakdown of what the proposed construction is for the trestle?

Mr. DePrima replied yes.

Chairman O'Neil stated there has been a recommendation by Mr. DePrima and Mr. Sheppard that we reallocate the \$23,600 balance in phase three towards this project. Is there a motion on that?

Alderman Greazzo moved to reallocate the \$23,600 balance in phase three towards this project. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Ludwig.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion. The motion passed with Alderman Shea voting in opposition.

Chairman O'Neil asked Kevin, do we need action on that \$1,400 for the department cash? Is that CIP cash or department cash?

Mr. Sheppard replied it is CIP cash and I'm not familiar with what the startup reads.

Chairman O'Neil asked is that something you could get back to us at the next meeting?

Mr. Maranto replied I might offer that in June, we generally look at all the projects, Alderman, to see if they are going to be closed out or extended and at that time it might be an opportunity to identify the \$1,400.

Alderman Greazzo stated I have a question on point of order, Mr. Chairman. Are we sending this on to the full Board to approve moving that \$23,600 or are we moving it ourselves?

Chairman O'Neil replied no, we have to send it to the full Board.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 13 of the agenda:

13. Discussion regarding the proposed Community Improvement Program Budget for FY2011.

(Note: A copy has been sent under separate cover.)

Chairman O'Neil stated you hopefully all received the proposed CIP as a separate attachment. I don't think there are very many changes from when we met as a full Board. There were five Aldermanic concerns that were presented to me and to Mr. Maranto. One was from Alderman Craig regarding the Amoskeag incubator and we are still trying to collect some data and we are going to have to meet with them. There are some concerns that we need to sit down and talk about. There was a communication from Alderman Long regarding a project for new American Africans, both for outreach and case management, cooking and nutrition. We have been assured by Mr. Maranto that that will be taken care of. We received a communication from Alderman Greazzo regarding the same Rails to Trails project that we were discussing about the earlier phase and some retaining walls. We met out there and we walked the trail with Alderman Lopez and City staff. I'll let Alderman Greazzo speak for himself, but I think there was a consensus that there were some other things that we could do that would help to improve the situation out there, get the team to start enforcing clean on dumping on the back, and possibly to get some summer help in there to do some thorough cleaning because it is kind of messy, and finally, there are some places that definitely could use some hydro seeding to help retain some of the runoff. Alderman Greazzo, does that reflect your concern?

Alderman Greazzo replied that sums it up, Mr. Chairman. I had some other issues that you and I had discussed, but we'll do what we can.

Chairman O'Neil stated finally, there was a communication from Alderman Arnold regarding the Palace Theatre and I believe that we are going to take action in the 2011 CIP. It is recommended \$34,600. Sam, there was going to be a movement of \$16,000 from this current year CIP that we will have to take some action on?

Mr. Maranto replied that's correct.

Chairman O'Neil stated finally, Alderman Ouellette had asked about the Majestic Theater and I believe we have addressed that.

Mr. Maranto stated we have funded that as well.

Chairman O'Neil stated those were the requests that came into the Board and I think we have addressed it and we are moving on a responsible CIP budget. I don't think we need any action on this.

Alderman Craig asked you'll get back to us on requests that are pending?

Chairman O'Neil replied those are all the requests.

Alderman Craig stated mine specifically.

Chairman O'Neil stated yours is pending. I think we need to figure out what the next step is there.

Alderman Craig stated okay. Let me know if I can help you.

Alderman Greazzo stated I saw something from the City Clerk regarding the upkeep and maintenance of City Hall.

City Clerk Normand stated I believe they have found money in this year's bond balance.

Mr. Maranto stated we have recommended \$100,000 to be put towards City Hall for improvements. On the sheet you have bond balances on the City end.

Alderman Greazzo stated I just wanted to clarify that because there were some water damage issues and some items around City Hall that need to be taken care of.

TABLED ITEMS

14. Communication from Chuck Deprima, Acting Director of Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Department, requesting the City consider funding \$222,400 for the local portion of a CMAQ program grant prior to applying.
(Note: Tabled 3/1/10; A phone poll was conducted on March 31, 2010 authorizing Chuck Deprima to apply for the CMAQ grant. Attached is a letter explaining the vote of the Planning Board to provide the matching funds.)

On motion of Alderman Ludwig, duly seconded by Alderman Craig, it was voted to remove this item from the table.

Chairman O'Neil stated hopefully you all received a communication from me after some great confusion on our side regarding this. It was tabled; however, they needed a vote of the Committee to move forward with the grant application that was due the next day. We have since found out in that process that the Planning Board has agreed to the local match. I guess our only action would be to ratify and confirm the phone poll to submit the grant.

Alderman Greazzo moved to ratify and confirm the phone poll. The motion was duly seconded by Alderman Ludwig.

Mr. Sheppard stated we are going to have to work with the Planning Department and Sam to revise the startup on the project to reflect that revenue. We will work with them if there is a need to do that. I'm not sure that there is because South Willow Street monies are actually identified in the CIP and other places and we may be able to charge it directly to that so there may not be a need to revise that startup, but if there is we will bring it back to the Committee.

Alderman Greazzo stated I have a question on behalf of Alderman Shea. If we are able to come in under budget on this, are we allowed to use any of that money on parks anywhere else in the City?

Mr. DePrima replied we are not.

Chairman O'Neil stated only a similar type project, correct?

Mr. DePrima replied no, the grant stipulates only within that corridor. It can't be used anywhere else.

Chairman O'Neil asked is that true for the Piscataqua as well?

Mr. DePrima replied it not only has to stay within that corridor, but within the projects limits defined in the grant application.

Alderman Roy stated I just wanted to point out that the Planning Board saw fit to expend that South Willow Street money. It is my understanding that those funds are solely controlled by the Planning Board. We did put the stipulation in there that they had to be successful in getting this grant in order for anyone to use that money or it never leaves the Planning Board. It doesn't come forward unless it goes through. We thought it was a great idea and going to save a significant number of trips down there. It is going to lessen the traffic on the South Willow corridor to some extent.

Alderman Shea asked where does the Planning Board get the money?

Alderman Roy replied those are funds that are donated to the City by developers when they develop down there. It is for the expressed use of improving traffic flow in the South Willow Street corridor. The reality was that at first, I don't think the Planning Board was going to go for it, until Chuck did a fabulous job and brought that report forward that showed that there was a significant number of miles that were saved each day for the part of the trail that dead ends. Right now it goes behind Shaw's.

Mr. DePrima stated 760 vehicle miles per day. That is a lot of congestion.

Alderman Roy stated that's 350 people walking a mile each way instead of taking their car down there. That is pretty significant. It showed that it was going to increase as that trail was continued over to Goffes Falls Road. That is why we felt that it was appropriate to use those funds to help lessen the amount of traffic on the South Willow Street corridor.

Alderman Shea asked are those funds kept with Bill Sanders?

Alderman Roy replied I don't have control of the account.

Chairman O'Neil replied they are at the discretion of the Planning Board. They were used some time ago on Jobin Drive for some traffic calming. I am not aware off the top of my head of other projects.

Mr. DePrima stated South Porter and South Willow.

Chairman O'Neil stated the traffic improvements there.

Alderman Shea asked but they have a special account?

Chairman O'Neil replied yes, they have a special account specifically related to South Willow Street.

Alderman Roy stated I think there were three of them that we were looking at and we found those funds in there.

Chairman O'Neil called for a vote on the motion to ratify and confirm the phone poll. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

15. Discussion relative to CIP bond projects.
(Note: Report attached from William Sanders, Finance. Communication from Leon LaFreniere, Planning & Community Development, identifying the source of funding for Hackett Hill Development Project CIP # 650300. Report of the Committee on Joint School Buildings attached as per the Committee on 3/31/09. Communication from Pam Goucher, Planning & Community Development, with updated project balances on 4/10/09 and also identifying CIP Project #510807 as available for transfer to contingency. Item tabled 2/17/09. Finance Officer to provide an update.)

This item remained on the table.

Chairman O'Neil addressed item 10 of the agenda:

10. Discussion relative to Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

Mr. Maranto stated before we go into non-public, I can talk about some of the other issues. Particularly for the new Committee members, last July the City received \$7.7 million in Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds. And we subsequently enter into contracts with three other non-profit organizations: Families in Transition, Manchester Neighborworks, and The Way Home. They have gotten approximately \$5 million of the \$7.7 million. We are required to commit 100% of those funds within 18 months of July and actually 75% by September. I think there has been some conversation going around about our ability to do that. At this point right now, we have committed approximately 55% so I am pretty confident that we would have no problem committing that 75% by September. Right now, The Way Home got \$300,000 from us and they are basically demolishing the building adjacent to their property at 224 Spruce Street. That will be demolished beginning on the 15th and then they will be building a three unit property right there for permanent supportive housing. Families in Transition recently acquired a property on the corner of Belmont and Valley Streets and they will be putting up a multiunit there and that will commit 100% of their funds. Actually, I would say that they are committed right now at 100%. Neighborworks of Greater Manchester has been working on the West Side in the Douglas and Granite Streets area. They have acquired six properties, three properties with CIP HOME funds and the other three with NSP funds. They have hired an architect, I believe CMK, to begin a design process for the rehab of five of those six. You may be aware that one of those properties they acquired for the City is right behind the Senior Center. That will be demolished and transferred over to the City. I'm pretty confident right now that we have a considerable amount of our funds committed. On the City end, we went out per requirements

of the CDEFA (Community Development Finance Authority) and we put our funds towards what we call the Hollows neighborhood, Lake Avenue and Belmont Street. We went out for proposals from developers two weeks ago and we had four developers interested. However, they all declined to submit proposals. They had some concerns about properties adjacent to the one that we purchased at 401 Spruce Street. That is where I want to go into non-public session and discuss that a little further.

Chairman O'Neil asked Sam could you put together, every other month or so, an update on where we are with this program?

Mr. Maranto replied sure.

Chairman O'Neil stated I think it would be helpful for the entire Board and not just this Committee. I believe we are going to go into non-public right here.

On motion of Alderman Ludwig, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to enter into non-public session to discuss the acquisition of property pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (d).

A roll call vote was required on the motion. Aldermen O'Neil, Ludwig, Shea, and Craig voted yea. Alderman Greazzo voted nay. The motion carried.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee