

MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
February 28, 2009

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 9:00 am. in Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building

I. CALL TO ORDER

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paulhus, Schaefer
Excused: Duffy, Paterson

Town Manager Matt Hart welcomed Council members to the work session stating that the purpose of the session was to provide a financial overview of the Town in preparation for the upcoming budget deliberations.

II. REVENUES

The Town Manager's budget is based on the numbers provided in the Governor's budget, which are subject to change. The legislature may not approve a budget until the summer or even the fall. Comptroller Cherie Trahan reviewed the projected revenues noting that she has used a conservative approach to expected revenues.

III. GENERAL FUND "WORKING BUDGET

Town Manager Matt Hart provided budget summaries for three possible scenarios showing the estimated mill rate and the amount of cuts necessary to attain each of them. The Town Manager's budget will be presented on March 23rd.

IV. CNR/CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM/DEBT SERVICE

Recent substantial reductions in the Pequot/Mohegan Funds require the Town to find additional viable ways to support the funding necessary for these uses. Comptroller Cherie Trahan reviewed both the expected revenues and expenses of the Capital and Nonrecurring Reserve Fund Budget.

V. POLICY ISSUES

1. Regionalization

Council members discussed the pros and cons of regionalization and agreed on the following: the Town should look for opportunities for regionalization with other towns who have similar expectations; in any area of regionalization accountability, transparency and public participation are of the utmost importance; and the areas of economic development, police, animal control, accounting and information technology may be good places to start. Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad will keep the Council updated on any legislation, regarding regionalization, under consideration by the state legislature.

2. Sustainability

Finance Director Jeff Smith updated the Council on the efforts undertaken by the

Town to conserve energy use and minimize our carbon footprint. Mr. Smith will report back to the Council regarding the energy project at the Middle School as soon as the options are available.

3. Balancing the Budget

Town Manager Matt Hart requested Council members review the article by Roger Kemp, Managing Government in Hard Times: Prudent Options to Balance Public Budgets, which describes some ways to approach the budget. The Manager will provide service impact statements with his budget.

4. Other

Communication

Council members agreed that communication is also an important policy issue. Staff will investigate what services and or opportunities Charter is mandated to provide and will look at possible regional opportunities to provide better production equipment.

VI. SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

The distributed material was provided to give Council members a demographic and financial picture of Mansfield.

The Council agreed by consensus to recess and to go into executive session to discuss Strategy or Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining as provided for in CGS§1-200(2).

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paulhus, Schaefer
Also Included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola, Director of Finance Jeff Smith and Comptroller/Treasurer Cherie Trahan.
Issue: Strategy or Negotiations with Respect to Collective Bargaining

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously.

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk