

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
APRIL 3, 2006

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:35 p.m. in the Community Room of the Mansfield Community Center.

I. ROLL CALL

- Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding, Schaefer

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

III. NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Schaefer noted that on page 36 the increase in library hours should be for Wednesday not Sunday as stated.

- 1. Public Works

Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works and William Hammon, Director of Maintenance answered questions on their budgets. (Pg. 115)
In response to questions Mr. Hultgren addressed issues including the reclassification of two workers as drivers, the Birch Road/Hunting Lodge roundabout, Community Center parking, sewer leaks and snow plowing. Mr. Hammon explained the methodology used in the satisfaction survey of teachers regarding the custodial staff noting that he plans to redo the survey using a point value system.

Mr. Clouette suggested that staff look into the possibility of the housing inspector sampling large complexes as opposed to examining each individual unit. The idea being that this might reduce the amount of staff work and be less expensive for the owner.

Ms. Koehn requested that the concept of determining energy conservation by measurement of therms be included in the highlights. (Pg 134)

2. Marty Berliner, the Town Manager, raised a number of issues for Council consideration.

He noted that the latest information from the Appropriations Committee shows an increase in Mansfield's share. And although the process has a long way to go the town should be encouraged.

The Manager distributed a letter from the Ashford's First Selectman asking towns to consider regionalizing all of our K-12 schools. Mr. Berliner suggested that this issue might be raised at the Council's meeting with the Board of Education.

Based on previous discussions in the Council, the Manager suggested the

possibility of discussions with the Housing Authority to see if there are ways that the Council could support their efforts.

The Manager also reported on the alleged animal abuse case in town commenting that at the moment the town is shouldering a lot of the expenses and though we will probably recoup most of the money we are currently expending money.

3. Solid Waste

Lon Hultgren discussed the relationship between the Willimantic Water Works and the Town.

4. Capital Projects

Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, enumerated a couple of expenditures not included in the budget: the Siemens Project, an energy improvement project, which is underway and the Willimantic Sewer Project our share of which is currently being negotiated.

The Town Manager mentioned a number of issues that although not in the budget have been under discussion. He has been in conversation with Mr. Callahan regarding the property adjacent to the Community Center and has received favorable comments from him. The Town and the University have been discussing the ownership of Post Office Road and the necessary improvements to it. The Town and the University have also been in conversations about a possible joint sewer and water agreement. A study on this subject is possible within the next few months.

Ms. Koehn requested a detailed estimate showing the increase in the Community Center bonding proposal.

Mr. Hawkins identified a number of items in the 5 Year Capital Improvement Program that should be flagged for further consideration. These include: the replacement boat, the epoxy floors, the tripod rescue kit, the purchase of Car 7 and the replacement of Forestry 117.

Ms. Koehn requested a total of the amount in all budgets that is proposed for technology in the school system.

The Town Manager noted that although it is only the first year of the Capital Project Fund that is adopted the staff will revise the out year request and represent it to the Council.

5. Capital Nonrecurring Fund

6. Town Aid

Matt Hart, Assistant Town Manager, questioned whether or not the April 12th meeting, which is the first day of Passover, should be rescheduled to April 19th. It was agreed that it should and that the meeting would start at 7:30 p.m.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

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The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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