

Town of Manchester

Board of Directors

RESOLUTION REGARDING TELEVISED BUDGET WORKSHOPS

Introduced By: Director Topping, Director Zingler, Director Sheridan, Director O' Neill

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors has a practice of conducting a series of meetings described as "budget workshops" in the month of April for the purpose of examining and discussing various aspects of the General Managers proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, with all the demands faced by Manchester's working families, it is difficult for people to set aside time to attend meetings to follow the activities of Town government, and therefore the public rarely attends these budget workshops and is generally unaware of what takes place at budget workshops; and

WHEREAS, information about the Town's budget and the processes by which that budget is created is vital to a complete understanding of the policy decisions that affect the lives and livelihoods of all residents of Manchester; and

WHEREAS, Silk City Television, Channel 16, Manchester's Government and Education Television Station, has the technology available to televise the Board of Directors budget workshops; and

WHEREAS, televising the Board of Directors budget workshops will open a convenient and easily accessible window for many residents on an important aspect of Manchester's town government, by allowing them to view budget workshops from their homes, in the same manner that many residents currently view monthly meetings of the Board of Education and Board of Directors; and

WHEREAS, televising the Board of Directors budget workshops will allow citizens to view the Board of Directors' decisions regarding the General Manager's proposed budget in their proper context; and

WHEREAS, televising the Board of Directors budget workshops will allow citizens to hold the government accountable, permitting citizens to see what is transpiring during those proceedings, rather than relying on second-hand reports.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Town staff should schedule and conduct Board of Directors budget workshops for the review of the General Manager's proposed Budget for FY 2008-2009 so that they can be televised, recorded and re-broadcast on Channel 16.