

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: February 25, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Ad hoc Committee for Responsible Contracting* – The Council's Ad hoc Committee for Responsible Contracting met on February 15 and February 25, 2013. We had Bruce Benway, the Town Manager of Killingly, Connecticut, as the guest speaker on the 15th and representatives from the CT Department of Labor at our meeting on the 25th.
- *Mansfield Hollow Hydro Project* – The Town has spent \$9,622.00 to date for legal services associated with the Mansfield Hollow Hydro project. We have charged these services against the energy conservation account in the management services fund. Our longer serving Councilors will recall a presentation that the owners of Mansfield Hollow Hydro made to the Council in October 2011; at that time, the Council indicated its enthusiasm for the project as well as the need for professional legal assistance to protect the interests of the Town.
- *Region 19 Budget* – The Region 19 Superintendent's budget for 2013/14 is now available [online](#).
- *Storrs Center Tax Revenues* – Per the request of the Council, staff reports that Storrs Center real estate property taxes to date total \$204,406. There is no abatement on this amount. After covering operating costs, the net property taxes are \$133,610. Based on the October 1, 2012 grand list, real estate property taxes (based on the current mill rate) will be \$769,000 for FY 2013/14. After the abatement of \$321,000, net tax revenue would total \$448,000, more than enough to cover projected operating expenses for the next fiscal year.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Mansfield Tomorrow* – A [Community Visioning Workshop](#) is scheduled for Saturday, March 9, 2013 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the E.O. Smith High School Cafeteria. During this interactive workshop, participants will discuss their vision for Mansfield with the goal of identifying the elements for a 20-year vision for the Town that builds on our current Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) and the Town's strategic plan, Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision. Discussions will also focus on the planned development areas identified in the POCD to guide the physical planning for these areas in terms of types of development, uses, housing types, densities, connections, open space and similar issues. The workshop will be followed by an open house from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM for those who could not attend the morning session or who are interested in having a more informal discussion with members of the planning team regarding their ideas and concerns. There will also be individual opportunities as part of the open house to provide input on visioning and on the planned development areas. Families are welcome and refreshments will be provided. We encourage all those who are interested to attend and to help shape the future of Mansfield.
- *Storrs Center Construction Update* – Construction continues on Phase 1B with the opening planned for August. Work on Wilbur Cross Way continues with the eastern portion of the road expected to be open for traffic in June. The Town has selected W.J. Mountford Co. from South Windsor to construct the Nash-Zimmer Transportation Center and work on this project is set to begin in March 2013. Also in March we expect to select a design consultant for the town square. Questions may be directed to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (storrscenterinfo@mansfieldct.org or 860.429.2740). The Partnership continues to maintain a construction website for updates at <http://storrscenterconstruction.blogspot.com>.

Departmental Reports

- *Human Services, Volunteer Transportation Program* – I am pleased to announce that the Town recently received delivery of the 10 passenger, lift-equipped van that we purchased with the assistance from a grant through the Connecticut Department of Transportation (ConnDOT). The van is dedicated for use by seniors (age 60+) and residents with disabilities, and will be used for group transport to a variety of locations. This week staff started a bi-weekly trip for residents of Juniper Hill wishing to use the Mobile Food Share program. We have planned a trip next week from the Senior Center to the Wood Memorial Library in South Windsor to view the life and work of “George Henry Storey: The Man Who Painted Lincoln.” Staff also plans to pilot fixed route transportation from senior housing complexes and developments to the Mansfield Public Library and other locations around town. Staff is excited about the enhancements that the van should make to our transportation program and we will schedule future trips based on interest and driver availability. Staff is actively recruiting additional volunteer drivers.

Special Events and Activities

- *New England Hydro Project* – I would like to remind everyone that the Willimantic River Alliance, Inc. and the Town of Mansfield are co-hosting a [public information session](#) on a proposed hydroelectric facility at the Eagleville Dam. Representatives from New England Hydropower will attend to explain their proposal and answer questions. The information session will be held at the Eagleville Firehouse on Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 5:00 PM; a short field visit will take place at the Eagleville Dam at 4:30 PM. For more information about this proposed project, visit the Town’s website at www.MansfieldCT.gov.
- *John Jackman Retirement Reception* – I would like to remind everyone that RSVP’s for retiring Fire Marshal John Jackman’s retirement reception are due by March 8, 2013. The reception will be held on Monday, March 18, 2013 from 4:30 PM– 6:00 PM at the UConn Alumni Center. There will be speakers and presentations, and light refreshments will be served. Tickets are \$25 per person; please RSVP to Jennifer in the Fire Marshal’s Office at 860-429-3328.

Future Agendas

- Future agenda items include an update concerning future phases of Storrs Center and a review of the charge to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, Tuesday, February 26, 2013, 6:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland Wetland Agency/Planning & Zoning Commission, Monday, March 4, 2013, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer and Water Advisory Committee, Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, Tuesday, March 5, 2013, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, Wednesday, March 6, 2013, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, Thursday, March 7, 2013, 4:00 PM, Mansfield Public Library, Buchanan Center
- Committee on Committees, Friday, March 8, 2013, 8:00 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, Monday, March 11, 2013, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, Monday, March 11, 2013, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Town Council, Monday, March 11, 2013, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*

Storrs Center Tax Revenues
FY 2012/13

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Estimated</u>
Estimated Storrs Center Tax Revenue	\$ 488,000	\$ 204,400
Less: Tax Abatement	(321,000)	-
Net Taxes	<u>167,000</u>	<u>204,400</u>
Less: Marginal Operating Costs		
(1) Part-time Firefighter	\$ 30,000	
(1) Groundskeeper - one-half year	25,500	
Additional Groundskeeping Overtime	3,000	
(1) Temp. Laborer and Additional Overtime	<u>12,290</u>	<u>70,790</u>
	70,790	70,790
Balance - Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund	<u>\$ 96,210</u>	<u>\$ 133,610</u>