

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**April 4, 2000**  
**Mayor and All Aldermen**

**Upon Recess of BMA**  
**Aldermanic Chambers**  
**City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Clancy, Pinard, O'Neil, Lopez, Shea, Vaillancourt, Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Hirschmann

Absent: Alderman Wihby

Mayor Baines called the Committee's attention to a letter addressed to the Board which had been distributed, regarding a \$1 million discrepancy that has occurred regarding the bonding for the proposed police station. For members of the public present, Mayor Baines read from the communication as follows:

In April 1999, the Board of Mayor and Aldermen adopted a CIP line item in the amount of \$2,35 million for a proposed police station. On June 1, 1999 a bond resolution was submitted and passed which authorized \$3.35 million for the proposed police station. The bond was issued in the amount of \$3.35 million. [One million dollars in excess of what was authorized by the Board.]

Two other changes that the Board made in adopted the FY2000 CIP budget were also not made in the bond resolutions and the bond issuance – adding \$600,000 for revaluation and adding \$75,000 to the Intersection Improvement Program. Later in the year the two projects totaling \$675,000 were acted upon in bond resolutions but have not yet been issued.

As a result of these actions, \$1.0 million more was issued for the police station than authorized under the CIP and \$675,000 was not issued that had been approved. If it is the will of the Board, the next effect is that \$325,0000 is available for transfer to other projects.

I am very concerned about this error and how it could occur. My conversations with Mr. Clougherty are ongoing, and I shall report back to the Board no later than the next regular meeting [on the scenario of events that led to these errors.

Mayor Baines requested the clerk speak on this issue.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated a handout was being provided to members of the Board. The City Clerk's office has met with the Finance Department and the Planning Department that handles the CIP. We worked together today to try to come up with the simplest process possible to have an explanation to the Board of where everything stands, and to try to come up with some suggestions as to how in essence have the bond transfers come out of that because the Board did authorize only \$2.35 rather than \$3.35 under the CIP, even though the bond issue that the Board authorized was \$3.35. The easiest way to explain it to you at this point, and I would ask Mr. MacKenzie or Mr. Clougherty to add to this as they may desire afterwards, is that the handout before you shows the 2001 CIP as it currently stands on the table has a bonding capacity reflected in it of \$13,355,000. In addition to that, at the present time the 2000 CIP has authorized unissued \$675,000 which was for the Revaluation project and the Intersection Improvements. If you add those two figures together you have \$14,030,000 of current proposed authorized but unissued bonds. The Board has set as part of the 2001 CIP that you wanted to have authorized unissued in essence \$13,355,000 at this time. You do have in the 2000 CIP a bond balance of \$1,000,000. That is the result of the difference between the \$3.35 million that the bond authorization went through the Board for, and was physically authorized and was physically sold, and the \$2.35 million that was authorized under the CIP program. If you deduct the \$1 million from the \$14 million you come up with a figure of \$13,030,000. Our suggestion to you is to take the \$1 million and apply it to two projects that have been proposed under your current CIP so that you would be removing it from your authorized unissued figure of the \$14 million showing above. You would have a new capacity left over of \$325,000 which could be added to your 2001 CIP program later this evening. We suggest you take that up with the resolution and not at this time, because there are changes that you are obviously coming through with, some have been recommended by the CIP Committee and there are other considerations before the Committee. The staff recommendation would be that bond transfer resolutions be presented at the next meeting, \$500,000 for your Cohas Brook (SE Area) Fire Station, and \$500,000 for Riverfront Development, which are both listed as expedited projects under the CIP recommendation. It's basically a report of the Committee that has not been accepted at this time, but as I understand it the Board generally feels that it wants to expedite those two projects. This would in essence reduce the amount of new bonds because those are in fact slated as new bond funds and you would be using that \$1 million for two projects

that are city projects, a transfer of one city project bond balance to another in essence.

Mayor Baines noted they looked into defeasing the bond and what was the conclusion of doing something like that.

Mr. MacKenzie stated we did review that with the Finance Department and City Clerk today, in this particular instance it is a lot easier and less costly in this case to transfer that balance to another project that the Board may want to do, rather than eliminating or going back to defease the bond.

Alderman Clancy moved to put the monies in item A and B as outlined on the handout.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised it was acceptable to do so and as they got further into the Finance agenda they would advise of amendments to resolutions to address this action.

Alderman Pinard seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann asked if it was more important for us to make sure the revaluation, there is a transfer to that first.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that the revaluation has already been authorized, it is in process, the Board authorized the bond for that. It hasn't been sold, and will not be sold until the next bond sale, about \$14 million probably.

Alderman Shea asked, if we were to transfer this \$1 million to these two particular projects, this \$1 million is coming out of the difference between what we bonded and what we actually needed for the police station.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated in essence yes, it would be the difference between what the bond resolution read and what the CIP resolution allocation read.

Alderman O'Neil stated these two projects were listed in the Mayor's recommended budget, correct.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated yes they are.

Alderman O'Neil stated so you are just kind of reworking where they belong.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the idea was the CIP Committee was recommending that those two projects be expedited which means those two

projects would have gone into your 2000 CIP. That was the proposal, and they were going to be new bond funds. Because you don't want to go above, and the others can correct me here if needed, but you don't want to go beyond your \$13,355,000. If you don't use the \$1 million for existing projects that you have proposed, then you will go beyond that. These two projects are currently sitting in your FY2001, we would be deleting them out and putting them in the 2000 and using the \$1 million for those two projects, yes.

Alderman Lopez stated, and after we do that we'll deal with \$325,000.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated we were suggesting that you discuss that when you bring up your CIP resolution in a few minutes.

Mayor Baines noted that they would take it up with number 4 of the agenda.

Alderman Shea stated just to clarify then, there will be then in the budget for 2001 a million dollars.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted no.

Alderman Shea stated the Mayor's budget will not include that in the present budget.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated if you go back to the sheet in front of you, it shows the \$13,355,000; that's what's in your CIP resolution for 2001. You are going to take \$1 million of that \$13,355,000 out of there so you would have \$12,355,000 but you still have \$675,000 out there so you really are only talking a difference of \$325,000 is what it all comes down to. You need to move \$1 million out of 2001 or you will be over what you wanted to stay within for a financial plan.

Mayor Baines requested the clerk state the motion on the floor.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the motion would be to move on Items A and B reflected in the handout which would be to do bond transfers for the Cohas Brook (SE Area) Fire Station, and the Riverfront Development.

Mayor Baines called for a vote.

A roll call vote was requested by Alderman Vaillancourt.

Alderman Levasseur requested clarification stating if we approve this going in, the 500 for each, A and B, we are not actually saying that we approve the whole project.

Deputy Clerk Johnson asked which project.

Alderman Levasseur responded A or B.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I would just clarify that the Board, as part of the CIP will have to vote on whether they want to support the project, at this point we are just proposing this as a way of taking those unissued bond, or the issued bond funds and applying them to projects to clarify that problem in the bond situation. But the Board will be able to act on the CIP and on those projects specifically when they get to I believe to item 4.

Alderman Vaillancourt withdrew his roll call.

Mayor Baines stated he wished to proceed with the roll call to make sure the vote was on record.

Alderman Gatsas asked, the Riverfront Development, this is an additional \$700,000.

Members responded no.

Alderman Gatsas asked what is this for.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded that it was the \$500,000 that was reflected currently in the FY2001 CIP tables attached to your resolution. It would be a new appropriation of \$500,000, if you pass this motion we would have you remove \$500,000 down the line for riverfront from your FY2001 projects.

Alderman Gatsas asked what the appropriation of \$500,000 for.

Mr. MacKenzie stated the appropriation in this case is intended for parking. There are currently several major projects undergoing in the millyard that require parking. The Board has been concerned about parking in the past so this is not for the riverwalk, this is intended for the parking.

Alderman Gatsas stated I'm looking at a statement here correct me if I'm wrong Mr. MacKenzie, there is already appropriated \$700,000 for parking in the riverfront.

Mr. MacKenzie responded there is earmarked in the riverfront funds \$700,000 for parking.

Alderman Gatsas stated so this would be an additional \$500,000 to make it \$1.2 million.

Mr. MacKenzie responded that's correct.

Alderman O'Neil stated the combination of those two funds will address the one parking concern, the Seal Tanning Lot, which has been budgeted at approximately \$1.2 million.

Alderman Cashin asked Mr. MacKenzie aren't we committed to this, haven't we promised those people in the millyard that we would provide this parking.

Mr. MacKenzie responded clearly the owners of the buildings that are under construction now have spoken with the city in the past and certainly hoped that the city would commit to that. They need the parking to make this project work.

Mayor Baines stated he met with most of the owners this week and obviously that's a number one issue and there are some really exciting things happening down there in terms of some great jobs and economic development opportunities being brought in to that area and it's time for us to live up to that commitment.

Alderman Gatsas stated I can certainly appreciate the economic times of what's happening in the millyard, but I certainly think that there are other distressful situations in this city, that I don't think that \$500,000 within the next 12 months is going to be funneled to a parking situation in the millyard when we have other issues that are certainly more pressing in this city than looking for more parking to add another \$500,000 to a budget that has already committed 700,000. The city shouldn't be in the parking business to begin with, we don't do a good job at it now. I don't know why we continue funding a parking situation when we don't do it well. Obviously we don't do it well enough to manage it to find out that we are owed rents from two parking garages we have now.

Alderman Shea stated point of clarification, if we were to bond this money and build a parking for these people are we going to charge them fees, or are we just going to provide parking.

Mr. MacKenzie stated the fees would be charged according to the rates set by the city. I understand from the Traffic Department that they will be reviewing with the Traffic Committee what those fees would be, but certainly they would pay full fees to the city for those parking spaces.

Alderman Shea stated so it would be a revenue type.

Mr. MacKenzie responded yes it would.

Alderman Hirschmann stated he was not provided with a multi-year section of his CIP book, so he had no idea how much the Cohas fire station costs.

Mr. MacKenzie stated just to clarify I'll touch on both of those points. One is that the mayor in coming into office was faced with a lot of issues with the CIP and a lot on learning curve. I think it was clear to him that he was hoping to look at the entire situation of the city from a strategic planning standpoint and has appointed a task force to do that. So the opinion was to have the strategic planning group review everything including what we should be doing in the future and then come into the Board later with the multi-year section of the plan. In terms of your second question, in terms of the cost of the fire station, there are two costs actually. One is in constructing the fire station, we are hoping to shortly receive the property, we believe hopefully for free, for that facility. We can't speculate too much other than probably the facility will cost on the order of \$1.6 million, there is also a need to buy a fire engine for that station.

Alderman Hirschmann stated \$600,000 for that.

Mr. MacKenzie stated it may be, it's a special type of a fire truck, I think it would be less than \$600,000.

Alderman Hirschmann stated the reason that he was bringing this up was that he was being asked to vote on a project, and we are not being told the cost. He asked if this were design money they were putting on.

Mr. MacKenzie stated a portion of that is design money, but a portion is just to set aside some money to make sure the project is going to work and so we don't have to commit a larger chunk in the future.

Alderman Hirschmann stated this is why during our last full meeting I asked for my resolution not to be tabled. I wanted to know the impact of the project, how many fire fighters do you have to put on the payroll. On the operating budget next year it looks like a million and a half dollars will have to go on for the year 2002.

Mr. MacKenzie stated I have discussed this with Chief Kane. He is happy to provide that information, and he is going to be doing so. I think it is reasonable to ask what the long term operating costs of a new facility is, that is important for the Board to know.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated in terms of establishing priorities. I noticed at the CIP meeting that Alderman Lopez moved \$150,000 for the Memorial Field, the

track upgrade, it died for lack of a second. I noticed that Mr. Lemire is here tonight and has been referred to on numerous occasions. I would say that it's far more important to spend the \$500,000 which is what it would take for the Clem Lemire area than it is for this riverfront parking, so I think that when we come back to the CIP budget, I will make the motion that Mr. Lopez made at the CIP meeting and hope that it will get a second tonight.

Alderman Lopez stated I think that Alderman Gatsas brought up a very good point and as well as Alderman O'Neil. The parking situation in the millyard is very, very important, but and I voted to put the \$500,000 in there with the other 700,000. In the beginning of the CIP we talked about the 700,000 was sufficient to take care of the situation. I think he brings up a valid point. Let there be noticed that as we go forward if that money is not used or committed, I for one are coming after it for the senior citizens center, I assure you of that.

Mayor Baines requested the clerk read the motion again.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded that the motion before the Board was to do the bond transfers for the Cohas Brook fire station and for the Riverfront Development in the amount of \$500,000 each.

Alderman Levasseur stated again, we seem to be getting off the track, if we just approve this, this doesn't actually mean we are going to approve the projects, let's just transfer this money, get this out of the way and start nailing one thing at a time, is that the way we should be doing this.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Hirschmann duly recorded in opposition.

Mayor Baines requested direction from the Clerk on proceeding with the agenda.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the next item was the report of the Committee on Community Improvement and briefly outlined that the report reflected increases to projects, expediting projects relating to the FY2001 CIP that was proposed. It does add in a new project for funds intended for additional parking on Merrimack Street, it outlines projects to be transferred, and those are being transferred basically as a result of expedited projects as well, and there are some corrections that are outlined. If the Board has any questions, she noted Mr. MacKenzie was available to answer them, but asked for a motion to accept the committee report. Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that the Committee report did not change the resolution but it is outlining some recommendations by the committee that the board can or cannot accept.

Mayor Baines stated so they would be moving from parking improvement program up to number 4 on the agenda.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that from number 3 up to number 4 was the report of the committee.

3. A report of Committee on Community Improvement recommending that the FY2001 CIP Resolution be amended and prior years CIP programs be amended to accommodate the following:

*INCREASES TO PROJECTS*

- **Park Improvement Program**

Recommending that \$475,005.29 be added to the Park Improvement Program for a total appropriation of \$2,385,005.29; and further that the description be changed to read:

“This project will enable an increase in the efforts to adequately maintain and improve City parks. Includes funds for West Memorial Field, next phase of Livingston Park, approximately \$75,000 for Pine Island Park, approximately \$150,000 for Prout Park, approximately \$300,000 for Piscataquog Park, and approximately \$50,000 for the Skateboard Park.”

- **Granite Street Road & Bridge Widening**

The Committee recommends adding \$450,000 for a total appropriation of \$625,000.

*ADD NEW PROJECTS*

- **School Recreation and Parking Lot Improvements**

The Committee recommends adding \$160,000 for this new project with a description to read:

“Funds for improvement to school site at Webster School primarily for ADA accessibility.”

- **CIP Downtown Parking Improvements**

The Committee recommends this new project be funded from transferred cash balances in the amount of \$15,000.

“Funds are intended to add additional parking on Merrimack Street through diagonal parking.”

- **Project balances to be transferred**

The Committee recommends that the following funds be transferred from accounts as follows:

1990 CIP 830201 Capital Assets Preservation	\$ 1,641.03 Cash
1996 CIP 710217 Valley/Massabesic/Tarry Intersection	249.74 Bond
1996 CIP 740203 Storm Drain Infrastructure	3,474.31 Bond
1996 CIP 330515 School Capacity Improvements	22,907.40 Bond
1997 CIP 420102 SCBA Gear	251.10 Bond
1997 CIP 510153 Urban Parks – Wolf Park	124.86 Bond
1997 CIP 510177 Crystal Lake Water Quality	638.48 Cash
1998 CIP 430101 Defibrillator Program	2,157.69 Cash
1998 CIP 760327 Crystal Lake Water Quality	2,865.95 Cash
1999 CIP 420399 Fire Station Generators	11,820.00 Bond
1999 CIP 710299 TIP Improvement Project	30,000.00 Bond
1999 CIP 750399 Amory Street/Bartlett Street Stairs	2,525.99 Cash
1999 CIP 820299 Archive Record Retrieval	17,000.00 Cash
1999 CIP 820399 Map Upgrade	4.74 Cash
1999 CIP 820199 Y2K Contingency & Computer Upgrades	100,000 Bond
1999 CIP 830100 Phase III Building Expansion - Police	904,344 Bond

*CORRECTIONS TO FY2001 RESOLUTION*

• **Delete project from Table 1 as follows:**

830401 Cemetery Administrative Office Rehab \$100,000

• **Delete projects from Table 5 as follows:**

830501 Cemetery Administrative Office Rehab \$161,000

830601 Pine Grove Cemetery Outdoor Colombarium 75,000

830701 Valley Cemetery Rehabilitation Project 50,000

• **Add to Table 5 new project as follows:**

830201 EPD Energy Efficiency Improvements \$350,000

*EXPEDITE PROJECTS*

• **Expedite projects by deleting same from FY2001 and placing in FY2000 CIP as follows:**

#831500 Somerville Street Station Completion

#831600 Cohas Brook (SE area) Fire Station

#510100 Riverfront Development

#750400 Sidewalk Improvement Program

#710100 Annual ROW Reconstruction

#711000 Bridge Rehabilitation Program

#510600 Park Improvement Program

#830700 School Capital Improvement Program

#831100 City Security System

*(Note from Clerk: project numbers above reflect FY2000 project numbers not FY2001 project numbers)*

The Committee notes that to address portions of such changes, amending resolutions have been submitted to the Board for referral to the Committee on Finance.

Alderman O'Neil moved to accept the report. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Clancy stated during the public safety meeting we tabled the \$15,000 for the parallel parking on Merrimack Street. I would like to table that one and refer it to Traffic, Planning, Police.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated as I understand it, Alderman Clancy is asking to amend the report, remove that item from the report, and table it at the Finance Committee level.

Alderman Vaillancourt seconded the motion.

Mayor Baines called for discussion on the amendment.

Alderman Levasseur asked if you take this off the CIP budget at this time, I don't think by allow it to go forward you actually approve the money for it, but it would have to come back again and have to be approved by CIP again.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated there were a couple of options, if she was understanding what Alderman Levasseur was trying to say. One would be to allow this report to go forward and when the CIP resolution comes before you that item could remain in the CIP resolution and be referred to these departments for report back.

Mayor Baines asked or it could be done this way too.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated at this point you would be taking it from the report and tabling, you are not removing it from the resolution.

Alderman O'Neil asked if the intent is to let the Traffic Committee work out there issues first, wouldn't we want to still approve this and just direct that no money be spent until that.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that the committee report does not appropriate the funds nor does it allow for expenditures of any funds. The report is merely a recommendation of the committee.

Alderman Clancy stated in essence, what I am trying to say is that I want some recommendations from the police department and the fire department because they use the street primarily all the time. This is an outlet for them.

Alderman Hirschmann stated he would defer to Alderman Clancy but he thought that they should leave the \$15,000 in the budget. Even if that section of parallel parking does not pass there are other areas that could use parallel parking design, we could use that money in the budget.

Alderman Clancy stated he agreed with Alderman Hirschmann.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the motion to amend on the floor could be withdrawn and there would then be the motion on the floor to accept the report.

Alderman Clancy withdrew his motion. Alderman Vaillancourt withdrew his second to the motion.

Mayor Baines requested to clarify the motion on the floor.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised the motion on the floor was to accept the report made by Alderman O'Neil, and seconded by Alderman Clancy.

Alderman Vaillancourt asked if this was the time to make the amendment to add \$150,000 for Memorial Field.

Mayor Baines stated they would take those later on in item number 4.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to accept the report. The motion carried with none recorded in opposition.

**4. Resolution:**

"Amending a Resolution Approving the Community Improvement Program for 2001, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefor and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program."

On motion of Alderman O’Neil, duly seconded by Alderman Thibault, it was voted to read the resolution by title only and it was so done.

Mayor Baines called a five minute recess.

Mayor Baines stated that they were going to address the items starting with pursuant to the report of the CIP Committee, item 3, which began on page one recommending the resolution be amended and ended with the last sentence “Amend paragraph 2, page 3 of the resolution...” and noted that then they would deal with the \$325,000 and the discussion of amendments in the next section.

**Pursuant to the report of the CIP Committee, if accepted, a motion is in order to amend the FY2001 Resolution as follows:**

***Amend Table 1, Federal, State and Other Funds by deleting:***

830401 Cemetery Administrative Office Rehab \$100,000.

***(New Total for Table 1 to be \$7,356,664.00)***

***Amend Table 4, General Obligation Bonds by deleting:***

#420101 Somerville Street Station Completion	\$475,000.00
#420001 Cohas Brook (SE area) Fire Station	500,000.00
#620101 Riverfront Development	500,000.00
#750101 Sidewalk Improvement Program	550,000.00
#711001 Annual ROW Reconstruction	250,000.00
#710901 Bridge Rehabilitation Program0	190,000.00
#510801 Park Improvement Program	1,910,000.00
#330401 School Capital Improvement Program	4,340,000.00
#330501 Human Resources/City Security	250,000.00
#711100 Granite Street Road & Bridge Widening	175,000.00

***(New Total for Table 4 to be \$4,215,000.00)***

***Amend Table 5 Projects financed through Enterprises, Fees, and other Dedicated Sources.***

***By deleting***

830501 Cemetery Administrative Office Rehab	161,000
830601 Pine Grove Cemetery Outdoor Colombarium	75,000
830701 Valley Cemetery Rehabilitation Project	50,000

***By adding:***

830201 EPD Energy Efficiency Improvements \$350,000  
*(New Total for Table 5 to be \$24,100,000.00)*

*Amend paragraph 3, page 2 of the resolution by inserting \$7,356,664 in place of \$7456,664.*

*Amend paragraph 1, page 3 of the resolution by inserting \$4,215,000.00 in place of \$13,355,000.*

*Amend paragraph 2, page 3 of the resolution by inserting \$24,100,000 in place of \$24,036,000.*

Alderman O'Neil moved to amend the resolution as outlined above. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Mayor Baines advised that other amendments were in order.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that the Board had agreed it wanted to discuss the \$325,000, and the clerk has submitted a memo to the Board which had been prepared just prior to the Board meeting.

Mayor Baines requested the Clerk to address the memo.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that the memorandum before the members stated that we had understood that members of the board might want to add funds for certain projects. It reflects \$150,000 for the Clem Lemire Field, \$150,000 in additional funds to complete Phase I improvements at Webster School, and \$100,000 for Gill Stadium related to the Central High Locker Rooms.

Alderman O'Neil wished to move on the items.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that it should be clear as to what the Board was voting and continued at the Mayor's request stating we also understood that those projects, if they were going to go forward were going to be expedited projects. And, in order to maintain a separation between the city portions and the school portions in the debt service we are trying to keep all school projects going forward as new bond funds so that they are separated out from city funds. To do that we suggested that the \$325,000, if the Board so desired and it was obviously a Board decision, that:

\$150,000 new bonds be added to the 200 School Recreation and Parking Lot Improvements for Phase I improvements at Webster School  
\$150,000 new bonds be added to 2000 "School Park Improvement Program" formerly the West Memorial Field.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that they were replacing that as a school project. It does not change the amount to be reflected for the West Memorial Field and she wanted to be clear on that because there would be some concern. The amount for West Memorial Field would not change.

Deputy Clerk Johnson continued stating:

\$25,000 in new bonds be added to “School Park Improvement Program” for Gill Stadium related to Central High Locker Rooms.

Move funding sources to transfer funds to accommodate balance of Gill Stadium

Taking \$75,000 in new bond funds from Somerville Fire Station, that would go to Gill Stadium; and

\$75,000 from the Police Station project to go into the Somerville Fire Station.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted the reason you doing the second portion of that is again to keep your school funds, and your city funds separate. So you are taking funds from the Police Station, which is a city project, and putting it into the Somerville Fire Station which is a city project. You are creating a new bond fund opening for the finish off of the Gill Stadium project.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the motion would be move on those items 1 and 2 as reflected in the memo and outlined by the clerk.

Alderman O’Neil so moved to approve changes as outlined. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated he appreciated the Clem Lemire Field item but questioned if he missed a meeting where all of this was discussed and deliberated, or was this just coming upon us out of the sky tonight. Was there an open meeting when this was openly discussed. I see the memo is dated today from the Deputy City Clerk, I assume she didn’t make these decisions, I wonder who made these decisions and if we were all invited to this or if all of us were not invited.

Alderman O’Neil stated I believe this memo was based on a conversation that I had with the Planning Director, and I spoke with you [Mayor] about it and it was based on conversations formerly and informally that has happened at public hearings, it has happened at several meetings, that these were issues that for some reason failed to get addressed and that’s why it’s before us as it is tonight.

Mayor Baines advised that it could be amended, voted up or down or could be discussed now and this is the time to discuss those.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated with all due respect it was addressed at the last CIP meeting I went to last week and as I mentioned earlier there was a motion made by Alderman Lopez which failed for lack of a second, so I am wondering if there was a meeting pursuant to that that I missed.

Alderman O'Neil stated there was no meeting your honor, this was just based on conversations and in order to try to speed up the process tonight, if somebody wants to take the bullet I'll take the bullet for it.

Mayor Baines stated I think there were some discussions made, this is a resolution, but it is now on the floor for discussion, that's the democratic process we can amend, we can discuss and we can deal with the issue. There is a lot of discussions that have taken place with a lot of different aldermen about different projects.

Alderman Lopez stated I did talk to Bob MacKenzie, and I submitted a letter to him and CIP is well aware of the letter I submitted to them and in conversation, talking about some of these projects, I said if there was some money around that I sure would like to see some of these projects for the different wards that take place especially when some of the other aldermen were looking at the Gill Stadium and Clem Lemire park and Webster School, so in general conversation I think once the staff, staff being the Mayor and Bob MacKenzie realized that there was an error someplace along the lines and they had to redo the numbers, I think this was an opportunity for them to see that some of these other projects could be taken care of and I'm very happy that they brought them forward.

Alderman Gatsas certainly I believe that this is an amendment to the CIP budget so I don't think that this is anything that was done behind closed doors and not in the open I think we are bringing it into the open right now saying we'd like to amend the CIP, anybody that doesn't want to go along with the amendment that's fine but I think that amendment that we are looking at where Alderman Lopez didn't get the second, is coming back to the floor and if somebody wants to remove any one of those or not vote for them I say so be it, but I think we are just looking for an amendment to the CIP budget.

Mayor Baines stated absolutely, and we did have discussions as aldermen do regularly individually with the Mayor's office and Planning office and others involved and we had an opportunity to try to address some of the concerns that had been brought forth and we suggested it be placed in a motion and brought to the full Board for discussion, and that would be a common practice on many other issues that we talk about on this Board.

Alderman Shea stated I'm not sure if we are going to finish this, but I am going to speak about the senior center.

It was suggested that be taken up after conclusion of the current discussions.

Mayor Baines asked the clerk to clarify the motion.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the motion was to utilize the \$325,000 in added bond capacity as outlined in item number one of the memo, and move funding sources and transfer funds to accommodate the balance of Gill Stadium project as outlined in number 2.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with none recorded in opposition.

Mayor Baines requested clarification on what actions would be required next.

Deputy Clerk Johnson suggested that any other motions to amend the CIP resolution would be in order at this time.

Alderman Shea stated as the Chairman of the Mayor's Special Senior Study Committee I would like to present for the aldermanic board's consideration for the funding of a senior center, after stating basic points. 1) The seniors have spoken loud and clear they are fully deserving of an updated facility. 2) They do not want to share a facility with other city departments. 3) They want a facility which has plenty of parking spaces. 4) They don't want to wait three, four or five years; they don't even want to wait one year. However, I would like the Board's consideration for funding so that this project can be placed on what Alderman Gatsas would call a "fast track". Therefore, I would like to recommend that we amend the FY2001 Community Improvement Program by transferring \$1 million from the 1999 CIP 830100 Phase III Building Expansion Police to a senior center facility. I would also like at this time to ask Mike Lopez for his input. Mike and I have worked on the senior committee, and if I may your honor, I would like to ask Mike to second the motion or add to this.

Alderman Lopez stated I concur wholeheartedly. I think that the committee has worked very hard in trying to get a feasibility study. In conversation with some of my counterparts, if we don't put the money in there we are going to be two or three years down the road. There's figures out there, and we don't have those total figures, but in viewing some of the other senior citizen centers around the state and in Massachusetts, and in talking to Mr. MacKenzie, 2 million is probably a minimum, up to 2.5 the other senior citizen centers have been built and that was on city land. I think it's important for us as we look at the three year cycle of the

CIP as somebody has indicated there is only \$40 million left and I like Mr. MacKenzie's pie chart to try to figure out all of the items that we need to put in there. I think this would be a good business move that we take the money with the \$150,000 we have allocated for the architect, add this money there and some other money I'm sure that will come down the line that we can come up to \$1.5 million and next year will be very easy to finish this off. But fast track as both aldermen use the word. We want to make sure that our commitment is out there in front and the senior citizens realize that we are serious about them. We are going to build a senior citizen center as fast as we can, so therefore, I would second the motion.

Mayor Baines advised that it has been moved and seconded and recognized the clerk to clarify the motion.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated she wished to clarify something for the record; that if I understand what they are trying to do, it would be the movement of \$1 million, but in essence it would be not an FY2001 project or a 1999 transfer, it's a fiscal year FY2000 project that we would be establishing, and while the motion can be in order at this time, it would be to amend the FY2000 by transferring \$1 million from the Police Station project to the Senior Center project.

Alderman Shea so revised his motion to amend the FY2000 by transferring \$1 million from the Police Station project to the Senior Center project. Alderman Lopez so concurred to seconding the revised motion.

Alderman Gatsas stated I certainly recommend, commend the two aldermen that are on that committee. I think that certainly the seniors are more than deserving of a center. However, I think that we need to look at a consolidation of where we may be able to put some building departments with the seniors that may alleviate the city paying rent in buildings that we don't need to be in if we can do it. I certainly don't think that we should put them in an adverse situation. I think we should make it as comfortable a position as we can do it, I don't think we should put stringent guidelines on saying that the seniors must be alone. I think it may sometimes, when you look at those situations, it may be in a better effect for seniors that there may be somebody in another department that's next to them, senior services or whatever that's paying rent in the city right now. The city needs to take a look, we are paying approximately \$200,000 a year in rent. That on a bonding issue is probably about \$2 million. So if we could go out and find something either new to build or to renovate that would accommodate the seniors with their parking issues and the different things that they have talked about, I believe the fast track should be that we make a commitment in the next six months that the senior committee come to CIP, comes to Lands and Buildings, in a six month time frame to put something in down so that we can commit to it, and move forward because three and four years we could be here for five and ten years and

by then I would have already gotten my AARP card and I might be considered a senior. But I think fast track is looking to move things a little bit quicker so we can get recommendations in the next six months.

Mayor Baines stated that the motion did not really address that issue, all this motion does is reallocate money from FY2000 to FY2001, correct.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded no, it would establish an FY2000 project for the senior center for \$1 million.

Mayor Baines stated that it did not address that issue, which could be discussed at a later date and clarified at a later date.

Alderman Levasseur stated he wished to thank the aldermen for working hard on this project and getting it speeded up, it was obviously something that had been a hot topic and he thought that the seniors would get behind them on this. He also wished to say he hoped they could put this down on the river where they were going to have a riverwalk so the seniors could go out and walk along the river, if there is a two mile walk they can do that. They should be enjoying the same things that the rest of the city has, so he hoped that they looked for something down in the millyard area.

Alderman Shea stated in all due respect they had discussed placing departments with the seniors and they are not really in favor of that however, one has to keep an open mind. As far as sites are concerned, we will do whatever is possible to do whatever is right and being a frugal person myself, we will do the best we can for the seniors because I am one of them, so I will do the best I can. Alderman Shea stated Alderman Lopez would do the best he could as well.

Alderman Lopez stated he supported Alderman Gatsas 100 percent, and consolidation of those and the money that we are spending on the leases there, and there all up in 2002 so I'm sure at some point we are going to have to put a study committee together to make sure that it doesn't get extended.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated there say there is no such thing as a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, we seem to have discovered our pot of gold, I guess it's that money that was set aside for the police department, so I think we should realize that by taking this \$1 million out here, first of all do we have that much still in that police department, we have already gone to it for a couple of other purposes. Alderman Vaillancourt asked how much it would leave if they took out the \$1 million.

Mr. MacKenzie stated he did not know the exact numbers of what's been expended, I know it is under \$200,000. The total amount was \$2.35 million, so far the Board has removed \$979,000, so there should be \$1 million available in the police station. It would leave roughly \$375,000.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated so I could move that over for sidewalks in the next motion.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to establish \$1 million for the elderly center project in the FY2000; funding coming from balances in the police department bond project. The motion carried.

Mayor Baines asked if there were any other amendments to the CIP resolution that aldermen wished to make.

Alderman Lopez asked for clarification, whether it was just amendments not withdrawals.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded a withdrawal would be deleting a project so yes it would be an amendment.

Alderman Lopez stated there is one project that I would like to move that we bring out and refer it back to the CIP committee for discussion, and that's the west side library.

Mayor Baines stated so your motion is to remove the funds \$175,000.

Alderman Lopez concurred stating and refer it to CIP.

Mayor Baines stated and so refer it back to CIP for further discussion.

Mayor Baines asked if there was a second to the motion.

Alderman Levasseur asked where this was on this stating it was not an expedited project.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that they were not dealing with just expedited projects, they were dealing with the entire CIP program at this time, all the tables.

Alderman Levasseur seconded the motion.

Alderman Lopez stated the only reason I want to do that, and I think this goes along with Alderman Hirschmann's philosophy is we don't know what it's going

to cost us to renovate the building. We don't know what it's going to cost us to do an operating budget for that particular library and looking at all the other projects I heard figures anywhere from 3 million, 4 million dollars that's going to renovate Brown School. I've heard an operating budget from \$1 million to \$1.2 million. I think it's only prudent that we get that particular information so we can make a sound decision. Let it be that I am not against the library if we can afford it, but with all the other projects, coming forward next year, and with the \$40 million CIP program that has been laid for the next three years, I just don't see where we are going to get the money so I think we need some discussion on it to make sure that we are making the right decision.

Mayor Baines requested Mr. MacKenzie advise what they would be doing with the funds if they were approved.

Mr. MacKenzie stated that would go into final design for the west side library at the Brown School, that was what the money was being appropriated for.

Mayor Baines asked the final design would give us.

Mr. MacKenzie stated you would be up to the point of being able to go out to bid and you would have a solid cost estimate for the project.

Alderman Thibault stated I'm 100% behind the civic center and I will do everything in my power to help it along, but let me tell you this, we've just appropriated \$1 million for the elderly center and we don't even know where that is going yet, if it's going to be a new building or if we are going to use an old building. This is a project that's already been started on pretty well along the way and now we are going to pull the money back, I don't think that's right. The people in my area have been after me to see to it that we do something with this building. That building has been empty for about 8 or 9 years and is fast deteriorating. If we don't do something with this building someday we are going to lose it. And this is why I would like to see that that 175 stays there and we do this design. That doesn't mean that we are going to build it yet and we are going to renovate it next week or next year, but it does mean that we are on track to get there. I would like to see that and requested a roll call.

Alderman Levasseur stated we are in the middle of a robust economy and the tax base is flat and we are going to go out and spend \$175,000 for something we are not sure we are going to pay for. We don't have the money for this stuff. We have a library here on the east side and if we are going to do anything we are going to renovate that. Boston with a couple million people has one library. We are getting ahead of ourselves in some of these things, this is talking about prioritizing. Next year we may have money for this stuff when the tax base goes

up. But we can't just keep giving everything to anything they come in for. I agree that this might be something that is necessary, but we are going to just approve everything, and \$4 million to renovate and we don't even know how much it's going to cost to staff it.

Mayor Baines stated just a clarification on that, how much did we deny on requests that came into CIP.

Mr. MacKenzie stated the original request from the library was over \$17 million.

Mayor Baines asked how much they denied overall in terms of requests that came in to CIP for financing.

Mr. MacKenzie stated the bond amount, there was requests for \$54 million of which they only bonded a little over 13, so we denied some 40 million.

Mayor Baines stated just to clarify, a lot of requests came in and we pared it down considerably; that does not take away from your discussion but I want you to know that I made a lot of decisions that we weren't going to fund a lot of projects and we did roll back expenditures to reflect some of the conditions that you've talked about.

Alderman O'Neil asked the \$175,000 is that the design exclusively for a library, or was that design to bring it up to current code and if I understood Alderman Thibault, but you indicated you weren't necessarily pushing the library but more use of that building by the city.

Alderman Thibault stated what I was trying to tell you that the money had already been appropriated for this design. And I said at that point they are not designing how they are going to furnish the building or anything like that it was strictly design to bring the building up to where it belongs.

Mr. MacKenzie advised that there was a motion last fall by the previous board to instruct the staff to proceed with a feasibility study to only look at it for library purposes. Originally the staff was going to look at alternative uses. The Board directed that we look at it only for the library purposes.

Mayor Baines stated and what was done as a follow up, because a lot of us attended a program at the West Library, the senior citizens center, tell us about that process and what happened with that, because there was a design by an architect.

Mr. MacKenzie stated he did not know all the details about it Mr. Maranto was available to address that item who has been following the feasibility study and the public hearings that have been involved in dealing with that..

Mr. Maranto stated only yesterday afternoon we received the feasibility study from the consultant we had hired and we have not had an opportunity yet to basically digest it and put together a summary for the board but we will be doing that so that the board can look at what the costs are and what the deficiencies are with that building.

Alderman O'Neil asked is the \$175,000 dedicated to designing this building exclusively for a library or is it just bringing up the code where the use of it could be decided at a later date.

Mr. MacKenzie stated at the present time the description calls for design for library, but again the Board may revise that description of how the money is to be used.

Alderman Lopez stated I would like to share, and I think that's the reason why it should go back to the CIP for further investigation. I know some of my colleagues are for it, and at this stage of the game I don't know whether I am for it or not, it's just a case of the operating budget and what it's going to cost. I can share with you that I did attend a meeting over at the senior center on the west side and there was a lot of people there as well as other aldermen. I can assure you that people talked like this was a done deal. And many questions were asked and many questions were not answered. I can tell you that the director of the Library was instructed to provide us with an operating budget, so that we can do something and look at it and see what it was going to cost in conjunction with Alderman Hirschmann. That's all I'm asking for is to go back, let's analyze it a little bit, and if the decision of the board is to move forward to build a library, that's fine. But I think to arbitrarily just pass this after you heard Mr. MacKenzie, this is strictly for a library. Now, if it was for a building that was going to be used maybe by the police station, or clean it up and put open bay and put a kitchen and bathroom in it, that's a different story, but this is strictly for a library. So if we go forward, we are telling the public that we are going to build a west side library. And that's what I'm afraid of.

Alderman Gatsas stated he agreed 100 percent with Alderman Thibault. I believe it's time that the city start looking at vacant property, vacant buildings, and obviously they are not producing anything for the city. It's time we either move ahead and have a plan for them, or liquidate them, because there is no reason for us to landbank buildings that we don't intend to use or that we have to pull down because the City Building Department says they are going to be a problem or

hazard. So it's time that we look at these situations and get them out to the public so that they can do what they do best and that's create a tax base for us.

Alderman Cashin asked a point of information, with the motion were they taking the \$175,000 out of the budget.

Mayor Baines stated this motion would take it out of this movement to go forward with this budget and refer the whole issue back to CIP.

Alderman Cashin asked if they could keep the \$175,000 in, send the recommendation back to CIP for further discussion, I have no problem with that, and giving Alderman Thibault who is liaison to the library the opportunity to go back and talk to the Library Trustees.

Alderman Lopez stated that was what my motion was. I am not taking the money out I am referring it back to CIP to report back to this Board with the operating budget that it's going to cost for the west side library and answer about seven questions that I will provide them.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the motion made originally was to delete the project, however, if you wish to change that motion, my understanding is you want to leave the funding in and refer the project for further consideration to CIP and have them report back to the Board in two weeks.

Alderman Lopez stated and then nothing would be spent until it came back to the Board.

Mayor Baines stated that brings the motion to a new level because the motion was to take the money out.

Alderman O'Neil stated for clarification, we are saying keep it in, refer it to a committee, and allow Alderman Thibault a chance to review other costs.

Alderman Cashin stated my understanding is, correct me if I'm wrong, 1) we take the motion send it back in to CIP committee, retain the \$175,000 in the budget giving Alderman Thibault an opportunity to go to the Library commission and talk to them and let them understand what is going on here, and there will be no money expended until such time as the CIP agrees to it.

Mayor Baines asked if it would be more appropriate to proceed with this motion at the end of that accept the motion to refer the project to the CIP committee.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated it was fine the way it was reading but wished to clarify and ask a question, the CIP Committee is scheduled to meet next week. The CIP resolution if it comes out ought to pass and lay over will come back to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen in two weeks. My understanding is that Alderman Lopez is making a motion that the project be reviewed by the CIP Committee, now that project can be reviewed by the CIP Committee and report back in two weeks or it could be that it is intended to just stay there throughout the resolution and when the budget authorization comes through those questions are answered and that is what I am trying to clarify, which motion he is trying to make. Is it the intent that in two weeks the Board is going to have a report back, I guess.

Alderman Lopez stated for my own clarification cause we discussed various things here, and I was told I only had one or two options. Now, I'm willing to let it go back and concede to the fact that I want another look at it, I want the director of the library there, I want an operating budget of what it's going to cost for the library.

Deputy Clerk Johnson responded but you are not stating that the report has to come back in two weeks.

Alderman Lopez stated no, if it takes a month that's fine with me, we have to get answers to a lot of questions before.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated my understanding is that there is a footnote on the project that CIP Committee will review it before the funds are expended, that's all.

Mayor Baines stated the Chair would recommend that you withdraw your motion, I think there is clear understanding about this, let's move forward to see if there are any other issues with CIP and then we can accept a motion to refer that issue back to CIP for further study and further reports to the Board before we proceed.

Alderman Levasseur stated I'm concerned here because I came here tonight, what I see on the agenda is what I think we are suppose to discuss tonight. Now, we don't start taking stuff off the agenda, now the \$175,000 that we are talking about for the west side library is not in here.

Mayor Baines requested the clerk clarify.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated the item that you are discussing now is item 4, your CIP resolution. If you go to the resolution contained within the agenda, there are various tables of your CIP. These are all the projects that you are approving. Deputy Clerk Johnson referred Alderman Levasseur to the Finance Committee agenda contents.

Mr. MacKenzie stated there was an attached table here, there were a lot of pages identified as number four.

Alderman Levasseur stated I understand that, the table was not included with all this.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated yes it is, the title of the resolution includes all of the projects that are contained with it.

Alderman Levasseur stated all of the projects, so if we don't start taking this stuff out of here right now, if we don't make our little amendments here at this point, these things are going to get passed and they are going to go forward.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that was correct.

Alderman Levasseur commented that this was a little fast noting it was new to him.

Mayor Baines commented as it was new to him also, but this was the process, that's why the information is sent to the Board in advance of the meeting.

Alderman Levasseur stated so we are going to have to do our nitpicking here tonight otherwise, there is a lot of stuff on this agenda that has to be yanked out of here. I thought we were only going to be discussing the expedited stuff tonight, because expedite means get it done, these are all other things that don't need to be done.

Mayor Baines stated that the issues were outlined, he understood it was complicated but the information was there.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated this is just baffling, this is another item that didn't just fall from the sky. When we had the CIP hearing here a couple of weeks ago, there were about 70 people here as you noted, the most eloquent testimony we heard in my opinion, was in favor of the west side library. If there were seven mystery questions, they could have surfaced then. Alderman Lopez is on the CIP committee, you have been dealing with this for the past month, those questions could have been brought forward, and answered. I just think it's a travesty when we fast track many items that cost tens of millions and hundreds of millions of dollars, and yet we seem to slow track something that deals with reading. What does this say about our society, when we put such a low priority on libraries, on reading, as the alderman who sat in this chair a couple of years ago, Jackie Domaingue, in a most eloquent statement before the school committee the other

night said that we are putting athletics at our schools ahead of books. It seems like we are putting athletics ahead of books when we vote to slow track this library and fast track other things. I think it's time we put a value on reading and maybe I should recluse myself because I do read and I do take books out of the library.

Alderman Thibault stated he would like to make a motion to have a roll call on this that we do not review this \$175,000 and we let it stay where it is.

Alderman Vaillancourt attempted to second the motion.

Alderman Levasseur interjected there was a motion on the floor.

Mayor Baines noted members should speak through the chair.

Alderman Levasseur attempted to make other comments.

Mayor Baines recognized Alderman Thibault.

Alderman Thibault stated he would like to have a roll call that this \$175,000 stays exactly where it is and doesn't even go for review.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated he would second the motion.

Mayor Baines stated that there was a motion on the floor.

Alderman Lopez stated to Mayor Baines that he had asked him to change his motion to accept my motion to send it back to committee and you are taking another motion over what you inform me, otherwise I want to go back to my original motion.

Mayor Baines stated there was a motion on the floor and they can vote it up or down as they could have done with Alderman Lopez's.

Alderman Lopez stated you asked for clarification of my motion, you asked me to withdraw it to go for another motion, to refer it back to the CIP, and now you are accepting another motion and if I had known that I would not have changed that and would like a parliamentary ruling on that.

Mayor Baines conferred with the City Solicitor.

Alderman Thibault stated he would withdraw his roll call.

Mayor Baines stated he appreciated Alderman Thibault's withdrawal of the motion. Alderman Vaillancourt stated he would withdraw his second, noting whatever facilitates things.

Alderman Clancy stated here we are asking to spend \$175,000 for the library on the west side yet we don't know the final cost of what it is going to cost to reconstruct this building, it might be \$3 million, \$4 million, that okay fine, but do we really need two libraries. We will have duplication of books on the east side and west side, and we are going to have people working on the west side, how much is the budget of the library going to go up.

Mayor Baines stated and I think we will get some clarification on that. We are going to deal with Alderman Lopez's situation at the end of this discussion about other items, asking if there were any other items in the CIP that anyone would like to deal with at this time other than the library.

Alderman O'Neil stated don't we need to take a motion on that.

Mayor Baines recognized Alderman Lopez to make a motion.

Alderman Lopez moved to refer this to CIP for further discussion and report back to this Board. Alderman Clancy seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur noted that he withdrew his motion and it was seconded by me don't I have to withdraw my second, that's the way it has been going all along, and I refuse to withdraw my second, I want to do the motion that was on there originally.

Mayor Baines stated the chair has ruled that he will not accept that motion, I have been advised by the City Solicitor that I can do that and I will accept now this new motion that is on the floor and we will have debate on that.

Alderman O'Neil stated okay, the motion is to keep the money in there, Alderman Thibault goes back to the library, gets information on what are the true operating costs going to be, and we may decide at a later date if not for the library for some other use, or even follow up with what Alderman Gatsas talked about, maybe get rid of it.

Mayor Baines stated that was correct.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated a point of order, he believed Alderman Levasseur was correct he refused to withdraw his second so the motion would not then be withdrawn, asking clarification from the city solicitor.

City Solicitor Clark stated under the rules the mayor is the parliamentarian, he can make the decisions.

Mayor Baines stated my decision is go back to Alderman Lopez's situation, and I refuse to accept the other motion and second.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion to refer the project back to the Committee on CIP. The motion carried with Alderman Levasseur duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Shea stated by point of clarification he noticed that the FY2001 appropriations to enterprise projects include the aggregate program.

In response to questions, Deputy Clerk Johnson requested clarification as to whether Alderman Shea was attempting to address item 8 at this time.

Mayor Baines advised that they were not addressing that item at this time, it would be taken up later in the meeting, and asked if there were any other issues to be taken up with CIP.

Alderman Levasseur stated he wished to speak to the issue of the west high football field, noting he would like to delete some money out of the west high football field because he did not think that the city could afford astro-turf. Alderman Levasseur stated we can save ourselves 500,000 or \$700,000 on going with grass, do we have that kind of money that we can just turn around and spend on astro-turf, and the Mayor has stated they need to make reasonable cuts, and he did not think that putting astro-turf was the right thing to do. Alderman Levasseur noted there was a lot of pork and you needed to take the pork out of it. He would be serving pork sandwiches at Jo Kelley's tomorrow. We can afford to do other things with it, like the senior center.

Alderman Levasseur stated he wished to put a motion on the floor that they take out the astro-turf and put in regular grass on West High Memorial Field.

Mayor Baines stated first of all for clarification there isn't any astro-turf in that budget, but that is your motion.

Alderman Levasseur responded it was in the...

Mayor Baines stated it was not astro-turf, we have a motion do we have a second.

Alderman Shea seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann asked if the intent was to reduce the budget.

Alderman Levasseur stated yes, I just don't think we are sending the right message, we've got \$1.2 million for school books and \$700,000 for astro-turf I think we are sending the wrong message to the schools that we can be spending money in better ways. There is 17,000 students in the school district.

Mayor Baines interjected.

Alderman Levasseur asked if he still had the floor.

Mayor Baines stated in answer to a question, you've already said those things that you have already said and for the sake of expediency I think you have.

Alderman Levasseur stated I am worried about expediency in these things, I think we need to discuss these things.

Mayor Baines stated and I certainly have allowed for a lot of discussions.

Alderman Hirschmann stated West Memorial Field is a plan that we have been working on for five years. In those five years they really have not gotten their allocation of monies to move that project forward. And the reason is we had the Navy Reserve building full of asbestos that we had to wade through. We had a lot of problems, this is the first year that the facility is really getting an appropriation of money to move that project along, and next year we need some more funds to complete that field. So if the alderman's intention is to take any money away from that project, for this grass, we need that money anyway regardless. We need it for lights, we need it to complete the project. So his motion that he is trying to make is not a very thoughtful motion. This is a multi-year plan.

Alderman Cashin asked to move the question.

Deputy Clerk Johnson wished to clarify if she understood what Alderman Levasseur is attempting to do the motion would be to remove approximately \$575,000 from the School Park Improvement Program that is proposed to come up under another item.

Alderman Pariseau seconded the motion to move the question.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on moving the question. The motion carried with Alderman Vaillancourt recorded in opposition.

Mayor Baines requested the clerk read the main motion.

Alderman Shea stated he wished to withdraw his second to the motion because he did not want to remove \$500,000 from that project.

Mayor Baines asked if there was another second to the motion. There was none.

Alderman Levasseur stated he did not want to kill the parks thing but he did not think they should be putting in a more expensive thing than they need to, he just wanted to spend less on just putting regular grass in.

Mayor Baines stated we understand that and there has been a lot of discussions on this issue through the years.

Alderman Levasseur asked in this room.

Mayor Baines stated the Chair had the floor.

Alderman Levasseur stated he had not given up the floor.

Mayor Baines stated he had stating the alderman would act with respect in this chamber. Alderman Levasseur attempted to interject. Mayor Baines called Alderman Levasseur out of order noting he would ask him to conduct with respect or he would ask him to leave the chamber.

Alderman Levasseur stated this was ridiculous noting he had a question on the floor and he kept interrupting him.

Mayor Baines requested the Solicitor to rule in terms of Alderman Levasseur's behavior.

Solicitor Clark stated the mayor was the presiding officer, he can decide how decorum is to be handled. He can ask a member of the body to leave if he wishes.

Mayor Baines stated thank you, that is not something I would do lightly but we will have respect for decorum in this chamber. Mayor Baines stated let me address this issue. This issue has been well debated and discussed in terms of its cost efficiency related to that process. The issue of grass and the artificial surface. It is the judgement of the Parks and Recreation Department and the director of that department that this is truly the most cost effective manner in which to proceed because of the heavy use of that facility. There have been discussions, there has been an analysis, and that is the recommendation and it has been studied by members of various committees that have examined that product. They have

participated in demonstrations of it, and many of us that are in support of this now, were initially opposed to it, until the financial analysis over the long term was completed. This will end up being a multi-use facility for a variety of sports. It's a unique facility in Manchester because it's used for physical education, it's used for practice, and it's used by youth football leagues, it's used by the high school football program, and will now also be available for field hockey, soccer, and every other activity without concerns about the turf which would have to be replaced almost yearly to use that process, so that was the basis of that decision to do that and that was why it has got the support and now we are going to move on to other discussions relating to CIP.

Mayor Baines asked if there were any other discussions relating to CIP.

Alderman Thibault stated he wanted to reiterate what the mayor just said, this product is guaranteed for 25 years, if you figure what it would cost to put grass there for 25 years, I'm sure you are way over the money that we are asking to do this.

Alderman Gatsas stated he respected west memorial field and certainly he was going to look at the members of this Board if that project is successful because certainly Gill Stadium receives more activity by the entire community so I certainly will leave the burden on the people that are promoting the West Memorial Field as being a situation that's in the sense of saving money that next year we take a very long hard look at doing the same thing to Gill Stadium.

Alderman Levasseur stated no disrespect was intended but I don't sit on the CIP committee, and I haven't had any discussions with this with anybody, I haven't been told about this thing until today, you are telling us that we have to make these amendments and talk about this now and that was all I wanted to do. If you all want to prioritize yourself with astro-turf or whatever kind of grass you want to call it that's fine, but I want to be allowed to talk about this and I didn't know that we had these discussions somewhere, they are having discussions all over the place I wasn't involved in those discussions. I don't like being told that all of these discussions have been done when I have only been here for three months and I am just finding out about putting astro-turf on west high field when Gill Stadium is the most used one, and I think we are sending a message to the community that we are putting astro-turf ahead of books for our schools.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated as a point of courtesy we had a motion earlier to refer something back to the CIP committee so they could look into it again, as a point of respect for Alderman Levasseur if he would like to move that this be referred back to the CIP committee so it could be further looked into I would second that motion.

Alderman Pariseau asked that they get moving.

Mayor Baines requested the clerk advise where they were on the item.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that if there were no further amendments, a motion would be requested that the resolution ought to pass and lay over as amended.

Alderman O'Neil so moved that the resolution ought to pass and lay over as amended. Alderman Cashin duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with none recorded in opposition.

Deputy Clerk Johnson requested item 6 be addressed prior to item 5 and requested a recess to confer with CIP staff.

Mayor Baines called a recess.

Mayor Baines called the meeting back to order.

**6. Resolutions relating to amendments proposed by CIP Committee:**

“Amending the 1990, 1997, 1998, 1999 & 2000 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-six Thousand Eight Hundred Thirty-three Dollars and Eighty-eight Cents (\$26,833.88) for certain 2000 CIP projects.”

“Amending the 1996, 1997, 1999 & 2000 Community Improvement Programs, transferring, authorizing and appropriating additional funds in the amount of Ten Million , Two Hundred Thirteen Thousand, One Hundred and Seventy-one Dollars and Forty-one Cents (\$10,213,171.41) for certain 2000 CIP projects.”

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Clancy, it was voted to read the resolutions by titles only and it was so done.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that based on previous actions, amendments were in order to the second resolution read. She referred members to the physical document contained in the agenda package outlining amendments as follows:

1) The total amount in the title would now become \$11,613,171.41.

2) Page One under item A. the 2000 CIP 830100 Phase III Building Expansion-Police amount of 904,344.00 was to be replaced with 1,979,344. The total for that section would now reflect \$2,148,171.41 rather than \$1,073,171.41.

3) Page Two, Item C

2000 CIP 330600 School Recreation & Parking Lot Improvement would now reflect the 310,000 in new bond funds,

4) Page Two, Item C

2000 CIP 511600 West Memorial Field to be renamed School Park Improvement Program. Amounts to reflect 1,587,093 in new bond funds and \$22,907.40 in transferred bond funds for a total of 1,610,000.40.

5) Page Two, Item C

2000 CIP 510100 Riverfront Development would now reflect \$500,000 in transferred bond funds rather than new bond funds.

6) Page Three, item C continued

2000 CIP 831500 Somerville Street Station Completion would now reflect \$400,000 in new bond funds and 75,000 in bond transfer funds total to remain at 475,000.

7) Page 3

2000 CIP 831600 Cohas Brook (SE area) Fire Station would now reflect \$500,000 in bond transfer funds.

8) Page 3, A new project would be added

Senior Center Project reflecting \$1,000,000 in bond transfer funds for a total project cost reflected of \$1,000,000.00

Alderman Pariseau moved to amend the resolution. Alderman O'Neil duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Alderman Pinard moved that the resolutions ought to pass, the second as amended. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Mayor Baines addressed item 5 of the agenda.

**5. Bond Resolutions relating to proposed expedited CIP projects and Committee recommendations:**

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted to read the resolutions by titles only.

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000 for the FY200 CIP 831600, Cohas Brook (SE Area) Fire Station.”

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that this resolution was deleted due to previous actions a bond transfer resolution would be submitted at the next meeting.

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred and fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY2000 CIP 831100, City Security System.”

This item was read by title only.

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000) for the FY2000 CIP 510100, Riverfront Development.”

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that this item was deleted due to previous actions, a bond transfer resolution would be submitted at the next meeting.

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred and Seventy Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000) for the FY2000 CIP 711100, Granite Street Road & Bridge Widening.”

“Authorizing Additional Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$250,000) for the FY2000 CIP 710100, Annual ROW Reconstruction.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Four Million, Three Hundred and Forty Thousand Dollars (\$4,340,000) for the FY2000 CIP 831200 School Capital Improvement Program.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Five Hundred and Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$550,000) for the FY2000 CIP 750400, Sidewalk Improvement Program.”

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred and Ninety Thousand Dollars (\$190,000) for the FY2000 CIP 711000, Bridge Rehabilitation Program.”

These resolutions were read by title only.

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Four Hundred and Seventy-five Thousand Dollars (\$475,000) for the FY2000 CIP 831500, Somerville Street Station Completion.”

This item was read by title only and Deputy Clerk Johnson noted there would be an amendment proposed.

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Four Hundred and Twelve Thousand Nine Hundred Seven Dollars for the FY2000 CIP 511500 Park Improvement Program.”

This resolution was read by title only.

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) for the FY2000 CIP 330600 School Recreation & Parking Lot Improvement.”

This resolution was read by title only.

“Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of One Million, Three Hundred Thirty-seven Thousand and Ninety-three Dollars (1,337,093) for the FY2000 CIP 511600, West Memorial Field Improvement.”

This resolution was read by title only and Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that amendments would be proposed.

Mayor Baines requested the Clerk present the amendments.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the resolution pertaining to the Somerville Street Station Completion should be amended to \$400,000.00 as the \$75,000 balance of that project was to be funded elsewhere, it would not effect the total of the project allocation.

Alderman Shea so moved to amend the resolution by reducing the amount to \$400,000. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the last resolution relating to the West Memorial Field Improvement needed to be amended by replacing the project title with “School Park Improvement Program”, and that the bond authorization should be increased to \$1,412,093.

Alderman Hirschmann so moved to amend the resolution as outlined. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

Alderman Pinard moved that the Bond Resolutions ought to pass and layover, with amendments on the two resolutions as acted upon. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

7. Appropriating Resolution:

"Appropriating all Incremental Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue Received by the City in Fiscal Year 2000 and held in the Civic Center Fund, for the payment of the City's Obligations in Said Fiscal Year Under the Financing Agreement."

On motion of Alderman Thibault, duly seconded by Alderman Pinard, it was voted to read the resolution by title only.

In response to questions raised by Alderman Shea, Mr. Clougherty advised that there is the base \$400,000 that always goes into the budget and will continue to. In the past the Board has committed all of the rooms and meals money but before the project was finalized there was the opportunity to use some of that on years for different projects, and that will not be available going forward.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I think we should know a dollar amount when we are voting on this item, how much is this, what does it amount to.

Mr. Clougherty responded the amount of money that will be set aside for the appropriation is about \$669,000 out of \$2.4 million.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated I will oppose this, I believe the time is now to say we are not going to set this money aside. The interest rate that was referred to I did a handout a couple of weeks ago is an outrageous interest rate, 6.72 percent. The 30 year T Bond today I believe was down to around 5.8, so around 80 basis points about the 30 year T Bond. Over a span of 30 years this is an additional \$20 million to the City, and I'm just wondering Mr. Clougherty is this because the MHRA is involved with this that our rate is 80 basis points above where it should be.

Mr. Clougherty stated the interest rates are exactly in line with revenue bonds for similar projects around the country. As you know the interest rates that we get for general obligation issues that we are more familiar with are based on the full taxing authority of the city, because this is just a single revenue stream and the volatility attached to that, you pay a higher rate, so the rate that is for the housing authority bonds is based on the revenue bond rate and is consistent with similar projects.

Alderman Vaillancourt stated so I understand your answer to be yes, we are paying about 80 basis points more than if the city got these bonds itself, we are costing about \$20 million more because of the subterfuge of the MHRA, is that correct.

Mr. Clougherty responded not exactly, regardless of who the issuer were, revenue bond interest rates, as opposed to general obligation tax supported bond rates are always much higher, and the rate has little to do with the issue it has to do with the nature of the bond.

Mayor Baines called for a vote on the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Vaillancourt, Shea, Cashin, O'Neil and Clancy were opposed.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that she did not have a motion on the referral of the resolution to public hearing, and had the motion to read by title as carrying; that perhaps she missed something.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to refer the resolution to public hearing on May 1, 2000 at Memorial High School. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Cashin, O'Neil, and Shea recorded in opposition.

## **8. Appropriating Resolution**

“A Resolution Appropriating to the Manchester Aggregation Program the sum of \$652,609 from Aggregation Fees for the Fiscal Year 2001.”

Alderman Thibault moved to read the resolution by title only. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated this was to send it to the public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Johnson advised that the motion on the floor was to read the resolution by title only.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried and the resolution was read by title only.

Alderman Pariseau moved that the Resolution be referred to public hearing on May 1, 2000 at Memorial High School. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion.

Alderman O'Neil asked where the \$652,609 was coming from.

Mr. Clougherty stated the funds for the aggregation program, if they were to be spent, would be reimbursed out of fees collected for that program once it was started.

Alderman O'Neil stated that was not what he asked, asking where are the funds, the \$652,609 coming from.

Mr. Clougherty stated if the program isn't started alderman by the time that the project starts drawing down, there would be an advance from the general fund as it has been right along.

Alderman O'Neil stated so this 652 is in addition to, whatever we have committed.

Mr. Clougherty responded that was right. It is an additional amount to he thought 1.6 million but deferred to Mr. Thomas.

Mr. Thomas stated the way I understand it works is that the money is allocated or loaned from the general fund for the operation of the aggregation program. The budget or that number that you see in front of you is under the assumption that deregulation would be in place and the aggregation program is going at full bore on July 1<sup>st</sup> That will definitely not happen. The money would not get drawn until it is utilized, as presently there is only two staff people running the program now which involves energy conservation measures, the advantage contract, the nature gas, etc. That 650 number is not a true number, it won't be drawn or loaned from the general fund until the money is expended. The budget is submitted that way under the assumption that there is a full blown program which would not take place.

Alderman O'Neil noted he had other questions and they still had a lot of work in front of them and there would be an appropriate place down the road to follow up.

Alderman Gatsas asked why the number 652 and not 142 or 972.

Mr. Thomas responded the number was put together under the assumption that deregulation would take place as of July 1<sup>st</sup> and the aggregation program would be fully up and running and we would be selling power to Manchester potentially also Nashua. It also includes a staff of five or six people, it includes incidental monies for potentially renting additional space on Elm Street. However, it's an estimate, it's not really appropriated to the aggregation division of the Highway Department, it's an estimate right now it would only be paying for the two employees and their expenses to run the programs that are up and running now. If I had to make a guess without looking at it, you are probably talking somewhere a little over \$100,000 to maintain the present operation that's in effect right now. However, we don't know when deregulation is going to take place. The PUC is going to rule any day now on the Governor's settlement agreement, things could start moving rapidly. In order for the city to recoup it's investment to date in the aggregation program we have to be prepared to potentially sell power, that is how we are going to recoup our investment to date.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I've been hearing this since 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 now 2001, I'm going to withdraw my second to the motion and I would like to make a new motion for \$125,000 appropriation for next year.

Mayor Baines stated he would like to get some clarification on that if he did accept that.

Mr. Clougherty stated it's my understanding, and I've talked to the City Solicitor about it that the resolutions as submitted are under the Charter have to go to the public hearing, but what has occurred in the past, is when the Board has taken actions, subsequent information could also be provided as a handout at that time. They can still amend the resolution, but the one that is before them is the one that would have to go to public hearing.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated she wished to clarify because she understood he was trying to amend the resolution. The resolution is on the floor and can be amended if the Board so desired, however, the charter would require that the original resolution is the one that is referred to public hearing and additional information could be presented as well. She wished to clarify it would be two separate things that they are doing but the public hearing figure by charter needs to be the mayor's budget.

Mayor Baines advised that Alderman Hirschmann had moved to amend the resolution to \$125,000.

Alderman Shea seconded the motion.

Mr. Thomas stated the concern I have with what is proposed again if deregulation does take place in six months, and we have to go out and solicit for power purchase so that we can sell it, the \$125,000 is not going to be enough. Another way to accomplish the same thing that Alderman Hirschmann is suggesting, is maybe move all but say \$125,000 or some number we come back with into contingency or incidentals and the Board would have to approve the expenditure of those funds.

Alderman Clancy stated we spent \$1.6 million last year.

Mr. Thomas advised not last year, but from inception in 1997.

Alderman Clancy stated and they were now cutting it back to \$125,000.

Mr. Thomas stated the issue with the consultants was pretty much over with now, they are not actively intervening in the process anymore that has come to a conclusion. Depending on what is going to happen with deregulation, we want to still, I believe it is in the city's best interest, to have aggregate the power base and potentially sell power to Manchester and Nashua. \$125,000 would not be a sufficient amount to accomplish that. Again, I understand the concern of Alderman Hirschmann about an unlimited amount of expenditures, that's why my suggestion would be to define a reduced amount to maintain the level of commitments that we have right now with the energy saving issues and the sale of nature gas and put the rest into some kind of restricted area where we would have to come back to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen for authorization to spend out of there.

Alderman Hirschmann stated isn't there in fact a large balance from the year 2000.

Mr. Thomas stated yes that was correct.

Alderman Hirschmann noted they could use that.

Mr. Thomas stated he understood it was not like an appropriation like I get for Highway, there is an amount identified and you kind of draw off that as a loan out of the general fund so whatever is not spent in a particular year, just stays in the general fund and there is a new appropriation the following year.

Mr. Clougherty stated correctly stated, you can't have appropriations carrying from one year to another you have to have a separate one. If you look at the support document for item 8 in the agenda, you will see what Frank is trying to get

at there. The bottom line is \$652,609, and right now that money is dispersed among salaries, line item expenses, and you could put \$125,000 in salaries and move everything else down under restricted item where it was subject to the approval of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, and have all the balance in there so it would have to come back to you for expenditure of any of those funds.

Mayor Baines advised that they could also deal with this later on when they got to the final of the resolution, this was to put it out to public hearing, and then they can debate this at the appropriate time, asking if Alderman Hirschmann would consider removing his amendment.

Alderman Hirschmann noted that they could send the mayor's number to public hearing but the amendment could be moved to the Finance Committee.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to amend the resolution. Deputy Clerk Johnson clarified that the motion was to amend the resolution downward to the total amount of \$125,000 to be reflected under salaries. Alderman Vaillancourt, Hirschmann, Clancy, and Shea voted yea. Alderman Pariseau, Cashin, Thibault, Gatsas, Levasseur, Sysyn, Pinard, O'Neil, and Lopez voted nay. Alderman Wihby was absent. The motion failed.

Alderman Sysyn moved that the Resolution be referred to public hearing on May 1, 2000 at Memorial High School. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Shea asked Mr. Thomas if they could be provided with additional information so that they could make a valid judgement, it would be appreciated.

Alderman Thibault stated if we drop this ball now whatever money we have spent is lost.

Mr. Thomas stated you would eliminate your opportunity to recover your costs to date by adding it on to a service charge when you sell the power.

Alderman Thibault stated you can't drop the ball now, if you do it will cost you money.

Mayor Baines called for a vote. The motion carried.

## 9. Appropriating Resolution

"A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of \$32,247,000 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 2001."

**10. Appropriating Resolution:**

“Appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of Two Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollars (\$230,000) from Central Business Service District Funds for Fiscal Year 2001.”

**11. Appropriating Resolution**

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$10,900,822 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for Fiscal Year 2001.”

**12. Appropriating Resolution**

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of \$663,330 for the Fiscal Year 2001.”

**13. Appropriating Resolution:**

“A Resolution appropriating the sum of \$3,149,254 from Recreation User Charges to the Recreation Division for Fiscal Year 2001.”

**14. Appropriating Resolution:**

“A Resolution appropriating to the Manchester School District the sum of \$108,007,425 for the Fiscal Year 2001.”

**15. Appropriating Resolution:**

“Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2001.”

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted to read all resolutions (items 9 through 15) by title only. Alderman Levasseur was duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Pariseau moved that the Resolutions be referred to public hearing on May 1, 2000 at Memorial High School. Alderman Lopez duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed the motion carried.

**16. Resolution**

“Continuation of the Central Business Service District.”

Alderman Clancy moved to read the resolution by title only. Alderman Thibault duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur stated that he wished to speak to this item and formerly item 10. He drove up Elm Street today and at a quick glance there was 16 empty spots on Elm Street. That was just a quick glance, not an in-depth study. I don't know how long ago the Central Business District was appropriated money, but as a downtown person and somebody who has been watching the ward for quite a long time I have been very unimpressed with the work that has been done down there. The same buildings and the same places that have been empty before this was given are empty now. I don't know what the reasons are, I don't want to make any accusations, but I would think we need to discuss this. I believe the Mayor mentioned we could put one person in charge of just retail, I think we should go in that direction, I think what we have right now is not working and I think with the amount of money that we are spending we are not getting our money's worth. As a downtown person, this is something that has to do with me so for me to say that it is not working and we need to do something else I hope you take that seriously, because \$250,000 I think could be spent in a much better way, I think something like what Nashua does.

Mayor Baines stated he had not had the opportunity to sit down and speak with Alderman Levasseur about that, but if he could call they could sit down because he would like to share some ideas he had on that as well.

Alderman Gatsas stated noted this was a continuation of the Central Business District and that district has grown to include areas of the city that I don't really think are central business districts, I would like to table this motion until we can get somebody from In Town to tell us why the Central Business District has moved all the way to Chestnut Street down past Prospect or higher.

Mayor Baines asked if this was tabled was there an appropriate committee this could go to for discussion.

Deputy Clerk Johnson stated that the Central Business Service District is also served through the Planning Department and CIP so the CIP Committee might be appropriate but noted that the motion on the floor at present was to read the resolution by title only.

Alderman Gatsas moved to table the item and have In Town come before the full Board. Alderman Levasseur duly seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Alderman Pariseau noted that this issue had arisen year after year and he was wondering if they could extend it to where it belonged. When the downtown district first came to the Board, there was talk to extend it to Salmon Street to the north, Valley Street to the south, and for some reason people didn't deem it feasible. Now we are going to North Street. Why not put an end to it and go to the original boundaries, Salmon Street to Valley.

Mayor Baines suggested they bring them before the Board and that would be an appropriate discussion at that time.

### **TABLED ITEM**

17. Communication from Mayor Baines advising that City staff is working with representatives of the Center of NH for collection of outstanding parking fees collection of \$308,132.18; and further, the City's internal auditors have been directed to review all similarly developed contracts and a contract processing procedure is being drafted to ensure proper controls in the future.  
(Tabled 3/7/00)

Mayor Baines suggested this item remain on the table noting that he met with Sean from the Center of New Hampshire and talked with the City Solicitor, they will be getting together and they will have a resolution of that situation before the Board at the next meeting.

Alderman Gatsas asked if they had received a response from the auditors in response to our letter that we sent them on this matter.

Mr. Clougherty stated they had received a copy of that and they will be getting it out to the Board.

Mayor Baines noted they had received that some time ago.

Alderman Gatsas noted that they should send them another letter regarding the issue that the Mayor is bringing forward.

Deputy Clerk Johnson noted that Alderman Gatsas was referring to an item that the Mayor was bringing in under New Business at the Board level.

Mayor Baines suggested that the letter be discussed at that time.

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

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee