BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
April 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM

Mayor Craig called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Cavanaugh, Stewart, Long, Fajardo, T. Sapienza, Sharonov, Trisciani, Levasseur, Heath, E. Sapienza, Burkush, Barry, Gamache

Absent: Alderman George-Kelly

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Craig advised that this public comment session, not to exceed 30 minutes, is an opportunity for residents of Manchester to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak and all comments shall be limited to three minutes. Any comments must be directed to the Chair. When your name is called, please step forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state your name and address when recognized and give your comments.

Donald Bouchard, 39 Foxwood Circle, stated:
Thank you Madame Mayor and members of the Aldermanic Board for taking my testimony in support for a $15 minimum wage for all city employees. I represent myself as well as being a member of the NH House of Representatives representing Manchester’s Ward 4 and I serve on the House Labor Committee. Though a $15 minimum wage is still not a living wage that is set by the MIT Wage Calculator of $16.54/hour for a family of three in Hillsborough Country, it can help lift individuals and families out of poverty, establish a degree of economic security for them and reduce chronic anxiety and stress often experienced due to income insecurities. The city would benefit from lower employee turnover and less money spent on hiring and training. Fewer public supports such as food stamps would be needed and some racial aid inequities might be alleviated. Thank you again for taking my testimony.

Glenn Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, stated:
Let’s start with parking. Parking downtown. You think the downtown is empty? Have you walked the downtown at night? There is not a space to be had. Point #2.

Handicapped parking downtown. It is a state law. It is called enforcement. When people who work downtown park there for hours and never get a ticket you wonder why the handicapped people get angry because they can't get in. We need to do a better job in enforcing. Double parking downtown. When you park on an angle and a car parks directly on the side of the road double parking, you can't get out until they get back in their vehicle. That should not be legal. It is not. That needs to be enforced. I will be happy because I know you told me Your Honor that pretty shortly we will have more of a walking beat downtown and it is needed. Another thing is affordable housing. A few of you on this board seem to believe that we don't need affordable housing. Someone who is in a wheelchair just got a job from an outside corporation in this country that makes billions a year and because she lives in NH and the minimum wage is $7.25, that is what they hired her for to work at home. I know that you guys can't do anything about it but there are some legislators here and I am sure you agree that…we are the only state left by the way with that minimum wage. We can't continue to do that and our community, the biggest city in NH may have a lot of jobs available but even though you get paid $14/hour, it is not enough to pay the rent. An average one-bedroom rent right now is about $1,500 in this city. When I moved up here in 1986, it was $600. I the last six or seven years it has been going up between 5-9%; more than the average growth of what is happening here in this city. Just think about that. People that are homeless and some want to be but that is a minority. The majority of the people are in tough luck and when their rent goes up by $500 and there is no income, someone has to suffer and often times it is the kids because the money is just not there. Thank you. When you do your budget, think about that.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of ***Alderman T. Sapienza****, duly seconded by* ***Alderman Long****, it was voted to take all comments under advisement and receive and file any written documentation presented.*

PRESENTATIONS

2. Software presentation by representatives from ShotSpotter.

Allen Aldenberg, Police Chief, stated with me here tonight from ShotSpotter is Ron Teachman and Jack Pontious. They will do their presentation shortly and certainly answer any questions you have but I think it is important for me to provide some context before you see this presentation. As you know, recently in the annual report we discussed the ongoing challenges with gun crime in this city. Thus far this year shooting incidents continue to occur at alarming rates. We recognized the alarming trend in shootings early last year and began pursuing acoustic gunshot recognition technology more commonly known at ShotSpotter which you will see shortly. This technology uses sensors that detect gunfire, triangulates the precise location and notifies the Police Department within 60 seconds of an incident. Doing so will get officers to the scene faster which will increase the chance of catching suspects, recovering vital evidence and assisting victims more importantly. We also know that many shootings are never reported to the police. We get calls often time the next morning or days after or sometimes when a shooting victim shows up at a local hospital and we were never notified of the shooting. When we do get calls, it is not precise. This delays the response in locating evidence. ShotSpotter technology helps significantly with this problem. We applied for funding for this technology through Representative Pappas' Office via Congressionally Directed Spending. The application was one of hundreds that was reviewed by Rep. Pappas' Community Advisory Board and chosen as one of the projects to move forward and we are very fortunate to receive the funding, which is $300,000. The two gentlemen to my left will get into how far that $300,000 will take us and for how many years and the coverage area that ShotSpotter will give the city. The addition of ShotSpotter greatly enhances our already existing gun crime intelligence to include what we already do which is firearms tracing, NIBIN which is the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network, and criminal intelligence that we work on every day. All of this allows us to be precise in our approach or what I like to refer to as precision policing targeting the right offenders and the actual drivers of gun crime here in this city.

Jack Pontious, ShotSpotter, stated I have been with the company since 2005 and have seen the company grow from just a couple of small deployments into a large international firm. We have over 125 communities we serve. I handle the Northeast and mid-Atlantic. These customers that I mention are all references of ShotSpotter. We have approaching 100% subscription renewal rates where all of our customers are renewing and/or expanding their operations with ShotSpotter. The reason that is happening is because we are performing well. I brought with me today former Chief Ron Teachman who will lead a very quick presentation and then we will open it up for questions and any other concerns that you may have.

Ron Teachman, Director, Public Safety Solutions, ShotSpotter, stated we appreciate this opportunity to address you tonight. As Jack said, I am a former chief of police actually twice. Thirty-eight years in law enforcement with eight years as a chief and I installed ShotSpotter in both cities not far from here in New Bedford, MA and secondly in South Bend, Indiana. What I would like to do in the very short time I have with you is to briefly give you an overview of what it does and how it does it but I also wanted to take a couple of minutes at the beginning to focus on the why. Why is your chief and Police Department advocating to bring this technology and this service here to your city? I will begin, if I may, by telling you a story. That is tonight here in your city in some neighborhood it is possible, if not likely, that there will be gunfire. Now the reality is the chief to my left and the officers who work with him who have taken an oath to serve and protect will not know about it because most gunfire goes unreported. They are just getting a small sliver of information; less than 20% nationally. This is not only our research working with our customers but independent academic research is verifying that as well. From the chief's perspective that I had for some eight years, you are trying to serve the public to save lives and gather evidence and identify perpetrators to make a community safe and to engage the community. However, you want to measure police performance, the chance of succeeding at those metrics is about less than 20% because they just don't know. Let me personalize this for a moment if I may and speak about the residents that you serve who have elected you to this office. Imagine as fear is spreading because the gunfire goes unattended, imagine one of those residents is awakened by the gunfire at 3 AM. They get out of bed and go down the hall and check on a child who is also crying and awakened and after a few minutes of comforting their child, that resident goes to the window and peers through the blinds discreetly waiting to see a police car from your police department because they think the police know. They don't realize that most gunfire goes unattended. Is their expectation of a police response reasonable? I would submit it is because their perception is based, not having met the chief personally and knowing the officers, on television where every crime seems to get solved and every perpetrator gets identified and prosecuted. So the public projects omissions to the police. Let me ask you rhetorically as to your residents and your constituents if they think the police know but the police don't show, what might they think about their police department? They don't care. They may even personalize this depending on race or class or immigration status or whatever their status is. Now this is something that is shocking to most people because you think gunfire would get reported and you think you would call it in but I will tell you in the last six and a half years representing this company and years before that as a police chief in talking to community residents, and this is not unique to NH or New Bedford or any other part of the country and this is not a regional phenomenon, people simply don't call. I will show you the most common reasons I hear the community residents telling me at community reasons. They are not sure the gunfire is gunfire. It could be something else and they want to hope that it is fireworks or a truck backfiring or something else. It is a recognition problem. They think someone else is going to call because they looked out the window and didn't see anything and it sounded like it was some distance away and they are waiting for that other person to make that call. They are afraid. They are afraid that if the shooter sees a police car arrive at their door and what happens if you call 911? They usually send a police car to the address of the caller and they are afraid of retaliation. Perhaps the most insidious problem is they have given up because they don't see a police car ever so why would they call. This leads to a host of issues and if I have time I will address that. I mentioned that most gunfire goes unreported. How do we know? We talk to our customers and this is what we see on a random sampling. My own experience in South Bend was only 11% of gunfire was being called in through 911 which means as the chief trying to organize my assets and deploy them effectively, I am looking at the tip of the iceberg. This problem and phenomenon of not calling leads to a host of issues. The gun violence continues, there is a negative perception about the police department or even the administration like the board and mayor, community trust is eroded and officer safety is put at risk. At ShotSpotter we ask the question what if. What if there was a way to address all of these concerns? We can because with ShotSpotter your police department can detect, protect and connect. That is detect the gunfire, have notification of where it occurred so they have a location to go to that is precise and smaller than the size of this room, and they will get that information in real time. If I have time, I will give you a couple of examples of what they will see when it is dispatched. It will help protect your officers by giving them tactical intelligence on what is going on, i.e. is there more than one shooter, do they have a high-capacity gun, is it a full automatic weapon, and direction of travel of the shooter if they are in a moving vehicle; all of that is available in real time. We will help locate them by giving them navigation on their phone app with a host of attributes with the technology. Lastly, we will connect them to the crime scene. As the chief said, it is important to get forensic evidence and witnesses and testimonial evidence. It is important to get to the scene to save lives, connect with the victims but also connect with the community. Let me give you a visual of what is happening today in Manchester when you only have 911 informing your police. That gunshot would not be reported and there would be no response. For anybody in this room who is skeptical of the data I gave you, talk to any police officer that you know and ask them if they have ever been sent to an emergency room or trauma center on a shooting victim and you had no corresponding 911 call. The officers will tell you it happens all the time. Even when someone is shot and they get privately transported because they don’t want to call an ambulance and they don’t want the police involved, the police have nowhere to start for a crime scene and they can’t begin an investigation. Let’s say for example someone does call. Where do we send our police officer from the Manchester PD? We usually send them to the caller’s address because that is usually the only certain location we have if the call is not a true eye witness. So now we put our officer in harm’s way driving through the danger zone or the hot zone because we don’t know where the gunfire happened. We just know where the caller is. Even if the officer comes from a neutral location, say from the north, they are going to go to the caller’s house and have a conversation with the caller that is redundant to what they already told the call taker and spend critical time and then set up a search area around the caller’s house and they will find nothing. Why? Because according to our customers, and again we have 125 across the country, we have learned that the average caller is some 780’ away from the actual crime scene and heaven forbid someone is shot and bleeding out. We would not be able to send them a police officer or first responder care or EMS because we don’t know where they are because we are at the caller’s address. Let me just quickly go through how we do what we do. I will tell you that ShotSpotter will inform the police of what happened, when it happened and where it happened which helps the police identify who and perhaps why. Now how do we do this? We are in discussion with the police department about what we call the coverage area and what neighborhood or neighborhoods the chief wants us to service with our system. We install it by putting sensors on rooftops of buildings with government buildings first so we will ask the mayor and school superintendent for permission and then we will seek the private permissions of building owners of residential and commercial properties. Once we build out this array, when someone fires a gun, that gunshot or acoustic event emanates out and hits the sensors so they detect and locate. That is, they can hear the noise from about a mile away depending on acoustic and atmospheric conditions and they locate simply based on triangulation. The speed of sound is about 4 seconds a mile and we are measuring to the millisecond and time stamping at each sensor and mathematically calculating where the gunshots are happening to give the chief and his officers a precise location. Now beyond that we want to make sure the noise is gunfire because we hear a lot of bangs, booms and pops. How do we discern gunfire? We send all of this data from each sensor box to the cloud and a machine filters out more than half of those noises. The remaining go to an incident review center where human acoustic engineers go through a series of steps. In the short time I have, I will just mention three. They listen to the audio recording of the gunfire and to the trained ear you can distinguish gunfire from fireworks. They look at the waveform configuration. Gunfire is unique. The third thing I will mention is by looking at their computer screens they know where the sensors are located and they look for a pattern of engagement. Where most noises are omnidirectional, gunfire is linear and very directional and the participation of the sensors will indicate gunfire. That whole process takes less than 60 seconds to get a police officer to the right scene to render immediate first aid, find evidence, and assure the community that they are responding while simultaneously sending all of that information to your 911 communication center, officers in the field as well as desktops at headquarters but out to the field more importantly so they can respond both on tablets and laptops and even to their phones or smartwatches. We perform on both Androids and IOS platforms. Very quickly, let me show you the officer’s perspective in a couple of slides. Let’s say the officer is out on patrol. This is a mark-up of what they might see in their squad car. It is called a computer aided dispatch. If there is a gunshot in the coverage area, they will hear a unique sound that will alert them to look at their screen. Depending on the chief’s protocol, the officer that has that area will respond and maybe the contiguous officers will respond. Anybody else will be on secondary notice and if they don’t want to respond they can just click on dismiss. Otherwise, they click on the yellow triangle and it brings them to this screen here. They will see the number of rounds that were fired in our 25 meter or 82-foot radius which is our initial crime scene. In this instance, there was an indication that the offender was traveling northwest at about 15 mph so now we have responding officers going to the scene and also responding further up on 22nd Street. Another quick indication that an officer would get is the unique sound, they would see what you are seeing now and the number of rounds fired, which in this case is 16, the nearest street address because they have to put that in the report. By the way, we train cop to the dot, not cop to a front door. 911 sends you to a front door. In my 38 years, and I think the chief would agree, not too many shootings happen at the front door of houses. They happen in backyards and alleys and fields. We send a cop to the exact location. The timestamp as I said. We tell them there is more than one shooter with a high-capacity gun. We will also tell you if it is a full automatic and give you a printout of the timestamp of every shot fired as well as a sequence of shots which is particularly important if you have multiple shooters to determine primary aggressor. It also helps if there is an officer-involved shooting to determine if the use of force was justified. The last example I will give you is if the officer wants to hear the audio, they can. We publish the recording of the gunfire to the officer so they can hear it themselves and if the officer is not familiar with the neighborhood or new out of the academy or recently transferred, we give you a Google map interface to the address you are being dispatched to so the officer can scan and see the neighborhood they are going to, pick a landmark building, not drive right into the danger zone as I used to when I was a street cop with a spotlight trying to find a street address. Now I can pick a landmark building like the one on the far right and make a tactical approach. Speaking of approach, we can even navigate for the officer just by clicking on an icon and they can use whatever navigation tool they want. There is no need to enter any information like where you are or where you are going. We navigate for you. We give situational awareness so the officer can see what has transpired since their last shift. Looking at the screen for 24 hours, three days and seven days, it is almost like having a crime analyst in your back pocket. From the chief's perspective, he can look at patterns and see where to deploy resources more effectively like overtime patrols and things of that nature. We will also work with your prosecutors because they are the end users of this with cases that go to trial. We make sure that we train prosecutorial staff both at the county level and the US Attorney's Office. Lastly, is connect. We connect into the crime scene. The chief mentioned NIBIN. By getting to the right crime scene, we can find more evidence and again independent academic research has proven the value of gunshot detection technology to increase shell casing recovery in those instances. We can integrate with other technologies like moving a pan tilt zoom camera automatically to the latitude and longitude that we publish on the event. Working with the computer system that the chief has, other video feeds like gas station cameras, bank ATM's and Ring doorbells, the chief can inventory those and has. We are telling you exactly where and when it occurred so it is easy to go back to those video feeds to see if you find the shooting access to the crime scene and flight from the crime scene. I also want to briefly mention working with other strategies like street outreach and focus deterrents. Those programs can be better informed and data driven and also trauma informed care recognizing that gun violence affects not just those where bullets penetrate flesh but all of us exposed to gun violence, if it is happening in our neighborhoods, we are suffering vicarious trauma. There is psychological harm but moreover when children are exposed it is not only psychological harm but there is a physiological harm because it disrupts the neuro development of the brain. Our brains are still in development into our early 20's. What is the remedy? The chief takes the data that ShotSpotter provides, particularly when you see these clusters and you share the information with your school officials so they can identify the children that are at risk of this vicarious trauma and give them wrap around care as they deserve. In closing, if you bring ShotSpotter to Manchester, your residents will see a response promptly and effectively from your police department that results in the identification and prosecution of your perpetrators and as the chief said, precision policing. This is not mass arrest and this is not sweeps. This is identifying the very, very small percentage of shooters that are in Manchester driving most of the gun violence and removing them. Rendering that first aid because time is tissue. Going to the crime scene and talking to witnesses and gathering evidence. We are going to ask the Manchester Police Department to take one small but critical step and I am going to close with this. That is to go to a couple of houses in each direction when a shooting occurs to knock on doors or ring doorbells and when that resident who may have been afraid to call police or hesitant or didn't call for some reason, when he or she answers their door the officer would do a welfare check and ask if they are okay and if their kids are okay and if they need to speak to a police officer. We don't want them sleeping in a bathtub afraid to sleep in their own bed. I am going to check the apartment to make sure no one is hiding in it and make sure no one is here and I am not leaving until I am sure that you and your family are safe. Here is my card. Here is my name and my phone number. I know you are afraid to talk to me but I am going to canvass the neighborhood with my partners and maybe you can give me a call later and share what you know about the house next door and tell me what is happening on your street. Whatever you tell me will be kept confidential but the better informed I am, the better guardian I can be. If you allow me 10 seconds for a personal comment, I loved being a chief of police and I know your chief does too but I came to this company six and a half years ago to spread this technology to places like Manchester and change the narrative from the police don't care to the police are there. If you bring ShotSpotter to Manchester, you can make your community safer. With that I will open it up to any comments or questions.

Alderman Levasseur asked are there minimum requirements that we had to meet to qualify for the grant or could any community apply for it.

Chief Aldenberg replied we saw an opportunity for Congressional funding and we felt that this was…

Alderman Levasseur interjected you said you had to go in front of a committee and then…

Chief Aldenberg interjected we had to do an application like we do for any other federal funding and that went through the vetting process through Congressman Pappas' Office and we had discussions with his office when they got ready to make their decision on whether we would receive the funding.

Alderman Levasseur asked so there were no minimum requirements.

Chief Aldenberg answered no sir.

Alderman Levasseur stated so Bedford could go and ask for that money.

Chief Aldenberg responded yes. If the Board approves the funding once we receive it, and we haven't received it yet from the federal government, we would be the only municipality in this state that has this type of technology.

Alderman Levasseur asked as far as the $300,000, when does that grant expire and what is the cost thereafter.

Chief Aldenberg answered right now we would do the trial period. The contract we have worked out would get us two years with the $300,000 with about a two to two-and-a-half-mile radius. That would cover a vast area in the inner city up to about Webster Street and a fair amount of coverage on the west side as well which is important. After those two years, we would collect our own data and ShotSpotter's data and do the analysis to determine if we would like to move forward with the program. If the Board decides or as an agency we decide that it was a good two years but it really wasn't working for us or not something we needed to continue, then we would discontinue.

Alderman Levasseur stated you said there were 125 other cities or towns that have this technology. Where on the level of crime are we in that 125? Have you done that analysis?

Chief Aldenberg stated the closest one would be Worcester and Boston.

Mr. Teachman stated we have 11 cities in Massachusetts, my home state. Geographically, Springfield, Worcester and then you get to the Greater Boston area. We have several in Boston proper and five in the Boston complex – Brockton and New Bedford.

Chief Aldenberg stated in terms of the crime data and comparing one city to the other, I don't have that but we could probably get that to you.

Alderman Levasseur stated I am just wondering about the number of gunshots that are reported and again you probably know a little bit better what that is. I don't know what the percentage is. Let's say we had 20 reported last year and you are saying that is only 20% of what the possible amount of gunshots was in the city which would be another 100 or so that are not being reported.

Chief Aldenberg replied year-to-date we have had 31 reported. I can tell you there are numerous times where like he mentioned there are gunshot victims showing up at hospitals and we were not made aware until the hospital called us. What we are losing is valuable time getting to a crime scene to find out if there are other victims. We are losing evidence and witnesses and spending a vast amount of time for lack of a better term chasing our tail around trying to find the scene when this technology, if it is in the coverage area where it happened, is going to increase our success rate or at least get us there quicker to start an investigation in a more timely manner.

Alderman Levasseur stated this doesn’t really say a lot about Manchester’s direction so I guess we need what we need. Thanks.

Chief Aldenberg responded it doesn’t and I get where you are coming from but I think we would be negligent if we don’t take advantage of the technology that is available and at least take a look at it and see what it can do for our city. Maybe we can bring down that gun violence. I know we got into a lot of detail here but I wanted to give the appropriate amount of detail to all of you and more important the citizens in the city so we are as transparent as we can be on this technology. We are not trying to run from it or hide from it or deny that it is out there. Sometimes technology can serve as a deterrent as well and I think that is important to keep in mind.

Mayor Craig stated I agree and I think this is a nice complement to all of the efforts that you are already doing with outreach into the community and having community members participate in this. I appreciate you being proactive in going after this grant and am very grateful to Congressman Pappas for working this out.

Chief Aldenberg stated as are we.

Alderman Long stated I think this is great timing also because with the ARPA funding we are looking at our neighborhoods and this is going to increase that. As far as prep like power source, fiber optics, etc., are we already set-up for that?

Chief Aldenberg asked are you talking about the installation itself.

Alderman Long answered yes.

Mr. Teachman stated the best analogy and it may be clumsy but the best one I can come up with is all of you probably have a cell phone right now in front of you or in your back pocket or on your person. What is your relationship as an individual or member of this Board with your cell phone provider? You pay a subscription. Your cell phone provider did the entire installation of the cell phone network whether it is towers out in the farm fields or mini cells on top of rooftops. Our relationship with the police department is going to be turnkey for them insofar as we have engineers that will design the array, a project manager or a couple that will come to Manchester and spend time seeking permissions to get on rooftops to tie our system in. As I said, we go to the mayor first and the school superintendent and use your government buildings first but there are never enough to satisfy our appetite. We require sufficient density to give the coverage that we promise by contract so we will go to those private building owners, both commercial and residential, and say can we use your rooftop for public safety purposes and then tie into the electrical system. From there, picture if you will a child's lunchbox on a tripod on a pole or latched to a chimney that is probably in the center of the roof just listening for gunshots. In that box is a CPU, microphone and a modem which is like a cell phone built into a child's lunchbox. That modem is how we translate all of the data to the Cloud for machine classification and the incident review center and ultimately back to the police department.

Alderman Long asked so the $300,000 is for two years and a two to two-and-a-half-mile radius.

Chief Aldenberg answered correct.

Alderman Long asked after that do we have the possibility of making it wider than a two-and-a-half-mile radius.

Chief Aldenberg replied we could enhance it if needed but hopefully not. That will also come at an additional price. We have had discussions with these two gentlemen about…we wouldn't necessarily move the technology around. If we see a spike in the south end of shootings, then we would get some coverage down there but keep the current technology in place and perhaps pursue additional technology to cover that area or increase the array. I hope that is not the case though to be honest with you. The data is showing us where the vast amount of shootings are taking place and it is evidence based. What has come up before and I already had the discussion about this program with the Community Advisory Board as well as the Police Commissioners regarding being proactive in how we are messaging this out and one comment that came up is you are going to be over policing in certain neighborhoods. Our response to that is we are going to be better policing potentially in those neighborhoods for the people that deserve to live in peace as much as the police department can provide that. We have a responsibility to do our part in that and if technology is going to help with that then I think it is a good thing to get behind.

Alderman Long stated thank you and again it is perfect timing.

Alderman Barry stated Chief as most of us know, the majority of the gun violence in our city is gang related. These are not random acts but targeting people. Would you initially…because we do have people in our Police Department that work in the gang unit and know exactly where some of these gang members are living would you put those detectors up in those areas or would you consider it because I think it is important?

Chief Aldenberg answered I am going to put them where the data tells us. I think if we start individually policing people we would be going down a dangerous road. Again, where the data shows us that these shootings are happening. We are not going to cover all of them. This isn't perfect and isn't a magic pill. It has to be evidence based and data driven as to where we are going to put this technology. Yes, there is a section of our population in the city that is driving the majority of the gun violence. Would it be a safe assumption to say that many of them are in these areas that we are going to be covering? Yes, both in the inner city and on the west side as well.

Alderman Barry asked is there a limit for installation. For example, can it be throughout the city as much as you need or does it come down to…

Mr. Pontious stated the answer to that is we would never geographically cover the whole city. We would really look at where the data takes us to the earlier points that were made. For example, in Pittsburgh, PA, their initial phase was three square miles even though their city is like 35 or 40 square miles. They expanded another 15 square miles and basically think that their whole city is covered. The areas that are not covered are not really needed and that is kind of how it goes. What is the geography of Manchester?

Chief Aldenberg stated 33 square miles.

Mr. Pontious replied so in a city this size you may end up with more than two and a half to three square miles but it wouldn't be 33. It would be some subset of that based on the data.

Alderman Barry asked after we hopefully vote in favor of giving this a trial run, how quickly can these be up and running.

Chief Aldenberg stated we first have to receive the funding which we haven't received yet and then we will go through the normal CIP process. Once we give the company the greenlight, they would have to answer how long it would take.

Mr. Pontious stated usually it is about 4-6 weeks per square mile and you are looking at close to 3 square miles so it would be a few months at least. We are already getting an early start on the program by looking at potential locations and doing some site survey work. Once we get permissions and so forth then the actual installation of the sensor goes pretty quickly. We can probably do three or four of those a day. We are hoping that we are going to be up for a majority of the summer. That is our goal so we are operational in Manchester when things are hot in the summer. That is usually when things uptick.

Mr. Teachman stated we have made an assessment of the department and obviously met with the Chief and the command staff and went back to the company who very strongly supported what we call an early start. The funding has been identified and the trust of the Chief to move forward. It is just a matter of time when the money will be given from the federal government. We can advance that installation now at our risk by not only having a site survey but seeking those permissions as Jack said. That is what takes so long and if you want to be helpful to us when that time is appropriate, we will be in contact. We will have a project manager here on site who can identify buildings that are available for hosting our sensors. It is done with full confidentiality to the building owner. We don't even give locations to the Police Department. If you can help us identify buildings, that would expedite the installation of the technology and give the Chief an earlier start.

Alderman Sharonov asked Chief regarding the grant, is there a city match.

Chief Aldenberg answered no.

Alderman Sharonov asked after the two-year trial, what would the price tag be for say the same two-and-a-half-mile radius?

Chief Aldenberg replied it would be relatively the same. I understand that that could be an issue two years from now. As we near that two year mark we will assess the data and the success rate, whether or not our arrests went up, if victims were saved, if lives were saved, and if the quality of life improved in those areas where the system was installed and possibly explore additional grants between now and then to be ready for that. Those grants do exist. I always like to go that route first before coming back to this Board and asking to fund yet another thing. I am cognizant and sensitive to that.

Alderman Sharonov stated it sounds like it is in the area of $150,000 a year if we don't get the grant.

Chief Aldenberg stated we are trying to stretch this $300,000 and do it the right way.

Alderman Fajardo stated with respect to maintenance on private buildings, is there ever a scenario where you would need to update the hardware or get up on someone's roof to change out equipment or anything like that. What does that look like for the property owners?

Mr. Teachman answered first of all, we overbuild the array at the outset. We build enough redundancy so that we could lose a sensor or two or a certain percentage of the array so that we can maintain the level of performance that we contractually guarantee to the Police Department. We can monitor every sensor remotely so we are constantly monitoring the sensor health if you will. If there is a need for us to, we will send out a repair team and bucket trucks would go back to the building where the sensor was originally installed and swap out the equipment. We monitor to see that the building still has power because sometimes individual buildings will lose power and we will lose a particular sensor. We are constantly monitoring the health of the array and remediating as necessary. I want to make clear that we are responsible for all the installation, the hardware and software. This is simply a subscription service between the Police Department and us just like a cell phone service. You may see Verizon or AT&T trucks out there. As a customer, you don't worry about that.

Alderman Fajardo asked so if I am a homeowner and give permission to use my roof would you need to involve me if you needed to access the hardware on my roof. What would that look like?

Mr. Teachman responded absolutely. As the host building owner, and most often it would be a three or four story high building, if you gave us permission we first of all indemnify you for any kind of damage and we would work with you if we needed to get access. We wouldn't just come into your building. We would notify you or a person that you gave as a delegate for authority to let us into the building to get to the rooftop.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked with this grant are we able to bypass the RFP process.

Mayor Craig asked are you talking about the city process.

Alderman E. Sapienza answered yes.

Mayor Craig stated they applied specifically for this technology and the grant was awarded.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked therefore no RFP is needed.

Mr. Pontious answered that is not completely clear. There are local ordinances where if a certain amount of money is being used for any type of project even though it is a grant once you approve it if there is a local grant that requires an RFP process than you could go out with an RFP to accommodate that. Predominantly, ShotSpotter has been sole-sourced in most of the cities that we work in. I would say the vast majority of communities that we serve have procured ShotSpotter through a subscription as a sole source.

Emily Rice, Solicitor, stated I believe that is correct.

Alderman Levasseur stated we have a lot of fireworks in Manchester, especially in the summer. Does your technology filter out those noises?

Mr. Teachman responded yes and I know I covered it very briefly but this is really the essence of our incident review center. Not only do we detect and locate this bang, boom or pop but through a series of steps starting with machine classification algorithms but more importantly the human review, we discern very accurately gunfire from all of those other noises including fireworks such that across our customer base in the last two years we had a false positive rate of 0.5%. We are not going to be dispatching the police for things other than gunfire.

Mayor Craig stated thank you for the presentation.

3. FY23 Manchester School District Budget.

Karen Gillis, Interim Superintendent, stated thank you for having us here this evening. We are delighted to be here to present our budget for FY23. It is important when we do our budget to remind and ground everybody in two key items. Our budget has been developed to serve 12,646 students and approximately 2,200 full and part-time staff members who make up our school district. When we look at our budget and we look at our planning, we ground ourselves back into three key items. One is our mission which notes “Excellence and equity, every classroom, every day” and then the promise of the Manchester School District which is “Every student in Manchester is known by name, served by strength and need and graduates ready for college, career and community.” In addition, I would like to note that we also are moving forward with our strategic plan. Our goals are grow our learners, grow our educators and grow our systems. That is also the foundational document that guides all of the decisions that we are making within the district. Again, I just want to recap that our budget was developed with 12,646 students. You heard in public comment earlier the cost per pupil rates across the state. This number is the key data point that we use when we build our budget. In addition, it is important to remind members of this Board that we also provide services such as special education and transportation to our charter and parochial schools across the city. As we move into our budget forecast and our suggested actions that this budget would move forward, I do want to take a quick moment to thank Ms. DeFrancis who has historically taken the lead in our budget development and I would also like to express my appreciation to her. Her nature has been incredibly kind and supportive as I have transitioned into a new role in the district which required me to shift quickly from an operations focus to a whole system focus. With that, I will turn it over to Ms. DeFrancis.

Karen DeFrancis, Chief Financial Officer, stated our next slide looks at the tax cap calculation which I am sure everyone is aware of but I will quickly walk through this. I am looking at the tax cap that is based on a three-year average of the Consumer Price Index. We do get this information from Sharon Wickens, the city’s Finance Director and as you all know, it is 3.57% for the FY23 budget process. The bottom half of the page is looking at the appropriation calculation for the FY23 budget. We need to look at both the revenue side as well as the expenditure side. Looking at the revenue, if you look at the FY22 appropriation it was $183.9 million. Applying at 3.57% tax cap increase to the taxes collected, so again the $183.9 million is not all from taxpayers. $110.5 million came from the taxpayers. So applying the 3.57% increase to that number would bring an additional $3.9 million on the tax revenue. We also have an increase in our other revenues of just about $1.2 million. That means the total increase in revenues would be $5.1 million which would bring the appropriation for FY23 to $189 million. We also need to look at the expenditure side. Again, starting with our FY22 appropriation of $183.9 million, if we were to apply the 3.57% tax cap on the expenditures we would be able to increase our expenditures by $6.5 million. That would bring our budget to $190 million. However, we have highlighted the $189 million because we don't have the revenues to support the $190 million tax cap number. The presentation tonight is focused on looking at the revenue side, which again would bring the appropriation to $189.1 million. Looking at our key budget planning considerations, we look to deliver vital services to meet the academic, social, emotional and physical needs of our students while maintaining our current class sizes. The next four talking points are all regarding our one-time expenditures and we have looked at those pretty effectively looking to eliminate any one-time expenditures from our operating budget. We continue to invest in technology with those one-time funds and also utilizing the one-time funds from ESSER, which is the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund to improve the learning gaps that were created during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also, improving our financial stability with prudent spending of those one-time funds. The next slide is looking at the key financial assumptions on both the revenue side and expenditure side. So again when we looked at the slide a few slides ago, we looked at a $5.1 million increase in the revenues. Again applying that $5.1 million on the revenue side and expenditure side, these are the changes that we are seeing within the budget. On the revenue side looking at our state aid, in our adequacy aid we are seeing an increase of $2.6 million. We are actually seeing an enrollment decline so we saw a decrease because of the enrollments. Our free and reduced also went down a bit. The state is allowing us in FY23 to use our free and reduced percentage from the pre-pandemic numbers so that did help Manchester quite a bit. The statewide education property tax, also known as SWEPT, has been reduced at the state level by $100 million for the entire state. However, the adequacy grants were increased to make up that difference. This is only under current law so for FY23. Again, looking at all of those items together under the state adequacy, we are seeing an increase in total of $2.6 million. Building aid has a slight increase of $30,000 and that is based on the state commitment on older projects. Our tuition from our sending towns continues to decline. Next year we expect to have 28 Hooksett students. Looking at some of our other revenues, our Medicaid revenue due to the rule changes within the program we are expecting about a $750,000 decrease which is about half of the $1.5 million that we typically bring in. In all of our other revenues, we are seeing a slight increase of $61,000. The final item on the revenue side is looking at the tax cap of 3.57% again bringing in state and local taxes of $3.9 million. On the right side of the page looking at our expenditures, our largest line item is salaries and in that we are seeing a $1.9 million increase. That is looking at filling all of our current staffing positions. We do have 43 teacher retirements and we would replace those. It also includes the COLA adjustments for our collective bargaining agreements as well as steps that are included in some of those contracts. We have 127 vacant positions included. That would be 41 teaching positions, 78 paras and a handful of other positions. Also, the increase in salaries is to attract people to the district as well as to retain our staff. Looking at the benefit side of things, in our health insurance we are expecting an increase of $1.2 million and that is based on a 6.5% rate increase. This budget was developed back in February and based on our latest numbers it looks like we will have to increase that a bit to 7.3%. Also, we are seeing an increase in our retirements and the FICA taxes that go along with the salary increases. We are seeing a salary increase of $1.9 million so the retirement and FICA taxes are going up as well by about $550,000. We are not seeing an increase in the state retirement system this year. It is actually a two-year rate so that has helped offset any expenditure increases on the retirement side. Looking at our special education, we are seeing an increase in our professional and technical staff. That is our hired staff. It is about $1.2 million. We are seeing an increase in our specialized transportation of about $3.3 million which is a big increase. Superintendent Gillis can explain why we are seeing that increase in one of the later slides. Also, we are seeing a 3% increase in our transportation with MTA. We have earmarked a 3.57% increase for city services. That includes our school resource officers, our nurses, our facilities folks as well as Aramark staff and Parks & Recreation for plowing. We are seeing a decrease in our supplies, equipment and food service of $3.9 million. The reason we are seeing a reduction here is because in the FY22 budget we utilized one-time funds for one-time expenditures. Therefore, we were able to reduce those line items by that $3.9 million. Our debt service. The FY21 and FY22 capital improvement projects will be included and bonded in the spring of 2022. We will not see an impact for the FY23 CIP process. We are seeing a total increase in our debt services of approximately $300,000. All of our other increases on our expenditure side come to about $300,000. Again, if you add both of those numbers up on each side of the equation there is a $5.1 million increase in revenues and a $5.1 million increase in expenditures. The next slide looks at the FY23 budget versus the FY22 budget. Again, this is the revenue side of things so in the far right-hand column towards the bottom you can see that $5.1 million. Again, that is just looking at it in a little more detail with each of the line items. The next slide is some history on our adequate education grant. We are actually going back to FY16. The adequacy aid is made up of several components. We have our base adequacy, which is the cost per pupil we receive. Then there is also differentiated aid and that is where our free and reduced numbers come in as well as special education students. We receive a certain dollar amount for each student that is identified under those areas. You can see the statewide education property tax and what that has looked like over the past several years. Looking at the next page, in the far right-hand column is the $5.1 million increase on the expenditure side. So we are just comparing all of the line items from the FY22 budget to the FY23 budget so that you can see the different increases based on line items. The next slide takes our general fund tax cap budget request of $189.1 million and adds in our school food and nutrition fund, which is $5.8 million and all of our special revenue funds which are Title I, Title II and grants of that nature of $19 million. Then you have our ESSER funds of $27 million. We received $91 million total in ESSER funds. We had three separate ESSER grant allocations – ESSER I, II and III funds. In FY23 we expect to spend $27 million of that $91 million. If you look at all four of those columns together, the total spend for the district for FY23 would be $241 million. The next page looks at our ESSER funds in a little more detail. Again, this is just a portion of the $91 million. We are looking at our teaching and learning and in that we have several different areas where we have added staff as well as programs coming to FY23 for $14.6 million. On our facilities and operations side, we are looking at supplies as well as ventilation being a big portion of the ESSER spending for a total of $12 million. Again, the total for next year would be $27 million. We have until September 30, 2024 to spend all of the funds. The different grants have different dates for the spending. The first allocation we have to spend by September 2022. The second allocation is September 2023 and the final allocation is September 2024. It is possible that depending on the ventilation projects that we might spend more than that $11 million next year. This is an estimate as of this point in time of what we expect to spend but if some of the projects get done quicker we do have flexibility to use more money to finish the ventilation projects. The next page is just a pie chart. We are a $241 million organization. This is the revenue side and shows where those funding sources are coming from. 47.4% is coming from state and local taxes at $114 million and again that includes the tax cap increase of $3.9 million. Our federal programs bring in 7.9% and our ESSER funds, which are limited funds for the next several years, are at 11.3%. You can see some of the other categories and the percentages that they bring into the district. Adequate education is a big piece as well and that brings in 27.9%. The next slide is looking at the same type of pie chart except it is for the expenditures. If you look at our salaries and benefits, it represents 67.8% of our total spend. Typically, that number would be about 72% but because we have those HVAC projects through the ESSER funds at 4.8% you are seeing a bit of a reduction in the salary and benefits. Some of our other line items are transportation expense on the right-hand side which is now up to 5% and again we are seeing an increase in our specialized transportation. The next slide is our recommended FY23 CIP projects. We have the purchase of five busses which would be an estimated cost of $575,000 and looking at an annual debt of about $92,000. The FY23 deferred maintenance for our Facilities Department is $3 million. We have been requesting that over the past several years and we have seen an improvement in our schools with that so we are continuing to move forward with deferred maintenance at $3 million. We typically ask for an increase in our deferred maintenance for our Parks & Recreation Program as well, however, there was a balance in one of our projects, the Memorial field project, so instead of bonding additional dollars for Parks & Recreation for this next year we are utilizing the funds remaining in that project to do the deferred maintenance. We just wanted to keep it on this slide so that everyone is aware that we are continuing our deferred maintenance program with Parks & Recreation. Also our school parking lot rehabilitations through Parks & Recreation of $500,000, playground replacement within our schools of $300,000 and Cullerot Park access which is over at Northwest so they can have some green space for $50,000. I would also point out that we are taking $150,000 of the balance from the Memorial field project and using it towards the West tennis courts, which represents 50% of the project. I believe that Parks & Recreation is also asking for $150,000 from the city to fully fund that project. I will now turn it back over to Superintendent Gillis.

Superintendent Gillis stated as a team as we looked to build our budget for the coming year, we looked to determine if we were going to put forward some additional asks over the tax cap budget. Quickly through our transition period I approached our board on February 23 and made the proposal of not making a recommendation for additional positions at this time. The full Board of School Committee had asked us to look deeply at our needs budget. It was clear that we had additional work to do internally to fully explore the type of budget our district needs and our paths to move forward. As we continue to seek efficiencies in systems within the district, we are also identifying opportunities for change which we believe can position us to be a high functioning system with an overall positive impact on our students and staff. We are, however, very committed to continuing this work in the coming months and we will be sharing our updates with the Board of School Committee for their consideration. Before we move into a review of the accomplishments from the previous year, I want to take a moment to recap. I would like to review the actions taken by the BOSC. They did approve the general fund tax cap compliant budget of $189,097,818, the school food and nutrition budget of $5,819,971 and the capital improvement plan budget of $4,425,000. We are respectfully requesting that the BMA support that. As I move into the next series of slides, I am going to share with you how we are living our budget, how we are living our mission and how we are living our strategic plan. In the area of teaching and learning, we are moving to a place of clear and purposely aligned professional development opportunities that align to our strategic plan. The work of our teaching and learning team, led by Ms. Allen, has been working to strategically align and move with data driven decisions coupled with evidence based practices. We have been fortunate to celebrate nominations for Teacher of the Year for the NH Department of Education and recipients of the Christa McAuliffe coins. Our students and staff have sought to engage in empowering extended learning opportunities (ELO's) which link directly back to many of our local businesses further developing our community partnerships. Our students have excelled in their athletic and extracurricular activities representing our city with pride and bringing home various championships and recognitions. Of special note, our very newly created Eastboards Program yielded 50 middle and high school students who came out to compete in this offering. Our ongoing work to reduce class sizes has yielded the following current averages. We are seeing 20 students in grades K-12 and 22.5 students in grades 3-5. As we have sought to increase rigor at the middle level, we have continued to place access to Algebra at our middle schools and have noted that this year 155 8^{th} grade students are taking Algebra for high school credit and we have two students in the 8^{th} grade taking Geometry for high school credit. In addition, we have witnessed 711 students who have been engaged in taking at least one AP or Honors Course. In very recent news, I am thrilled to report that the Memorial FIRST Robots Team, FRC238 Crusaders, won the New England Regional Championship while the Central Team, FRC131 Chaos, made it to the New England finals. We also recently had the opportunity to recognize students who achieved the 2022 Scholastic Art and Writing and All State Band Awards. One of our strengths that has emerged through the pandemic has been our community support and partnerships. We have been fortunate to receive a community partnership coordinator that is funded directly through Manchester Proud. Amy has been working in this role to help continue to bridge and identify resources in support across the community. We are currently seeing over 60 student-serving partners work collectively with the district team to meet the needs of our students within their educational community from before and after school programs to summer opportunities and ELO's. Our partners have leaned in to support our students, our families and our staff. Recently the BOSC also approved funding for four of our BIPOC community partners to further reach out and in to support our students and families. In the area of school safety, I am very happy to report that we are in our fifth edition of our district safety plan. This plan is the result of a true city focus on school safety and includes members of the district, the Manchester Police and Fire Departments, the Emergency Operations Center, Health Department, Facilities, Transportation and Food Service to name just a few. This team drills together and talks together and we prepare. We want to make sure that we have our schools safely positioned. In the area of our English Language Learners, our team under the leadership of Ms. Philibotte, our Chief Equity Officer, has been working to review, respond and support the needs and strengths of our students, their intervention, enrichment and partnerships with our community partners. In the area of special education, we have been digging in deep during the previous year in the area of professional development to equip our staff to meet the needs of our students from areas such as identification, assessment, and specialized services on up to multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) to name a few of our activities. Ms. DeFrancis spoke about the increase to our transportation line. While we did see a dramatic increase of approximately 137% to our McKinney Vento or homeless student transportation and approximately a 19% increase to our special education transportation needs. We have continued to look to streamline and systemize in this area. This work will continue into the coming school year. One clear area of progress in the area of transportation has been the implementation of a Hub model for our charter and parochial schools. Prior to the Hub model, we saw the daily cost per rider for our 22 school locations in 2020 to be $3.97 for regular transportation costs compared to $19.95 for one of our charter or parochial school commuters. By implementing the Hub system, it allowed us to realize a savings of about $90,000. A large thank you to our transportation team including Ms. O'Brien, the MTA crew, STS and our various specialized transportation vendors. Our drivers and monitors of particular note have been key in making sure that we have been able to protect our home to school runs as our first priority while we have also navigated driver shortages throughout the pandemic. In the area of technology, we have developed staffing and systems which have equipped us to move to 1:1 device deployment for our students. This, in addition to Mr. Cross and his team for creating and fine-tuning the support mechanisms for our staff to use as they prep and deliver lessons for our students both synchronous and asynchronous. Of particular note, we will be installing our interactive touch panels over spring break and would like to thank the Northwest teachers and administration for their leadership in this work. In food and nutrition, those of you who know my work and values, it has been key for us to continue providing meals for our students and it has been at the forefront since we entered the pandemic in March 2020. A very large thank you to Mr. Connors, the food services team, and our many volunteers who have helped us provide meals even when the odds were stacking up against our systems. Over the last year, the impacts of staffing shortages and supply change shortages have posed significant issues for the team in addition to the pandemic. Despite these impacts, the team has continued to deliver on average 7,000 meals per day. In the area of fiscal responsibility, Ms. DeFrancis has been key in making sure that oversight is strictly adhered to. We have been able to maximize funding in the area of our grants and our ESSER funding. Our ability to also get to a fiscally healthy place of being able to increase our expendable trust reserves has come due to the mindful management of our finance team under the direction of Ms. DeFrancis. Our long-term facilities planning has continued. Over the previous year, we completed listening sessions to guide our work and we are hopeful that in the month of June we will be able to share an update on our plans as we roll forward. In the area of communications, we have added in family newsletters and ongoing communications via our school messenger system with the goal of continuing to provide timely and accurate communications for our students, our staff, our families and our community. In the area of student achievement, as I reported earlier, our mission, promise and strategic plan sit at the core of our budget development. While the list I have shared this evening is not exhaustive, it is a clear collection of the focus we hold in preparing our students for college and career. As we near the end of the academic year and prepare to recognize our students heading into the military, career and college, we remain focused on long-term planning and systems to capture and truly celebrate these culminating moments. I would like to share a quick congratulations to all who are solidifying their plans and may be heading off to serve in the military or those accepting job and college offers. Please to the students and their families, enjoy this moment. In closing, I would like to take time to thank the team in the district office for their individual and collective efforts to prepare the budget while we also had to focus on our work to strengthen our practices to guide our goals and grow our learners, our educators and our system. To those in our schools, a very large thank you for your tireless efforts that contributed to the list of accomplishments we had the pleasure of sharing with the Board this evening. Thank you very much and we are ready to take your questions.

Alderman Long stated I was watching the latest finance meeting. Are there some surpluses that you will be realizing?

Ms. DeFrancis asked for the current year we are in.

Alderman Long replied correct.

Ms. DeFrancis stated no. We are actually not looking at a surplus this year. That could change between now and year end but we are actually seeing an over expenditure in some of our line items, including transportation and professional and technical services.

Alderman Long asked with respect to the ESSER money, are there some budgeted items that ESSER qualifies for. For example, professional services and transportation or even the purchase of busses?

Ms. DeFrancis answered I am not sure about the purchase of busses. There could be some expenditures but I guess we would need more specifics as far as what line items you are looking at.

Alderman Long stated for example, in my understanding of the ESSER funds which I am not that familiar with but it is for low income and behavioral health and mentors. Busses for the low income students for example.

Mayor Craig stated there was a $3.3 million increase that was outlined, the majority of which is the result of bussing for special education or the increase in students that are homeless. We talked about this in the Board of School Committee. That could be covered through ESSER funds.

Alderman Long asked so $3.3 million. Would you know what portion of that is homeless and special education?

Superintendent Gillis responded I am going to answer your question in two parts. One, we have an ESSER approved plan that was agreed upon with the BOSC and within that plan it articulates the teaching and learning side and then the facilities side. We would need to go back to our school board to propose any shifts to the ESSER plan that we currently have. Right now we are collecting survey data and preparing to bring forward an updated ESSER plan to the BOSC. I think your question regarding transportation is you are looking to pull apart what is the impact from Covid on our homeless population and/or our special ed transportation needs. I just want to qualify that any shifts we made due to ESSER would be one-time funds so we would essentially be kind of bridging those costs for the district in a one-time fashion. It would be responsible for us to go back and take a look to see what is the number and can we pull a better number as to what was from the Covid impact and what the typical impact is that we might see. I also want to add that we are looking strategically at those increases in the transportation costs to figure out systems we can roll in within the district to better manage and get a better grasp on what those numbers would look like going forward.

Alderman Long stated I know with us and the ARPA funding, we are looking to do a surge through 2026 and you have this through 2024. How much is in the expendable trust?

Ms. DeFrancis answered our balance as of June 30, 2021 was $25 million and there are six trusts within that expendable trust.

Alderman Barry asked Karen the 7.5% that the state is going to help us out with hopefully with the retirement, what impact is that going to have on the budget.

Ms. DeFrancis replied if that goes through I believe it is somewhere around $1.2 to $1.6 million.

Alderman E. Sapienza stated with regard to your collective bargaining units, how is this budget structured. Let’s take the MEA whose contract I believe ends July 1. If they don’t have a successor agreement are they going to be getting any step raises?

Ms. DeFrancis responded if there is no agreement then they would not be.

Alderman Levasseur stated I saw that you had 127 vacant positions. You have the positions in your budget but they are vacant. What does that amount come out to? What is the average salary? Is it $50,000 plus benefits?

Ms. DeFrancis replied it depends. We have teaching positions in there as well as paraprofessional positions and a handful of other district positions. The total for those 127 positions is about $5 million.

Alderman Levasseur asked so you have $5 million in vacant positions which you obviously need. If we took away all of your vacant positions, we could take $5 million from your budget correct?

Ms. DeFrancis answered yes however you do need to keep in mind that some of those positions although they are vacant we have substitutes in there so our substitute line is going over budget as well as maybe some of our per diem lines because we do need coverage for those classrooms. Although it is $5 million in vacant positions, we are using some of that funding to have bodies in the classroom.

Mayor Craig asked aren't some of those vacancies also paid through either ESSER or other grants.

Ms. DeFrancis replied no. The 127 are general fund positions.

Alderman Levasseur stated I just wanted to know the number. You have 43 that are going to retire or leave and you are going to hire back 43 for sure based on the budget that we have in front of us correct?

Ms. DeFrancis answered correct.

Alderman Levasseur asked of the $241,250,188 in total revenue, do you have a percentage of that or an actual number that is for direct student services. I see that you had some money in there for school food and nutrition. What is the number that goes to direct student services? If you don't know, you can just let me know.

Ms. DeFrancis responded I wouldn't be able to give that to you tonight but we can figure that out.

Alderman Levasseur stated I think it is more than the $189 million that you are getting in your budget.

Ms. DeFrancis stated well the $189 million has other things in it. For instance, the $189 million which is the general fund budget has debt service of $15 million. That is probably not direct student service, however, we do have to obviously pay our debt back. There are other things within that $189 million that are not direct student services. We would have to go through those line items and pull out the numbers that are directly related to students.

Alderman Levasseur stated and I forget the number of students that you have now. Was it 12,700?

Superintendent Gillis answered 12,646.

Alderman Levasseur asked and how many of those are home schooled or is that a separate number.

Superintendent Gillis stated the 12,646 are our students. None of those are home schooled.

Alderman Levasseur asked but you do have to take care of home schooled children or some of them if they want to get involved in some stuff correct.

Superintendent Gillis answered yes if they were looking to get access to some of our offerings.

Alderman Levasseur asked do we know how many kids are home schooled in Manchester currently.

Superintendent Gillis replied that is a little bit of a moving target right now but I can get an updated number to you.

Alderman Levasseur stated I remember that it was 700 last year.

Superintendent Gillis stated it is just a little bit over that. I don't want to give you a hard number though without double-checking.

Alderman Levasseur asked on the $10 million in supplemental appropriations that the previous Board gave you, where did that money go. That money is not included in the $189 million correct? In other words, you didn't have $10 million less last year. Well that didn't get included in your main budget number so where did that money slide to?

Ms. DeFrancis answered well it is part of the general fund budget, the extra $10 million. A portion of that, I believe $5.5 million, we initially were going to use ESSER funds for to not lay off staff. If we did not receive that $10 million, we would have had to lay off $5.5 million of staff. We were able to not utilize the ESSER funds for that and again the ESSER funds would have just been a one-time support for that. So we were able to utilize a portion of that $10 million for those staffing positions that are truly general fund positions. The other portion I would have to look up but as I mentioned in the presentation, there were $3.9 million of one-time expenditures in technology and supplies that we utilized with the $10.8 million, therefore, we didn't build that into next year's budget because that was a one-time expenditure.

Alderman Levasseur asked so last year's number was what. So when you got the $10 million we are not giving you 3.57% on the original budget plus the $10 million right? It is strictly on last year's number.

Ms. DeFrancis replied last year's number was $183.9 million. That includes that $10 million.

Alderman Levasseur asked regarding reserves, do you have any and what is the amount.

Ms. DeFrancis answered in the expendable trust we have $25 million. That includes health insurance, special education, athletics, teaching and learning, and repairs and maintenance. There is a total of six trusts and the total is $25 million.

Alderman Levasseur asked and that has nothing to do with federal money.

Ms. DeFrancis replied correct.

Alderman Levasseur stated so you guys have been packing it away; good. The last thing I want to say is there was a statement somewhere and I don't remember where I saw it but you now offer in-house tutoring to the students in Manchester. That is a new program that hasn't really been talked about but when I saw it I thought it was the best news that I have seen as an alderman and a resident of Manchester because you know they are all slipping because a lot of parents don't help their kids because they don't know how. My kids are doing math that I wouldn't even know how to start with to help them. This tutoring, is that applicable to every student in your district?

Superintendent Gillis responded it is. Every student has access to it 24/7 for live tutoring in the area they are looking for support in. It is a huge value added to the students and their families as you noted and we are looking to promote and cross-promote and drive that message home. We have been pushing it out in every avenue we can think of and also monitoring so what are we seeing for use sign-up and what are the use rates. We are in the build mode right now to get that out.

Alderman Levasseur stated to me that is an absolute game changer for the City of Manchester and now there is no excuse for children not doing their homework. Of all the things that have come out of your school district, I think that is probably the brightest bulb I have seen in a long time so thanks.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I noticed in your salary line you included COLA's for your collective bargaining agreements. What percent COLA's did you use?

Ms. DeFrancis answered that depends on the union. We have six different unions so it depends on what the contract called for.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked what about the MEA.

Ms. DeFrancis replied that is still in negotiations so we have an amount built in there.

Alderman T. Sapienza responded you must have put a number in there to get the number.

Ms. DeFrancis stated for all of our contracts we have a $2.4 million in there to cover the contracts that are not settled.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked what percentage is that.

Superintendent Gillis asked percentage of the total budget or percentage…

Alderman T. Sapienza interjected percentage of outstanding contracts.

Ms. DeFrancis stated we used a 3.57% which would include any COLA's or step increases. Is that what you are asking?

Alderman T. Sapienza answered I am asking what COLA you used to arrive at your salary number for the contracts that are outstanding.

Ms. DeFrancis replied we used 3.57% which is the tax cap number but that would also include any step increases. It isn't just a COLA.

Alderman T. Sapienza responded in your presentation you said you included the COLA's. Did you include a 2% COLA or a 4% COLA?

Ms. DeFrancis stated again it depends on the bargaining unit.

Mayor Craig stated we will be recessing and we can address this at that time.

Ms. DeFrancis stated for instance, the principal's may have a 2% COLA. There are contracts that are already settled where there is a certain percentage in there so whatever that contract called for is what we included in the budget.

Alderman Trisciani asked on your salary line did you include increasing anybody in a pay grade that was not making a minimum of $15/hour.

Ms. DeFrancis answered we did not.

Alderman Trisciani asked what would that number be.

Ms. DeFrancis replied we had shared a number with the mayor and I think it was about $750,000 but keep in mind that is just to increase the people who are below $15/hour to $15/hour. We haven't looked at, for instance, our paraprofessional contract. There are three tiers. The Para I begins at $12/hour and a Para II beings at $13.20/hour and then a BST which is a Behavioral Specialist, starts at $15/hour. We just looked at the ones that were below $15 and if we raised them to $15, that was the $750,000 but we would also need to look at the additional cost for the three tiers.

Alderman Trisciani stated we should probably get that number as well to understand what that number is.

Alderman Levasseur stated why is the school district going out for a superintendent search when we have one. Is there a law or a code of some sort that says we have to go out and look for a superintendent?

Mayor Craig replied there is not. It is what the School Board decided to do.

Alderman Levasseur stated well we have a good one right here. I hope you get the job.

CONSENT AGENDA

Accept BMA Minutes

4. Minutes from the March 29, 2002 Special BMA Meeting and the April 5, 2022 BMA meeting.

Accept and Remand Funds

5. Donation of $1,000 from Hsiu Feng Cheng to the Manchester Fire Department to help fund future mental health training.

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

6. 50/50 Sidewalk Petitions
Residential:
- 56 Buzzell Street
- 85 Carnegie Street
- 109 Greenwood Court
- 115 Wellesley Street
- 125 Crescent Road
- 153 Donald Street
- 344 Joseph Street Extension
- 529 Dix Street
- 731 Beech Street
- 780-782 Belmont Street
- 2038 Elm Street
- 2367 Elm Street

Commercial:
- 438 Dubuque Street

Information to be Received and Filed

7. Communication from Anna Thomas, Public Health Director, regarding the COVID-19 Health Stipend.

REFERRALS TO COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

8. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Ninety Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven Dollars ($1,098,677) for the FY2022 CIP 212322 ARPA-Community Health Worker Program (Budget)."

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million One Hundred

Forty Four Thousand Dollars ($1,144,000) for the FY2022 CIP 811422 ARPA-Revenue Replacement (Budget)."

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Dollars ($305,760) for the FY2022 CIP 412522 COSSAP Program."

"Amending the FY2021 & FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars ($55,000) for the FY2022 CIP 611222 1269 Cafe - 456 Union Street Heating System Upgrades."

"Amending the FY2021 & FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Five Dollars and 53/100 ($23,475.53) for the FY2022 CIP 611322 The Light House Operational Support."

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars ($33,333) for the FY2022 CIP 412422 Intelligence Liaison Officer Program."

“Continuation of the Central Business Service District.”

“Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Fiscal Year 2022.”

9. Budget Resolutions:

“Appropriating to the Parking Fund the sum of $5,652,561 from parking revenues for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

"Appropriating the sum of $16,324,572 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

“Appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of $36,682,992 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

“Appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of $1,373,420 for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

“Appropriating to the Manchester School District the sum of $189,097,818 for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

“Appropriating all Incremental Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue Received by the City in the Fiscal Year 2023 and held in the Civic Center Fund, for the payment of the City’s Obligations in Said Fiscal Year under the Financing Agreement.”

“Appropriating to the Manchester School Food and Nutrition Services Program the sum of $5,819,971 from School Food and Nutrition Services Revenues for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

“Raising Monies and Making Appropriations of $166,471,585 for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

“Appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of $258,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

“Resolution ‘Approving the Community Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2023, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program.”

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE ON BILLS ON SECOND READING

10. Recommending that Ordinance Amendment:

“An Ordinance amending the Housing Code Chapter 150 of the City of Manchester Code of Ordinances to allow a single means of egress as allowed by the Manchester Building Code and NFPA 101 - Life Safety Code and to allow a ceiling height of seven feet in one and two family dwellings as allowed by the Manchester Building Code.”

ought to pass and be referred to the Committee on Accounts, Enrollment and Revenue Administration.
(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman T. Sapienza who was absent)

COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT

11. Recommending that the summary of abatement requests submitted by Fred McNeill, Chief Engineer, be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

12. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of $33,333 for CIP 412422 Intelligence Liaison Officer Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

13. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorization providing for the acceptance and expenditure of funds in the amount of $305,760 for CIP 412522 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Site-Based Program (COSSAP) be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

14. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of $55,000 for CIP 611222 1269 Café-456 Union Street Heating System Upgrades be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

15. Recommending that the Amending Resolution and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of $23,475.53 for CIP 611322 The Light House Operational Support be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

16. Recommending that the Amending Resolutions and Budget Authorizations providing for the transfer and expenditure of funds in the amount of $1,098,677 to CIP 212322 ARPA-Community Health Worker Program (Budget) and $1,144,000 to CIP 811422 ARPA-Revenue Replacement (Budget) be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

17. Recommending that the request from the Police Department for line item adjustments to CIP 410222 ARPA-ACERT Program be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

18. Recommending that the request from Planning & Community Development for a line item adjustment to CIP 811522 HUD Home-ARP Planning and Administration Support be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCES/INSURANCE

19. Recommending that the following HR Director recommendations:

1) Engineering position reclassifications to take effect on July 1, 2022:
- Highway Chief Engineer grade 25 to grade 27 (cost: $4,527.76);
- Traffic Engineer grade 22 to grade 24 (cost: $4,413.22);
- Civil Engineer III grade 22 to grade 23 (cost: EPD $3,485.05 and Water Works $3,697.23; DPW and Airport have vacant positions currently); and
- Chief Sanitary Engineer grade 25 to grade 28 (cost: $6,815.26)

2) Revision of the Chief Sanitary Engineer class specification to more accurately reflect the advanced current duties, skills and responsibilities of the position.

3) Elimination of the following positions:
- One (1) Boiler Plant Operator grade 16;
- One (1) Maintenance Mechanic grade 14;
- One (1) Recycling Coordinator grade 20; and
- One (1) Shop Supervisor grade 19

be approved.
(Unanimous vote)

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, HEALTH AND TRAFFIC

20. Recommending that the following traffic regulations be approved:

NO PARKING BUS STOP

On South Elm Street, east side, from a point 145 feet south of Baker Street to a point 40 feet further south

Alderman Burkush

NO PARKING ANYTIME

On Somerville Street, north side, 120 feet west of Lincoln Street to a point 160 feet further west

Alderman Heath

NO PARKING MONDAY-FRIDAY

On Somerville Street, north side, from Lincoln Street to a point 120 feet west

Alderman Heath

RESCIND NO PARKING MONDAY-FRIDAY

On Somerville Street, north side, from Lincoln Street to a point 218 feet west (ORD 9762)

Alderman Heath

CROSSWALK

On South Beech Street at Beech Hill Avenue, south side

Alderman Burkush

(Unanimous vote)

21. Recommending that the request from Chaz Newton, Solid Waste and Environmental Programs Manager, to approve an ordinance amendment regarding throwing or putting snow in the streets be referred to the Committee on Bills on Second Reading for technical review.

(Unanimous vote)

22. Recommending that the request from Fuss & O'Neill, on behalf of the Elliot Hospital, to install Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons at the existing crosswalk at the corner of Auburn and Canton Streets, and authorization for the Public Works Director to enter into a maintenance agreement with Solution Health (Elliot) be approved.

(Unanimous vote)

23. Recommending that the request from Jodie Nazaka, Economic Development Director, to extend the Expanded Street Seating Program for another year from May 1 through October 31, 2022 be approved.

(Unanimous vote with the exception of Alderman Long who voted in opposition)

*HAVING READ THE CONSENT AGENDA, A MOTION OF **ALDERMAN CAVANAUGH**, DULY SECONDED BY **ALDERMAN STEWART**, THE CONSENT AGENDA WAS APPROVED.*

REGULAR BUSINESS

24. Nominations to be presented by Mayor Craig, if available.

There were none.

25. Confirmation(s) to be presented by Mayor Craig:
Office of Youth Services Advisory Board
Erika Perez as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2025
Zoning Board of Adjustment
Joseph Prieto as a regular member, term to expire March 1, 2025
Greg Powers as an alternate member, term to expire March 1, 2025
Central Business Service District
Donald Stokes as an at-large member, term to expire May 1, 2024
Jacqueline Leary as a regular member, term to expire May 1, 2023
Highway Commission
Mark MacKenzie as a regular member, term to expire January 1, 2024

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

26. Committee report from the Public Safety, Health and Traffic Committee recommending that the request from Peter Telge, Stark Mill Brewery, to place tables on the city green space adjacent to their property and use the public parking lot on the west side under the Amoskeag Bridge every Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. through October 30, 2022 be approved subject to approval of the Expanded Outdoor Seating Program.
(Unanimous vote)
(Note: Fees for the use of parking spaces in Arms Lot need to be determined.)

***Alderman Long** moved to accept the report with a fee of $1,260. Instead of charging him for the 19 parking spaces he will be using, we are just going to use the maximum for the businesses on Elm Street for three spaces, which is $1,260.*

Alderman Fajardo asked is that more or less than what they would be paying otherwise.

Alderman Long answered it is the maximum for those using Elm Street.

Mayor Craig stated it is the same amount as three spots on Elm Street and he is using many more than three spots.

***Alderman Cavanaugh** duly seconded the motion. Mayor Craig called for a vote. There being none opposed, the motion carried.*

27. Communication from Jonathan Hopkins, Central Fleet Services Director, requesting authorization to begin the process of purchasing replacement vehicles for the Highway Department before the FY23 MER budget is approved.

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

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

Sharon Wickens, Finance Officer, stated the FY22 general fund expenditure and revenue forecast as of April 19 based on department head estimates is as follows. The current projected general fund operating surplus for 2022 remains at zero. This amount is comprised of an expenditure surplus of $568,000, a revenue deficit of $3,485,500, the use of $2,392,500 in ARPA revenue replacement funds, and an anticipated draw on both the health insurance reserve and the CGL reserve accounts in the aggregate amount of $525,000. The revenue deficit is primarily due to interest income and parking revenue. There is really no change there. They both remain about $850,000 down. Motor vehicle registrations for March was the highest monthly collection since the start of FY22 but still $338,000 short of what would be needed in order to meet budget. Offsetting some of the shortfall is there is a surplus of about $239,000 in the interest on tax liens due to the sale of four vacant lots. That kind of curbed some of the Tax Department's revenue shortfall. It is up about $100,000 from last month. Health insurance is still trending above plan, however, the claims utilization for both February and March decreased that amount slightly. It is now down to about $1.564 million. This was previously reported at $1.9 million. There is a health insurance reserve. Unfortunately, as far as the CGL insurance, we had some large claims that pushed that over budget. So the headway we made on health insurance, CGL now is over. If you look at the FY22 budget projection, the sheet where I show the departments and how everything is tracking, the department heads have done a fabulous job in returning expenditure surplus back to the city. They are up about $350,000 from last month and that is a big increase. The hit to the reserve account last month for health insurance was about $800,000. That has now gone down $418,000 and for CGL $106,000. It is a total of $525,000 so we did make some headway coming down on what could be a possible draw on the reserves. We have not finished the year and some of the accounts may shake out to have a little more surplus and we may get even closer. I am hopeful that May brings a little bit more money in. There were 32 retirements through April 15 compared with 32 retirements at this same time a year ago. Severance paid through April 15 amounts to $1,110,995 compared to $1,461,904 a year ago. The severance reserve account has a balance of $752,890 as of April 15. That $752,000 is a good number. We do expect some more retirements before the end of the fiscal year but there is a very good chance that we will still have a $400,000 surplus in the severance account which would roll into next year. I have also attached the department overtime report and the summary by departments of severance paid. Does anyone have any questions?

Alderman Levasseur asked how much do we have in ARPA funds.

Ms. Wickens asked in total.

Alderman Levasseur answered yes.

Ms. Wickens stated I don't know what is left. I know in the ARPA revenue replacement we are using $2.3 million here and we probably have $1.3 or $1.4 million left in that account. At the Committee on Accounts meeting earlier someone asked about the credit card fees. We shut it off before we depleted that account so we have a little surplus and that would go back into the revenue replacement.

Alderman Levasseur stated that is the reason I am asking because you were able to replace $2.3 million in revenue.

Ms. Wickens stated it is almost $2.4 million in this budget.

Alderman Levasseur stated so you were able to replace $2.4 million in revenue that was not realized. Is that correct?

Ms. Wickens replied that is correct.

Alderman Levasseur asked so our true deficit right now is the $525,000 plus the $418,000 and $106,000 at the bottom.

Ms. Wickens answered yes.

Alderman Levasseur asked and none of those can be replaced with ARPA funds.

Ms. Wickens responded they cannot.

Alderman Levasseur stated but the health insurance you can cover with our reserves so that should be taken care of and the $418,000…

Ms. Wickens interjected and then the CGL can be covered by reserve also.

Alderman Levasseur stated so we are actually coming out okay.

Ms. Wickens stated I am hoping that April, May and June for health care trends the same. We have been meeting with Anthem and USI almost daily. We met with Anthem today. It looks like we may hold our own through the end of the year.

Alderman Levasseur stated he said he was going to tell us March but he didn't have the numbers yet. Do we have them? Are they level?

Ms. Wickens responded they went down claims wise but the pharmacy spend was up almost 44%. That is a question that we asked Anthem today and they will be providing us some more information.

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

Mayor Craig called the meeting back to order.

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

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

> "Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Ninety Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven Dollars ($1,098,677) for the FY2022 CIP 212322 ARPA-Community Health Worker Program (Budget)."
>
> "Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million One Hundred Forty Four Thousand Dollars ($1,144,000) for the FY2022 CIP 811422 ARPA-Revenue Replacement (Budget)."
>
> "Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Three Hundred Five Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Dollars ($305,760) for the FY2022 CIP 412522 COSSAP Program."
>
> "Amending the FY2021 & FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars ($55,000) for the FY2022 CIP 611222 1269 Cafe - 456 Union Street Heating System Upgrades."
>
> "Amending the FY2021 & FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of Twenty Three Thousand Four Hundred Seventy Five Dollars and 53/100 ($23,475.53) for the FY2022 CIP 611322 The Light House Operational Support."
>
> "Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars ($33,333) for the FY2022 CIP 412422 Intelligence Liaison Officer Program."
>
> “Continuation of the Central Business Service District.”
>
> “Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Fiscal Year 2022.”

ought to pass and be Enrolled.

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

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

> "Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars ($650,000) for the 2023 CIP 710123 Mill Girl Stair Replacement (DPW-Highway)."

> "Authorizing Bonds, Notes or Lease Purchases in the amount of Two Million Three Hundred Thousand Dollars ($2,300,000) for the 2023 CIP 710023 FY23 Roadway Program (DPW-Highway)."

ought to pass and layover.

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

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

> “Appropriating to the Parking Fund the sum of $5,652,561 from parking revenues for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

> "Appropriating the sum of $16,324,572 from Sewer User Rental Charges to the Environmental Protection Division for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

> “Appropriating to the Manchester Airport Authority the sum of $36,682,992 from Special Airport Revenue Funds for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

> “Appropriating to the Manchester Transit Authority the sum of $1,373,420 for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

> “Appropriating to the Manchester School District the sum of $189,097,818 for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

> “Appropriating all Incremental Meals and Rooms Tax Revenue Received by the City in the Fiscal Year 2023 and held in the Civic Center Fund, for the payment of the City’s Obligations in Said Fiscal Year under the Financing Agreement.”

> “Appropriating to the Manchester School Food and Nutrition Services Program the sum of $5,819,971 from School Food and Nutrition Services Revenues for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

> “Raising Monies and Making Appropriations of $166,471,585 for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

> “Appropriating to the Central Business Service District the sum of $258,000 from Central Business Service District Funds for the Fiscal Year 2023.”

"Resolution 'Approving the Community Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2023, Raising and Appropriating Monies Therefore, and Authorizing Implementation of Said Program."

ought to pass and layover.

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

32. Report(s) of the Committee on Lands and Buildings, if available.

There were none.

33. Resolutions:

"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating and transferring funds in the amount of One Million Ninety Eight Thousand Six Hundred Seventy Seven Dollars ($1,098,677) for the FY2022 CIP 212322 ARPA-Community Health Worker Program (Budget)."

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"Amending the FY2022 Community Improvement Program, authorizing and appropriating funds in the amount of Thirty Three Thousand Three Hundred Thirty Three Dollars ($33,333) for the FY2022 CIP 412422 Intelligence Liaison Officer Program."

"Continuation of the Central Business Service District."

"Authorizing the Finance Officer to Make Certain Budgetary Closings for the Fiscal Year 2022."

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

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

34. Ordinances:

"Amending Section 33.025 (Highway Chief Engineer) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Section 33.025 (Civil Engineer III) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Section 33.025 (Traffic Engineer) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

"Amending Sections 33.025 & 33.026 (Chief Sanitary Engineer) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Manchester."

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

*On motion of **Alderman Heath**, duly seconded by **Alderman T. Sapienza**, it was voted to Ordain.*

<u>NEW BUSINESS</u>

Alderman Long stated currently there is no policy on homelessness in NH Municipal Association, whose board I am on as a representative of this Board. I am looking for your support on a policy that says there will be state collaboration with municipalities on any bills having to do with homelessness. One of the issues we have is we have been asking the state to let us know when they send money to our non-profits so we can keep in the loop. Schonna Green has a plan and we need to get them in our plan so if someone is receiving say $4 million for housing, we need to have that included in this plan and we need to know that and we don't. That is what this policy would do. It would allow the Municipal Association to look at bills and if it fits within this policy they would advocate or oppose it.

Alderman Long *moved to approve the proposed policy for the NH Municipal Association.* ***Alderman Levasseur*** *duly seconded the motion.*

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I am not sure what you are talking about. Is it in our packet?

Mayor Craig asked do you have a policy.

Alderman Long answered it was emailed to everyone earlier. It is really not an action. This is just to move something to the Municipal Association.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated I didn't get it and I would like to know what I am voting on.

Mayor Craig *called for a vote. The motion carried with Alderman Sapienza abstaining because he doesn't know what he is voting on and Alderman Sharonov opposed.*

Alderman Long stated I have been looking to get a handle on the ARPA funding. I have constituents calling me because they believe we can use that money for anything. They ask why don't you just take the ARPA money. I explain that we appropriated all of the money. I don't know answers to a lot of the questions I am being asked. I spoke with Mr. LaFreniere and Mr. Fleming. Todd just sent me a spreadsheet of everything I need and asked me to pick out what I want and he can get me exactly what I am looking for. I am looking for the appropriations. We had 12 that we did on 7/6/21. Under those appropriations there are CIP project numbers. Also, what is the policy on how allocations get expended? For example, with the CEAG I thought they were going to CIP but apparently there is an internal group that is going to make those decisions and that is something else I would like to talk about afterward. Leon assured me that last week he had the conversation about having people keep an eye on the dollars and if they haven't been expended to let us know as soon as possible so they can be reappropriated. I thought maybe I needed a motion but Todd is helping me so I don't think I need one.

Mayor Craig asked can you share that information with the Board once you have it. A lot of it is on the website already if anyone is interested.

Alderman Long answered yes. Regarding the CEAG, there was a group of people meeting to choose who qualifies for the $10,000 grants. It is a group of department heads, I believe.

Mayor Craig replied it is city employees; correct.

Alderman Long stated if it is department heads I have a couple of concerns. One is pulling them out of their department for however long this takes. They are never going to say no. They are going to say yes.

Mayor Craig stated that is not it. The applicants have to meet certain criteria.

Alderman Long responded one of my concerns is the time spent away from their departments.

Mayor Craig stated the Planning Department has two employees that are specifically assisting with ARPA funds.

Alderman Long stated but the approval is with a group consisting of staff from Planning & Community Development, Public Works, Parks & Recreation, City Clerk, Economic Development and the Health Department. Are you saying it is not department heads but just staff?

Mayor Craig replied for any event in the city, those are the departments that are involved. Leon, can you please come forward?

Leon LaFreniere, Planning & Community Development Director, asked would you like me to respond to the conversation or do you have specific questions.

Alderman Long stated I had two concerns if it was department heads but I am hearing it is not department heads. Is it department heads or is it staff members?

Mr. LaFreniere answered there are a number of department heads but it was not exclusive to department heads.

Alderman Long responded okay. There was a meeting today correct?

Mr. LaFreniere replied yes.

Alderman Long stated I have a concern with pulling department heads away from their jobs. I understand that they are involved in licensing but I have an issue on the amount of time it is going to take. Also, a lot of times these businesses or neighborhoods are dealing with the department heads. If I am a business that applied for this grant and I get denied, I would be getting upset with a department head that I thought was my buddy. I think we are getting into an area where it is not conducive for department heads to be involved. I can recommend that we set-up a special…I think there should be an alderman sitting on there from the CIP Committee. I don’t see where that problem lies. If our department heads are going to continue being involved with this, I would suggest we look at someone else on their staff. That may be better.

Mayor Craig stated I would caution having elected officials involved in something like this. Our departments have done a great job. Planning & Community Development has done a great job in looking at applications and providing funding for the small businesses for the last two years. I think it is important that we keep elected officials out of this so there is no sense of impropriety. Right now it is the departments looking at the rules and providing funding based on the applicant meeting certain criteria. They have a track record of doing this. That is my feeling.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated there is an objective criteria correct.

Mayor Craig responded yes.

Mr. LaFreniere stated there is. We have established a ranking matrix based on the criteria established under the final rule of the ARPA funds but because a lot of these particular grants require some knowledge or discretionary judgment as to whether they meet the intent of the city's vision on how these funds will be used is why we felt it needed to be a panel that would make the decision as opposed to the small business assistance grants. Those were more straight-forward and the criteria is clearly established and if they meet the criteria the grants were issued. In this case, and I apologize for taking too long to answer this but there is an established set of criteria with regards to the requirements of the ARPA grant. The secondary consideration that we were struggling a bit with today or at least hammering out if you will in terms of how to approach it deals with the more discretionary piece of whether they meet the city's vision for how these funds should be allocated.

Alderman T. Sapienza stated thank you for that answer. Whether the department head is doing it or another employee, I assume whoever is doing it is busy already.

Mayor Craig stated to your point, Leon, if you need help with that then that is something that the elected body can help you with from a policy perspective if you need help with understanding how it fits within the city's strategy or objectives but when it comes to the selection, I think it is important that it remains under the purview of the city staff.

Alderman Long asked so Planning already does this. They advise the CIP Committee so elected officials are already involved. The Planning Department makes decisions on all the federal funds they get and then they advise CIP. The elected officials are already doing this. I don't see the harm.

Mayor Craig stated you are going to add two months to the process or a month and a half potentially because it has to go to the committee and then to the full Board. A lot of the applications that are coming in are trying to get things done…

Alderman Long interjected I am not asking for it to go to CIP. I am asking for somebody on CIP to be allowed to sit in on this process. I read the minutes with respect to the appropriations and how it was going to go. I know on the small business grants there is language that says we give Planning the ability to approve those. I didn't see that language on the CEAG grants. So the assumption is that because we said it on one it covers all of them? I don't have a handle on this.

Alderman Fajardo stated I am trying to understand your underlying concern.

Alderman Long responded I think the Planning Department can do this on their own. If they need more employees…we gave them 3% for administration of these funds but we could have given them up to 15%. That was the line of questioning through the appropriation process. We wanted to ensure that they were able to administer this by themselves and would have enough people. I see complications. Probably not so much with staff from these departments but from the department heads being involved. I don't think drawing them away from their work is a good idea for something like this. I get that they have expertise but it could always be done with a phone call like it is done with other funds they advise CIP on.

Alderman T. Sapienza asked do we have examples of people that were turned down and are angry.

Alderman Long asked do you want to wait for that.

Alderman T. Sapienza answered well I don't want to interfere if I don't need to.

Mayor Craig asked do you want to make a motion.

Alderman Long responded no.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked are we making available to the public what we are allowed to with respect to the collective bargaining process. In other words, those are matters that are no longer confidential. Are we putting them out for public consumption?

Matt Upton, City's Negotiator, responded currently we are still in the process of negotiating so there is nothing to release at this point.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked it is all confidential.

Mr. Upton answered correct.

Alderman E. Sapienza asked so impasse was never declared on any of them.

Mr. Upton replied we are in mediation at the present time. That is correct but by agreement we have agreed to continue the mediation with at least Fire at this stage.

Alderman E. Sapienza responded but if you are going to mediation that means that impasse must have been declared right otherwise you wouldn't be going to mediation.

Mr. Upton stated that is correct but the parties can agree to keep the matters confidential during mediation as well. It is quite customary.

Mayor Craig stated I just want to mention a couple of things. There is a Ward 9 neighborhood meeting tomorrow, April 20, at 6 PM at 575 Calef Road, which is the fire station. There are a number of Earth Day Community Clean-Ups for this Saturday, April 23 from 9 AM until 2 PM throughout the city. There will be additional community clean-ups on 4/23 at the South Manchester Rail Trail and Blodget Park and 4/30 at Stevens Pond and 5/7 at Nutt's Pond. The school district has registration going on currently online at www.mansd.org/registration. Individuals can also go into schools specifically – Bakersville on 5/7, Gossler Park on 5/5, Northwest on 5/3, Smyth Road on 5/20, Weston on 5/3 and Wilson on 4/22. An update on HB17. There was an amendment that was brought forward to HB1221 to provide a one-time payment by the state of 7.5% of required political subdivision employer contributions to the state retirement system for Group 1 teachers and Group 2 members on the city side which is police and fire. That would result in a one-time 7.5% payment for the next fiscal year rather than continuous year over year for the 7.5% share of contributions. Lastly, the Mark Stebbins Community Center community meetings. As you may recall, there is a group that wants to put a community center on the west side. They have put together a number of community meetings where they want to get feedback specifically from individuals in the City of Manchester on Saturday, April 23 from 10-11 AM at Kelly Falls Housing; Monday, April 25 from 3 PM to 4 PM at the Cashin Senior Center; and Wednesday, May 4 from 5 PM to 6 PM at Parkside Middle School.

*On motion of **Alderman T. Sapienza**, duly seconded by **Alderman Barry**, it was voted to recess the meeting pursuant to RSA 91-A:2, I(a) for strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining.*

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

A True Record. Attest.

Matthew Normand

City Clerk