

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
TOWN COUNCIL
Ad hoc Committee on Regionalism
TUESDAY, January 26, 2010
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Conference Room B
6:00 pm**

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members present: G. Haddad, M. Hart, M. Lindsey

2. Approval of September 28, 2009 Minutes

By consensus, the committee approved the minutes from September 28, 2009.

3. Updates

Mr. Hart provided an update regarding the following initiatives:

- a. *WINCOG Regional Economic Development Plan* – the consulting firm of AKRF is nearing completion of the plan. The Windham Region Council of Governments (WINCOG) board of directors will discuss the implementation of the plan in the context of next year's operating budget.
- b. *Probate Court Consolidation* – the Coventry/Mansfield and Tolland/Willington courts must consolidate by January 1, 2011. By March 31, 2010, the four member towns must choose a name for the new consolidated court and are encouraged to choose a location by that date as well. Mr. Hart is working on these issues in collaboration with his fellow CEO's and the two existing probate judges.
- c. *Ad hoc Regionalization Study Committee* – this ad hoc committee comprised of representatives from the three Region 19 towns is looking at additional opportunities for regionalization within the preK-8 system. Mr. Hart reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by Ms. Trahan, Mansfield Director of Finance and Region 19 School Business Manager, analyzing and comparing the staffing costs for each of the three member towns.
- d. *Governor's Council for Local Public Health Regionalization* – Mr. Hart served as a member of this committee, which has recently presented its report detailing a number of recommendation to promote the efficient and effective delivery of public health services, to Governor Rell.

4. Police Services Study

Mr. Hart reported that a number of consulting firms had responded to the town's request for qualifications (RFQ) to conduct an evaluation of present and future police services in Mansfield. The committee members agreed to meet some time over the next month or so to review the responses and to determine which firms they may wish to interview. At Mr. Hart's recommendation, the committee endorsed the proposal to include Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager, and Dave Dagon, Fire Chief in the selection process.

5. Other Opportunities for Regional and Shared Services

Mr. Hart reported that he and Maria Capriola had met informally with colleagues in Columbia, Coventry, Tolland and Windham to continue to discuss opportunities for shared services. The group decided to collect various data regarding purchasing to see if there are opportunities to capture an additional economy of scale beyond what may be achieved by using one of the existing purchasing coalitions (e.g. State Department of Administrative Services; Capitol Region Council of Governments). Mr. Hart will keep the committee informed of the group's progress.

Mr. Hart also informed the committee that he had agreed to serve on the Town Functions Subcommittee of the Speaker's Blue Ribbon Commission on Municipal State Grants and Mandate Relief, as a representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and the Connecticut Council of Small Towns. The Town Functions subcommittee is currently discussing opportunities, challenges and other issues related to the provision of local government services on a shared or regional basis.

6. Adjournment

The members adjourned the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew W. Hart
Town Manager