

## COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**June 18, 1996**

**6:30 PM**

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting to order.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Domaingue.

A moment of silent prayer was observed.

The Clerk called the roll. There were twelve Aldermen present.

**Present:** Aldermen Wihby, Elise, Reiniger, Clancy, Soucy, Shea, Domaingue, Pariseau, Cashin, Robert, Hirschmann  
Alderman Sysyn arrived late.

**Messrs.:** K. Clougherty, R. Sherman, R. Girard, R. Davis

Mayor Wieczorek noted he would be leaving around 6:45 PM to attend the West High School Graduation ceremonies and would return at their conclusion. Mayor Wieczorek stated he would appreciate it if no votes were taken while he was gone noting that there was a lot of discussion that needed to be conducted. Mayor Wieczorek stated that Alderman Wihby would be chairing the meeting in his absence.

Resolution:

"Amending a Resolution 'Appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of \$11,273,377 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for Fiscal Year 1997' to \$11,415,964."

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Pariseau, it was voted that the Appropriating Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Clancy moved that the Appropriating Resolution ought to pass and lay over. Alderman Soucy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Resolution:

"Amending a Resolution 'Appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of \$270,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for Fiscal Year 1997' to \$282,500."

On motion of Alderman Reiniger, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted that the Appropriating Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Wihby moved that the Appropriating Resolution ought to pass and lay over. Alderman Elise duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Resolution:

"Amending a Resolution 'Appropriating the sum of \$2,299,094 from Recreation User Charges to the Recreation Division for Fiscal Year 1997" to \$2,323,188."

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted that the Appropriating Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Wihby moved that the Appropriating Resolution be amended to \$2,353,188.00 for the \$30,000.00 they had been asked to give to the Board. Alderman Hirschmann duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Soucy asked what the \$30,000.00 was for.

Alderman Wihby stated as part of the budget the enterprises had been asked to give monies back.

Mr. Sherman stated the \$508,925 would go to \$538,925 under line item expenses.

Alderman Cashin asked Alderman Wihby if they had agreed to it.

Alderman Wihby replied, yes.

Alderman Domaingue asked how many enterprise departments they were talking about.

Alderman Wihby replied Airport had already said they could do it with EPD indicating they could give thirty-six and Water also gave.

Mayor Wieczorek called for a vote on the motion to amend the Resolution. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Pariseau moved that the Appropriating Resolution ought to pass as amended and lay over. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Resolution:

"Amending a Resolution "Appropriating the sum of \$9,437,201 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for Fiscal Year 1997" to \$9,308,724."

On motion of Alderman Wihby, duly seconded by Alderman Elise, it was voted that the Appropriating Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Wihby moved that the Appropriating Resolution be amended to \$9,374,785.00 for the \$36,000.00 they had said they would give plus the \$30,061.00. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Pariseau asked if he had heard the correct figure to be \$9,374,785.00 and asked where they got the \$374,000 noting if they added the thirty thousand Rich gave them it came to \$9,338,785.

Alderman Wihby stated they had indicated they would give \$36,000 for Finance and Solicitor and all the other ones, the administration fee noting it had been

discussed during the budget process and placed in the line items as a result of the enterprises having indicated they could give those funds.

The Clerk stated line item expenses would be \$2,526,150 and employee benefits at \$428,425 for a new total of \$9,374,785.

Mayor Wieczorek called for the vote on the amendment. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Pariseau moved that the Appropriating Resolution ought to pass as amended and lay over. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Resolution:

"Appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of \$900,000 for the Fiscal Year 1997."

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Reiniger, it was voted that the Appropriating Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Cashin moved that the Appropriating Resolution ought to pass and lay over. Alderman Soucy duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek addressed item 9 of the agenda:

Report of the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety relative to Parking Rate Proposals, if available.

The Clerk stated the Traffic report had been forwarded to the Committee via separate cover yesterday noting that it had been reviewed by the Committee on Accounts who had suggested some changes.

Alderman Elise stated the Clerk should explain to the Board what had occurred at the meeting of the Committee on Accounts so that everyone would know what they would be voting on.

Clerk Johnson stated the Committee on Traffic had recommended 2 mills and after review by the Committee on Accounts was recommending that that amount be changed to 1.5 mills; that in addition a change would need to be made on page 3 whereby the CIP Cash allocation would now be amended from \$1,091,500 to \$1,632,810; that in paragraph 3 of the same page there was a reference to \$640,000 for Annual Parking Facility Rehabilitation noted that amount would have to be reduced to \$541,310 and they were recommending that that program go in but at a lesser amount based on the 1.5 mill. She noted Randy Sherman could explain it further. Clerk Johnson stated that the other change in the report was that the municipal funds would reflect the same change to \$1,632,810 in that same paragraph.

Alderman Wihby stated those changes were based on the 1.5 mills.

Alderman Hirschmann moved that the report of the Committee on Traffic/Public Safety be amended as recommended by the Committee on Accounts and outlined by the Clerk.. Alderman Wihby duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Domaingue asked if the Committee considered putting a sunset provision on that particular fee because once a certain amount of money was raised they should be able to either reduce or eliminate it and wondered if any discussion had taken place in Committee regarding that.

Alderman Wihby stated it was his understanding that it could be changed at any time.

Alderman Hirschmann stated there was discussion relative to changing the whole proposal within a year or two and if there was a problem had the right to amend it down the road, but did not put a deadline/sunset plan.

Alderman Elise stated one of the reasons regarding the expenses the lots and garages was so high was because they had not been able to maintain their on-going maintenance and noted it could be a mechanism to fund it on an on-going basis and not necessarily at the current level; that one of the reasons she would support the mill fee was because it would be the whole City funding it and not merely the property taxpayers and did not oppose installation of more meters in terms of the turnover Downtown, but did have a problem with raising the meter fees to 50 cents as she knew there were quite a few people who went Downtown and used the

meters and the 25 cent meters were acceptable to them; that there was a problem with the employers Downtown in terms of getting their employees off the streets and into the garages and thought there were other systems which could be implemented through the employers and the Chamber of Commerce which would not cost the users of Downtown more money.

Alderman Reiniger stated that many months ago he had stated publicly that he could not support expanding the geographical area where meters were placed Downtown without at the same time putting in a permit parking system for the residents noting he had received another complaint from a gentleman on Stark Street about they had a big problem with living Downtown because of tickets and how they needed a permit parking system; that he had introduced a program last fall which had been in Committee since then noting no action had been taken and, therefore, could not support the plan at this time.

Alderman Domaingue asked if any other discussion had taken place regarding large rental agencies that may have a large fleet and whether or not they might look at it and find it to be too burdensome to them financially and might want to move their fleet to another community thus causing the City to lose revenue.

Alderman Soucy replied there was no discussion to that extent.

Alderman Domaingue commented that there certainly seemed to be placed before the Board a need for that particular fee, however, she was uncomfortable because they did not seem to have a mechanism to sunset it; that she wanted to be able to support renovations which were desperately needed in the City's parking garages and wanted to be able to do so effectively noting she was just uncomfortable, at the moment, with the fact that that particular fee could go on forever and did not think that was the intent when it was originally proposed.

Alderman Wihby stated he had heard from the Finance Department that the way that revenue came up, it needed to be reviewed every four years anyway and asked Mr. Clougherty to address the issue.

Mr. Clougherty stated the Committee had discussed that there was currently a proposed revenue policy before the Revenue Committee; that one of the provisions was to set in place a mechanism to review not just this revenue but all revenues on a regular basis to ensure that they are not too much or too little in terms of costing cycles; that it was his understanding that the Committee would be meeting on it at

its next meeting next week noting that that provision in that revenue policy would address the concerns in terms of the review of the revenues on a regular basis; that from the Finance Office's perspective having brought up the policy addressing all of the revenues would be more desirable from their standpoint than to take each particular revenue dealt with and put a date on it.

Alderman Domaingue stated she appreciated the fact that Mr. Clougherty had brought it to the Board's attention, however, the automobile was something which was of necessity these days and what they were doing was putting a tax on the average automobile owner or the average automobile user; that the only discomfort she had right now was that a revenue policy was fine noting it spoke in terms of every four years reviewing those policies and she would feel more comfortable if it indicated every two or if they knew they would review that particular tax say every year, so they could at least be honest about their approach to taxing people on an item which was obviously a necessity these days.

Chairman Wihby noted that Mayor Wieczorek had departed the meeting to attend graduation ceremonies for West High School.

Chairman Wihby stated he did not think anyone was opposed to setting a time frame and did not know why they couldn't do so.

Alderman Clancy stated he was told that the minimum a person paid in the parking garages was 75 cents and asked if that was true or not.

Chairman Wihby replied the parking garages had not changed.

Mr. Girard indicated the price was 50 cents.

Alderman Clancy stated the minimum in the parking garages should be a dollar.

Chairman Wihby stated it did not address the parking garages but were looking into it further noting which was one of the things where they wanted to make it one year and hopefully the Intown group and the Downtown Manager would come back to the Board with another proposal after they had the opportunity to review the garages.

Alderman Clancy suggested it be done for one year to see if it worked or not.

Chairman Wihby stated that was fine; that they would get additional funds if they were to do something with the garages later one.

Alderman Hirschmann withdrew his original motion. Alderman Wihby withdrew his second to the motion.

Alderman Soucy asked about Alderman Clancy's motion to up the parking garage fees to one dollar.

Chairman Wihby stated the parking garages were being looked into right now noting they would be going back with a study to the Committee on Traffic in October telling them what they should be doing with the rates, whether they should be going up or down.

Alderman Soucy stated it did not preclude the Board from doing something because Intown Management was doing a study.

Alderman Sysyn stated if they put the fees up to a dollar they would then defeat the whole purpose of putting in the 50 cents at the parking meters; that the reason they were putting it up to 50 cents an hour was to force people to park in the garages noting they would not park in the garages if the fee went up.

Alderman Clancy stated he was not in favor of putting the meters from 25 to 50 cents either.

Alderman Robert stated the essential thrust, the point which needed to be made was that it was an economic development tool; that it was something the Board could do to try and stimulate business and growth Downtown and thought if it was kept in that perspective that they would be all right.

Alderman Sysyn asked what the motion was.

Chairman Wihby replied that the mill rate would be 1.5 with the parking fees going from the 25 cents to 50 cents noting it was was the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment, and Revenue Administration had voted on today after they had received additional numbers.

Alderman Clancy asked what the Intown association with Rich Davis and his associates and the Chamber of Commerce thought about the proposals.

Alderman Sysyn replied they had recommended 50 cents an hour so that it would force people to park in the garages.

Mr. Davis stated Intown supported the Mayor's proposal on the condition that they had additional time to study the changes in rates in the garages which was something they felt needed to be looked at further; that they also wished to institute a validation system for the Downtown retailers so that the retailers could offer basically free parking to parkers Downtown in the garages which was why they wanted to keep those garage rates at least at equilibrium for the time being; that they would be working on the validation program and hopefully within six months would be able to say they were offering free parking to Downtown shoppers within the Downtown retail district.

Chairman Wihby stated that Alderman Reiniger's concern was that he wanted to tie in the residential parking permit plan Downtown and asked Mr. Davis if he foresaw any problem with it and implementing that and asked if the merchants or anyone else would be against it or was it something that they could work out to come back to the Board with.

Mr. Davis replied they had not approached that issue, however, they thought that that was another topic which could be included in a longer term parking study, certainly residential parking was one of those things...

Chairman Wihby asked if they would be able to come back in October at the same time as the parking garages.

Mr. Davis replied they would like to bring it in at the same time.

Alderman Reiniger stated he would only be able to support the report of the Committee this evening if he had a sense of commitment from the Board to favor permit parking for Downtown; that other than that he would not be able to support this evening.

Alderman Elise stated in terms of the increase in the meters from 25 cents to 50 cents was basically to discourage long-term parkers; that the long-term parkers were the employees Downtown and asked if there wasn't another way to implement a program which would discourage long-term parkers through the employees that wouldn't cost other people who utilized Downtown money.

Mr. Davis replied there may be, however, such a program was probably very difficult to implement because it relied on not only the employer's supporting it, but on the goodwill of the employees and generally when economic self-interest got in the way of good will it was usually economic self-interest which worked out, that won out and for a long time parking on the street had been very cheap and very easy for the long-term parkers and they felt that the change in the rates would have the effect of moving those long-term parkers to other solutions and freeing those spaces up for the people who needed it who were the people who were shopping and using the stores Downtown; that it was their proposal in looking at it mainly from the point of view of the Downtown retailers.

Alderman Elise asked if it wouldn't be in the best interest of a lot of the employers to mandate or develop some type of system to monitor that they employees were not parking in spaces that their potential customers would be parking in.

Mr. Davis replied it may or may not be; that the employers had different interests; that they were basically concerned about having the employees parked within easy distance of their work and believed they could do so, but they would like the employees to start using an excess in the off-street lots and the parking garages; that it was very difficult to monitor a program such as that as it relied too heavily on the goodwill of the employees to implement.

Alderman Elise stated she did have a problem with it; that she did not view it as an economic development tool but rather as a place to look for more revenues in the back pockets of the taxpayers or the residents of Manchester, but if someone could explain it to her that it was an economic development tool noted she had not yet been able to understand it at that particular time.

Chairman Wihby stated anytime the infrastructure could be fixed was an economic development tool and thought that was the purpose of it and the neglect that the parking garages had been given and the parking lots over the years and thought they could benefit from the proposal because the money would be funded in a different way and not being put on the backs of the taxpayers noting different people would be funding it, would give a little relief to the taxpayer who normally got hit with all of the taxes on their homes; that the proposal if not done would cost about 18 cents more on the tax rate which would be without doing anything for the parking garages, so on an average home 18 cents would be perhaps \$18.00 noting it was technically the same amount being thrown onto the auto registration; that in doing it this way it would be assured that the work would get done; that the plan which had been presented was \$2.7 million over five years and putting it into the infrastructure of the parking garages and thought that made economic sense and thought they would want to do something like that and if it wasn't done then the garages would fall apart; that years ago when they had wanted to try and sell one of the garages because it was going to cost a million or so to fix it, nobody had even bid, so the City ended up having to pay \$2.3 million to fix it up; that it was closed down, it looked ugly, and if that wasn't an economic deterrent to the City of Manchester did not know what was.

Alderman Sysyn stated that had affected the businesses Downtown by having that garage closed for repairs and she knew that as she had a business Downtown and it affected the businesses Downtown tremendously.

Mr. Girard in reference to the Mayor's proposal on the parking meters and in all fairness to what was his initial parking plan stated when they were taking a look at the whole parking system Downtown, they saw not only were there different types of meters on the street varying from an hour to four hours to eight hours in some places interspersed with time zones, but they recognized the problems and one of the things the Mayor used for the proposal was a 1992 Downtown Business Council proposal on the rates which was offered at the time in response to former Parking Manager, John Wallace's proposal to simply raise the rates in the Downtown without doing anything to address the problems with the parking

system; that as far as it being an arbitrary number for the sake of raising revenue they had used the principal that the Business Council had given them at the time in which they stated very clearly in their memorandum to the City that they felt that places where turnover parking was desired, the most heavily-used spaces should be more expensive to deter abuses, not only of the meters but of the time zones and that they also recommended that meters be put back onto Elm Street which was part of the Elm Street Reconstruction Program noting that those meters would also be at the 50 cents-an-hour rate and would all be short-term meters which would basically make it expensive for employees who wanted to park on the street all day to do it and would make parking in the lots and garages a lot more attractive alternative; that as far as efforts in the past they had worked with the Downtown Business Council and the Chamber to try to put educational materials into the Chamber Bulletin, to the Downtown businesses to try to encourage them to have their employees come off the street noting it was not very successful; that they had put together traffic maps, tried the early bird specials, and nothing they did seemed to make a real dent, so after four years of addressing the issue in various ways the Mayor came to the conclusion that the...as Mr. Davis so properly put it...that the economic disadvantage of staying on the street became greater than going into the garages and solve the problem that way noting that was the basis of where the proposal came from.

Alderman Elise stated she still saw it as an alternative for revenue and not economic development; that the upside of it was not just the property owner would be paying for meters, lots, and garages Downtown, but everybody else in the City who had a car, so that was the upside in that it took the burden off the taxpayer; that the 50 cents-per-hour she was still in disagreement with the increased number of meters in terms of turnover and strongly felt that a program could be implemented by the business owners Downtown to monitor their employees to prevent them from parking on the street.

Alderman Robert in reference to permit parking stated he was willing to express his support for the concept which Alderman Reiniger had asked for; that he felt it was reasonable and asked if they as a Board...

Chairman Wihby stated there was a plan which the Police Department had looked at and was willing to incorporate or areas they could control made some sense which was why it was sent to the Traffic Committee and the Downtown Association to come back with a proposal to try and do something with it, but they had not yet returned with a plan and if the Board wished to take a consensus, it did not matter to him.

Alderman Robert moved that a consensus of the Board be taken relative to the proposed resident parking permit. Alderman Domaingue duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Wihby stated he did not know if it was necessary that a motion be taken.

Alderman Cashin stated there were two requests and asked if they would go along with both of them (i.e., one for Downtown and one for the west side).

Chairman Wihby stated because of the different scenarios he did not know if the Board was prepared.

Alderman Robert stated what he was asking the Committee noting he did not wish to start anything, but to approve the concept and discuss the details at a later time as that was what he felt Alderman Reiniger was looking for.

Alderman Clancy stated how could they approve something when they did not know what it was.

Chairman Wihby asked if anyone was prepared to take a consensus and asked for a show of hands.

Alderman Pariseau stated he would support it if there was a fee for making up the decals and such for the neighbors.

Alderman Reiniger stated he thought it would be more useful to him this evening to find out; that he thought there was only one group present this evening who could support it only with another group supporting it if it were City-wide only noting he needed to have a sense of that.

Chairman Wihby stated there was only one concept before the Committee on Traffic; that being that permit parking be allowed on Downtown streets and also on Second Street; that the concern doing it with other than Downtown was that every single person would be coming in looking for permit parking in front of their house and if they were willing to do it they would endorse the whole concept; that if they were looking just to do it Downtown which was different noting it was slightly different and it was not residential, the Police Department was willing to back that proposal as long as it stayed Downtown, but if it were to go into residential areas he did not know what the Police Department's feelings would be.

Alderman Clancy asked what the boundaries were.

Chairman Wihby replied the area they looked at was Blodget/ Auburn/Canal/ Union Streets, but not including Elm Street.

Chairman Wihby asked if the Board wished to take a consensus. Chairman Wihby stated that a show of hands indicated there was a Board consensus of seven Aldermen willing to go Downtown.

Alderman Cashin asked if those seven Aldermen were then in opposition to having a parking permit system on the west side.

Chairman Wihby replied, no; that they were favoring Downtown.

Alderman Cashin asked if they would then have two motions, one for Downtown and one for the west side.

Chairman Wihby stated the consensus was for something happening down the road that would make Alderman Reiniger feel a little more comfortable.

Alderman Cashin stated he would like to also have a little comfort factor also and if they were going to do it for one, he expected that the west side would get the same consideration.

Alderman Pariseau agreed with Alderman Cashin.

Chairman Wihby asked if there was any further discussion relative to item 9 of the agenda.

Alderman Shea stated he concurred with Alderman Cashin in that he had attended a few of the meetings of the Committee on Traffic and believed that a consensus vote should be taken relative to Second Street as well.

Chairman Wihby inquired of the Board who was willing to support a parking permit system in the Second Street area. Chairman Wihby stated that seven Aldermen indicated their consensus of being in favor of such a proposal on the west side.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to amend the report based on recommendations of the Committee on Accounts and additional discussion at the Board level stating it would be to change the maximum millage amount not to exceed 1.5 mills with a required annual review of all said fees and to change on page 3 the amount of CIP Cash allocations in two areas to \$1,632,810, change the Annual Parking Facility Rehabilitation in the last paragraph from \$640,000 to \$541,310. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Soucy in reference to the 2 mill rate would drop to 1 mill in 1993 and asked if that was the same scenario under the 1.5.

Chairman Wihby called for a vote on the motion to amend the report. The motion carried.

Alderman Hirschmann moved to accept, receive, and adopt the report of the Committee on Traffic as amended. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. The motion carried with Alderman Elise and Shea duly recorded in opposition.

Resolution:

"Amending an Amended Resolution 'Approving the Community Improvement Program for 1997, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefor, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program.'"

On motion of Alderman Soucy, duly seconded by Alderman Shea, it was voted that the Appropriating Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

The Clerk noted there would be required amendments to the Resolution as a result of the report which was just accepted.

Chairman Wihby asked if it could be passed this evening as it had to lay over and amend it all in the five days.

The Clerk replied she would prefer to have the amendments acted upon the report; that it would amend Table 1-4 Bond allocations of the CIP Resolution by deleting the project Annual Parking Facility Rehabilitation in the amount of \$275,000 and change page 3, paragraph 3 reducing the total amount of proceeds from Issuance of Short Term Notes and General Obligations Bonds from \$9,480,000 to \$9,205,000 which was removing a project which was bonded which would now be Cash; that Table 1-3 Cash allocations of the CIP Resolution be amended by adding a new project 7.10215 Annual Parking Facility Rehabilitation in the amount of \$541,310 and changing page 3, paragraph 2 increasing the Cash allocations from \$1,091,500 in 1997 Municipal funds to \$1,632,810 and were funds intended to be funded from the Parking Fund Trust set up noting a motion would be required to make those amendments to the Resolution.

Alderman Domaingue moved that the Appropriating Resolution be amended as outlined by the Clerk. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Domaingue moved that the Appropriating Resolution ought to pass and lay over as amended. Alderman Pariseau duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Reiniger moved to delete the Middle School Program. Alderman Elise duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Domaingue asked if there was an official vote taken prior to this most recent motion.

The Clerk replied not as of yet.

Chairman Wihby called for discussion.

Alderman Pariseau stated he did not understand Alderman Reiniger's motion.

Alderman Reiniger stated in light of the controversy over the spending of nine to eleven million dollars on a new school and the controversy over the enrollment projections and the basis for the new school thought it would be better for the Board to delete that item and do another outside study to get more information; that it was included in Table 1-4 under item 3.30519.

Alderman Elise reiterated her seconding the motion.

Chairman Wihby stated there was a motion on the floor that it ought to pass as amended and would address that vote first noting if that vote did not pass Alderman Reiniger could then make his motion.

Chairman Wihby asked if Aldermen Domaingue and Pariseau wished to remove the motion which was on the floor.

Aldermen Domaingue and Pariseau stated they did not wish to withdraw their motions.

Chairman Wihby called for a vote on the motion which was that the Resolution ought to pass and lay over as amended noting it included the Middle School. The motion carried with Alderman Elise, Reiniger, and Robert duly recorded in opposition.

Chairman Wihby addressed item 11 of the agenda:

Resolution:

"Amending an Amended Resolution 'Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 1997' so as to Appropriate \$145,525,583."

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Soucy, it was voted that the Resolution be read by title only, and it was so done.

Alderman Hirschmann stated he had an amended Resolution he would like distributed which addressed changes he felt were necessary within the budget for him to support it noting that more money would be going to the Fire Department, more money going to Public Buildings Services, and addressed deletions in some

departments which he would be able to explain and there were about eight changes in total; that with the Assessors Office he had addressed the temporary position making it half-time, part-time; that in Youth Services he funded their request deleting \$15,000 from the number; that with Public Buildings Services he added in one percent...

Alderman Soucy asked what the \$15,000 for Youth Services was.

Alderman Hirschmann stated the Youth Services request for '97 was \$290,264 noting they were given over and above their request.

Chairman Wihby stated that was given to them for having the program dealing with the additional EAP coverage for nights and having staff on-call.

Alderman Hirschmann stated he gave Public Buildings Services back one percent to the budget; that he gave the Fire Department back \$100,406; that he felt that the Fire Department had been hit twice during the budget process; that the Mayor's budget had addressed a severe cut and then the Board took and cut it further and after long and careful consideration felt that the \$100,000 was needed noting he would go along with it under the concept that if the Board came up with a policy that the nine District Chiefs which existed currently through attrition if those jobs were not filled and ended up with four or five, but not to outright take jobs away from people right now; that he took away a new position from the Police Department which was to be a civilian dispatcher/operator; that he took away \$100,000 from the Highway Department noting that \$500,000 had been appropriated to build a citizen drop-off center and indicated he had been assured that there would be a lot more than a hundred thousand dollar fund balance there; that the building for the citizen drop off center was about the size of a dog house, so they couldn't spend half-a-million dollars on a 20 square foot building; that he took a half-a-percent away from the Traffic Department based on supporting the mills plan as he felt they could suffer that \$11,000; that a percent had never been taken away from the School library and felt that one percent from that would be okay as the Board had just given them \$14,000 to spend on books which was a fund balance.

Alderman Cashin stated that was the Library and not the School Library.

Alderman Hirschmann stated he was talking about the Library.

Chairman Wihby stated it kept the 3.95 because everything averaged out; that it was \$1,853 less than what they had.

Alderman Hirschmann stated it was \$1,853 to the better making those resolution changes.

Chairman Wihby stated he also had some numbers he wished to present.

Alderman Clancy stated he could go along with some of the changes, but did not want to see \$100,000 taken away from the Highway Department.

Alderman Hirschmann reiterated that there was going to be a fund balance on the drop-off center.

Alderman Clancy asked Alderman Hirschmann if he knew that for a fact.

Alderman Hirschmann replied he knew that because the department head was in the Chambers having stated such before him; that when he had opposed the citizen drop-off center he said "Alderman, we will not spend all the money".

Alderman Soucy stated Mr. Clougherty had indicated it was a debt.

Chairman Wihby asked Mr. Clougherty to address the matter.

Mr. Clougherty stated he believed the \$100,000 they were talking about was with respect to the building noting it was financed through debt service, a bond issue so it would not correlate to their budget item as he was comparing capital versus operating.

Alderman Elise stated she knew that Alderman Hirschmann had worked hard on his proposal indicating she could support one of his suggestions which was increasing funds to the Fire Department.

Chairman Wihby requested his handout be distributed which was done by the City Clerk.

Chairman Wihby stated there were basically only a few changes; that it would cut the Police \$20,693 for the Parking Meter Division plus the benefits; that it cut \$5,000 from the Safety Review Board; that it added \$1,200 to Personnel as Mr.

Moran had said if he could get the \$1,200 he would not have to lay somebody off noting Personnel was having a hard time as it was; that it took \$528,400 for School revenue which was the number the State would pay back; that it gave \$500,000 back to School and threw all the rest of the money from all the changes around \$80,000 or so into the Contingency Account and it also reduced the Retirement which they found out today could be \$200,000 less; that in reviewing the last page the proposal was a 3.75 percent increase noting it had extra money in Contingency that they could either reduce the budget further, keep it in Contingency for problems, or use the same number that the Mayor had and still end up with the 3.75, just moving it from one department to another.

Alderman Soucy asked if someone could explain the Retirement reduction.

Mr. Clougherty stated the Trustees had been that date noting they had received the actuarial from William Mercer; that due in part to the efforts of the Trustees what they had was a 28 percent earnings rate last year, so because they had high earnings and because they didn't have increases in salaries there was a reduction in the contributions that the City had to make which brought it down to about \$400,000 and then adding in what was owed from the prior year noted it was still a reduction and that about \$200,000 could be taken off; that they did not have a final valuation from Mercer because they were still waiting to get some information on the bank accounts, but the Board of Trustees had felt that a \$700,000 level would certainly accommodate what was necessary there and if there was some slippage it would be minimal so that was what was included instead of the \$950,000 it was \$700,000 which was a little more than what the actuary said, but again in case there were changes that was the number noting that Bobby Stanton had called him today at five to make sure they were talking the same number which was being presented.

Alderman Soucy stated that would include the payback from prior years.

Mr. Clougherty replied in the affirmative noting that it was included in the number; that it was a big reduction but also good news for the City.

Alderman Pariseau stated he would rather agree with Alderman Hirschmann's budget where it reflected an increase in the Fire Department of \$100,000.

Chairman Wihby stated what he did with that was that he put the money into Contingency.

Alderman Pariseau stated he would rather take it out of Contingency and make sure it was at the Fire Department.

Chairman Wihby stated if they wanted to take the money out of Contingency they could change the Contingency amount, put it into the Fire Department plus the benefits noting that would not change the bottom line.

Alderman Pariseau moved to that suggestion. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Wihby stated there was one more proposal.

Alderman Cashin suggested they take the \$100,000 and make sure it was in the Fire Department's budget right now.

Chairman Wihby stated there was also 38 percent in benefits and asked if they wished to take out the \$100,000 plus the \$38,000 out of Contingency.

Alderman Pariseau replied yes; that he wished to take \$130,000 out of Contingency and place it in the Fire Department budget and take out an additional \$38,000 and place it in the Fire Department benefits line item.

Alderman Shea asked how much was in the Contingency fund.

Chairman Wihby replied \$347,617; that the Mayor had \$250,000 noting there was almost an extra hundred thousand.

Alderman Pariseau stated he also anticipated increase in revenues from non-profit core service fees but could not be projected into the current budget.

Chairman Wihby stated he would not accept a vote on the change noting there would be three or four proposals and would take votes on it at the time and asked that the Board address the prior one.

Alderman Domaingue stated she also had a handout which was a letter and an accompanying letter from the Personnel Director which spoke to one of the items she had listed in her letter; that she was not comfortable with a 3.95 percent increase.

Chairman Wihby interjected it was at 3.75.

Alderman Domaingue stated Alderman Wihby was at 3.75 with a different formula but where they had originally been was at 3.95 which was why she had made an effort to make some suggestions; that the suggestions being made were to try and cut at least another half percent out of it and bring it down to about 3.50; that the manner in which she chose to recover \$200,000 which was originally place in School which they had been given because of the fact that they would be getting the Kindergarten Aide and in addition to that they would be receiving some Goals 2000 money noting that the Goals 2000 money should help whatever allotment they had set aside for technology advancement in the school system; that they would also recover approximately \$128,000 by freezing the raises for the department heads which was included in the schedule and also proposed to effect a one percent cut from the Athletic budget because they were untouched which amounted to \$12,000 and also would affect a \$9,500 from each of the 23 departments not including School for a total additional departmental reduction of \$218,500; that she recognized that the Board had sympathies in different departments so any arrangement regarding the giving or taking of the \$9,000 from those departments she would respect noting that was her attempt to at least get the budget figure down from 3.95 to somewhere in the vicinity of 3.50 and asked that the Board look at the attachment from the Personnel Director, Mr. Moran regarding the salaries; that she respected the fact that the Board had discussed the moral right or wrong of whether or not to allow those raises to go through on July 1st, but some of the raises in looking at the final column were significant; that that was the amount of increase in that final column to the right-hand side that each of those department heads would receive; that what it amounted to was at the Airport probably an average of \$13,000 in the last year of increase, Assessors almost \$10,000, Building somewhere in the vicinity of \$17,000 over an 18-month period of time, City Solicitor's \$8,500, Finance \$12,000, Fire Chief \$10,800, Health \$10,700, Planning \$10,500 and on and on; that the amount of the increases that were granted and she understood that the Board had been trying to provide equity was something that her constituents and theirs had not seen in an economy in this City that had just begun to turn around; that the increases at the time the vote was taken she recalled that some of the comments made were "we didn't realize that it was going to incorporate that high of a percentage" noting she respected that and referred to the actual figures; that the amount of money the department heads were going to be receiving if those raises went through on July 1st and was providing this information to the Board as a point of reference and something to think about as she felt it was a reason to think about noting she could not and would not

support in any budget; that she was providing it for information to the Board noting they could choose to use it or not in their consideration of reducing the budget.

Chairman Wihby in reference to Alderman Domaingue's number of \$128,000 for the department head freezes asked if she had taken into consideration that Blue Cross went up 22 percent and if they took the raises away from the department heads and give them back the Blue Cross they would not be saving \$128,000 but that it would actually cost more money.

Alderman Domaingue stated she appreciated that information as it was good to have.

Chairman Wihby stated that was where they were sitting with the raises they had originally at 2.50 percent; that if they had all passed now what was in the budget was a larger number than what they would need if the raises went through because of the Blue Cross increase of 22 percent; that the raise would be taken back, putting them back to where they were, but it would cost more money noting they could take the raises back and have them stay with the insurance they had but did not know if that was fair for them.

Alderman Sysyn stated wasn't the reason they gave them the raises was because those people had been frozen for a number of years since '89 noting it would be difficult to take the raises back.

Alderman Shea asked if all of them were frozen and weren't some of them non-affiliated who did receive raises and then became department heads in '91 as he thought that point had been brought out.

Chairman Wihby stated he believed if somebody had become a department head since '89 they would have gotten a raise as a non-affiliated other than getting a promotion because they moved up.

Mr. Sherman stated if they were department heads that were non-affiliated when the non-affiliated raises were kicking in, they would have received them.

Chairman Wihby stated there was no one who had become a department head since '89 that had gotten a raise, only if they had earned their way up and got a promotion.

Alderman Domaingue stated it should be noted in Mr. Moran's letter in the second to the last paragraph "Finally, it should be noted department heads received their individual steps as they were due during the 1989-1995 period except during fiscal year 1994 when increases were frozen."

Alderman Pariseau moved to accept the budget submitted by Alderman Wihby and ensure that the \$138,000 be transferred from Contingency to Fire. Alderman Clancy duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Hirschmann stated he found it appalling that the Board was willing to quickly grant something they have been stonewalling for a long time but would leave Public Buildings hanging in the wind.

Alderman Elise asked Alderman Hirschmann to explain his statement.

Alderman Hirschmann replied Public Buildings was cut by three percent and he was asking that some of that money be given back as all of the building were in disrepair and were crumbling and now you're moving to build Middle School and all kinds of stuff and you don't want to maintain what we have and you're getting me upset.

Alderman Pariseau stated, Mr. Chairman, I'd just like to address the concern of Alderman Hirschmann noting we all have that problem; that we could throw another million dollars at Public Buildings Services and nothing would improve the building situation in this City, nothing; that they would go out and hire additional people, the million dollars would go to salaries and nothing to take care of what has to be done and that's the situation in the City department-wide; that we have 92 percent of this budget for salaries and benefits and if you're going to cut the budget, then cut it and it means rolling heads to the tune of 200 City employees if you're going to make a dent in the budget.

Alderman Hirschmann interjected I'm not trying to make a dent, Alderman, I proposed a flat proposal, very flat to Alderman Wihby's and all I'm asking to do is to consider where the priorities are going to be and all I'm asking for is one percent back to Public Buildings which is a reasonable request; that you're snapping your fingers and taking \$138,000 out of Contingency in one breath and that's okay, but please consider your buildings, as well.

Alderman Pariseau stated I think we have; that over the last few years we have set aside monies to take care of City Hall renovations.

Alderman Hirschmann stated there were 60 buildings in the City which needed to be maintained.

Alderman Pariseau stated he agreed, but it would not be done with the City's Public Buildings Services right now.

Alderman Domaingue stated she wanted to speak to the motion of putting \$138,000 back into the Fire Department budget noting I'm totally opposed to doing that because when the Mayor came to us with his budget he proposed elimination of five District Chiefs; that as a Board we concluded that we didn't want to eliminate five District Chiefs, but we did as individual members speak with Chief Kane and say would you please tell us then how you're going to make up the difference and he did, he came back a couple of weeks later and he told us about the possibility of fire stations closing, engine trucks, ladder trucks being shut down and additional firefighters being laid off which some of us weren't too pleased with; that to me was not good management and the Board of Mayor and Aldermen sat here before I got on board and gave the firefighters a new contract and in that contract which was ratified in December of 1995, they gave them retroactive pay back to July 1, 1995 at the rate of 2.5 percent and then effective July 1, 1996 they get another 2.5 percent; that the firefighters got absolutely no change on their Blue Cross/Blue Shield as other unions have been approached and told it's a necessity because the City needs it and the firefighters said we don't want to settle for that and they didn't and they got it; that firefighters in Manchester are paid for their training and from here they can go anywhere and they are well-trained and I was out on Goffs Falls Road the week they were there burning down homes in their training and I remember being there and I don't not support the Fire Department, I certainly do and I stood there and put on their special breathing apparatus and I understand the importance of their necessities, but I also understand that the Fire Department needs to learn how to manage; that they have a supervisory structure that starts not at corporal, not at sergeant, but at lieutenant and they have a ratio of one supervisor for every two firefighters; that last year they purchased three very expensive pieces of equipment one of which rumor has it is one out of only ten in the country, since when did the City of Manchester become one of the top ten cities in the country needing this equipment. Alderman Domaingue stated I don't begrudge the Fire Department the apparatus that they need, but I really feel

strongly that they are running with a hierarchy and a management that needs restructuring and I don't think adding a hundred thousand dollars to that budget is the way to go about it.

Alderman Robert stated just my two cents in this, I think government is here for the people, I don't think government should put people before the needs of the people and I think by saying that we want to add this money to keep the District Chiefs isn't the right thing to do; that I'd rather keep a fire station open as opposed to keeping a bloated hierarchy afloat and we just went through an economic calamity a few years ago and we're still shuffling through it; that this people aren't alone, there are a lot of other people out there that got the boot because it had to be, I won't vote for this if it's going to go to keep these people in a position where they are not needed.

Chairman Wihby stated the money that's going in, it was my understanding it was going in under salaries and are you saying that the Chief's going to have to put back the District Chiefs or are you letting him manage.

Alderman Pariseau replied I am letting the Chief manage his department.

Chairman Wihby stated you're not telling him you want the chiefs.

Alderman Pariseau replied, no, I am not telling him that.

Alderman Robert stated I want the fire stations to stay open, I want the services there for the people, that's my priority.

Chairman Wihby stated the Chief's not here...is the intention with this extra money are you going to be able to keep all the stations open and not close any.

A Fire Commissioner stated Chief Kane has been here longer than some of you, he has told you what would happen if you did this "A", if you did "B" and if you did "C"; that he is waiting for your decision as the father's of the City to give them the money that he wants or needs; that whatever you give him he's going to run the City appropriately and that's all I'm going to say because whatever he said has the full authority and approval of the Fire Commission.

Alderman Hirschmann stated it's my understanding that \$138,000 would be too much money, Joe Kane can manage that department with \$100,000 and that's why

I plugged that number in and that's what I'd like him to do to manage his department.

Chairman Wihby stated Alderman Hirschmann would be happy if it was reduced to \$100,000 and he got the \$38,000 for PBS.

Alderman Hirschmann replied I want \$65,000 for PBS.

Chairman Wihby stated you had mentioned earlier one percent and one percent was \$30,000 and you'd be giving them two percent back.

Alderman Hirschmann replied, yes, I guess I am.

Alderman Elise stated from my understanding the Fire Department doesn't necessarily need \$100,000 or \$100,000 plus that they can use a lesser amount, I think \$60,000 was a figure that people talked about and I could support the \$60,000 figure and take the remainder of the \$100,000 and put it into Public Buildings Services if you're interested in doing that, I think a hundred was a little too much.

Alderman Hirschmann stated I don't have that sixty written anywhere, I don't know where that number comes from.

Alderman Elise stated it was a number we were all looking at in terms of how much more we could fund and then I just wanted to comment that I know Alderman Domaingue is very concerned about the present budget and one of her suggestions that I could support is the suggestion relative to cutting the remainder of the departments that we did not look at and I could support that if we wanted to discuss that more; that in terms of taking money from the Library, I couldn't do that.

Alderman Clancy stated in reference to Alderman Domaingue who said that the Fire Department had 2.5 officers for eight men; that you have to take into consideration if we send a fire engine down the street there's three men on the truck, we can't have three privates, we have to have one officer and that's why that ratio is 2.5 officers to one; that every time we send apparatus out we have to have an officer on the truck; that another thing is I'm not trying to micro-manage the Fire Department even though I spent many years there, I think we should give the Fire Department the \$100,000 tonight, give it to the Chief and let him manage the

department the way he sees fit, I'm not going to tell him what to do with the money; that I'm sure we had two big...\$800,000 the first time and another time we took \$100,000 away from him, so there's \$900,000 and all I'm asking tonight is to put back \$100,000, so he can run the department the way it should be and there would be no shut down of services to my knowledge.

Mayor Wieczorek returned to Chair the meeting.

Alderman Reiniger stated I had a discussion today with Chief Kane and he indicated that he was concerned if he didn't get a bit more money in his budget there would be significant cuts to services from Central station which obviously would have a bad impact on the Downtown and inner-city.

Alderman Clancy interjected 65 percent of the fires in the City of Manchester were in the inner-city area.

Alderman Reiniger continued by stating on that basis, I'm comfortable supporting...

Alderman Sysyn stated my only comment is that because the fire people were awarded their contract last year doesn't necessarily mean that they should be penalized and I would support the \$100,000 going back to the Fire Department.

Alderman Robert stated my question was precisely what number we were working with, were we working with the 10040626 number as a basis point and I believe Alderman Hirschmann wants to add \$100,000 to that number.

Alderman Wihby stated 10146262 would be the number for Fire and then \$38,000 would go towards benefits on the other page.

Alderman Robert asked is that the number he wishes to have.

Alderman Wihby stated Alderman Hirschmann didn't include benefits when he did his number.

Alderman Robert stated I just want to be sure about what I'm talking about...June 18th - amended expenditures 100404626.

Alderman Wihby stated those last two columns would be the new changes and the extra money that I had in Contingency where Alderman Pariseau wants to move it out of Contingency, so his number would be 1014626 for Fire and then on page 2 or 3, page 2 the other \$38,000 because it's \$38,000 worth of benefits that would increase that number on the second page accordingly and then you would take it out on page 3 and lower three forty seven by \$138,000, so you'd still end up with a 3.75 and that's the motion on the floor.

Alderman Hirschmann stated my intention was putting back one percent as a percentage we gave back the one percent that this Board of Mayor and Aldermen took out which was \$100,406, give it to Joe Kane and say Joe manage that Fire Department, we didn't let you know, here you go, I didn't say put it in salary lines, I didn't say anything else, let him run it.

Alderman Wihby stated for clarification, you wouldn't be giving...if he was short a hundred and four he showed a hundred and four in his budget, so if you just wanted to give him a hundred and four you'd have to add \$40,000 into benefits, so you'd only give him sixty-four and then the other forty would be in benefits because you have to count the benefits. So, he was short in his line item which is a hundred and four, your way you'd only be giving him sixty.

Alderman Hirschmann stated, wrong. I'm giving him back a hundred thousand dollars that we stripped out of his expense line items. If you want to move it into salaries or whatever, you're managing his business. I'm not doing that, I'm giving him back the money that we took away.

Alderman Soucy stated 96 percent of salaries are in excess of that is salaries, so there really is not other place to put the money in that budget, it's only logical.

Alderman Domaingue stated my purpose for raising the issue on the firefighters of the union contract is not about penalizing the Fire Department, it's more about underscoring the fact that we have a Police Department in the City of Manchester that comes in the door at budget time and they're very good with their budgeting. But, we have line officers, front line officers who are still waiting for a contract out there, so we seem to have an inequity here regarding our departments. We have front line firemen who have already settled and we, as a Board, have asked them to manage the department and it's not about micro-managing because I was one of the first Aldermen to say, look if you want to keep your District Chiefs, keep your District Chiefs just make up the difference and show us how you can do it. The

answer was never, okay, we've done it or okay, we're close. The answer was always how much more can you give us. What bothers me is that I've got Police officers on the street facing bullets and everything else and we haven't even finished having negotiations with and a department that walks in the door and does a fine job at bringing their budget in line and I've got a Fire Department that hasn't stopped walking in the door with their hand out since I got on board this Board and I'm very unhappy with the management of the Fire Department and I can't support putting that money in their budget.

Alderman Soucy stated with all due respect to the Police Department, the reason the firefighter's contract was settled when it was, was because they went to fact finding. I think they're at different steps in this process. If the Police Department goes to fact finding and that's presented to the Board, I think at that point we'll take an action. It was the timing of the firefighter's contract and the fact that we had to vote all of it yes or all of it no. I think many of us on this Board would have preferred to have granted them an increase and gone to Blue Choice, it certainly would have been more cost-effective for all of us, but that wasn't the choice we were given. It was to vote on the fact finder's report or not. Legally, that's our only option. The Police are not at that stage, they haven't brought anything to us, I don't know what they were waiting for, why it hasn't come to this Board yet. I anxiously await doing something for them, I think they're in a very hazardous profession as are the Fire Department, but to say that we're treating them differently isn't true. They both had ample opportunity to bring their contracts to us at the same time and for whatever reason the Police wasn't here and Fire was. So, I don't think we should penalize the Fire Department for it.

Alderman Shea stated I think there's a concern on some of the new members, at least, concerning the Fire Department's structuring. No one's here to micro-manage, but I think there is a concern concerning how the Fire Department is currently structured, I think Alderman Domaingue brought out certain points regarding the number of people that are lieutenants, captains, district chiefs and so forth and I think this is a concern that my constituents have raised in discussions with them. I know that coming from the School Department and I look at some principal's that are supervising 900 kids with other people involved and I'm saying where's the equity here. In other words, they don't have full-time assistants, they don't have people helping them and my concern is that we want to treat all departments fairly, but I think that there has to be real serious examination concerning how the Fire Department is going to be structured and that's a concern that we have. Nobody wants anyone to lose their jobs, that's a point, but the next

point is to go on in the same way that the Fire Department has been run for several years with total disregard as to how the structure is made and what process is used, is totally without thought and that's the concerns that are being raised here tonight and I concur with that.

Alderman Hirschmann stated just a question for the Chairman of the Board, your Honor. The public hearing we went to had Contingency of two fifty-six, now we're up to three forty-seven, where did you shuffle money from and to, to get that.

Alderman Wihby replied that's what I went over earlier; that we cut Police \$26,693 plus the benefit, Safety Review was \$5,000, School was 528 but we only gave them the 500 so that picked up 28.

Mayor Wieczorek stated there was a motion on the floor, Alderman Pariseau by Alderman Clancy and asked if he understood the motion correctly and asked that it be repeated as he was absent when the motion was taken.

Clerk Johnson replied the motion on the floor, your Honor, is to amend the resolution, recorded Alderman Pariseau by Alderman Clancy to the figures presented by Alderman Wihby but reducing Contingency by \$138,000, placing \$100,000 of that into the Fire Department's number and \$38,000 into benefits, but the bottom line would remain 3.75 percent.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion at the request of Alderman Domaingue. Alderman Domaingue, Robert, Hirschmann, Shea voted nay. Alderman Pariseau, Cashin, Wihby, Elise, Reiniger, Sysyn, Clancy, Soucy, voted yea. The motion carried.

Mayor Wieczorek recessed the meeting.

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting back to order.

Mayor Wieczorek advised that they were addressing item number 11:

“Amending an Amended Resolution ‘Raising Monies and Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 1997’ so as to Appropriate \$145,525,583.”

advising that the motion would be that the resolution ought to pass as amended to \$146,568,143.

Alderman Wihby moved that the resolution ought to pass as amended to \$146,568,143. and lay over. Alderman Pariseau seconded the motion.

Alderman Cashin stated that they were still cutting the school budget by \$2 million in this budget, asking if that was correct.

Alderman Wihby replied he thought it was \$1.8, it was giving them more than the mayor's number which was \$2.1. Alderman Wihby stated that they were looking for \$54,528,828.

Alderman Cashin stated and he was giving them \$52.6.

Alderman Wihby responded right. Alderman Cashin noted that was \$2 million.

Alderman Wihby noted that the mayor was \$52.457 and they were \$52.628. Alderman Cashin noted that he had given them back a half a million dollars. Alderman Wihby responded right.

Alderman Cashin stated that the school department could not live with that, they could not survive and he thought they had told the Board this and questioned if they were just going to sit there tonight and say okay that's it. Alderman Cashin commented that if they did not educate them they would pay for them someplace, and asked how they would get people to move into the city if they did not have a good educational system. Alderman Cashin stated he was not here to evaluate it, he had listened to Mr. Bernard, the school board members, principals and they cannot survive with at \$2 million cut, and if it was the will of the Board to do that anyway, fine, he was calling it to their attention.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he had written a memo, which was copied to the aldermen, and also to the school board regarding how he had come up with the \$2 million that it was not some number picked out of the air, with the number of changes that were being made there and the replacements that they were going to be bringing in, they didn't take them out at the top of the scale, because that's where they were and bring them in at bottom of the scale, they brought them in at

the range so that they could give them a little bit of slack because he knew they would not hire everybody at entry level.

Alderman Cashin stated he read and understood the memo, still they could not live with a \$2 million cut, they had told the mayor that and they told the board that and if the board wanted to vote that way knowing that, that was fine, just don't say it wasn't called to your attention.

Alderman Robert stated that after witnessing some of the ways that the board over there operates and looking at what some of their priorities are, they don't give me a lot of confidence to saying that they can't live with that number. Something has got to change over there. They got to get off of this emotional whatever it is to start sense, start talking rationale so people can make decisions, particularly the school building issue. Alderman Robert stated he was not going to vote to increase this number until he started getting cooperation and straight answers, and until they did they could take another million off of that number as far as he was concerned. Those people have to come down and start living in the real world.

Alderman Cashin commented that was a ridiculous statement.

Alderman Domaingue stated that she agreed with Alderman Cashin when he talked about education being important, he was absolutely correct, but she had a problem with the notion that this Board has not been supportive of education with this budget. She stated we are passing along with the CIP budget in two years the construction of a brand new school. In two years down the road they are going to be talking about adding \$800,000. a year permanent expense on an annual basis to staff that school. In addition to that project, we have been very forthcoming with support for heating and ventilation corrections at both West High School and Central High, at locker room renovations and new lockers even down to the junior high level; that this board has been very supportive of education this year.

Alderman Domaingue stated that they did not give them the budget that they requested, but she had to tell them that in ward 8 where she saw more development of single family residential home than she saw anywhere else in the city, she was prepared to say that the school department this board has done its job in supporting education and will continue to do that. However, she was a little bit concerned about the misinformation that she saw at the meeting that Alderman Robert referred to because when she went to the public hearing, there were parents standing up at the public hearing talking about programs that would be cut. This board does not decide which programs they are going to cut, this board gives the

school board a bottom line figure and those decisions come through the school board, so when it comes to education in this budget this board has gone out of its way to attempt to support education and will continue to do that.

Alderman Hirschmann stated that he was willing to give the school department \$52 million for salaries and projects, all he was asking for was that \$65,000 more cleans those schools that all of those teachers and students are in. It's a common sense thing, if they could adopt anything he put in front of them, he would be appreciate it, he would support schools being cleaned, fund PBS.

Alderman Sysyn asked if the \$65,000 was for cleaning.

Alderman Hirschmann responder for PBS's line items that they had stripped out three percent; he was asking to put some money back in because they really hurt them, it was to clean the schools, if they were going to support the salaries they might as well support the cleanliness.

Alderman Pariseau suggested they get rid of the janitorial service and bring the city's people back.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that it was coming from corrective maintenance.

Alderman Reiniger stated that one of the problems that he had with the school department was that they were not always getting all of the information just last week the superintendent had provided them all with information comparing 1996 with 1974 roughly the same number of elementary students, yet an additional 21 classrooms and 119 more teachers today than in 1974, but they were being told that the sky is about to fall there is a huge problem, they need more money and Alderman Robert eluded to perhaps the Board is being snookered into getting a new building for \$9 million and he thought there might be concerns, they had to be careful not be snookered in other ways too.

Alderman Soucy asked if he was just dividing the total number of students by the number of teachers and saying that the ration is somehow different and that on that basis.

Alderman Reiniger stated this was the information the superintendent gave the Board.

Alderman Soucy stated she thought if he looked at 1974 compared to 1996 they had to take into account changes in minimum standards, a significant change in the special education services they provide.

Alderman Reiniger stated that she was assuming that all of those teachers are special Ed teachers, and he did not know.

Alderman Soucy stated she would think that many were, there were many special Ed teachers with one or two students and they are required by the federal government to provide them with an education, and that it was not the straight division of a total number of teachers to students; that a large part of what is driving the cost of education is special education and integration. Alderman Soucy stated that she supported integrating special education students and students with special needs with regular students because she thought it made them both better people as a result but there was a cost to society associated with that and she thought it was one of the costs driving it.

Alderman Soucy questioned the PBS budget, noting that they had signed a contract for services and unless the cleaning service did not comply with that they pay the full amount of the contract so that would not effect the cleaning done; that if he wanted to talk about management, she suggested that they look at the amount of contracted services for architects to do a roof, and architects to do this, and planning consultants to do that in PBS, a lot of the overhead in that department is spent on special services where if they just hired one individual who did some of this planning in advance, and they actually spent the money on the materials and the labor to fix something, they could do it for a lot less, she did not think the cut was uncalled for. Alderman Soucy noted that she had sat through some of the Lands and Buildings Committee meetings and there was a lot of money flowing through that department.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that those were not part of the operating budget; that they were bonded.

Alderman Soucy stated that some were, and some were not.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that he had corrected Alderman Hirschmann's statement noting that it was coming out of corrective maintenance rather than the cleaning, and this was important too. Mayor Wieczorek stated that she was right about the special education because Manchester's bill was about \$12 million a year, it

services about 13 percent of the students and the bill for transportation was about \$1.8 million of which \$1.1 million was for special education. Mayor Wieczorek stated that some of the problem was that it was court mandated, there was a supreme court decision recently that indicated that you will comply whether you want to or don't want to; that the bill for all of special education was coming up in congress next year.

Alderman Elise stated that she viewed the aldermen's job as making sure that the citizens get the service that they need and that government is running properly and that they are funding the services; that right now they were having difficulty with the funding portion, the City of Manchester does have a revenue problem, over the past five years she had been on the board they had done a lot on restructuring government, privatization, consolidation, insurance conversion but she was getting very frustrated in terms of looking at revenue in terms of fees in that section. Alderman Elise stated that she thought they really had to look at their job now was the revenue problem and that next year they really needed to do a lot more on economic development and focusing on that. Alderman Elise stated that they had just spent four months putting a budget together and looking at what they were going to cut, they needed to spend 12 months looking at where they were going to make more revenue; that she been very frustrated looking at the fees the last few years.

Mayor Wieczorek stated that he thought things had finally started to turn; that they had a positive figure on the tax base so that meant it would be turning up instead of continuing a downward spiral; that they had a tremendous amount of construction going on with the mall doubling in size, with the number of buildings being constructed over at the industrial park, so they had a number of things coming on line soon and that hopefully would be helpful. Mayor Wieczorek stated that the real challenge that was going to be before the board was going to be the challenge of what they do with that money. Mayor Wieczorek suggested that they don't put it into operating costs, because if they put it into operating costs that was a spigot you can't turn on and off, and when you have a down turn you are going to have to tax up in order to support that; that if they take the money that they get as extra money and put it into capital projects that was a spigot they could turn on and off, and that would be something that had to be seriously considered.

Alderman Shea stated that he had spent a lifetime in education and found as a principal of a school that was close to 105 years old now, that there was a great many inequities. He found that certain areas of the city were favored over other

areas. When he had to wait as a principal for over 30 years to get a gym, which to him you look at other schools with libraries that were much better than even Hallsville was able to get, and he found that the people making decision weren't always fair with the school children. In other words there was so much inequity, it was very difficult to fathom and he realized that educational costs have mushroomed and that was simply because of the fact that children coming to school today are in need of different services that they weren't in need of years ago when families were intact, or when you had other situations existing, and he thought that relating to educational costs today, children who are going to be the future, the bright, talented kids, nothing is being done for them and everything is leveling off into the middle and unless we are careful we will have a school system that is going to be socially oriented or outcome educational kinds of things and that was the concern that he had. Alderman Shea stated that when they get a good wholesome teacher in a classroom, he did not care where they are, they will do a good job and there are many dedicated and devoted people that don't get the recognition they should get, and he thought that a lot of money is spent on other pursuits that don't amount to too much in his opinion. A lot of money was being wasted in the school department that could possibly be rendered more proficiently.

Mayor Wieczorek stated that Alderman Shea had made some very good points and he thought frankly this was one of the problems they had, was really instead of educational institutions they've become social institutions, and he thought they expected too much of their teachers, they wanted them to teach, be a mother, a father, a nurse, a nutritionist, a psychologist, a guidance counselor, they cannot be all of those things, if they were going to be all of those things they could not teach, it takes away from it, and he thought some of the programs designed now to change welfare was going to have some sort of an impact on it as the years go down, it would not have an immediate impact.

Alderman Shea stated that there were dedicated principals and teachers that work very hard with the children, and after the parents these are the most important people they have. They could talk about policemen, firemen, welfare workers, personnel people but these are the people that are going to service the heart of the city and he found they are not given the recognition they should.

Alderman Reiniger stated that he agreed with Alderman Shea's comments about talented and gifted students, and last year they discussed a magnet school for math and science, and the board rejected it and perhaps they could look at it again to address those needs.

Alderman Cashin stated that Bob Baines at West High certainly recognized excellence in students, and he has banquets for them and everything else, so to say that talented and gifted students were not recognized was not quite a fact he thought they were.

Mayor Wieczorek stated it was not a matter of recognition but a matter of what programs were available for them.

Alderman Shea stated yes, that was his comment. In other words, they had children in the first, second, third, fourth, fifth and sixth grades in other schools that take a foreign language at a certain age, grade level, that have enrichment programs and things of that nature, they did not have it in the Manchester school system simply because most of the efforts are given to students that have special needs and money isn't appropriated for this particular reason. In the high schools there is a certain amount of division in terms of excellerated courses, the thought at Memorial he thought there were probably 30 students in the freshmen class that take excellerated programs, but yet if certain students at certain grade levels in certain schools were given the same opportunities that other students are given in other schools in Manchester you wouldn't have the number of students in that particular class. For instance at Southside Junior High School many of the students that in the advanced math class there, that take algebra the first year are from Green Acres School. Some of the other kids that go to the other schools are not in that particular class simply because they are not picked out at a certain grade level and given the same opportunities in his opinion that these students may be given. He was not disputing the fact that at the high school level there are students that are excellerated. He was saying that students should be started at a lower grade level and given special attention, and if they did not do that they would loose a lot of the kids because they would be bored and they would not develop their potential as they should.

Mayor Wieczorek stated that another factor was that if you are a special needs student you are eligible for education and all of the facilities until age 22, it wasn't as though you graduate at 17 or 18. This was one of the reasons they find a little expense there.

Alderman Domaingue stated she wished to add that she agreed with Alderman Elise they needed to look as a board and hopefully she believed they would in the coming fiscal year at the revenue policies, but also hopefully they would be able to

look at some of the long standing policies regarding salaries and benefits and maybe they will be able to turn this around for the taxpayer, and start changing the direction for the city of Manchester. Alderman Domaingue commented that revenues were a big part of this picture but also how they did business in the city of Manchester in the future was going to determine how well they provide for their infrastructure.

Alderman Pariseau moved to the question.

Mayor Wieczorek asked if there was any other discussion.

Alderman Robert asked what the number was.

Clerk Johnson responded \$146,568,143.

Mayor Wieczorek advised the motion that it ought to pass and lay over at that amended figure was made by Alderman Wihby, seconded by Alderman Pariseau.

A roll call vote was taken. Alderman Domaingue, Cashin, Robert, Hirschmann, Elise, Reiniger, Soucy and Shea voted no. Alderman Pariseau, Wihby, Sysyn and Clancy voted yea. The motion failed.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he wanted to address each alderman that voted against the budget and see what their ideas were, and what their plan would be.

Alderman Domaingue stated that the mayor was not their earlier but she had done a handout and one of the items that she spoke to Alderman Wihby graciously pointed out that there may be in fact be an increase and that was a recovery of \$128,000 by freezing the raises for department heads so she was willing to revisit that, but since she had not actual idea of the amount of money that it would cost rather than recover, she doesn't operate in the dark, and knew that this board had worked very hard, but she had done a handout and noted they could recover \$200,00 in revenue that they had previously added to the school department the board apparently chose not to do that. The school department is getting \$500,000 under Alderman Wihby's proposal of the \$528,000 that they would have been receiving from kindergarten aide and Goals 2000 money is a question mark because they have no clue as to how much money they will gleam from that but she had every faith in the school department that they will get whatever offset they have made in technology. In addition to that she had asked to effect a 1 percent cut in the athletic budget

amounting to \$12,000 and in addition to that a \$9,500 cut from each of 23 departments and that amounts would have been a total of \$218,500. She was not opposed to lowering this rate from 3.75, she was uncomfortable in working with numbers that she is not sure of and when they were presented here tonight by Alderman Wihby she knew he tried his best, and she respected that, but some of those figures were unclear to her, she was uncomfortable with a rate of 3.75, when in fact she thought they could get it closer to 3.5 and that was the reason.

Mayor Wieczorek questioned the \$9,500 cut from 23 departments, asking if she had looked at each department to see what the impact would be. Alderman Domaingue stated she was looking at expense departments to try and determine whether or not they could lower that tax rate. Her understanding of the process was that they may in fact reach the end of September and have a figure of the total valuation of the city of Manchester that may reduce that 3.95 or 3.75 further; that we did not know if that was going to happen. She did not look at each and every one, she used that as a base figure to effect a total amount of cuts of \$558,000.

Mayor Wieczorek used the mayor's office as an example stating if they wanted to \$9,500. out, the aldermen already took out \$3,800 out of \$8,000, out of all of their line items except salary, which left them \$4,200. She wanted to take out another \$9,500. they would have to cut everyone's pay.

Alderman Domaingue stated she heard him and respected that, but put in a different perspective, there was not a department on the list that couldn't come in and make that same claim for all of the money that they asked for originally, but it interested her when the taxpayer says where am I going to come up with this money for this tax increase we turn a deaf ear, but we are very receptive when the departments walk in the door and say where are we going to cut. That is where the taxpayers are telling her, where are they going to cut a budget, if you bring in a flat rate income of \$15,000 a year and they are not getting an increase where do they cut from their food, utilities, where. The issue here was that the board by majority has decided that they are not comfortable with this budget. She was prepared to sit there all night if necessary to work out what they are comfortable with, she brought in some recommendations which she was asked to do and would have done it earlier except that there was not an opportunity to do so.

Mayor Wieczorek stated that her numbers would not bring the budget down to 0. Alderman Domaingue stated she was not trying to do so, she was trying to effect a tax rate that provides services and is reasonable to absorb for the taxpayers.

Mayor Wieczorek asked what she thought the budget should be.

Alderman Domaingue responded that her bottom line was 3.5 percent.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that was a 6 cents per thousand difference.

Alderman Cashin stated that his problem was that he was very uncomfortable with the school budget, he thought it was underfunded.

Mayor Wieczorek asked what he thought it should be.

Alderman Cashin responded he would not give a number; that the school board said they can't live with it, Mr. Bernard said they can't live with it, they were the professionals he was not. Alderman Cashin stated that the school budget as far as he knew was about 87 percent salaries, or \$47 million out of \$52, that leaves \$5 million, the mayor says there is \$12 million for handicap children, the alderman from ward seven wants to see classes for gifted children and he agreed with it but where was the money going to come from. It was okay to say they were going to do these things but they had to provide the funds for it and this budget was not paying for it in his opinion.

Mayor Wieczorek asked what he thought it should be. Alderman Cashin stated he would be happy to sit with Mr. Bernard, the mayor and anyone else and try to come up with a number. Alderman Cashin stated that the school told him they needed \$54.

Alderman Cashin stated that he wanted to sit with Mr. Bernard and get a number that he honestly feels he can live with, and that was a number that he could support.

Mayor Wieczorek stated so you want to increase the budget. Alderman Cashin stated that if it was necessary he would support increasing the budget.

Alderman Robert stated that thought they had been working with this for a while this had probably been the first formal vote other than referring this to the public hearing, and referring it to the public hearing he did not take it as a commitment on his part to follow through on that number, it was an attempt to get some feedback. He thought everybody here had some concerns and problems Alderman Robert

stated that for many years he had expressed his displeasure with the spending priorities of past boards. Taxes keep going up the biggest thing that seems to go up for one reason or another is salaries and benefits and the service to the people of the city of Manchester goes down. He thought in recent years they made some headway to reverse that trend, but he thought this budget goes back that way, higher taxes/less service. Alderman Robert stated as far as a bottom line number was concerned, he would like a bottom line number as low as possible, but if they were going to shut down Amory Street fire station, if he has a school board that refuses to use the Hevey School just because it's not good enough for them, those were just a couple of areas that he had problems with. Public Building Services, high schools, kids, things get broken who's going to fix it, were they going to start locking up mens and ladies rooms, if the floor in the gym or some other part of the school gets broken we are not going to fix it, he had some problems with that. Alderman Robert stated that the fire department's structure needs some work, but he would rather get rid of district chiefs as opposed to closing fire stations. Information Systems, they are buying computers they are not going to get the software to go with that, why not say the heck with the computers altogether. These were some of his concerns, he did not vote for any pay raises compensation was one of the things driving the numbers. He was finding himself in a position that he had to couch himself, but he considered this a start of working toward something. In terms of a bottom line, he probably would go a little higher to address what he talked about; that they were talking about raising taxes and cutting services. His mind was open at this point.

Alderman Hirschmann stated that he wished to credit Chairman Wihby; that their finance meetings for the past three months have been creative and the mayor had missed some good dialogue. Alderman Hirschmann commented that it was very participative from all of aldermen, they all really put something good together, the problem was they were at a stage now where they were not agreeing on priorities; that the numbers were the numbers and it was just who was getting the numbers and his attempt at refining the numbers tonight was not to insult anybody but to tell everybody where he was coming from, he thought there were some injustices and he thought there were some people that could afford to contribute to those injustices. He put together a plan, he had some deletions from six departments and gave additions to two departments with a net result of \$2,000 decrease, but it wasn't the numbers it was the priorities. Alderman Hirschmann stated what he tried to do the board accomplished on their own tonight is that they gave money back to the fire department, a little more than it would have, and again public building services it astounded him that they are putting on a \$9 million school but

they don't want to keep the construction and maintenance money. Alderman Hirschmann referenced the assessors he gave them more money than the mayor did in his proposal, Youth Services their 97 request was the exact number he had on paper, the \$15,000 deletion they did not ask for in their 97 request. The police was a new position that he was deleting, a civilian operator/dispatcher. Highway, \$100,000 he saw fit that they could afford to loose that. Traffic \$11,000, they just supported the mil program so that \$11,000 they would not miss, it would not matter to them, and the Library they had not cut at all, they had cut others 1, 2 and 3 percent so he felt 1 percent from Library was okay based on the board voting to give back \$14,000 of unspent money. He didn't think he had done anyone any harm. He reassessed priorities, tried to be a good alderman, and was looking for support, he didn't get all the support he was hoping for, but he participated.

Mayor Wieczorek asked what he would support as a bottom line.

Alderman Hirschmann responded it was priorities, they could take some of the funds from schools and give public building services \$65,000. so they could maintain things commenting that the teachers were saying the schools weren't being maintained properly and they weren't talking about cleaning, they were talking about broken things. Alderman Hirschmann noted that his concern on firefighters had been addressed, but thought if public building services could be addressed the number wasn't too far off, though he still had on the table the department head raise issue.

Alderman Wihby stated the matter of \$65,000. into PBS is only 2 cents on the tax rate, the board had been looking at \$30.80 and they were down to \$30.74, and it was actually a good surprise that it had been dropped by 6 cents coming into today's meeting. Alderman Wihby commenting that adding 2 cents, and it was probably less than that, to the rate to taking care of the infrastructure he would not be against doing, they were still lower than the number getting in here because of the added revenue found. If that was causing one person not to vote to get a number, he didn't think putting 2 cents on the tax rate since it was already dropped 6 cents to fix the infrastructure was a big deal, and he would support it.

Alderman Elise stated in general she had difficulty putting together a budget based on increasing fees. She had been very frustrated this past year just looking for revenue and increasing fees. At some parts in terms of this particular budget, if they could propose a budget without a tax increase and increase in areas that don't effect the property owner, she thought that would be great, if they did not increase

the tax rate. In terms of the health fees, the mileage rate, she had a lot a difficulty with the taxpayer having an increase in taxes, having an increase in fees and with regard to her ward, what are they getting out of it, she was not guaranteed anything in terms of reconstruction of streets, sewers, sidewalks, a playground at McDonough which was not in her ward she was not sure would get done, and a lot of people in her ward go to that school and she wished to see that. In reassuring her constituents of how their tax dollars are going to be spent she did not have a comfortable feeling at all about it. In regards to the fees she knew in the last budget they looked at increasing fees and it was very poorly accepted, to the point that they had to repeal the fire fee, she could see in one of the fees that they might have to look at that. With regards to the middle school proposal, she thought they really missed an opportunity, if there is a problem regarding overcrowding in the schools it is an opportunity to do something to meet some needs as talked about tonight, gifted students, math, science programs in an existing building, maybe in the millyard next to the university, US First, etc. there was a building on the west side that's very suitable to be used, she thought the school department may be looking ideally at what they would like done, and a lot of times we would like to do things ideally too, but we could have taken this particular situation and turned it into an opportunity to create some new programs that are needed in the city as well as utilizing some existing buildings. These were her reasons.

Mayor Wieczorek stated he was trying to figure out where she was at, asking if she did not want to support an increase, did he hear her correctly.

Alderman Elise stated she would support an increase in fees that are spread among the entire population, not the property owner, if there is no property tax increase. For example, if the mayor had proposed the bag and tag without an increase in taxes she thought it would have been viable.

Mayor Wieczorek stated if someone could tell him how to turn 3.8 million dollars, there was no one leaving money under his pillow, it was a difficult thing, they were talking about major expenses that the city did not have before. Mayor Wieczorek noted that it was not easy to make decisions and the landfill was going to close July 1, and the trash would be disposed of to Rochester, they were talking 3.8 million as a total package with disposal, recycling, composting, and loss of revenues.

Alderman Elise stated it might be acceptable to this board, and the board may see its role as putting together a budget and looking for revenues and fees and spending four months doing that, but it's not acceptable to her. To her, she felt they should have spent and should spend in the future a lot more time on economic development and raising the tax base, and she had a lot of difficulty with her constituents saying there taxes are increasing, their fees are increasing, and what are they getting out of it.

Mayor Wieczorek asked what she suggested they do with their garbage.

Alderman Elise stated she would be willing to have some continued discussions about what to do with the percentage increase, and she was willing to work on it.

Mayor Wieczorek stated that as far as he could see she wanted to keep the rate level, but with the new expenses that they have it would be very difficult, they would have virtually a level budget if they had a bag and tag program; that this didn't fly they were not going to force the issue. He thought more education was required to look at a program like that, so be it, but this was not part of the consideration but they had the reality of facing the fact that they have to do something with the garbage now, and it was going to be on the tax rate, there was no other place to put it.

Alderman Elise stated she thought he was missing her point, she had a big problem raising property taxes, raising fees, and not getting anything out of it.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that they could leave the garbage in their front yard, or truck it to Rochester, they didn't have too many choices.

Alderman Elise stated she was willing to work on it, the garbage issue had been addressed.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that it was addressed in the budget, but she had voted against it, that was why he was trying to find out what she wanted out of the budget to see if they could get everybody on the same page here.

Alderman Elise stated she was willing to continue discussing it.

Alderman Reiniger stated he was the only member of the board that voted for bag and tag and if they adopted it, because he did believe it was a great proposal it had worked well in Dover, hundreds and thousands of communities in this country, there was no reason why it would not work well here. Alderman Reiniger noted that if they had adopted it they would have a zero budget and that was his basis for the vote no to this budget. Other than that he thought there had been a lot of excellent work, and he was not going to nit-pick, everyone could sit there and say they wanted \$5 more for this item or that item, his problem was the bag and tag.

Mayor Wieczorek noted that this was a decision that the board made when the proposal was presented and it didn't fly so that was now behind them, and they still had the problem in front of them to deal with. The historical perspective will be fine when they are talking about it again, but they had to deal with the immediate problem and that was what was on the table now.

Alderman Clancy stated nobody wanted to see a tax increase, the 3.75 was the lowest he could see right now without effecting any services in the city. He thought it was a good budget, if they got down any lower they would effect the services in the city and he was sure the people out there did not want there services discontinued - police - fire - highway - stuff like that, so he thought 3.75 was the lowest they could get it now.

Alderman Soucy commented she was amused that there was a concern about how people felt individually now, stating perhaps if they had done this four months ago individually with the may they would not be at this stage tonight because she felt they should have had more input along the way. She supported the recycling program four years ago, she was a volunteer six years ago when they started the program, and thought they should have done a lot more and laid a lot more ground work so that weren't putting out fires, which seemed to be the way they operated around here. Alderman Soucy stated that they did not handle problems long range, that's really our biggest problem. That's why as the mayor had said, they would probably have a level funded budget if it weren't for the fact that they have increased costs due to the closure of the landfill, and they have those because they had not addressed the problem, but kept putting it off, and now they were stuck. Alderman Soucy stated she could not support a budget that increases taxes while at the same time provides less services, if they were increasing taxes and at least providing an equal level of service, that was one thing but she did not think this budget did that, and she did not think it adequately funded the schools, she thought one of the things the city misses the boat on and she had mentioned it in previous

budgets and would mention it again is that they pay municipal association dues, \$25,000. what does the city get for it in proportion to what the towns get for it. The city of Manchester would be better served if they did what Nashua is doing, and that is hiring a full time lobbyist in Concord, they would get a lot more bang for our buck if they did that and she thought a lot of the city's problems come directly from the state. She had been an advocate for many pieces of legislation that have gone through the state that would have benefited the city of Manchester. She sponsored a piece of legislation two years ago that was just signed by the Governor that will increase the amount of money that the city can get for interest on trust funds. She thought that they should be using part of the rooms and meals money, certainly more than they are right now, and putting it into the budget this year. Alderman Soucy stated that that money was originally suppose to come back to the city of Manchester to help reduce the property tax rate. Alderman Soucy noted we said we were going to use it for economic development, well now, what's the plan for economic development she did not see a long term plan, she would rather see that money used to help reduce the tax rate in this particular budget, that would make a significant difference.

Mayor Wieczorek asked which item.

Alderman Soucy responded the rooms and meals tax that they had put aside, she thought should be used in the current budget. Alderman Soucy stated she thought there were a few other line items that could be adjusted, and she was willing to sit here this evening and look department by department.

Mayor Wieczorek stated she had brought up some interesting points, noting that Nashua was a member of the municipal association. Alderman Soucy stated that they were, but they were contemplating hiring a lobbyist full time for the city. Mayor Wieczorek noted she talked about planning, with solid waste, the city had been looking at solid waste for 20 years and one of the things the expenses they were talking about were operating expenses, it isn't like they could put money away so they could take care of the operating expenses that's an annual expense. Closing of the landfill was going to be something that was going to be bonded and occur over a long period.

Alderman Soucy noted that the operating expenses included hauling garbage out to Rochester, if they had been recycling city-wide for six years they would be hauling a lot less garbage up to Rochester. People would be recycling, the rate of recycling is very good for a program just starting out, if the program had been in effect a lot longer, they would be recycling a lot more.

Mayor Wieczorek noted they could put in mandatory recycling.

Alderman Soucy stated she supports mandatory recycling.

Mayor Wieczorek asked if she was supporting a bag and tag because that would force recycling.

Alderman Soucy stated she did not vote for it, she had two constituents who had supported it and received 33 calls in opposition.

Alderman Shea stated he had not had time to examine all the different proposals, he thought that Alderman Hirschmann, Alderman Domaingue, and Alderman Wihby came out with different types of proposals this evening. He felt that there are areas to cut back on the budget, he would like to see a little bit of help if they were to be cut back to be given to the schools if in fact they could help in that area. Alderman Shea stated as a new aldermen the constituents that call naturally are those that are the most vocal and are saying we are on fixed incomes, and things like that, and he realized that they could not do anything unless they raise money by taxes, he thought they tend to get most of the resources in the city through real estate taxes, he thought 79 percent comes that way, and in future years they will have to examine how they can get other sources of revenue. Alderman Shea stated he was looking at all o the options and trying to be as fair with everyone as he could be, but he thought in essence if some money could be derived it could be given to the schools, but he was in favor of keeping the budget 3.5 to 3.7 range.

Mayor Wieczorek commented on the point of Alderman Soucy was the time frame and what they should have been doing. He noted they all got the same amount of time to work on the budget and when he presented the budget to them he is presenting it with the numbers that are available to him at that time. As the board knows with the figures he proposed there was a tax increase higher than this, but they didn't have solid figures. The mayor's budget is just the beginning of the process it was not the end. Mayor Wieczorek noted that they spent about six

months out of the year working on the budget, which did not leave a lot of time for a lot of other things, and if she had some suggestion on how that situation could be remedied, he would be happy to hear it.

Alderman Soucy responded through the committee process. She thought they needed to strengthen the committee process on this board, she thought they had taken some small steps to change the process but she thought they needed to do a lot more. She thought they needed to change the format of the committee reports, she did not think they meant anything just saying this ought to pass, there was no explanation, whoever makes a motion should actually sit down and write a report, so that it provides more information to all of them, she did not think things should go to a committee and never come out and just be there. She thought there was a lot more that could be done at the committee level in dealing one on one with constituents. She thought constituents should come to committee hearings so they don't spend hours of the board during a public participation session hearing about a ward issue or a very narrow issue. She thought there was a lot they could do about long range planning, she thought they were starting to but there was a lot more that needed to be done.

Mayor Wieczorek asked where they wished to go from this point.

Alderman Pariseau wished to adjourn.

Mayor Wieczorek noted there was a tabled item and asked if there was a motion to remove the item from the table.

### **Tabled Item.**

Alderman Hirschmann moved to remove the item from the table. Alderman Domaingue seconded the motion for discussion. The motion carried with Alderman Soucy recorded in opposition.

Communication from Alderman Hirschmann relative to department heads joining the "Pay Raise Freeze" effective July 1, 1996.  
(Tabled 4/16/96)

Alderman Hirschmann stated he had drafted a policy, it was a draft policy that was a fair format used in a corporate world of assessing management people. He did not have it with him tonight but he was asking that the policy be submitted into the Committee on Personnel, if there was favorable reviews in Personnel they could send it to the full board.

On motion of Alderman Pariseau, duly seconded by Alderman Domaingue, it was voted to refer the policy and issue presented to the Committee on Personnel.

Discussion ensued relative to setting a date and time to return.

Mayor Wieczorek called a recess.

Mayor Wieczorek called the meeting back to order.

Alderman Wihby stated if they did those two things, (City Coordinator and PBS) they could pass the budget this evening.

Alderman Cashin stated how about the schools.

Alderman Wihby stated if they got six votes, those two little items a \$145 million budget was what was holding it up.

Alderman Domaingue asked was there someone present who wished to raise it.

Alderman Cashin stated you want the City Coordinator, then he wanted money in the School budget also.

Alderman Soucy stated she wished to have more money in the School budget too.

Alderman Domaingue stated she did not want much, she just wanted to lower the tax rate.

Mayor Wieczorek recessed the meeting advising they would meet again the next day at four o'clock.

A True Record. Attest.

Clerk of Committee