



THE MANSFIELD MINUTE

BUDGET EDITION ~ MAY 2015

www.mansfieldct.gov

General Fund Budget Summary Town Council Adopted Budget, As Proposed for FY 15/16

	FY 14/15	Proposed FY 15/16	\$ Change	% Change
Town Operations	\$16,013,990	\$16,505,970	\$ 491,980	3.1%
Mansfield Board of Education	<u>\$21,193,884</u>	<u>\$22,047,750</u>	<u>\$ 853,866</u>	<u>4.0%</u>
<i>Town/MBOE Budget Subtotal</i>	<i>\$37,207,874</i>	<i>\$ 38,553,720</i>	<i>\$ 1,345,846</i>	<i>3.6%</i>
Regional School District #19	\$10,045,920	\$ 10,188,150	\$ 142,230	1.4%
GRAND TOTAL	\$47,253,794	\$48,741,870	\$1,488,076	3.1%

Town of Mansfield Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration

Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 7 PM
Mansfield Middle School
Auditorium

- Please arrive early to check in.
- Please bring a form of identification to verify your eligibility to vote.

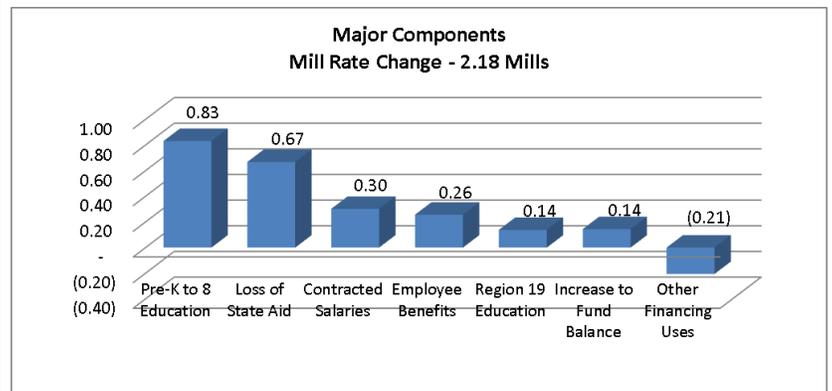
Participation is encouraged!

Mansfield voters can comment on the budget and make a motion to raise or lower a program in the budget. Come make your voice heard and vote on your Town Budget. The Town Council's adopted budget can be found at www.mansfieldct.gov.

Who may vote at the Town Meeting?

Any person who is registered to vote and any citizen of the United States over the age of 18 who owns property (motor vehicle or land) in Mansfield valued at \$1,000 or more. Citizens may register to vote by contacting the Registrars of Voters, Andrea Epling and Bev Miela at 860-429-3368.

The Town Council voted at its April 28th meeting to adopt a General Fund budget of \$48,741,870 (including the Region 19 contribution of \$10,188,150), a Capital Fund budget of \$2,438,900, and a Capital Nonrecurring Fund budget of \$2,200,470. If state revenue holds as projected with a loss of \$806,516 for the General Fund, a tax rate increase of 2.18 mills would be necessary to support Council's adopted budget and the mill rate would increase to 30.13 mills. This follows two consecutive years at the same mill rate. With the most recent revaluation, the value of the median single family home has decreased from \$169,900 to \$156,000. Yet with strong growth in the value of commercial properties, *estimated taxes for the median single family home would decrease by 1.0 percent or \$49 per year*. The Town Council's adopted budget will be presented to voters at the annual Town Meeting on May 12, 2015.





How do I vote on the budget at Town Meeting?

Electors have the ability to vote to accept, increase or decrease program expenditures. General Fund programs are defined as cost centers within functions of government, such as Mansfield Board of Education, Library, Road Services, Senior Services etc. Capital Fund programs are defined by the major functions of government: General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Community Development, Facilities Management and Community Services. Capital & Nonrecurring Fund programs are defined by the recipient of the fund transfer, such as the capital fund. Mansfield utilizes program based budgeting so that programs are clearly presented in the materials for Town Meeting.

Town Hall Hours:

Monday	8:15-4:30
Tuesday	8:15-4:30
Wednesday	8:15-4:30
Thursday	8:15-6:30
Friday	8—12

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

Mansfield offers some property tax abatement programs. Taxpayers who may be eligible for property tax relief include veterans, seniors, disabled persons and farm owners. Information about tax abatement programs in Mansfield, including eligibility requirements, can be obtained by contacting our Assessor's Office at 860-429-3311, our Human Services Department at 860-429-3315 or on the web at www.mansfieldct.gov

FY 15/16 Budget Highlights

Revenues:

- The Storrs Center development is generating tax revenue. The net gain to the General Fund is \$1,103,380 after the abatement and expenses.
- Decrease in total intergovernmental revenue of \$838,879. Since 2007 intergovernmental revenue has decreased from 43% to 36.2% of General Fund revenue in 2015/16.
- PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) payment from the state accounts for \$373,347 of the intergovernmental revenue decrease. PILOT revenue has decreased from 20% of overall General Fund revenue in 2006 to 14.9% in 2015/16.
- Grand list decreases by 0.85% to \$1,027,424,592.

Expenditures:

- \$310,430 increase in town contracted salaries and proposed staffing.
- \$263,795 increase in town benefits, primarily health insurance.
- \$60,460 increase for Resident State Troopers program.
- \$853,866 increase to MBOE budget.
- \$142,230 increase in Mansfield's share of Region 19 budget.

Questions?

Visit the town's budget [page](#) or visit the school's budget [page](#).

You can email the Town Council at TownCouncil@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Town Council

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor
 Paul M. Shapiro, Deputy Mayor
 Stephen Kegler
 Peter Kochenburger
 Alexander Marcellino
 Antonia Moran
 Virginia Raymond
 William Ryan
 Elizabeth Wassmundt
 Matthew Hart, Town Manager

Email the School Board at MBOE_BOE@mansfieldct.org.

Mansfield Board of Education

Randall Walikonis, Chair
 Jay Rueckl, Vice Chair
 Susannah Everett
 Martha Kelly
 John Fratiello
 Sarah Lacombe
 Katherine Paulhus
 Carrie Silver-Bernstein
 Kathleen Ward
 Richard Kisiel, Interim Superintendent

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?

Here is what a person who owns a median valued single family home will pay:

- Education \$3,098
- Town-wide, Capital Contribution, Debt Service, Fund Balance Reserve \$585
- Public Safety Operations \$348
- Government Operations (including energy & building maintenance) \$240
- Community Services & Development Operations \$215
- Public Works Operations \$214
- **TOTAL \$4,700**



Capital Fund

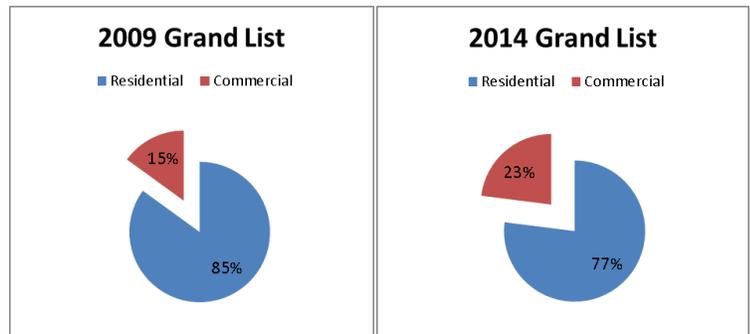
The Capital Fund includes \$200,000 for repairs to school facilities and an additional \$200,000 for educational technology needs. Other major capital projects include: replacement of the fueling station; transportation projects such as roads, bridges and walkways; replacement of the cement floor at Fire Station 107, and an upgrade to the Library fire panel.

The Capital and Nonrecurring (CNR) Fund is used to transfer revenues between funds. The CNR Fund is primarily used for capital and one-time expenditures. The planned uses for the CNR Fund are: capital needs (Capital Fund); and technology needs (Management Services Fund)

Capital Fund	
Planned Expenditures	
Public Works Projects	\$1,076,000
Facilities (Town & schools) Projects	\$ 616,700
Community Development	\$ 231,600
Education Technology	\$ 200,000
Public Safety	\$ 130,000
Community Services Projects	\$ 88,500
General Government Projects	\$ <u>96,100</u>
TOTAL	\$2,438,900

Storrs Center: Positive Impact On Grand List

With the October 1, 2014 revaluation, the preliminary grand list has decreased by \$8,827,788 or 0.85 percent. As in many communities, the value of residential properties in Mansfield has decreased, by 8.7% in our case, with the most recent revaluation. Fortunately, due primarily to growth in Storrs Center the value of commercial properties has increased by 22.26%. From 2013 to 2014, the assessment for Storrs Center alone increased by 75 percent, from \$44.6 million to \$78.1 million. With the 2009 revaluation the split between residential and commercial properties was 85 percent and 15 percent, respectively. For the 2014 revaluation, the split is now 77 percent residential and 23 percent commercial, a much healthier mix for our community. This shift in reliance from residential to commercial properties will relieve the tax burden for most homeowners in Mansfield.



General Assembly's Affect On Budget

Why are state revenues to Mansfield in flux? State aid is scheduled to decrease by \$838,879 for FY 2015/16. Since the State Owned PILOT is subject to proportionate reduction, each municipality's share of the appropriation becomes dependent on changes in the assessment and taxation of eligible exempt property in relation to changes in the other eligible municipalities. Based on the changes in assessed values and mill rates in the other 168 municipalities, Mansfield's estimated percentage share of the appropriation for FY 2015/16 went from 9.33% in FY 15 to 8.94% for FY 16. The General Assembly is expected to vote on the budget in mid May. State aid will impact the mill rate necessary to support the Council's adopted budget; if state aid to Mansfield increases a lower mill rate will be needed but if state aid decreases a higher mill rate will be needed.

Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration, Tuesday, May 12, 2015, 7 PM, Mansfield Middle School

INSERT NAME AND ADDRESS OF RECIPIENT

Town of Mansfield
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268



Sign Up Now!

Make sure you register for
Mansfield's Emergency Notification System.
Emergency Alerts ~ Road Closures
Weather Watches ~ and other local info!

CodeRED is the backbone of the Town's
emergency planning and communications
outreach, sending telephone calls, text messages,
emails and social media in an effort to effectively
inform residents to protect life and property.

Visit www.mansfieldct.gov and click on the
CodeRED logo to learn more.



Important Budget Dates

**Regional District 19
Annual Meeting on Budget**
Monday, May 4, 7 PM
E.O. Smith High School
Media Center

Regional District 19 Budget Referendum
Tuesday, May 5

The voting hours will be from 6 AM to 8 PM
All voting will take place in Council Chamber
at Mansfield Town Hall.

**Annual Town Meeting for
Budget Consideration**

Tuesday, May 12, 7 PM
Mansfield Middle School Auditorium



EVERY HERO HAS A STORY

Mansfield Library Summer Reading Begins June 19

Kids, teens & adults are invited to sign up for a summer of great reading & fun incentives.

We'll be kicking off with a Superhero Family Party on June 19 at 6 PM. Join us all summer — come to a Garden Party, learn about beekeeping, dance and sing with Turtle Dance Music, try some high energy hula hooping, visit with a llama, be amazed by Storyfaces, learn the story and science of ice cream making with Carolyn Stearns... and don't miss our annual Ice Cream Social on August 13!

Details about all our programs will be available in forthcoming Library newsletters as well as on our online calendar. Be sure to contact us if you want to sign up for email alerts about our programs.

See you at the Library!



CELEBRATE MANSFIELD FESTIVAL

Sunday, September 20, 2015
Noon to 4.00 PM

Learn how **YOU** can be part of the biggest community event in town by visiting downtownstorrsvfestival.org, or by contacting the **Mansfield Downtown Partnership** 860.429.2740 or mdp@mansfieldct.org



STORRS FARMERS MARKET

Saturdays, 3.00 - 6.00 PM
May - November
On the front lawn of the Town Hall
storrsvfarmersmarket.org



Public Works Update

Winter is finally over! We would like to thank Brian LaVoie and our Public Works crews for their efforts maintaining our roads and facilities throughout this snow-heavy winter. Moving ahead to spring, we are looking forward to the addition of the stage roof to the Town Square. Here are some of our current and upcoming projects:

[Town Square additions](#)
[Four Corners Sanitary Sewer](#)
Storrs Road Streetscape
Sign Replacement Program
Pavement Management Study



Need to communicate an issue or problem?

For projects call Engineering: 860.429.3331

See a pothole, road or tree issue?

Call the Town Garage: 860.429.3676

For [Trash and Recycling](#) issues call 860.429.3333

Want to register a complaint or praise a Public Works crew? Check out the Citizen Request System:

<http://www.mansfieldct.gov/content/1938/4328/4867.aspx>



Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony

Monday, May 25, 9 AM.

We are honored to invite our veterans and active duty personnel to join us on Bassetts Bridge Road at 8:30 AM to march at the head of the parade.

The parade will travel from the intersection of Route 195 and Bassetts Bridge Road in Mansfield Center down Cemetery Road to the ceremony site at the new Mansfield Center Cemetery.

In the event of inclement weather, a short ceremony will be held in the Mansfield Middle School Gym.

Call 860-429-3336 for more information.

On Memorial Day we pay our respect to those who died protecting and preserving the freedoms we enjoy. Please join us in honoring our fallen.

Senior Center Memorial Day Luncheon

Wednesday, May 27 at Noon.

Uniforms are encouraged!

BBQ chicken meal, \$5.

To register, call 860-487-9870 by May 20.

Beautiful Mansfield

Mansfield residents are fortunate to have access to over 5,000 acres of natural parks and preserves with significant regional and local trail systems. The 37 mile Nipmuck Trail begins at two trailheads in southern Mansfield and ends at Nipmuck State Forest in Union. Approximately 17 miles of this trail are located in Mansfield.

In addition to the Nipmuck Trail, there are over 30 miles of recreational trails on lands owned by the Town of Mansfield, Joshua's Trust, and UConn.

[Access](#) Mansfield's Town Trails online or use your smart phone to scan this QR code:



Mansfield Community Playground



Thanks to generous contributions from the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation, the Town of Mansfield, local businesses and community members, the playground is completely funded and will be built this fall. In order to offset the contribution from the Town, however, fundraising efforts are still underway.

You can help...here's how!

You can purchase a picket that will be included in the playground, sponsor a playground component, make a general donation or attend a fundraising event. Coming up on July 18 is the **3rd Annual Run for the Playground** put on by the Willimantic Athletic Club. There will also be kids' races and post-race fun.

For more information on these ways to contribute, go to www.mansfieldcommunityplayground.org or contact Maggie Ferron, Playground General Coordinator at: maggie@mansfieldcommunityplayground.org

Summer is coming...

help send a child to camp!



Donate to the Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund

Many parents in town have to make choices between paying for basic needs with limited funds and providing a summer experience for their children. Through generous donations from the community, the *Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund* enables local children, regardless of their economic status, to go to camp.

Your donation makes a difference!

If you would like to help send a kid to camp, please donate to this wonderful program. All contributions are fully tax deductible. Make your checks out to the "Town of Mansfield/ B.H.M.C.F." and mail them to:

The Betsy Hamill Memorial Campership Fund
c/o The Mansfield Human Services Department
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268-2599