

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

May 16, 2023 at 7:00 PM

In the absence of Mayor Craig, Chairman Long called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Kantor, Levasseur, Heath, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Gamache, George-Kelly

Absent: Mayor Craig, Alderman Trisciani

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Long advised that the purpose of the public comment session is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board. All people wishing to speak will have up to three minutes to do so and any comments must be directed to the chair. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Deborah Starin, 457 Varney Street, stated:

I am here to present my opposition to the day center proposed at the Elk's Club on Granite Street. That area is a heavily trafficked area making it dangerous for a group of people to work or gather around. The program proposed would entail counseling for drug addiction, jobs, etc. These programs are already available at established shelters. Funding another shelter is not what this city needs. GateHouse Treatment, who was hired by the City of Manchester in March 2023 to implement programs that involve outreach and getting people into detox, has been out there doing exactly what Ms. Beloin of the homelessness initiative has proposed to duplicate. GateHouse has gotten into detox over 31 individuals and four others into programs within a 45-day span. From detox they will go into rehab and sober living. Having a day program as Ms. Beloin suggests is only a Band-Aid as there is no follow-up. Instead, you would have to rely on the addicted individual coming back there on their own seeking services. Since 80% of all homeless have mental health issues, it is imperative that the person who is homeless is taken out of that environment to be detoxed at a facility that can do that safely for them. The other item that needs to be addressed is harm reduction. Handing out Narcan and needles to addicts doesn't work. Look at Portland, Oregon and San

Francisco, California to see what harm reduction has accomplished; nothing. Just huge encampments all with strung out addicts and massive amounts of overdoses. Since January 2023, 173 people have overdosed in the City of Manchester and 21 people have died. By giving addicts needles and Narcan, you are giving them permission to keep being an addict. Harm reduction with no treatment is a death sentence. Any funding, federal or state, needs to go to expanding programs like GateHouse offers that actually help people break the cycle of addiction. As a governing board, it is incumbent upon all of you to reach out to our Congressmen and Senators to tell them to change the federal policy so that funds can be directed towards establishing a program like GateHouse nationwide that will actually help people to become productive members of society. Thank you.

Elizabeth Rapp, 851 Beech Street, stated:

I wanted to make a comment about pedestrian and bike safety in Manchester, particularly the cross-walk on Bridge Street where Belmont meets Bridge just below Derryfield Park. Last Tuesday I was hit by a car in that cross-walk. As drivers are heading east-west on Bridge Street, many of them know to stop when there is a pedestrian at the cross-walk. As I was crossing, a driver who was making a left turn onto Bridge from Belmont nearly hit me. I ran for my life and they hit the back of my bike. I was nearly hit by a car crossing that same cross-walk last year. The cross-walk at the entrance of Derryfield Park is better in that there are crossing signals and you can hit the button and it gives lights and a warning. It is better and some drivers know that they should slow down when there is a human life in the cross-walk but others just keep plowing towards the cross-walk with any sort of recognition that a cross-walk is where pedestrians can cross safely. I am going to follow-up with the safety committee with an email asking for a study. Maybe we need a traffic light at that intersection where Belmont meets Bridge and maybe some other areas of Manchester. On Hanover Street I was at a cross-walk this morning when someone drove right past me when I was in the middle of the road. Just to comment, when somebody is on Belmont and they want to turn onto Bridge Street, there is no traffic light so when they get a break they just make a left turn and are not paying attention. That is the main point I wanted to make. Thank you for taking my comment.

Norri Oberlander, 795 Elm Street, stated:

I am a Manchester landlady and the owner of North End Properties. I own 10 properties across the city in wards 1, 2, 3 and 8. I am the Vice President of Temple Israel in Manchester. I am a member of the Homelessness Initiatives Committee set up by the city and I am also the Membership Director of Manchester Business Alliance, a non-profit being formed to become the voice of the Manchester business community. In January, I gathered abutters to speak at the BMA meeting regarding the tent city at the shelter. I informed this Board that I wanted to be a part of the homelessness solution and that I laid awake at night brainstorming ways to improve this issue because I felt that I had an obligation to my tenants, to my employees, and to my father's legacy to protect my family-owned business and my properties but I wanted to do this in a way that also protected human life. This issue was not getting the attention the city needed to thrive let alone survive. Tonight I am here to express by deep gratitude to the BMA for funding Amanda Robichaud and Shane Bernier's street outreach efforts via the GateHouse program. Last night's presentation given by Amanda Robichaud of GateHouse gave me hope for our city. Thank you. This program is a step in the right direction. For those of you who missed the presentation last night, I learned that GateHouse helped 58 people on the streets of Manchester in 45 days and of the 58, 35 are still in treatment and some have been off the streets for almost 50-60 days. These statistics gave me chills. To know there is hope for the city and there is hope for these people trying to escape their trauma, for trauma is the reason anyone escapes their reality when doing drugs or consuming alcohol. The GateHouse Program you approved is a win-win for everyone in the city. It is clear that the majority of the BMA are in support of the GateHouse Program. Therefore, there is a chance to renew this program. I must say that I found the end of last night's meeting to be unproductive and a risk to the renewal of this program. As a business owner I am confused as to why a subcontractor with the city is being supervised by a department that is not in support of the program. If this initiative is not renewed, the city will suffer because this is the only program with true proven success thus far in my eyes. I ask the BMA to collaborate and work together as a team to ensure more successful statistics from the GateHouse Program. There are so many people rooting for this program so I ask you to please keep moving it forward and I thank you for supporting it. Thank you so much for your time.

Jessica Margeson stated:

I am here to speak for the lead committee that we are hoping to form. I can speak on the years of doing housing advocacy where I have met many people and heard many stories, some that will stay with me forever. I could cry right now just thinking about a few in particular. What these families have been through is very hard. This is huge and it affects those in the community now and it affects those in the future. I hope that we do form this lead committee and we are able to take a serious look. I have someone in my tenant clinic, that is almost two years old now, that had lead pipes but because it had not affected a child they had instructions to not drink it and only clean with it. To cook or drink, they had to bring their water in. So this is still an issue in our city and we definitely need to do more about it. Thank you.

Dam Wright stated:

Just a quick aside for the first speaker. I think it would benefit her to look into the significant increases in recovery that result from harm reduction programs as well as daytime engagement programs. One of the things I do a lot of in my work is go through the police logs. It is a good way to know what is going on around town when I can't be in all places at once. There is a lot of stuff that went on this weekend. Obviously there was the mass shooting incident and a lot more hit and run accidents which we heard another speaker mentioning. Accidents were a problem and there were a bunch of drunken bar fights on Elm Street; even more than usual. I see all of that stuff and I can't help but thinking really these housed people are really ruining the city for the rest of us. Maybe we should do something about this. All of this drunken intoxicated violence downtown, maybe we need to close down the bars or better yet we can start chasing them off the sidewalks everywhere we see them or come up with an excuse to get them to move along. Yes, that sounds ridiculous doesn't it? Except that is what we do with the homeless people. When a housed person makes a mistake and does something wrong, we deal with that person. We don't say oh all of the housed people are causing problems. We don't lump them all together. We don't come up with excuses to punish ones that aren't doing any of the stuff that is being done wrong. Lumping these people together as if they are all the same and punishing everybody just because of what is happening from a few, doesn't make any more sense than doing it the other way

around. At that point, we might as well punish all of the housed people for the things that the housed people do. The other thing I noticed in the logs is how many calls show up for homeless issues or other related problems. One of the most common is the check condition of subject call. These calls tend to come in when somebody sees a homeless person. In a lot of cases they are well intentioned because they don't know if that person is sleeping or if they are sick or what is going on so they call the police. This morning between 8 AM and 11 AM there were over 20 of these calls, all in spots where homeless people are known to be. That is a lot of police resources going to this problem. That is a lot of calls coming in for this problem and this problem is, once again, that they don't have any place to go. With all due respect, it is great to have the new shelters and if we are able to keep those and it would be great to have a daytime resource center as well but until we actually have a place for people to go, this problem isn't going to go away; it is only going to get worse. I know some people don't agree with that. I know, Alderman Long, that you were in the paper talking about how we define middle ground between two extremes with one side wanting to jail them or ship them off to Boston or out of state and the other side wants to give them every comfort in the world until there is no motivation left to not be homeless. We are talking about their basic safety, security and survival needs. We are not talking about putting them up in an extended stay at The Ritz. I think if we are comparing those two things that is where the extreme is coming from. If we are not seeing the difference between those then really who is the extremist in that situation. I just wanted to say again that I hope we can continue to do good work and recognize what the real problem is and deal with that problem because having a place for them to go during the day will be great and it will be a step in the right direction but until we have a place for them to go at night, this is going to get worse.

Arnold Mikolo, 73 Clinton Street, stated:

I am here on behalf of the Manchester Conservation Law Foundation. What brought me here today is advocating for the establishment of a Lead Commission. I just want to start by saying that part of my work as an environmental justice advocate is to correct injustices. The communities of color and low income communities had to bear this for many years. There is a disproportionate burden they have to carry, one of these being lead poisoning. I believe you all know the adverse and negative impacts of lead,

especially on our children. We have old housing stock and often times when a child has consumed lead the adverse and negative impact is irreversible. We are seeing this with behavioral issues in the schools but also it is creating a cycle of poverty where parents have to deal with these health impacts and often times the kid has to be limited when it comes to how much they are going to earn when they get older. I believe our city has an opportunity with our robust ordinance when it comes to the housing code but we can strengthen it. We can strengthen our inspection program and we can also strengthen our certificate of compliance. The data shows that 100 children are being poisoned every year. We can all agree that one child is too many but 100 children every year in our schools and in our city is too many. We had a family that had to go through the loss of a child due to lead. This didn't happen too long ago. We also have a lot of community members, especially the immigrants and refugee communities that are still dealing with these issues because some landlords don't follow the housing code. One child, again, is too many so today I am here to call on you to vote for the establishment of a lead commission and hopefully this will be the beginning of a conversation that will include landlords, committee members, city officials and stakeholders to start identifying the issues and strengthen our housing code. Thank you very much.

Jim O'Connell, Ward 2, stated:

I am here today just to support the previous speaker's comments basically. When I think about the impacts and the challenges in our school district and in our schools, some of them are intractable and very difficult. Some are hard to identify but this is a really straight line. One hundred kids a year in the period of 13 years when kids are in school is 1,300 kids. That is a hell of a lot of kids and we know and you all are aware of what happens to kids when they are exposed to lead in terms of I.Q. and lifetime impacts. I think this is low hanging fruit and I would urge the Board to support the establishment of this body and the work of deciding what that body can do and what is able to be done will come later. I think this is a lever we can pull to make change. I would appreciate your support of that. Thank you.

Kevin Crishon, 386 Rimmon Street, stated:

I just wanted to very briefly express my support of a day center and any and all programs and resources we can go to getting people out of homelessness in Manchester.

Dennis Higgins, Homeless, stated:

I was just listening to the previous speakers. It is definitely hard when you don't have any place to go. The biggest problem is survival and just to get by every day and see if your stuff is going to get taken or if they are going to kick you out from where you are. It is definitely an eye opening experience. I keep saying to myself there is a way out of here but when I get close to being at that point, something happens and it doesn't really take much for something to happen and then you have to start all over again. On that note, just when you think you have it bad you guys have a lot of stuff to think about. You were talking about lead poisoning. I think it would behoove a lot of people to just sit in some of these meetings to see what really goes on. To think that you guys are just sitting here making decisions on really nothing but it is a lot of stuff. A lot goes on. Sometimes I wonder why you dump some of this stuff on the Police Chief or the Fire Chief. I can see why and that is because it is easier and they are ready to do it. Shout out to DPW. Those guys have been really helpful to a lot of people. It is just behind-the-scenes stuff that you don't really see. It doesn't cost the city anything it is just helping people get stuff packed up or waiting a little longer to move them along or a kind word. I am so glad that we have Bill and Amy as Rangers in this city because both of them are on point. As far as encampments, I know that you guys have a lot to do and like Dam was saying my biggest fear is that we give them so much that they don't care. If you are on the edge why struggle. We have all been on the edge with not being able to pay rent or something happening and you go through it. What are you going to do? As far as the Elk's Lodge, I am hoping that Adrienne is paying attention because it seems like there would be a lot of duplication with 1269. At 1269 I may not always agree with Mary. As a matter of fact, a lot of times I don't agree with Mary but she is definitely on to something as far as making things right. She had a lot of overdoses there in the beginning and slowly but surely she has gotten that to stop. A lot of people don't like it but that is too bad. In my book these are the rules that you have follow. You can't expect people to follow the rules if you are not following them. As far as the

sidewalks, it states right in the ordinance what is legal and what is not. For people to be getting rolled up and thrown out of there is really hard on everybody. I understand the drug use. You need to think about where the people are going to go. If you don't care, it is just going to run rampant and you are going to have more and more crime and problems and it is going to cost the city more money. Have a nice day.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and to receive and file any written documentation.*

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

2. Minutes from the 4/4 Special BMA and BMA meetings, and the 4/18 Special BMA, BMA and Finance meetings.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

3. Resolutions:

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, decreasing funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for reallocation in the FY 2024 CIP Budget.”

“Amending the FY2014 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$3,439) for the FY2022 CIP 711422 Riverwalk/Heritage Trail Construction.”

“Amending the FY2021 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000) for the FY2021 CIP 710121 Road Construction: S. Commercial to Elm.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for FY 2023 CIP 611723 NAEH Consultancy.”

“Amending the FY 2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$565,250) for the FY 2023 CIP 611423 ARPA - Homelessness Response & Emergency Shelter Operations.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Seven Dollars (\$24,277) for the FY2023 CIP 511223 West High School Tennis Courts.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the FY2022 CIP 511022 School Playground Replacement .”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) for FY 2023 CIP 411923 MPAL Juvenile Court Diversion Coordinator.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Four Thousand Ninety-Two Dollars and Fifty-Three Cents (\$34,092.53) for FY 2023 CIP 411823 Search and Rescue Equipment.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Dollars (\$24,983) for the FY2023 CIP 212223 Manchester Opportunity Youth Dashboard.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred and Eighty-Three Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$34,183.72) for the FY2023 CIP 410523 Highway Safety Grant.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

4. Recommending that the following Ordinance Amendments:

“Amending Chapter 30: City Officials and Employees of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by creating §30.12 Salary of the Mayor.”

“Amending Chapter 32: Boards, Commissions and Departments of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester by creating a new §32.023 Department of Housing Stability.”

“Amending Chapter 32: Boards, Commissions and Departments and Chapter 91: Health and Sanitation of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester to transfer the Department of Senior Services to the Health Department.”

"An Ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 155 of the Manchester Code of Ordinances, to increase the allowed size of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs), expand their permitted locations within lots of record, and reduce which ADUs require a Conditional Use Permit, among other amendments."

ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration.

(Unanimous vote, with the exception of Alderman T. Sapienza who voted in opposition to the amendment creating §30.12 Salary of the Mayor)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

5. Advising that the summary of abatement requests submitted by the Chief Engineer was approved.
(Unanimous vote)
6. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and transfer of funds in the amount of \$24,983 for CIP 212223 Manchester Opportunity Youth Dashboard be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
7. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and transfer of funds in the amount of \$50,000 for CIP 511022 School Playground Replacement be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
8. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and transfer of funds in the amount of \$24,277 for CIP 511223 West High School Tennis Courts be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
9. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$565,250 for CIP 611423 ARPA-Homelessness Response & Emergency Shelter Operations be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
10. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and transfer of funds in the amount of \$15,000 for CIP 611723 National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) Consultancy be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
11. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and transfer of funds in the amount of \$25,000,000 for CIP 710121 Road Construction: S. Commercial to Elm be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

12. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and transfer of funds in the amount of \$3,439 for CIP 711422 Riverwalk Heritage Trail Construction be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
13. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the reallocation of \$5,000,000 in FY22 ARPA funds for the FY24 CIP budget be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
14. Recommending that the request from the City Clerk for permission to apply for a grant of up to \$10,000 from the New Hampshire State Library Conservation Plate Grant Program (Moose Plate Grant) be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
15. Recommending that the request from the Heritage Commission Chair for permission to apply for a NH Certified Local Government (CLG) grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
16. Recommending that the request from the Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery for permission to submit an application for a USDA Urban and Community Forestry grant be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

17. Recommending that the request from the Chief of Parks, Recreation & Cemetery for the following complement changes:
 - Eliminate one (1) vacant Recreation Maintenance Worker, grade 13;
 - Add one (1) Vegetation Specialist, grade 15be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
18. Recommending that the request from the Police Chief for the following complement changes:
 - Add one (1) Evidence Specialist Supervisor, grade 18, and adopt the new class specification;
 - Eliminate one (1) Evidence Specialist, grade 15;
 - Add four (4) Crime Analysts, grade 18, and adopt the revised job classificationbe approved.
(Unanimous vote)
19. Recommending that the request from the Police Chief for approval of an unpaid leave of absence for Lt. Derek Cataldo from July 7, 2023 through June 1, 2024 be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

20. Advising that the request from the Police Chief for authorization to enter into “side bar” negotiations with MPPA and MAPS regarding availability pay was received and filed.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

21. Recommending that the request from Avatar Design & Construction to install fencing, jersey barriers, and temporarily limit Central Street to one-way traffic posted at 5 MPH due to construction at 21-31 Central Street be approved conditional to approval of the Department of Public Works.
(Unanimous vote)

22. Advising that the following item from the Traffic Division agenda submitted on March 7, 2023:

RESCIND CROSSWALK

On Pine Street, mid-block across from the Library (ORD 2211)
Alderman Fajardo

was received and filed.
(Unanimous vote)

23. Recommending that the following Ordinance Amendment:

“Amending Chapter 32. Boards, Commissions, and Departments by adding a Lead Exposure Prevention Commission.”

ought to pass as amended and be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.
(Unanimous vote)

24. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:

ONE-WAY

On Central Street, westbound, from Chestnut Street to Elm Street
Alderman Long

PARKING REGULATIONS, METERS - 2 HOURS, 8AM-8PM, MONDAY-FRIDAY

On Pine Street, west side, from Amherst Street to Concord Street
Alderman Long

RESCIND CROSSWALK

On Pine Street, mid-block across from the Library (ORD 2211)
Alderman Long

RESCIND NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Pine Street, west side, from Amherst Street to a point 180 feet northerly (ORD9463)
Alderman Long

**RESCIND PARKING REGULATIONS, METERS - 2 HOURS, 8AM-8PM,
MONDAY-FRIDAY**

On Pine Street, west side, from a point 180 feet north of Amherst Street to a point 85 feet northerly (ORD 9462)

Alderman Long

(Unanimous vote)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN CAVANAUGH**, DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN BURKUSH**, IT WAS VOTED THAT THE CONSENT AGENDA BE APPROVED.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

25. Communication from Atty. Patrick Long advising the Board of his resignation as a member of the Personnel Appeals Board effective May 1, 2023.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to accept with regret.*

26. Nomination:
Manchester Public Television Board
Sarah Ambrogi as a regular member, term to expire July 1, 2025

Chairman Long stated I would also like to nominate Sylvio Dupuis to succeed himself as a member of the Manchester Public Television Board, term to expire July 1, 2026.

Pursuant to Rule 20 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, these nominations will layover to the next meeting of the Board.

27. Confirmation:
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Guy Guerra to succeed himself, term to expire March 1, 2026
Office of Youth Services Advisory Board
Marcus Ponce de Leon as a regular member to succeed Manny Content, term to expire January 1, 2026
Heritage Commission
Steve Hebsch as an alternate member, term to expire July 1, 2026
Stanley Garrity as a regular member to succeed himself, term to expire July 1, 2026
Parks & Recreation Commission
David Flurey to succeed himself, term to expire July 1, 2026

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to confirm the nominations.*

28. Communication from Jeff Belanger, Planning & Community Development Director, requesting dedication of a new public street named Therrien Lane.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Levasseur**, it was voted to approve the request.*

29. Application for Community Revitalization Tax Relief Incentive, RSA 79- E, for property located at 150 Dow Street.

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Levasseur**, it was voted to approve the application.*

30. Budget projections to be submitted by Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, if available.

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, stated the general fund expenditure and revenue forecast as of May 16, 2023 based on department head estimates is as follows. The projected general fund operating surplus for FY23 is \$2,147,000. The operating surplus is comprised of an expenditure deficit of \$431,000 and a revenue surplus of \$2,578,000. The revenue surplus is primarily related to auto registrations, interest income and building permits. The expenditure deficit is due to significantly higher medical costs. I am projecting that the health insurance line will be over plan by \$2 million. The forecasted surplus also includes \$718,000 from the contingency account. There were 17 retirements through May 15 compared with 33 retirements at this same time a year ago. Severance paid through May 15 amounts to \$763,566 compared to \$1,136,598 a year ago. The severance reserve account is anticipated to have a balance of \$911,140 after all related entries have been posted. I have also attached a departmental overtime report as of May 6 and a summary by department of the severance that has been paid through May 15.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked regarding the \$3.1 million. Is that unrelated to this?

Ms. Wickens answered correct. We had to have a public hearing, which happened earlier. Tonight I believe the Board would vote on how to appropriate that money.

Chairman Long stated that was just a supplemental appropriation. We had a hearing and then we recognized it and it is on the agenda.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked will that money be added to this number here and then we have to figure out what to do with it.

Ms. Wickens replied no it won't be added to that number per say; well some of it may. In the Mayor's FY24 budget address she mentioned that the plan that she was hoping to see put forth was \$1.5 million to various reserve accounts, \$1.5 million to roads and \$100,000 to the Arts Fund.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked is that the budget for this year.

Ms. Wickens answered this is the \$3.1 million that would need to be dealt with this year.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so the Mayor's budget made those recommendations hoping that we would get the money.

Ms. Wickens stated normally we don't do a supplemental appropriation until we are sure that we have excess revenues. We had a banner year in revenues so there is no problem there. We received this \$3.1 million in December. It was Meals & Rooms money that didn't need to go to the second reserve. In your packet at the last meeting you had a letter from Bond Council as well as what the recommendations were.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked have we yet to vote on that breakdown of the \$3.1 million.

Ms. Wickens responded I think it is on the agenda for later.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so we could decide to do something else with it. That is my point.

Chairman Long answered yes.

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to recess the meeting to allow the Committee on Finance to meet.*

Chairman Long called the meeting back to order.

32. Report(s) of the Committee on Finance, if available.

The Committee on Finance respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that Resolutions:

“Authorizing the utilization of General Fund excess revenues from Fiscal Year 2023 budget revenue estimates for a supplemental appropriation of \$3,100,000 pursuant to Section 6.05 (a) of the City Charter in Fiscal Year 2023.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, decreasing funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for reallocation in the FY 2024 CIP Budget.”

“Amending the FY2014 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$3,439) for the FY2022 CIP 711422 Riverwalk/Heritage Trail Construction.”

“Amending the FY2021 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000) for the FY2021 CIP 710121 Road Construction: S. Commercial to Elm.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for FY 2023 CIP 611723 NAEH Consultancy.”

“Amending the FY 2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$565,250) for the FY 2023 CIP 611423 ARPA - Homelessness Response & Emergency Shelter Operations.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Seven Dollars (\$24,277) for the FY2023 CIP 511223 West High School Tennis Courts.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the FY2022 CIP 511022 School Playground Replacement .”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) for FY 2023 CIP 411923 MPAL Juvenile Court Diversion Coordinator.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Four Thousand Ninety-Two Dollars and Fifty-Three Cents (\$34,092.53) for FY 2023 CIP 411823 Search and Rescue Equipment.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Dollars (\$24,983) for the FY2023 CIP 212223 Manchester Opportunity Youth Dashboard.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred and Eighty-Three Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$34,183.72) for the FY2023 CIP 410523 Highway Safety Grant.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Stewart**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Fajardo**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

- 33.** Report(s) of the Special Committee on Alcohol, Drugs & Youth Services, if available.

There were none.

- 34.** Report(s) of the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment & Revenue Administration, if available.

There were none.

- 35.** Report(s) of the Committee on Administration/Information Systems, if available.

The Committee on Administration/Information Systems respectfully recommends, after due and careful consideration, that the letter of agreement with the National Alliance to End Homelessness be approved.

*On motion of **Alderman Stewart**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to accept the report and adopt its recommendation.*

36. Resolutions:

“Authorizing the utilization of General Fund excess revenues from Fiscal Year 2023 budget revenue estimates for a supplemental appropriation of \$3,100,000 pursuant to Section 6.05 (a) of the City Charter in Fiscal Year 2023.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, decreasing funds in the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000) for reallocation in the FY 2024 CIP Budget.”

“Amending the FY2014 and FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Three Thousand Four Hundred and Thirty-Nine Dollars (\$3,439) for the FY2022 CIP 711422 Riverwalk/Heritage Trail Construction.”

“Amending the FY2021 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Five Million Dollars (\$25,000,000) for the FY2021 CIP 710121 Road Construction: S. Commercial to Elm.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for FY 2023 CIP 611723 NAEH Consultancy.”

“Amending the FY 2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Five Hundred Sixty-Five Thousand Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$565,250) for the FY 2023 CIP 611423 ARPA - Homelessness Response & Emergency Shelter Operations.”

“Amending the FY2021 and FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty Four Thousand Two Hundred and Seventy Seven Dollars (\$24,277) for the FY2023 CIP 511223 West High School Tennis Courts.”

“Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) for the FY2022 CIP 511022 School Playground Replacement .”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of One Hundred Sixty Thousand Dollars (\$160,000) for FY 2023 CIP 411923 MPAL Juvenile Court Diversion Coordinator.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Four Thousand Ninety-Two Dollars and Fifty-Three Cents (\$34,092.53) for FY 2023 CIP 411823 Search and Rescue Equipment.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Twenty-Four Thousand Nine Hundred and Eighty-Three Dollars (\$24,983) for the FY2023 CIP 212223 Manchester Opportunity Youth Dashboard.”

“Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Thirty Four Thousand One Hundred and Eighty-Three Dollars and Seventy-Two Cents (\$34,183.72) for the FY2023 CIP 410523 Highway Safety Grant.”

Alderman T. Sapienza stated so we are approving the supplemental appropriation but are we specifying where the money is going or are we going to do that at a later date.

Alderman Levasseur stated it was already specified.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked are we just authorizing the utilization of the money but not specifically spending it.

Lisa McCarthy, Assistant City Clerk, stated yes. The Mayor stated in her FY24 budget address where she wanted the money to go so if you don't do anything tonight, I believe the money would go to where she recommended it go. This is your opportunity, if you want, to decide where you want the \$3.1 million to go.

Chairman Long asked would it be too late if we brought it up during our budget discussion.

Clerk McCarthy stated if you want to table this resolution, you can.

Alderman Levasseur moved to table the resolution regarding the supplemental appropriation. Alderman T. Sapienza duly seconded the motion. Chairman Long called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Cavanaugh, Burkush, Heath and Fajardo duly recorded in opposition.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only for the remaining Resolutions.*

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted that the Resolutions ought to pass and be Enrolled.*

37. Ordinances:

"Amending Section 33.024, 33.025, &33.026 (Evidence Specialist Supervisor) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Section 33.026 (Crime Analyst) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

Alderman Barry moved to Ordain. **Alderman Heath** duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur stated I believe these positions were asked for by MPD to be included in the FY24 budget. Is that correct?

Chairman Long stated yes that is correct. These were in the Mayor's budget.

Chairman Long called for a vote on the motion. *There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman E. Sapienza asked can we get an update from the homeless coordinator on the engagement center.

Adrienne Beloin, Director of Homelessness Initiatives, stated I just wanted to let you know that I am not the Homeless Coordinator. The update on the engagement center stands from the last time that you had an update from me. The proposal has come forward and we were looking into properties. We have still not secured a property so there has been nothing new brought to the Board at this time. We are still looking to

move to the next stage of the proposal but we need to have a property in order to move to vote. That is what we are racing to do at the moment.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked are we still dealing with confidentiality as far as these possible properties. Is it still confidential?

Ms. Beloin answered yes and I think that is important. The reason we decided to do that is we don't want to have a property jeopardized if we are looking at it seriously. That was the whole purpose of not talking about it publically. Regardless of what the property is, that would be the move.

Chairman Long stated and under 91-A we can do that correct Solicitor Rice.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, replied it was the subject of a non-public discussion; yes.

Alderman Levasseur stated assuming you are searching, are you searching the whole city or just certain parts of the city.

Ms. Beloin answered the whole city.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I wanted to ask what is the policy in the city regarding noise violations. Is there a set decibel level that can't be exceeded?

Solicitor Rice responded the ordinances contain a chart with specific decibel levels with specific types of uses. For example, you would find...I don't recall the number of the ordinance off the top of my head but the decibel levels vary depending on the use of the area in the city. Yes, there are specific decibel levels in there.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so there are decibel level limits and they vary regarding how the area is zoned. How about time of day? In other words, let's say the area is zoned industrial. Does that mean that 24/7 they can have a certain decibel level or are there time period restrictions?

Solicitor Rice responded I don't recall off the top of my head but I would be happy to look it up.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked who is responsible for enforcement.

Solicitor Rice answered the Police Department.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked and that would be done with decibel level indicators.

Solicitor Rice replied in terms of the manner of enforcement, that would be something that you would need to ask Chief Aldenberg about.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so you can look into specifics as far as what the areas are zoned for and whatnot.

Solicitor Rice responded yes it is in the ordinance.

Alderman Burkush asked can I have Owen from DPW come up regarding the \$3.1 million. My understanding is the plan was to use that \$1.5 million to get the road program up and running. Will this delay cause you any problems?

Owen Friend-Gray, Deputy Public Works Director, responded it could. We are going to have to reconfigure the contracts that we are trying to design right now. This year the bids came in higher than anticipated like everything else and we actually at first had to pare back on our original plan. That \$1.5 million essentially allowed us to keep our original plan and keep repairing the city streets at least at a status quo level. Where we are without the \$1.5 million is a slightly diminished capacity. So yes it is very critical money that we can use right away. If there is a delay, we can probably rewrite contracts and hopefully keep the contractors on and do work in the beginning of the summer and then maybe sign it later in the summer but it certainly does present some administrative concerns on our end.

Chairman Long asked so a two-week delay would complicate that. It is tabled so we can ask some questions. Our next meeting is June 6.

Mr. Friend-Gray stated it just means we are going to have to reconfigure the contract. Again, it would probably take us a month to do it. It is not hugely significant. It would only be if the contractor is concerned that we are trying to change things late in the game. If we can assure him that this is still likely to occur, then I don't think it will be an issue.

Alderman Burkush asked can we break out the \$1.5 million.

Alderman T. Sapienza moved to give \$1.5 million out of the \$3.1 million supplemental appropriation to the Department of Public Works for roads.

Chairman Long stated okay so we will have to remove the resolution from the table.

Alderman Burkush duly seconded the motion.

Alderman Levasseur stated the Mayor gave her budget address on March 2 or 3. Before this supplemental appropriation...this is additional work on top of what you guys are already at for this year correct. Are we getting extra work out of this or is this money you anticipated or is this going to be \$1.5 million on top of what you already had planned for this year?

Mr. Friend-Gray answered essentially the bids came in at March and were significantly higher than we expected so we had to, based on the money in that initial discussion, pare back the amount of work we were going to do. We had to take several roads off the plan because we didn't have sufficient funds. This \$1.5 million allows us to put all of the roads back on and gives us one extra road if we have sufficient funds at the end of the season.

Alderman Levasseur asked what road are you adding on.

Mr. Friend-Gray replied I don't remember specifically which section it is but I believe it is the upper reach of Belmont. We are considering the work we are doing on that as part of the lower section of Belmont. I would have to go back and double-check to see what one it is.

Chairman Long asked did we get a map of what the FY24 plan was. I believe I saw one.

Mr. Friend-Gray answered yes there was a map that we supplied originally. I believe it was in February. Essentially this \$1.5 million is allowing us to keep up with that map. We were going to have to pare it back.

Alderman Levasseur asked what amount was needed in the FY23 budget for the roads that you had planned without paring back because of the cost.

Mr. Friend-Gray answered I think it was \$4.5 million.

Alderman Levasseur stated so you had \$4.5 million slated in FY23 and now because of cost increases it is an additional \$1.5 million.

Mr. Friend-Gray replied I do believe that is correct but I would need to double-check those numbers to verify that.

Alderman Levasseur asked so what we are going to get for \$6 million is what we would have gotten for the \$4.5 million.

Mr. Friend-Gray stated based on three-year-old prices yes.

Alderman Barry asked can you send us a list of what roads are going to be done. It would be good for the aldermen to know which roads in their wards are going to be done.

Mr. Friend-Gray answered yes we will send out the updated version in anticipation of the \$1.5 million and with the new pricing we got this year.

Alderman Barry asked do we have any money left over from last year that we can use.

Mr. Friend-Gray stated there are some funds rolling over. I believe we have about \$400,000 left in ARPA funds. We are using those primarily for maintenance work with DPW crews; so a lot of the smaller roads or the shims and those kind of maintenance pieces. The large construction projects that we did last year through Continental and this year through GMI, there isn't a significant amount left. We pretty much exhausted them last year.

Alderman Cavanaugh asked Madame Clerk do we have to vote to take that off the table first.

Clerk McCarthy answered yes. My suggestion at this point would be to take it off the table, enroll the \$3.1 million resolution, take a vote to send \$1.5 million to the Highway Department and hold the rest of the money until the next meeting to decide what you want to do with it unless you know tonight what you want to do with it.

Alderman Cavanaugh asked do we have a breakdown of what the \$1.6 million would be holding up. Is that you Owen or different departments around the city?

Mr. Friend-Gray responded I don't know what the remainder is for.

Alderman Cavanaugh asked Sharon do we have a breakdown of that.

Clerk McCarthy answered I have it. It is \$1.5 million to the various reserve funds – worker's compensation is getting \$250,000, health insurance reserve \$500,000, general liability reserve \$750,000 then there is the \$1.5 million for roads and \$100,000 for the art fund.

Alderman Cavanaugh asked Sharon will it affect the health care cost if we are over by \$2 million now and holding up another \$500,000.

Ms. Wickens stated throwing the money at the healthcare costs for this year is not going to help us next year. We still have to budget for that. It will increase your surplus but I always caution that it is great to have surplus but that is the first bucket you have to fill when you do the budget next year. You have to get back to whatever amount of surplus you use. So if you have \$3 million of surplus, you have to make that up before you can even spend \$1. That is how it works. I think if we are trying to get our arms around the healthcare, it would be my recommendation to put the \$1.5 million in reserves. We are going to get through this year. We have great revenues this year. We are going to get through. Then if you want to put the \$1.5 million to roads, that is what the Mayor put forth and then the \$100,000 to the art fund. I really think the way forward with this healthcare issue is to get the reserve bolstered a little bit. We are going to try to bolster the budget line for next year with the aldermen's budget. That is what they are working very hard to do now, and go forward.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated obviously we have discussed how important it is to get the \$1.5 million to Highway. There is no hurry on the other stuff and we can do that at the next meeting.

Ms. Wickens replied if that is what you choose to do then sure.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated that will give us a chance to take a closer look.

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Burkush**, it was voted to take the resolution "Authorizing the utilization of General Fund excess revenues from Fiscal Year 2023 budget revenue estimates for a supplemental appropriation of \$3,100,000 pursuant to Section 6.05 (a) of the City Charter in Fiscal Year 2023" off the table.*

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted that the Resolution be Enrolled.*

Chairman Long called for a vote on the motion made by Alderman T. Sapienza and duly seconded by Alderman Burkush, to allocate \$1.5 million of the supplemental appropriation to the Department of Public Works for roads. There being none opposed, the motion carried.

Alderman Levasseur stated I would like to bring up an issue that has been bothering a lot of the downtown business owners. In the last couple of months especially, I have gotten a few calls about the gentleman who works for the Health Department walking around downtown with bags of needles and Narcan and gloves and I am not sure what else is in the bag but it is causing businesses to be nervous and see things that they would rather not see. This is happening in the afternoon and in the morning downtown. One person called me and said that as soon as the bag was given to these individuals, they scurried behind City Hall and injected themselves. I don't like the idea of the city being in the needle business but I am willing to at least say if they want to get needles they can go to the Health Department themselves. I don't think the city should be in the Door Dash business for needles and bringing them and delivering them to people on Elm Street laying in the middle of the sidewalk. Those people are then using the needles and leaving them on the sidewalks. It is going to cause problems. I personally see a liability issue. I don't think the city should be engaging in a needle distribution program at all. I don't think anybody would want to hand a revolver to a suicidal person and I don't think you should be handing a needle to an addict. I don't think the city should be doing that. That should be for non-profit organizations or private organizations. We have lots of privately funded non-profits who can do that kind of business. I don't think the city should be in it. I don't know if it is a discussion this Board wants to have or if there needs to be a motion that they are not allowed to do it. I just hope that we don't do it without taking a vote or having a discussion. It sends a bad signal. The businesses don't want to see it. They don't want to see them getting needles on Friday afternoons and then going behind their buildings and ingesting drugs. The City of Manchester is giving out needles and they don't know what are in the drugs that the people are getting. If somebody has a cardiac arrest between the two buildings here at City Hall after they have been given a needle...I mean I am an attorney and I

think that would be a case that I would be interested in. I don't think the city should take that liability on to itself.

Chairman Long asked do you mind if we send that to the Special Committee on Alcohol, Other Drugs & Youth Services. We can have the discussion there and bring our recommendation to the full Board. We could have the appropriate people come in to ask questions.

Alderman Levasseur answered yes that is fine.

Alderman Kantor stated I am concerned about the committee meeting last night and the issue with the Homelessness Director and GateHouse. I feel like GateHouse should directly report to the Board of Aldermen versus the Homelessness Director. Lives are important and I think that we are holding GateHouse back from doing their excellent job. I am concerned about the morale and what is going on. I would like to make that a motion.

Alderman Kantor moved to have GateHouse report directly to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen versus the Homelessness Initiatives Director. ***Alderman E. Sapienza*** duly seconded the motion.

Chairman Long stated so we are asking for the Board to oversee the contract with GateHouse.

Alderman Kantor replied yes.

Solicitor Rice stated there are two contracts relating to this project. I think the one that the alderman is asking about, and I don't have a copy in front of me and I apologize, but I believe it specifies that the vendor is reporting to the Director of Homelessness Initiatives. So what you are talking about would require a negotiation between the vendor and the city just as there was to create the contract. That is what would be necessary from a legal perspective to achieve what the alderman is asking about.

Chairman Long asked for clarification. If the motion passes then we would reopen the contract?

Solicitor Rice answered as a legal matter, your motion wouldn't be effectuated unless there was an agreement to amend the existing contract which provides otherwise.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked is there a written report that goes to the Homelessness Director.

Solicitor Rice replied there are a series of reporting requirements, both weekly and monthly, that are required under the contract; specific requirements to the Director of Homelessness Initiatives.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked so we could just ask for those reports right.

Solicitor Rice responded I believe the intent was to have the Director of Homelessness Initiatives receive the information and then report to the Board; yes.

Alderman Cavanaugh requested a roll call vote.

Alderman Barry stated last night at the meeting there was obvious friction between GateHouse and the City of Manchester in reference to the contract. Our goal as aldermen when we were pushing this forward was to get people off the street and into detox and into rehab and whatever treatment they needed. The numbers we saw last night were fabulous. They were off the chart; a lot more than I expected for the first month. I think we should continue going forward. I hope that both entities will get together and iron out their differences so we can move forward. We have to collaborate to make this thing work. I don't think that by continuing to not get along...I just think at the end of the meeting I said we need to get along. It is important that we get along and it is important that everyone works as hard as they can to make this work. We all know the problems that exist in the City of Manchester regarding the homeless population. In my opinion, shelters aren't going to do it. It is going to hide them out for a while and it will keep them off the street and out of sight, out of mind, but in the long

run the only way this city is going to get healthy is if we get these people into treatment. If they are willing to go and we continue to assist them whether it be with city funds, state funds or federal funds, we need to do it. I think it is so important to the city to do that. Again, I think we should iron out our differences and move forward.

Alderman Fajardo stated my understanding is that a report was presented to the committee and before we take a vote to amend the contract I would like to have the report be presented to the full Board so that I can make an informed decision. I don't have the context or the exact data that I might have had if I had been at the committee meeting. I would just like to recommend that we consider holding off on voting on this until the rest of the Board is brought up to speed with where the committee is at.

Alderman George-Kelly stated I just want to remind us that the issue of homelessness in our city is an issue that is extremely complex and extremely diverse in its causes and consequences and that this initiative with GateHouse is just a small piece of that. If the initiatives that we are working on as a city to impact this issue are not integrated underneath our Director of Homelessness Initiatives, then we are not working as a collaborative entity to be able to really impact this issue from all sides and in all ways. I think that this would do a great detriment to our city and to the work that our Director of Homelessness Initiatives is attempting to do to be able to really impact this issue.

Alderman Levasseur stated because there is a contract involved, I am very leery about changing the terms. We can't change the terms without the two parties that are engaged in the contract. I would ask to table this until the next meeting so we can all look at the language in the contract and then we will be able to discern whether or not there is a possibility for the two parties to agree. Secondly, I would say that going forward we have a really good committee that is chaired by Alderman Barry. I would request that if GateHouse comes to give a report that they give us the report on their own without anyone else there so the two sides will be separate. So not all sit at the same table at the same time. We can just get the report directly from GateHouse to our committee. I am not saying that the other side can't be involved. I am just saying they can come after. We can set up an item with GateHouse and then the Homelessness Director could be second so we could have an easier flow. Can we table this?

Solicitor Rice asked can I get clarification. The funds are drawn from two different CIP accounts. This is essentially a city CIP contract with two different vendors. As this Board is aware, in addition to the specific reporting requirements that may be in the scope of services as there is in this contract, I believe it is Attachment B to the CIP contract, there are also a number of reporting and data requirements that emanate from the fact that 50% of this money is coming from ARPA funds. I do not pretend to know all of the reporting requirements under ARPA but I will simply say that they are lengthy and complicated. When there is a question being asked about reporting from the vendor, is that question both about the scope of services in Attachment B of the contract regarding the ARPA requirements or both?

Chairman Long replied I am not sure.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated it is about results.

Alderman Fajardo stated again I would like to suggest that before we review the contract can we get the data that was given out at the committee.

Alderman George-Kelly stated I also just want to remind us that when we voted on this contract we specifically said that the hierarchy would be that GateHouse report to Adrienne and that Adrienne would report to us. Now that we are asking GateHouse to come to the table and report directly to us, that is not what we voted on when we voted that contract through.

Alderman Levasseur stated that is what she is asking to change.

Alderman George-Kelly stated even in a committee meeting, GateHouse should be reporting to Adrienne and Adrienne should be coming to the committee.

Chairman Long stated yes but this vote would change that. Could the Clerk read the motion?

Clerk McCarthy asked the original motion by Alderman Kantor or the motion to table.

Chairman Long replied the motion to table.

Clerk McCarthy stated the motion is to table the issue of amending the contract to have GateHouse report directly to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen instead of the Director of Homelessness Initiatives.

Alderman Levasseur moved to table the issue of amending the contract to have GateHouse report directly to the Board of Mayor and Aldermen instead of to the Director of Homelessness Initiatives. **Alderman Fajardo** duly seconded the motion. Chairman Long called for a vote. The motion carried with Aldermen Cavanaugh and Heath duly recorded in opposition.

Alderman Kantor stated I am really concerned about the homelessness issue and the lack of accountability with the homeless. That is part of it. The lack of accountability across the board is not okay and that is why I feel like when you have a program that works and we are holding them back from their success it is a problem. That is why I made the motion.

Alderman Fajardo asked can I clarify what we just tabled. So we tabled amending the contract which would lead to a change in the reporting structure correct?

Chairman Long answered yes.

Alderman Barry stated one of the things when we were discussing it in committee was that we specifically wanted GateHouse to come to us every month to report their progress and I want to continue that. I don't think that is anything that is going against the contract. It is something we discussed and something we want to hear as a committee and hopefully the full Board so we all know what is going on. We invested \$300,000 into an entity and we took a big chance on it. I got backlash and I know you did, Alderman Long, from different people about giving money to a for profit organization. I don't care if it is for profit or non-profit because if they are getting results,

they are getting results. The bottom line is we specifically said that every month we want GateHouse to report what the progress is in our city.

Chairman Long stated I think with the special committee that can happen and then if there are any recommendations to the full Board, your reports will come to the full Board. That is how that would work. You could have GateHouse or Director Beloin report to the special committee on a monthly basis. I am not sure what the contract calls for as far as reporting. Is it on a monthly basis Director Beloin?

Ms. Beloin stated the contract absolutely calls for my oversight and the reason for that is we are not going to provide money from the city to any entity and not have it monitored or audited. You are essentially asking that that be the case. You are asking that we provide the money to a vendor, a vendor that does not work for the city, and that they come and report numbers to you in whatever format they want to provide it. You have a resident expert in behavioral health on your director board who is overqualified to monitor this project and you are suggesting that we provide the money to them and accept the results without any sort of monitoring or auditing. What I suggest to monitor and audit is very minimal.

Chairman Long stated the question is on reporting. The Board wants to know the reporting is what I am hearing. If it goes to the special committee...could you report monthly to the special committee? I don't know if you are getting monthly reports.

Ms. Beloin replied yes. The way the contract is written, it says that monthly tracking is due to me on the 20th of the month. That is what Amanda and I arranged. One of those terms has gone by already so there was one 20th of the month that has passed and we prepared to do it for the meeting yesterday a little early. So we are two months into the project, a little shy of two months, so there have been two reporting periods. The first reporting that they gave to me, I then put in a monthly report to the Board immediately after that time period. They gave me the tracking and in my homelessness initiatives updates where I update you on the presentation I provided here on the engagement center, I clipped the piece from MPD about the homelessness situation and I then provided a detailed report on all initiatives, including GateHouse in the first month. The

second month's reporting was requested to be presented at the meeting last night and GateHouse was requested, I think inappropriately according to the contract requirements, to present that information directly to you. It has always been the design of the contract, even though it wasn't the intention when you talked about doing the project before we got to the contract, that we were not going to let a vendor report numbers directly to the Board because it is not appropriate and it is not vetted. We agreed that it would make sense for your resident behavioral health expert to monitor the project and to look at the records and to determine if the numbers have actual results. I certainly hope they do. It is important for us to know whether they do or they don't.

Chairman Long stated so the first report from GateHouse showed that there were 12 people helped.

Ms. Beloin replied there were 13 people in the first tracking. Those were people that were tracked. The issue here is when Amanda has provided tracking to me, it is not accounted for; what she has presented. Even last night, the numbers that they presented in their PowerPoint were different than the numbers I gleamed from the tracking she gave me yesterday morning. I am interpreting the tracking and I am going ahead and marking it up. The numbers are different. I can provide that report to you. I have already been thinking about what the best way to get in front of this is so that we can discuss this as a group because it is really important. If people are interested in getting homelessness solved in Manchester, I am the ticket to it.

Chairman Long stated that question shouldn't even be asked. Secondly, it is very important to take people off the streets and we get that. There appears to be a complication. It is not you and it is not GateHouse. We are just trying to get our hands around this. Now I am hearing that GateHouse would give a report and then you give a report that would be different.

Ms. Beloin stated it is not that complicated.

Chairman Long stated this Board would just like to be updated.

Ms. Beloin replied Amanda is not giving me the information that is requested and I can't report out anything different than what she is giving me. She has to give me the full information and then I can report on their successes.

Alderman Fajardo stated I just want to triple down on my comment that I feel like the full Board needs to hear what the committee heard. My expectation is that I would hear from Director Beloin based on what the Board voted on. If the committee decides to have other types of reporting ultimately, as a non-committee member and a Board member, we agreed to monthly updates from the director and that is my expectation.

Alderman Kantor asked there are 40 beds at the Beech Street shelter correct.

Director Beloin answered yes 40 beds.

Alderman Kantor asked and there has been no turnover.

Ms. Beloin replied what do you mean.

Alderman Kantor asked so there has been no turnover and no one has left the facility.

Ms. Beloin responded there has definitely been turnover.

Alderman Kantor stated well at the meeting last night you said that everyone has stayed and that you didn't believe in tough love.

Ms. Beloin stated I said that approximately 30 out of the 40 have been with us since we opened so we have had a core group of about 30 individuals that have not turned over. The other 10 have been transient and moving through and changing all the time. So it is a different census every night.

Alderman Kantor responded but they are staying there and they haven't gotten jobs or anything. You didn't have any numbers for that.

Ms. Beloin replied we did have numbers for that. There have been outcomes reported from the people that stayed in the shelter and the purpose of the shelter is overnight shelter. It is not a program about getting them into another opportunity but there have been successes because we have brought in outside providers like GateHouse to connect with them on-site and do the thing that they do which is connect them to the service. Manchester Mental Health does that...

Alderman Kantor interjected but you are not letting her in FIT. Is that not true?

Ms. Beloin answered they are absolutely letting her in. What she said last night about FIT not letting them onto their property was completely not true. We were in the meeting and it was a pleasant meeting and Meg Shea, the program director there, expressed that they don't want people to come in the side gate of the courtyard. That is something they wouldn't just apply to GateHouse but something they are applying all around because as you know they are trying to manage the homelessness issue that is outside of their guest population and the population that is inside the building. They have doubled-down on lots of different rules. For example, their population is not allowed to go outside and hang out outside of the courtyard with the other individuals that are out there and some people are losing their beds because of that. It is because they are trying to manage what is inside and what is outside. The gate situation is there is no provider...our own Andrew Warner or anyone like that can't just walk onto the property. What they said was, very politely, and Amanda apologized profusely for not checking in to see the right way, was come in the front door and check in with us at the desk. They have a desk like a concierge type desk. They said check in and say hey it's me Shane from GateHouse and I am here to see so and so and they will collaborate with them. Everyone at the shelter has a case manager assigned to them and they will be able to go ahead and make connections. That was the spirit of the meeting. I don't know why she would say that.

Alderman Barry stated on that topic, and I spoke with you about this last night, it is not 100% accurate because the Director of FIT actually sent me an email and said that if GateHouse wants to go into the fenced in area they have to make an appointment. It

wasn't going through the front door and it wasn't signing in. It was to make an appointment. Enough said about that. Just to clarify about the reasoning, and I will speak for myself and other people on the committee can speak for themselves, what I wanted from GateHouse every month was to see how they were progressing. It had nothing to do with the contract other than the fact that we wanted to see what was going on. You know that at the meeting last night I specifically asked Shane what is going on because he is out there on the street talking to people and engaging them and getting them into detox. I asked how he feels about it and how he is doing it and if he could give us a success story. That is what I am interested in and that is what we are all interested in. As far as the contract goes, that is not why we want GateHouse to come in every month. We want to hear from them and see how they are doing and how they are interacting with the folks on the street and the numbers and where these people are. We pushed like heck to make sure that not only do you get them into detox but you continue to follow them because I think it is so important that we don't give up on them.

Ms. Beloin stated I will give you a good example. Last night when they presented their numbers, there were a certain amount of people that went to detox and of course we know who those folks are because I receive the invoices from Sunrise director. After that, there are a certain amount of people that went on to next steps. As you go ahead and connect people to the next step and that is the preferred thing and there is probably another step after that before sober living and living independently where The Doorway isn't paying for your sober living. That would be a true success case all the way through the continuum. The folks that move into the second level, Amanda has a challenge where she needs to get that person, now that they are done with detox, to give a release to her so that she can communicate with them at the next level place. It is not her place and it may be Granite Recovery or something like that. So she needs to have a release to talk to them. She is saying 100% of the time people are signing the release for her to go ahead and be involved and do that work. They also said last night that there are 30 or so individuals they met on the street and helped remove from the street in Manchester and they weren't even counted in this project. They had already described this phenomenon to me and what you don't understand is what that looks like and Shane can verify and that is that they meet people on the street all the time and they are doing amazing outreach work, I understand this work and have done it myself,

and are connecting with people and talking about recovery and motivating them and giving them options and a menu of choices and people are saying yes I think I would be interested in going into sober housing or I think I would be interested in an outpatient program right now and if it is not detox that they need or qualify for, GateHouse is of course giving them the list of the other levels of care that they can help introduce them to. Those people are not signing a release with Amanda or Shane to have them involved in their care planning. They are taking the list and making those calls themselves and Amanda told me...because I said why don't you sign a release with them and keep following them and she said no we are only going to do it for Sunrise and we only want to do it for the Sunrise people. What is the reason for that Amanda? It is because when we meet them and they go to the level of care that is under detox they don't need us to help them get into it. They can do that on their own. There is no insurance blocking there and they are good to go. They don't need us. So when they say 30 people they removed from the street, what activity is that besides talking to them and giving them some numbers and how do they know they went someplace? They didn't arrange the transportation and they didn't arrange the admit and they are not following-up with them and have no release in order to do that so that is quite a claim.

Alderman Barry asked so these people are getting transportation on their own and GateHouse isn't doing it.

Ms. Beloin answered she has no idea is my point. She has no idea.

Alderman Barry asked so from Manchester to Sunrise how do they get there.

Ms. Beloin replied Sunrise is bringing them.

Alderman Barry asked have you gone out with Amanda or Shane.

Ms. Beloin answered Amanda is already pretty concerned about the level of micromanaging that she feels that I...I don't think I need to breathe down their necks. I have been in so many community settings with Amanda and her team.

Alderman Barry asked have you gone out with Shane.

Ms. Beloin answered no I haven't but I have also done a lot of outreach myself.

Alderman Barry asked why though. I don't want to argue with you because I want you to do a good job.

Ms. Beloin stated I have had 20 years of doing this work.

Chairman Long stated we had this discussion last night. It is the same discussion.

Ms. Beloin stated except for the fact you really didn't hear from me in last night's meeting. Last night was orchestrated to be GateHouse presenting numbers, me sitting quietly and I wasn't asked very many questions. That is not at all the way that this should have played out or what you approved. There are reasons for that. There are reasons why the numbers want to be presented without backing. I don't know what they are but it is not the way I do business and it is not ethical for homeless people.

Chairman Long stated I will speak for myself. It is very exciting that people are being taken off the street. I have been here for 14 years and I have never heard that. Not that it wasn't happening, I just never heard it. This is very exciting that we are starting to take people off the streets. That is what is so important and that is what I am going to fight for.

Ms. Beloin asked what if they come back. Let's say that...

Chairman Long interjected it is a high likelihood and I get that.

Ms. Beloin asked what if they come back to the street. Don't we need to appreciate that that maybe isn't the exact intervention that we would want to pour all of our resources into or talk about how that resource is more important than another? If it is not, in fact, proving that it is removing people from the street, we need to know that. How could we

make an informed decision about what to fund or what to back if we don't know the actual facts?

Chairman Long stated I think planting the seed is better than we have ever had and this is absolutely planting the seed.

Ms. Beloin stated let's pay for them to plant the seed and let's pay for them to bring them to detox and if they can't bring them to another place then...we could just contract with Sunrise. I have 15 outreach workers outside of GateHouse that do this work that could easily tap into that contract. Let's pay for what it is.

Chairman Long stated could've, would've, should've. We have a contract now.

*On motion of **Alderman Cavanaugh**, duly seconded by **Alderman Fajardo**, it was voted to adjourn.*

TABLED ITEMS

38. Budget Resolutions:

"Raising Monies and Making Appropriations of \$177,283,166 for the Fiscal Year 2024."

"Resolution 'Approving the Community Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2024, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program.'"

This item remained on the table.

A True Record. Attest.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Normand".

City Clerk