

BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

December 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Ruais called the meeting to order.

Mayor Ruais called on Alderman Long to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Morgan, Goonan, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Kantor, O'Neil, Levasseur, Terrio, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Vincent

Absent: Alderman Thomas

Mayor Ruais stated in keeping with tradition, I have a couple of recognitions this evening that I would like to make. Can I please have the Community Policing Unit and the Park Control Officers at the MPD come forward? As we all know, public safety is the backbone of every city, both large and small. Tonight, we have the privilege of honoring the officers who make up Manchester's Community Policing Unit and Park enforcement officers. The primary role of community policing is outreach, bridging gaps between the citizens and the police, and forming positive relationships within the community. This is accomplished through activities like Coffee with a Cop, Neighborhood Watch meetings, Cops & Kids at all the local schools, the Citizen's Police Academy and so many other important programs within the City of Manchester. In addition to these impactful outreach events and programs, our officers are also tasked with quality-of-life improvements in the downtown area. They assist the homeless and unhoused population. Their focus is not always on arrests and tickets, although enforcement plays a role in their jobs but it is about being there when someone is truly at rock bottom and being the person who can make a phone call to get the services for those struggling need to get on the road to recovery. The members of the Community Policing Unit who make such a difference in our city are here tonight with us this evening – Captain Larochelle, Lt. Greg DiTullio, Sgt. Emmett Macken, Officer Matt Mara, Officer Brian Karoul, Officer Neil Pettinen, Officer John Connors, Officer Chad

Tennis, Officer Chris Cunningham and Officer Tom Whelan. I would like to first recognize all of them. Thank you so much gentlemen for your work on the community policing unit. In moving into the Park Enforcement part of this as well, earlier this year these officers expressed an interest in being on the front line of helping to improve the situation in and around our downtown area parks. As folks may remember, during the BMA meeting in July, we eliminated a program and transferred \$500,000 from that program over to the Police Department to do increased hot spot patrols. These gentlemen stood up and answered that call. These are patrol officers and assigned to all three shifts but have worked extra hours to enforce city ordinances and state laws in the downtown center and in our city parks. I want to stress again that Park Patrols are second to their normal day-to-day responsibilities yet they continuously make this a priority. Their work is definitely being noticed. Whenever I go to a public event, people always come up to me and tell me about the condition of the downtown and the difference they are seeing in Veterans Park and Victory Park and outside of several of the businesses in the downtown area. We will be the first to say that more work remains but these individuals that are here with us this evening are making a demonstrable difference in our community. Our Park Enforcement team includes Sgt. Derek, Officer Alex Regan, Officer Jordan Daigneault, Officer Eric Cooper, Officer Steve Irwin, Officer Brendan Newell, Officer Brian Fabian, Officer Anthony Arnold, Officer Sean Munnely, Officer Jeff Belleza, Officer Chaislin Bergio, and Officer Jacklyn Gaumer. Thank you so much. We deeply appreciate all of the work that you do day in and day out to keep us safe and keep our streets clean, safe and inviting for everybody here in the City of Manchester. Thank you all.

Mayor Ruais stated keeping our promises to our veterans is one of the most sacred responsibilities that we have as Americans. That is especially true when it comes to our veterans who are disabled. Thankfully, a Manchester resident is making it his mission to help keep that promise. Tonight, I want to honor Bill Biser from Disabled American Veterans Chapter 18. As some folks may remember, earlier this year we had a number of veterans groups come into City Hall and they all donated \$1,000 individually to the effort that we began to effectively end veteran's homelessness here in the City of Manchester. I put out a press release on Monday that said that of those 47 that were unhoused at the beginning of the year, we have housed 16 in the two months of this

effort. Tonight, Bill is making an individual contribution of \$1,000 to this continued effort to house our veterans here in the City of Manchester who are unhoused. Bill, please come forward. Thank you so much for your continued commitment to veterans here in the City of Manchester.

Bill Biser stated I am the Commander of the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 18 and these are their funds, not my personal funds. Mike Lopez is the Commander of the state DAV and he is with me this evening.

Mayor Ruais stated I have one last one that I want to add. Could everybody please give a round of applause to Andy Silvia who just became a dad? He now has twin girls, Molly and Charlotte. Thank you for all your reporting. You are the hardest working reporter in the state.

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Kantor**, it was voted to accept and remand the \$1,000 for the Mayor's homeless veterans' initiative.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Ruais 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 must sign up with their name, address and topic prior to 7 PM. Once called, they will have up to three minutes to speak and any comments must be directed to the chair and concluded when their time is up. If the Clerk calls their name and they are not present to speak, they will not be given a second opportunity. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

Lauren Boisvert, 11 Greer Street, stated:

I am the Community Communications Director for Manchester Proud and a proud ward 12 resident. Today, I am here to advocate for the land transfer associated with the Beech Street School as part of the facilities plan Phase I. My connection to this city runs deep. My family has lived on the same street in ward 12 for over a century; all while serving the city. My grandfather served on the school board for ward 12 and my

grandmother dedicated 17 years to the school district in her retirement. My father served the city for 37 years before retiring shortly before his passing. My mother continues to work for the city today. I recently got married in 2023 and I envision continuing this connection to the city and the progress that the schools have been making in recent years makes me comfortable to start a family here in the city. Please don't stop this progress. When my family immigrated from Quebec and settled on the west side, they sought a better life. Many of you likely share similar stories. This is also a story of our center city families. They come to Manchester seeking opportunity and hope. These students and their families deserve schools that provide a modern, supportive learning environment for a 21st century education. Here are why the facilities plan Phase I and the land transfer is vital. Economic growth. High quality education drives local and regional economies preparing students for future focus industries like ARMI here in Manchester. Workforce pipeline. Early investments in education foster a sustainable workforce thus benefiting families for generations. Class size goals. Smaller class sizes targeting 20 students per class allow for better teacher/student interaction improved outcomes. Modernized curriculum. Equipping well-trained teachers with updated resources ensures students' success in today's world. Updated facilities. Our decades old schools need significant renovations to meet current learning standards. A vision for the future. A new Beech Street school will serve as a hub for student center education and community growth. More parks and green space. This project will increase the parks and green space available in the center city. Enhancing the quality of life for everyone. This plan is more than a project. It is a promise to our center city families. A promise that they, like my family generations ago, can find a better future here in Manchester. I urge you to support this land transfer and help move this essential project forward. Our students, families and community deserve nothing less. Thank you for your time and Happy Holidays to all of you.

Glenn RJ Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all. It has been about 12 years since we had a charter commission. Next year is a city election so it is time for us to make a motion and start the process for the next charter. It is time. The city is growing and we need to let the citizens have a say. The lights on Elm Street. I am a little bit disappointed because they are not there yet. I thought they would be there by now. My thought was

to have a committee of citizens and businesses and they were going to put them up but I have been told by certain people in the government that they were going to do it. It is not all done yet. What happened on Hanover Street is beautiful and if you do the same thing on Elm Street from Bridge to Granite, can you imagine how much light would be created on Elm Street? It is dark downtown. I walk the downtown and know it is dark. Please. It is very inexpensive and helps to take care of the broken windows. Schools. Yes, we have to have good schools but we need to plan. I am not happy that we spent \$16 million on portables that are no better than the old ones were according to a present school board member who also happens to be a former mayor. I am not happy that the roof needs to be repaired and the furnace needs to be replaced yet we spent \$6.5 million and before we paid for the bonding, we are tearing it down. All I ask is for elected officials throughout the city, when you make plans for the future of this city make sure they are well grounded so that we don't have to tear things down after we spent \$6 million or more less than 10 years later. That is a waste of taxpayer money. I will end with this. I want to thank the mayor for inviting me to sing. You all know that I have been doing this since 2001 and it has been a tradition so I am going to do it again. I am going to give gold coins to my alderman who has supported me throughout this year regarding some of the issues I have had with my rent. I am going to give the mayor gold coins also for supporting me and supporting this city on some of the issues that are very important to our city. As usual, I am going to give Alderman Levasseur a package of coal. I think he expects it because he gets it every year. I will leave you with this. If I can raise children halfway around the world and make a difference when they live there and I am here, we can do a better job in educating our kids. I have a kid who is going to be three years old on 12/19 and he is already learning how to read. Buildings are great but buildings alone don't educate our kids. Merry Christmas to you all and Happy New Year.

Erin Kerwin, 291 Ray Street, stated:

I am here tonight as a concerned resident and taxpayer. I want to address the decision to postpone Phase I of the Beech Street school project, a decision that has profound implications for both our community and our budget. This project has been in the works for two years. Countless hours have gone into planning with multiple public meetings providing opportunities for input. The ball is already rolling. Children are currently in

temporary learning pods waiting for a permanent solution. This project is not just a future goal; it is a present necessity. The decision to postpone is not a neutral one. Every month of delay costs taxpayers an additional \$250,000. That is \$250,000 of hard-earned money from families who are counting on this Board to act responsibly and efficiently. When the project inevitably moves forward, because it must, the increased costs will fall squarely on this Board and those who voted to delay. Postponements don't save money, they waste it. It doesn't solve problems, it compounds them. Construction costs will continue to rise and the longer we wait, the more expensive this project becomes. When we talk about fiscal responsibility, it must include the responsibility to avoid unnecessary costs and that is exactly what these delays are causing. Beech Street school represents an investment in our children, our future and our city's infrastructure. We have already made a commitment to these kids and they are counting on us to follow-through. I urge this Board to move forward with Phase I immediately. Delaying further is not only irresponsible but also deeply unfair to taxpayers and to the students who deserve a safe, permanent learning environment. Also, I just hope that people do not confuse Phase II with Phase I. They are two separate things. Thank you very much.

Julie Turner, 285 Ray Street, stated:

I am sorry I didn't bring coal or gold coins for anyone but I did enjoy Glenn's caroling. I am here this evening to add my voice to the long list of supporters to allow the continuation of Priority I and the rebuild of Beech Street School. I have rewatched the BMA meetings from 11/19 and 12/3 and took away from those meetings two things. One, there was a huge outpouring of support for the rebuilding of Beech Street School from all corners of this city, including families and business leaders alike, and two, there were many swirling thoughts that caused the 11/19 vote to fail in the tie-breaker vote by the mayor with the caveat that his no vote was for the time being as he wanted the opportunity to revisit with the district and the city. I am hoping that in the month that has passed two things have happened. One, that the opportunity to revisit, ask questions and have further conversations has happened and two, that this Board respectfully took into consideration the sentiment from an hour and a half of public comment from the 12/3 meeting that overwhelmingly supported the rebuild of Beech Street School. My apologies for not adding my voice at that meeting as I was dealing with a death in my

family. I am optimistic that in the past month, the following truths have taken root in the minds of those who are having reservations. There will not be a new high school built on the old Beech Street School site. Priority I does not increase the tax rate. The additional adequacy aid that was granted to the district covers the cost of the bond payments. We are not milking any taxpayers to pay for this construction, however, the taxpayers, especially those very deserving ward 5 community members will benefit from the construction of this community school. Central is not closing. West is not closing. Memorial is not closing. Any park space that is displaced by the rebuild of Beech Street School will immediately be replaced. During construction, there will be temporary basketball courts built in Stanton Park. After construction, a larger park will be built and a new soccer field and improved infrastructure will be created and new higher quality basketball courts will be built. The district will be giving back what is being taken away, only bigger and better. According to Mark Gomez at last week's Finance meeting, a superior new park space will result. Beech Street School, a 50-year-old building, was chosen over the other elementary schools as a part of Priority I because it is in the city center and will be receiving the student body from Henry Wilson School. The current Beech Street School is not fit to be renovated because there are 13+ classrooms in the basement with no windows and in order to accommodate the 700+ student body, it will be more costly to right-size that building into a 21st century learning environment. This plan has been well thought out and questions have been asked and answered. Please continue discussions and help find a pathway forward for the partial release of the deed by Amoskeag Industries and alleviate the delay of the spring groundbreaking of the new school. This delay of one month can still allow shovels to hopefully break ground in the spring of 2025 for an opening of a new 700+ student community school for the fall of 2027. I wish you all a Happy Holiday and Happy New Year.

Jane Haigh, 1573 Union Street, stated:

I have to say that I am very upset about your denial of the land transfer and postponement of the completion of this whole project. It seems to me totally inappropriate. There have been so many mixed messages, most of them having to do with the cost of the school when the only thing that was really on the table a month ago was the land transfer. This to me seems to be very disingenuous. Furthermore, I think as Julie Turner said and Erin Kerwin said, you have had months and months to discuss

this. There have been many opportunities for discussion and many opportunities to get your questions answered. I think this is really an inappropriate time to delay. The plan for Phase I has basically been approved and a promise has been made to the students of Wilson School who have already been transferred over to temporary classrooms. The current issue as I said is the land transfer. I am not going to go into some of the details that Julie Turner did as far as the cost and the promise of the new playground and the fact that the high schools are not going to be changed. I just want to say that I really think you owe it to the people of Manchester to get this school project going. I don't have kids in the schools but I have grandkids in the schools. I just hope they are not still in the schools when you guys finally get it under control and move ahead on the projects.

Paul Galasso stated:

This is my periodic update on the homeless situation. First, I want to give you some feedback on some progress. During the previous meeting, I mentioned concerns about the discontinuation of the warm room at 1269 but that decision was made coincidentally with a decision at 39 Beech Street to make the Engagement Center available to the homeless from 7 PM until 7 AM. We kept the space but relocated it. We have a lot of people who are still in the Merrimack/Manchester Street area so the concern raised was how are they going to make the trip. The good news is they are making the trip. We had estimated 40-50 homeless unsheltered would have to either relocate to that part of town or make that trip during the late afternoon hours in order to register before 9 PM. I spoke to Juanita today. She is the manager at 39 Beech Street. She said they are seeing 50-60 more homeless there at night than they have historically. That is why I say with confidence that they are making the trip. That is the positive progress so keep it up. The second thing in relation to that is it doesn't mean 100% of them will make it. I have done some patrolling on some of the colder nights and there are probably 10-15 people that won't make that trip. These are likely the most troubled among the troubled in regards to addiction and mental illness issues. They don't really see how important it is for them to get out of the cold. I just want to make a pitch again and ask the city if you can do whatever you can to have folks, whether it is police, security or whatever, patrol the area at night. This weekend is it going to go down into the single digits at night and these people's lives are as valuable as our own and I know you all agree with

that. I feel that sometimes we may have to remind ourselves of that. Thank you very much.

Heather McGrail stated:

As the President and CEO of the Greater Manchester Chamber, I also wanted to come and speak on behalf of Priority I. Speaking mostly from the economic development and workforce development lens as you would expect in my role, I know that the Chamber's support of Priority I has already been referenced in the past weeks and I know that you have all heard a lot of testimony on this subject. It is really important that our organization represents the business community voices and what the majority of our business leaders are telling us. I know it is seldom that you hear directly from our employers at these meetings and certainly I am happy to follow-up with some direct employer voices. It is a little bit harder around the holiday season right now but I wanted to come in person and reaffirm our support. I don't need to tell this Board as you are all champions of our city, the incredible opportunities we have in economic and workforce development given the work of ARMI but also, we are talking across industries all the time. We are hearing a good blend of amazing growth that is at our fingertips across different industries. Obviously, workforce development and economic development as others have said before me, are so dependent on a solid education and an investment in education. What I am hearing from a lot of conversations with business leaders right now is feelings of uncertainty and disappointment about the news of the city potentially pulling away investment as originally approved. Investing in education is an investment that will reap rewards for the overall economic vitality of Manchester. We of course work with chambers nationwide and this is undisputed as I am sure you would all agree. The process forward has been vetted and researched with due diligence. Our Chamber is hopeful that city leaders such as yourselves will double down to remove the current barriers to Phase I and to the Chamber's knowledge, this is prudent based on the following facts. Significant funding has been spent already for an experienced third-party architectural firm, SMMA, to thoroughly compare renovations versus building for Beech Street School. The project has shown transparency with detailed presentations and online information. Phase I of the long-term facilities plan was already approved in 2023. The total cost of the project is \$306 million, \$290 million of which is bonded. There are not tax implications. Delays in the

project will siphon away the funds to complete it as intended. Lastly, as some others have already mentioned as well, the park green space will be expanded and new basketball structures and play structures will be added, all funded within the current budget for Phase I. Our Chamber asks that the BMA continue supporting a process that has already been approved and voted on and work together productively for the benefit of the children and teachers of course but again thinking about the benefit of our businesses and how vital their success is to our whole city. In order to keep our businesses here in the city and attract new businesses to open here, the City of Manchester's decisions about education investment really do make a difference. People are looking and our Chamber representing many business leaders hopes you will choose to use your power and authority as an agent of positive change to help prepare for Manchester's future. Thank you so much for the time in front of you today and have a happy holiday season.

Christine Siebert, 96 Eve Street, stated:

I am here to read a letter from a constituent of mine who could not make it tonight. She is actually attending the Central High School Winter Concert. It is from Kathleen Kelly Turgeon, 202 Straw Hill Road.

I was a teacher in the Manchester school district for 38 years. In 1992, I completed my master's in literacy, left Weston School and was hired as a Manchester city reading specialist. In 1993, budget cuts gutted the reading department and I was assigned to a classroom at Wilson School. I was astounded at the poor conditions of the facility compared to Weston. These children were vulnerable, most experiencing poverty, food uncertainty and lack of opportunity. That year, art and music were cut in Manchester yet Webster School, with parents most likely to be able to afford materials and lessons for their students, retained its weekly program. It was cut at Wilson. The Wilson kids I taught are long out of school yet the disparities remain. Their neighborhood school, a source of community and safety, is gone with the promise of a new and better facility at the Beech Street Community Center. Notice the name Community Center. Beech Street is more than classrooms. It is a neighborhood center to foster education and a better Manchester. I urge you to read the list of students making the highest honors at Central High School. When you easily read the names of my two granddaughters and their friends in Wards 1 and 2, try wrapping your tongue around the names of first- and second-generation immigrants and asylum seekers who have exceeded expectations. These children tried to do their best under less-than-ideal circumstances. It is beyond time to equip all students with the best education and facilities possible. To eliminate discrepancies, let's move quickly on the already approved Beech

Street School and Community Center. To those of you on the Board asking for more time to study the details of the year-old plan, I ask where you went to school that you have not yet understood the project.

Thank you.

s/Kathy

*On motion of **Alderman O'Neil**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and receive and file any written documentation presented.*

PRESENTATION

2. Presentation by United Therapeutics Corporation regarding acquisition of property at Hackett Hill.

This presentation was cancelled.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

3. Minutes from the October 15 BMA & Finance meetings, the two Special BMA meetings and Finance meeting from October 30, and the November 19 BMA meeting.

Approve Under Supervision of the Department of Highways, subject to funding

4. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions
Residential:

- 8 Memorial Drive
- 26 Liberty Street
- 95 Jewett Street
- 633 Oak Street

Information to be Received and Filed

5. Communication from Mayor Ruais advising the Board of his reappointment of Andrew Papanicolau as a Commissioner with the Manchester Housing and Redevelopment Authority Commission, term to expire January 1, 2030.
6. November OYS Report.
7. Communication from Comcast regarding price changes.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

8. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10) for the FY2023 CIP 610023 2022/23 Winter Warming Station & Emergency Sheltering."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) for the FY2023 CIP 611023 2022 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant Program."

"Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Fifty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Seventy-Three Cents (\$56,265.73) for the FY2025 CIP 411825 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program."

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

- 9.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$56,265.73 for CIP 411825 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 10.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$10 for CIP 610023 2022/23 Winter Warming Station & Emergency Shelter be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 11.** Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$35,000 for CIP 611023 2022 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 12.** Recommending that the request from the Engineering Project Manager for permission to apply for NH DOT Transportation Alternatives Program grant funding be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
- 13.** Recommending that the FY25 First Quarter ARPA Funds Report has been accepted.
(Unanimous vote)

14. Recommending that the request from the Chief Engineer to implement a 50%-50% Backflow Prevention Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
15. Recommending that the request from the Chief Engineer for two project extensions:
 - CIP 710518 SSI Compliance - Construction, until 12/31/2026
 - CIP 711322 MS4 Study Design & Construction, until 12/31/2025be approved.
(Unanimous vote)
16. Recommending that the request from the Planning and Community Development Director for extensions of various CIP projects be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON JOINT SCHOOL BUILDINGS

17. Advising that the Manchester School District Priority I status and financial report for November 2024 submitted by LeftField has been accepted.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AIRPORT ACTIVITIES

18. Recommending that the Airport Carbon Accreditation Policy be approved.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Vincent who was absent)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, ON MOTION OF **ALDERMAN O'NEIL**,
DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN TERRIO**, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS
APPROVED.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

19. Nominations:
 - Board of Water Commissioners
Bill Trombly to succeed Harold Sullivan as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2028
Phil Sapienza to succeed Liz Kotowski as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2028
 - Highway Commission
Arthur Gatzoulis to succeed himself as a regular member, term to expire January 15, 2028*(Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, these nominations will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)*

20. Communication from Mayor Ruais nominating Richard Bilodeau for the position of Central Fleet Services Director.
(Note: Pursuant to Rule 23 of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen, this nomination will layover to the next meeting of the Board.)
21. Confirmations:
Conservation Commission
Lauren Zielinski moving from an alternate to a regular member, term to expire 8/1/2026
Bill Gabler as a regular member, term to expire 8/1/2026

*On motion of **Alderman Vincent**, duly seconded by **Alderman Terrio**, it was voted to confirm the nominations as presented.*

22. Communication from Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, requesting approval to enter into a Space Usage Agreement with Catholic Medical Center for use of the William B. Cashin Senior Activity Center which contains mutual indemnification language.

*On motion of **Alderman Terrio**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted to approve.*

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

Sharon Wickens, Finance Director, stated the FY25 general fund expenditure and revenue forecast as of December 17, 2024 based on department head estimates is as follows. The current projected general fund operating surplus is \$32,000. The operating surplus is comprised of an expenditure deficit of \$608,000 and a revenue surplus of \$640,000. The expenditure deficit relates primarily to police overtime. There are currently 16 police officer vacancies. These vacancies lead to the backfilling of manpower in order to meet staffing requirements, as well as comply with current contracts. This results in an increase in overtime hours. The expectation is that this expenditure deficit number will continue to improve before the fiscal year end. Five police officers are currently scheduled to attend the police academy in January and a number of cost-saving measures that will not have an impact to safety are being explored. The revenue surplus relates to interest income and motor vehicle registrations. Health insurance claims through November are performing favorably against budget. The forecasted surplus does include \$200,000 in the contingency

account. There were 19 retirements through December 16 compared with 18 this same time a year ago. Severance paid through December 16 amounts to \$1,036,149 compared to \$709,505 a year ago. The severance reserve account is anticipated to have a balance of \$892,204 after all related entries have been posted. I have also given you a copy of the overtime report as of December 6 and a summary by department of severance paid through December 16. As you can see, we do have a surplus. We have had a deficit since I started doing projections for this fiscal year. Police got better by just under \$100,000. We just received the Comcast quarterly revenue franchise fee and it was lower than expected. If that trend continues, we expect that particular revenue line to be down by probably \$100,000. I have accounted for that in this projection. Health insurance is doing very well. Going into the winter months I feel pretty good that we will get through it and stay on budget. Other than that, everything else looks okay. I don't expect departments to really start throwing any surplus that they have back until after the new year. With DPW, it will probably be March because they have to wait until the winter is over. The big revenue lines are performing and I feel pretty good about it. We are pretty much at zero right now because \$32,000 isn't a lot.

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

Mayor Ruais called the meeting back to order.

26. Report(s) of the Committee on Finance.

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

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10) for the FY2023 CIP 610023 2022/23 Winter Warming Station & Emergency Sheltering."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) for the FY2023 CIP 611023 2022 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant Program."

"Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Fifty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Seventy-Three Cents (\$56,265.73) for the FY2025 CIP 411825 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program."

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

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

There were none.

28. Report(s) of the Committee on Lands & Buildings, if available.

There were none.

29. Bond Resolution:

"Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Three Hundred Five Thousand Dollars (\$305,000) for the 2025 CIP 712625 Lead Service Line Replacement Project. "

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to waive the reading by title only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman Long**, it was voted that the Bond Resolution be Enrolled.*

30. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10) for the FY2023 CIP 610023 2022/23 Winter Warming Station & Emergency Sheltering."

"Amending the FY2023 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) for the FY2023 CIP 611023 2022 Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Grant Program."

"Amending the FY2025 Community Improvement Program, authorizing, appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Fifty-Six Thousand Two Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Seventy-Three Cents (\$56,265.73) for the FY2025 CIP 411825 Radiological Emergency Preparedness Program."

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman O'Neil**, it was voted to waive the reading by titles only.*

*On motion of **Alderman Long**, duly seconded by **Alderman Goonan**, it was voted that the Resolutions be Enrolled.*

NEW BUSINESS

Alderman Levasseur stated I would just like to congratulate former Captain Ken Loui for being promoted to Assistant Chief. That is the first move by Chief Marr and it is a great move and a great pick. Thank you.

Alderman Long stated I don't know if everybody had the opportunity to see the WMUR segment on homelessness in NH. NH is the number one state as far as increase in homelessness at 53% where the average is 12%. I know that those are point in time counts, however, I say double it. Most people say add 50% to the PIT so it would be worse than 53%. Also, I am wondering if this Board is going to have a conversation before March on what is going to happen to the shelter.

Mayor Ruais stated as I have said before, these are conversations I have been having with several different non-profits. I have tried not to prejudice those conversations by having them too vocally right now because I am in the middle of these conversations but I would be more than happy to bring them to the Board as I recognize this is something that impacts the city.

Alderman Long asked so you are still having conversations with non-profits to take over the shelter.

Mayor Ruais answered correct.

Alderman Long stated okay thank you.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated I want to say that about six years ago there were discussions about closing a city high school due to declining enrollment and I thought to myself that is a very difficult decision to make and that is some serious business but it is probably the right decision for the good of the city. That was about six years ago. That difficult decision wasn't made six years ago and it wasn't made five, four or three years ago. It wasn't made until a couple of weeks ago and the decision was not close any high school. That is how they dealt with that tough decision. They decided not to close a single high school despite the fact that Hooksett is gone, Candia is gone, Auburn is gone and despite the proliferation of charter schools and online learning and despite the declining enrollments. They decided they are not going to close a single high school and they turn around and tell us that we are holding up progress. I think that is ridiculous. Thank you.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated when we talked about the pay scale proposal from HR, we touched on the fact that there are a lot of related ordinances and I asked for a report on what ordinances would be included or at least a list. I don't know all the ordinances that would apply. I know a few like the A-steps and longevity and minimum raise when you get a promotion but before I can make an informed decision on that plan, I am going to need that information. I asked for it once and I am looking forward to receiving it. I assume other Board members are looking for it also. The other thing is this is the last meeting of 2024. We are halfway through our term so Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everybody and I will see you next year.

Mayor Ruais stated I will speak with Director Drabik in the morning and have her get you some updated information.

Alderman Fajardo stated I just have one point of correction to Alderman E. Sapienza's comments. My understanding of what was shared regarding the high schools was that MST would not necessarily close but be repurposed. I just want to clarify that I don't think you represented that correctly. Whether or not your larger point still stands may

be so but to the extent that we can conserve all of our high school students across the entire city, I would say that is a good thing.

Alderman Morgan stated I want to acknowledge Erin Fleury, the daughter of Assistant Chief David and his wife Nicole. She has gone to Florida State to play soccer. She is one of the greatest soccer players we have seen in Manchester and she is going to do some great things. Hopefully at some point we can have her up here.

Mayor Ruais stated I think that is a fantastic idea and thank you for mentioning it.

TABLED ITEMS

- 31.** Report from the Committee on Community Improvement recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of \$400,000 for CIP 610625 80 Merrimack Street (Residence at Chestnut Phase II) be approved.

(Unanimous vote)

(Note: Tabled on September 4, 2024.)

This item remained on the table.

- 32.** Report from the Committee on Lands & Buildings recommending that the request from Alderman Morgan to name the soccer field at Sheridan-Emmett Park after Thamba Mbungu be approved.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Long who abstained)

(Note: Tabled on November 19, 2024.)

This item remained on the table.

*There being no further business, on motion of **Alderman Levasseur**, duly seconded by **Alderman E. Sapienza**, it was voted to adjourn.*

A True Record. Attest.



City Clerk