



**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, April 26, 2010
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
AUDREY P. BECK MUNICIPAL BUILDING
7:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

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OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

FUTURE AGENDAS

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 5, 2010

DRAFT

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in Buchanan Auditorium at the Mansfield Public Library.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane (7:05 p.m.), Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to move Item 6, Other, as the next item of business and to recognize members of the Library Advisory Board. Motion passed unanimously.

Chair of the Library Advisory Committee Sheila Clark asked the Council to consider returning to the past practice in Mansfield and the current practice of other towns in Connecticut of allowing the Library Director discretion in determining the best way to incorporate budgetary cuts. Council members discussed the action of the previous Council during the last budget cycle and the role of setting policy for the library.

Flag – Library Director to update and resubmit her ideas on the best way to make the required budget reductions.

Flag - Library Director to compare the circulation experience of last year with those of previous times in the past when library hours were cut.

II. OPERATING TRANSFERS TO OTHER FUNDS

Director of Finance Cherie Trahan explained the purpose of this program is to show the General Fund contribution to other Town funds. These funds often have significant revenue sources and are dedicated for a specific activity, i.e. Parks and Recreation, Downtown Partnership, debt service, etc.

Flag – The Director of Finance will distribute information showing when the school debt, if issued, would affect the budget.

III. INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS

Staff reviewed the status of the health insurance fund, worker's compensation fund, and management services fund.

Flag - Assistant to the Town Manager will provide the percentage of employees who take advantage of the wellness program.

IV. OTHER AGENCIES/FUNDS

Staff reviewed the status of the daycare fund, the health district fund and cemetery/long term investment pool.

V. OTHER

See above

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:28 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 8, 2010

DRAFT

Deputy Mayor Gregory Haddad called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Mayor Paterson (7:20 p.m.), Schaefer

Excused: Keane, Paulhus, Ryan

II. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Town Manager Matthew Hart introduced the Capital Improvement Program to the Council calling it a crucial component of the budget. Mr. Hart and staff members reviewed the various proposed capital improvement programs. Gene Nesbitt, Chair of the Four Corners Water and Sewer Advisory Committee, updated the Council on the progress and plan options of the sewer and water project and explained that the money included in the CIP budget would bring the project to a shovel ready status. Members decided that Mr. Nesbitt and Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren would meet with the Finance Committee after the budget process.

III. CAPITAL NONRECURRING FUND

The Town Manager and Director of Finance reviewed the highlights of the Capital Nonrecurring Fund noting that this will be a separate budget presented to the Town Meeting.

IV. SOLID WASTE FUND AND TOWN AID ROAD FUND

Staff outlined the proposed budget noting the Town Aid Road Fund is a State grant to the Town.

V. SEWER FUNDS

Flag – Waste Disposal work measurements on page 211 will be updated and a corrected page 214 will be distributed.

VI. OTHER

Flag - Town Manager Matt Hart informed the Council that the funds allocated for Safe Havens will need to be redistributed as the program is no longer operating.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Lindsey moved and Ms. Moran seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 12, 2010
DRAFT

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2010 regular meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Schaefer who abstained. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2010 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Lindsey and Mr. Schaefer who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the March 31, 2010 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Keane who abstained.

III. PUBLIC HEARING FY 2010/11 PROPOSED BUDGET

Mayor Paterson called the public hearing to order and read the call of the meeting.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, expressed concern with petty spending and questioned credit card spending. (Statement attached)

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, asked the Council to consider five points of concern. (Statement attached)

Harry Birkenruth, Ball Hill Road, expressed his support for the Council's spending and commitment to the Downtown Partnership. (Statement attached)

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked the Council to reduce the budget by \$900,000.

Howard Raphaelson, Timber Drive, spoke in support of the budget and the Town. (Statement attached)

Kristen Schwab, Willowbrook Road, commented that the Town needs to be positioned to meet the challenges of the future and one of the ways to accomplish this is continued support for the Downtown Partnership.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, urged the Council to control the little expenses noting that the Council represents the people of Mansfield. He stated the Council rules the employees and the citizens rule the Council.

Carol Pellegrine, Clover Mill Road, congratulated the Town Manager and the Council in their efforts to keep the budget steady. She urged the Council to prioritize the upcoming projects and considers the Four Corners Project to be the most urgent.

Steve Bacon, Wormwood Hill Road, expressed his support of the budget, commenting the Council has done well to craft a balanced budget given the constraints that exist and should be commended for looking at the revenue side of the budget. He urged the Council to continue to support the Downtown Partnership and, as a more long term project, the Four Corners Project.

The public hearing was closed at 8:15 p.m.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, expressed his concern and disappointment regarding the editing of the March 22nd Town Council meeting. He questioned whether it was a coincidence that his comments were not broadcasted.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, commented on his concerns regarding the parking garage.

Mike Sikoski, Wildwood Road, asked that the Downtown Project be put to a vote and questioned why an ambulance was parked outside the door at Walgreens last week.

Elizabeth Kane, Storrs Road, stated that she was proud of the services the Town offers and urged the Council to prioritize its projects. She counseled the Council not to repeat the redevelopment mistakes of New London.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, stated that she is not opposed to the Downtown Project and asked the Council to make prudent decisions. Ms. Wassmundt noted that at the last Community Quality of Life Committee meeting it was stated that there are about 25 problem rentals in Town.

By consensus the Council agreed to move Item 5, Recognition of Girls 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Teams, as the next item on the agenda.

V. REPORT OF TOWN MANAGER

Report attached.

Town Manager Matthew Hart announced that after a careful review of the facilities and options the Probate Court will be housed in Tolland. Mr. Hart reported that he would like to discuss citizen/staff relations at an upcoming Council meeting, as recent actions are starting to negatively affect front line employees. The Town Manager distributed a communication from Fire chief Dave Dagon regarding food purchasing using Town issued credit cards. (Communication attached)

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mr. Ryan reported the Open Space Preservation Committee has asked the Finance Committee to consider adding one million dollars for open space to the budget and as a referenda question in the fall. This item will be added to the April 15th agenda.

Mayor Paterson noted that a local group, Bill Keane and the Misdemeanor Outlaws, will be appearing at the Main Street Café this Saturday night at 10:00 p.m.

After reviewing the agreement with the Town Attorney, Mr. Kochenburger commented that the agreement is a flat fee agreement which means that standard advice and counsel is not billed back to the Town. The only additional charge would be in the event of a trial or arbitration. Mr. Kochenburger noted the agreement saves money and allows employees to talk to the Town Attorney without worrying about incurring fees.

Mr. Ryan stated that he and the Director of Finance reviewed an email from a citizen which reported exorbitant appraisal costs. Director of Finance Cherie Trahan will present a report but the initial review shows that the Town's cost is less than that of Tolland and about the same as Coventry's.

Ms. Moran noted that contrary to a statement made during public comment, the Community Quality of Life Committee was aware of the number of problem rental residences in Town.

Mr. Haddad stated that comments made earlier by a citizen regarding employees expecting a 3.5% raise failed to take into consideration that last year Town employees generously agreed not to receive any increase in pay.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Community/Campus Relations

Mayor Paterson reported that deputy Chief Chip Jordan recently met with UConn nursing students and over 90 students have agreed to volunteer on Spring Weekend.

Town Manager Matt Hart reviewed a number of steps that will be taken, including parking restrictions and additional DWI spot checks, to enhance law enforcement efforts during Spring Weekend. Mr. Hart also announced this year there will be a unified command post at the UConn police department which will include all primary agencies.

2. Community Water and Wastewater Issues

No Report

VII. NEW BUSINESS

3. Presentation: Design Improvements for the Town of Mansfield Website

Director of Information Technology Jamie Russell presented a preview of the Town's soon to be introduced website. A working copy of the site is available on line. The new site has been designed to be easy to use and appealing, and is an important way to communicate with residents.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to add pending claims (C.G.S § 1-200(6) (b) and personnel (C.G.S § 1-200(6) (a) to the executive session. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Proclamation Commemorating Earth Day 2010

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective April 12, 2010, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached Proclamation Commemorating Earth Day 2010. (Proclamation attached)
Motion passed unanimously

5. Recognition of Girls 7th and 8th Grade Basketball Teams

Mayor Paterson welcomed the members of the Mansfield Middle School and Mansfield Parks and Recreation Department Girls 7th and 8th grade basketball teams congratulating them on their 2009/10 seasons.

Jay O'Keefe, Assistant Director of Parks and Recreation, reported not only did the girls have a combined record of 36 wins and no losses; they were also excellent representatives of the community through their hard work, dedication and positive displays of sportsmanship.

Mayor Paterson presented certificates to the team members and to their coach Betsy Parker, who has given countless volunteer hours to the program.

6. Proposed Resolution: Northeastern Connecticut Economic Partnership

Ms. Moran moved that the Town Council endorsed the attached resolution regarding the Northeastern Connecticut Economic Partnership. (Resolution attached)
Motion passed unanimously.

7. Fee Schedule for the Riverside Burying Ground

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms Lindsey seconded, effective April 12, 2010, to approve fees for the cremation burial and scattering area adjacent to the Riverside Burying Ground on Gurleyville Road. The fee for a cremation burial shall be \$300 and the fee for a scattering authorization shall be \$175.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. Historic Documents Preservation Grant

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved: That Matthew W. Hart, Mansfield Town Manager, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of this municipality a contract

with a the Connecticut State Library for a Historic Documents Preservation Grant.

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to recess as the Mansfield Town Council and convene as the Water Pollution Control Authority.

Motion passed unanimously.

9. WPCA. FY 2009/10 Windham Sewer Budget

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane seconded, effective April 12, 2010, to adopt the FY 2009/10 Windham Sewer Budget as prepared by town staff and endorsed by the Finance Committee

Motion passed unanimously.

10. WPCA, FY 2009/10 UConn Sewer Budget

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded, effective April 12, 2010, to adopt the FY 2009/10 UConn Sewer Budget as prepared by town staff and endorsed by the Finance Committee.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn as the Windham Pollution Control Authority and reconvene as the Town Council.

Motion passed unanimously.

VIII. QUARTERLY REPORTS

No comments

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Ms. Moran reported the Community Quality of Life Committee has reviewed the proposed changes to the Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property and members were pleased with the results. Ms. Moran commented that changes to the definition of family will be presented to the Planning and Zoning Commission as a regulation change allowing existing rental properties to be grandfathered into the regulations. The idea of a student registry has been tabled by the Committee

Ms. Moran offered the following recommendations for appointments as approved by the Committee on Committees:

Darren Cook to the Recreation Advisory Committee
Dennis Roberts to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Committee on Committees, reported that the Committee, after a lengthy review, has agreed not to recommend any changes to the existing policy regarding advisory committees' communications with outside agencies.

Mr. Haddad, Chair of the Personnel Committee, stated the Committee continues to work on the Ethics Ordinance and will present the draft to the Council for their review.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

11. D. Edens re: Thoughts on Proposed Changes in Zoning Regulations
12. M. Fraenkel re: Gas leaf blowersD. Dagon re: Response to question at the Town Council meeting on 3-22-10
13. M. Hart re: Appointments to Mansfield Youth Counsel Advisory Committee
14. P. McGlamery re: Communication Advisory Committee
15. C. Vincente re: Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Award
16. Connecticut Siting Council re: Docket No. 400
17. CCM re: FOIA Request for Salary & Other Information on Municipal Employees
18. Chronicle "District 19 budget up for public hearing on Tuesday" – 03-22-10
19. Chronicle "Mansfield unveils early 2010-11 budget plan" – 03-23-10
20. Chronicle "Ashford takes biggest hit with D19 budget" – 03-24-10
21. Chronicle "Building committee eyes two new school options" – 04-01-10
22. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04-01-10
23. Chronicle "Land buy connects local trails" – 04-03-10
24. Chronicle "Letter to the Editor" – 04-07-10
25. Hartford Courant "Mansfield, Willington to preserve 531 acres..." – 03-30-10
26. Mansfield Today "Mansfield Town Council presented with..." – 03-24-10
27. Mansfield Today "2010 Census: Mayor Ernie vs. Mayor Betsy" – 04-01-10

XII. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

No comments

XIII. FUTURE AGENDAS

No comments

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to recess the meeting and move into executive session.

Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (d)

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus
Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Planning Gregory Padick

Pending claims and litigation, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (b)

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus
Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren

Personnel, in accordance with CGS §1-200(6) (a)

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus
Ryan, Schaefer

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The Town Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Kochenburger moved and
Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

Today my interest is to get you as council to look at the petty spending. That does not mean there's not a lot of overspending on education, the fire dept, recreation, as in the community center, open space and the downtown .

Let's take a look at the small stuff that adds up. One of my concerns these past years is town vehicles and their usage. I kinda thought that you might have taken a look at that when fuel prices skyrocketed but that's not so, just the opposite, there's more personal use, as employees don't want to use their own fuel. We even use fire apparatus as personal transportation. It has been difficult to track how much it costs us taxpayers for these vehicle as the costs are not clear in the budget. I can only find fuel expenditures, the rest is scattered. I have tried to research what it's costing the taxpayer for the personally assigned vehicles in town but have been unsuccessful, so far, you as council should get the answers, You should be interested.

I have also recently been looking over the credit card statements and departmental expense reports, these are very interesting.

I found that we spent 500 dollars at wal-mart recently, was told it was for gift cards for an awards program, this program was an attendance incentive program for employees. Good attendance gets a gift card. Once again for all those who are public employees let me remind you of how the most businesses operate. When you have a job your first requirement for that job is coming to work and on time, your reward is your paycheck, when you do not come to work, or on time your reward is standing in the unemployment line. Public employees are not school children that need special rewards to do what they are supposed to be doing.

I see it this way the taxes on my truck, my wife's car and one other persons vehicle in this room went to this program. Waste.

I also found that we supply pizza, coffee, donuts, etc for the fire department on a regular basis.

I found many expenses for Big Y that are questionable, it's difficult to find out exactly what they were for, but some are in excess of 400 dollars.

In our personal budgets when we add up the small stuff, that daily coffee, dinner out, lunch at Wendy's, extra trips in our vehicles, etc they add up to big expenses. Lets take a hard look at the towns small stuff

Mike Sikaski
4/12/10

4. I support the Four Corners Water and Sewer Project and regret that the problem was not corrected ten or twenty years ago. But the fruits of this necessary investment will not be realized for five or more years following the project's completion. There will be large expenses, and they too will hit in mid-decade.

5. The governor has advised that Connecticut's towns and cities can expect deep and protracted reductions in state disbursements. Those Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) and Pequot/Mohegan ("casino") Funds that Mansfield has grown so dependent on have been significantly cut already. They are more likely to be cut further rather than to be increased to previous levels. Both the state and federal governments are deeply in debt. Wealth-creating private sector businesses like United Technologies are leaving Connecticut, not coming in. Therefore, from now through mid-decade and beyond, it is doubtful that there will be much more in the way of outside grants to fund the Capital and Nonrecurring Reserve (CNR) Fund.

The effects of five factors: (1) Burgeoning capital improvements needs, (2) The four schools renovation requirements, (3) The Storrs Center project's parking garage money pit, (4) The necessary but up-front costly Four Corners project, and (5) Diminishing largesse from Washington and Hartford, all point to an ominous perfect storm. I see a convergence of all five factors in mid-decade and predict a fiscal crisis the likes of which Mansfield has never experienced. There will be a reckoning, and it is coming soon and it won't be pretty.

As you wrap up work on next year's budget, try to answer the following question: What are you doing to avert a mid-decade fiscal calamity?



David Freudmann

Notes:

1. Town Manager's Proposed Budget for 2010/2011 (TMPB) submitted 3-22-10. Details of 5-yr CIP are on pp. 178-180.
2. 4-year period, cumulative, Total Financing \$17,876,700, minus LOCIP and St. & Fed. Grants \$4,062,040 = \$13,814,660.
3. \$1,093,650 TMPB, pg. 168
4. \$1,520,000. TMPB, pp. 197, 203
5. Parking Workshop of 3/23/09, presented by parking consultant Andy Hill of Walker Parking. In packet of Town Council meeting of 4/13/09, pp. 249-268.

6. Page 260 of document referenced in note 5.
Net Operating Income: \$25,490 (year 1) + 90,930 + 156,090 +
280,930 + 352,990 (year 5) = \$906,430 .
7. Article titled "Public comment session is next step for com-
munity center", by Harold C. Shayer, *Willimantic Chronicle*,
12/28/99.
8. TMPB, pg. 161. Line item 58227
In recent years: \$245,920 in 07/08, \$334,660 in both 08/09
and 09/10. (Also see TMPB for 2009/10, pg. 165)

Public comment session is next step for community center

By HAROLD C. SHAYER
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — Town officials are hoping to get a clearer sense of public opinion next month when they hold a public hearing on the \$6.5 million community/recreation center project approved in the November election.

Billed by the town council as mostly an opportunity to listen to residents, the public hearing will be held at the town office building on Jan. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

Last month, residents voted 1,410 to 1,253 to approve the center, which will be funded by \$4 million from the capital projects fund and a balance of \$2.5 million in bonds.

Although plans for the center call for an indoor swimming pool, a multi-purpose gymnasium, an indoor walking/jogging track and a multi-purpose room, among other features, council members have said they would rather let specifics of the project be decided by residents and the council which was elected last month.

The 157-vote winning margin — described by some council members as slim and others as substantial — left some council members wondering how much public support existed for the project.

Many residents leaving the polls said a lack of specific information about the project was the reason they voted against it and other residents said they were concerned about the amount of revenue the center would generate in order to eventually support itself.

When scheduling the public hearing earlier this month, members of the council said they wanted to get public input before beginning any design process for the center.

Even with the first public hearing being held in January, council members said it would still take six months to a year to start the project.

"We have thrown a lot of information at residents," said council chairman Betsy Paterson. "I think (the public hearing) is a time when people can come in, ask questions and maybe alleviate their fears."

Parks and Recreation director Curt Vincente said he views the public hearing as a "listening event" which will help town officials decide what is to be ultimately included in the center. After the hearing, Vincente said it will be up to the council to decide whether to form a community center building committee or rely on the advisory committee of the parks and recreation commission to work with designers on construction plans.

Vicente said that, so far, he has received a lot of questions and comments from residents, regarding the center's fee schedule, which will be determined by the council at a later stage of the project.

"People have an idea of what the center could be, but their greatest concerns (regarding fees) is what they will actually be getting for their money," said Vincente. According to the estimates, daily admission costs for residents to the center would be \$5 for adults ages 18-61; \$3 for youth ages 3-17; \$4 for seniors over 62; and free to children under 3.

Daily admission costs for non-residents are estimated to be \$6 for adults; \$4 for youth; \$5 for seniors and \$1 for children 3 and under. Daily guest passes would be \$4 for adults, \$2 for youth, \$3 for seniors and free for children under 3.

According to Vicente's estimates, revenue generated from the center would be \$874,000 in its first year with total expenditures for the center's first year estimated to be \$981,720, or \$106,920 more than revenues.

Total revenues in the center's fifth year — estimated at \$1,103,350 — are estimated to be the same as revenues, resulting in a zero net operating loss.

Revenue includes program fees, vendors, advertising income, rentals and all admission costs. Expenditures includes salaries, insurance and various supply and operating costs.

Vicente noted that a separate projection of revenue developed by University of Connecticut's Center for Research and Analysis indicates revenues to be nearly twice as much.

William R. Chronicle, Dec 28, 99

**Harry H. Birkenruth
81 Ball Hill Road
Storrs, CT 06268**

April 12, 2010

Statement for 4/12/10 Town Council Meeting

My wife and I, forty-three year residents of our town, strongly support the spending and commitments in the proposed budget for our Downtown Project.

For the foreseeable future, there are at least two broad trends that we can reasonably project:

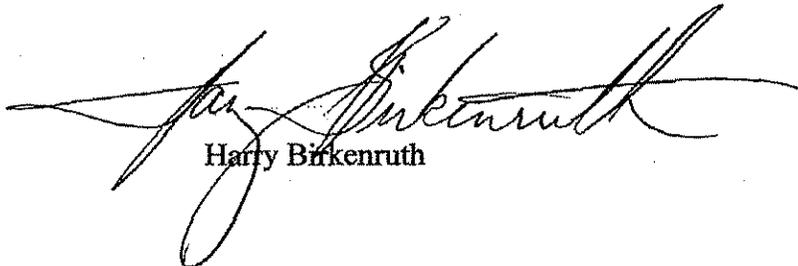
First, economic pressures will continue to be severe, impacting both the economic well-being of our town residents and our Connecticut state and municipal finances.

Second, the need for job growth will focus more and more attention on the need for a better educated and skilled workforce. This could, and should, lead to growth of our UConn campus community.

The major economic hope Mansfield has for dealing constructively with these trends is development of our Downtown.

A more vibrant Downtown would lead to a broadened, more self-sustaining tax base which would help us become somewhat less dependent on State support. The Downtown would also enhance the attraction for students and faculty of our major local economic driver, the University. In addition, a new Downtown would help us bring in retail and other small enterprises which will create some local employment opportunities ... and, for the current residents of our town, a vibrant downtown should increase our property values and, most important, properly planned and managed, it should make Mansfield an even more attractive place to live and raise our families.

Nothing good in life comes without some up-front investment. Happily, our required up-front investment is manageable. The funds included in our budget for the downtown project deserve our strong support.



Harry Birkenruth

Howard A Raphaelson
119 Timber Drive
Storrs, CT 06268

April 12, 2010

Mansfield Town Council

Following are some statements that I believe are facts, and the conclusions I draw from them

1. Most Mansfield residents chose to live here.

Mansfield has had steady growth over the years I have lived here (46) and more. Thus most residents came here deliberately from somewhere else. Those who made this choice knew that homes cost more, and thus taxes are higher even though the tax rate is similar to that in surrounding towns. Mansfield is well known for having excellent schools, good services, a fine library, a Community Center, etc. It is certainly reasonable to accept that this costs a little. Clearly, most residents feel that quality is worth the cost.

2. Many or most of our residents do not feel the need to become involved in Mansfield government or budgeting. My attempts to persuade friends to attend budget meetings to make this type of comment were met with massive disinterest. It appears that many feel that they are happy with things the way they are and see no need to become involved, counting on you to protect their interests.

2. It is far more disruptive and expensive to increase and decrease programs than it is to maintain them at a constant level.

We have a great town. Please do whatever is necessary to keep it as good as it is.

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MH*
CC: Town Employees
Date: April 12, 2010
Re: Town Manager's Report

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

Budget and Finance

- *FY 2010/11 Budget* – At tonight's meeting the Town Council will hold a public hearing on the Town Manager's Proposed FY 2010/11 Budget. At 6:30 PM this Thursday, April 15, 2010, the Town Council will hold a budget workshop with the Mansfield Board of Education to discuss the board's recommended budget. Interested residents are encouraged to see the Town's [website](#) for budget-related information.

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Fire Services Inquiry* – Please see item number 14 in your 3/12/10 Council packet for a response to a citizen inquiry made at the 3/22/10 Council meeting.
- *Regionalism Committee* – This coming Friday, April 16, 2010, the Council's Regionalism Committee will meet with representatives from the Town of Windham to discuss regional issues and concerns, including potential opportunities for shared services.
- *Revaluation Process* – At the 3/22/10 Council meeting, Councilmember Haddad inquired as to how our revaluation process affects various categories of housing in town. We did distribute this information at our budget session on March 25, 2010; please let me know if you have additional questions regarding this topic.

Departmental/Division News

- *Emergency Management*
 - The Emergency Management Advisory Committee met on April 8, 2010. The primary topic of conversation was the upcoming UConn Spring Weekend.
- *Human Services*
 - *Senior center coordinator* – we are presently advertising the coordinator's position in number of media, and have begun to receive applications.
 - *Social worker* – We are pleased to announce that Barbara Lavoie started work on April 5th as the new social worker for senior services. Some of you may know Barbara from her work at Juniper Hill over the past decade or from her Saturday work at our Senior Center. We are looking forward to Barbara working with us and are confident that she will do an excellent job. Welcome Barbara!
 - *Volunteer recognition program* – As a reminder, the Mansfield Senior Center Association has invited the Town Council to attend its volunteer appreciation day at the center, to be held at noon on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.
- *Library*
 - On Saturday April 17 at 10:30 AM, Sparky's Puppets will perform "How Does Your Garden Grow." In this collection of springtime tales you'll laugh at the antics of the Grasshopper and the Ant, watch Brier Rabbit sneak into the veggie garden and find out what happens when a pesky goblin tries to outsmart a farmer in Tops and Bottoms. Sparky's Puppets have performed throughout New England for over 30 years. Count on lots of humor and audience participation in this fun show for

families. This program takes the place of our usual Saturday Family Storytime and is recommended for ages 3 and up.

- o You can also join the Library staff during the Mansfield school vacation week for three afternoons of stories and crafts. On Tuesday April 20th we'll have stories and crafts about bunnies; on Wednesday April 21st we'll have stories and crafts about chicks; and on Friday April 23rd we'll have stories and crafts about lambs. The programs run from 1:30PM - 3:00 PM. All ages welcome!
- *Planning and Zoning*
 - o At its April 5th meeting, the Mansfield Inland Wetlands Agency approved, effective May 1, 2010, a comprehensive update of Mansfield's Inland Wetlands Regulations. The new regulations, which are based on State Department of Environmental Protection Agency model regulations, replace all existing regulations. In general, the new regulations clarify regulatory provisions and incorporate current statutory and case law requirements. A number of existing provisions, including requirements regarding regulated activities and upland review areas, have been incorporated and additional definitions and revised provisions regarding application requirements, decision considerations and agent delegations have been added. The new regulations will be posted on Mansfield's web site and available in the Planning office.
- *Town Manager's Office*
 - o Chief Dagon and Maria Capriola were recent guest speakers for the University of Connecticut Master's of Public Administration Program. They presented on labor relations to over 30 students enrolled in a human resources course.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Probate Court Consolidation* – My fellow CEO's from Coventry, Tolland and Willington and I recommend that the new regional probate court be located in space to be made available at the Tolland Municipal Building. As you know, we have been reviewing this issue for some months and recently met with Probate Court Administrator Paul Knierim to solicit his feedback. Neither of the existing court locations (Mansfield and Tolland) appears to be adequate to comfortably host the new consolidated probate court. With respect to the Mansfield location, we did look at various options, including a move to the Department of Human Services suite or splitting the existing court into two locations inside town hall – neither of these options appears feasible. Tolland, however, has identified another location within its municipal building that would prove more than adequate to host the court, with some minor renovations. On an annual basis, we have estimated that the four towns would need to collectively contribute \$16,259 to the consolidated costs. Based upon our respective grand lists, the allocation rate would break down as follows: Tolland - 34.6%; Mansfield - 26.43%; Coventry 26.10% and Willington 12.87%. Consequently, our estimate for FY 2011/12 totals \$5,625 for Tolland, \$4,297 for Mansfield, \$4,243 for Coventry and \$2,092 for Willington. In addition, we estimate a one-time cost of \$1,250 per town to fund the renovation. Costs in subsequent years may increase slightly when we know better the costs for a combined court. Unless the Town Council has any significant concerns, I recommend that we proceed with the Tolland location. As a next step, the CEO's would draft an inter-local agreement detailing our various responsibilities to the new probate court, and seek approval from our respective legislative bodies. I would plan to present this to you some time over the next few months.
- *School Building Project* – As a reminder, tomorrow evening, 7:00 PM on Tuesday, April 13, 2010 in the Council Chambers at the Beck Municipal Building the League of Women Voters and the Mansfield Advocates for Children will sponsor a moderated forum on the Proposed New Community PreK-4 Elementary School and Mansfield Middle School Project. The session will be shown live on Channel 13 and I anticipate the discussion will prove informative for the Council and the public.

Member Organizations

- *Mansfield Downtown Partnership* - The owners of the Vanilla Bean and 85 Main restaurants, Brian and Barry Jessurun, are seeking ideas for their new restaurant to be located in the first phase of Storrs Center. A survey has been developed and is featured on the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (www.mansfieldct.org/dtp.html) and master developer Storrs Center Alliance (www.storrscenter.com) websites. The survey addresses dining preferences, hours of operation, and entertainment possibilities. The new restaurant, tentatively called Dog Lane Café, is planned as a casual restaurant that will offer breakfast, lunch and dinner. Its goal is to focus on being "green" from the build out phase to the day-to-day operations. The survey will be available through May 31st.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Youth Services Bureau Advisory Board, April 13, 2010, 11:30 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Regulatory Review Committee, April 13, 2010, 2:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Community Forum on the Four Schools Building project, April 13, 2010, 7:00 PM Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Zoning Board of Appeals, April 14, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Board of Education, April 15, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, April 19, 2010, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Energy Education Team, April 20, 2010, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, April 21, 2010, 8:30 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, April 21, 2010, 7:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, April 26, 2010, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, April 26, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Meetings on the Budget:
 - Town Council Budget Workshop, April 15, 2010, 6:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
 - Adoption of Budget and Recommended Appropriations, April 19, 2010, 7:30 PM, Arts and Crafts Room, Mansfield Senior Center
 - Adoption of Budget and Recommended Appropriations (if necessary), April 20, 2010, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
 - Public Information Session, April 21, 2010, 7:00 PM, Buchanan Auditorium, Mansfield Public Library
 - Annual Town Meeting, May 11, 2010, 7:00 PM, Mansfield Middle School Auditorium

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



Town of Mansfield Fire and Emergency Services

To: Matthew W. Hart, Town Manager
From: David J. Dagon, Fire Chief
Date: April 12, 2010
Subject: Food purchases using Town issued credit card

By way of this memo I would like to shed light on a statement related to the fire department that was contained in a letter to the editor in the Saturday, April 9, 2010 weekend edition of the Chronicle. The letter writer stated "We have one fireman who regularly buys 12 bagels with a tub of cream cheese on the town's credit card."

Town credit cards have been issued to the fire chief, deputy fire chief, fire captains (4), the department's administrative assistant and one firefighter. The only firefighter that was approved for a credit card was authorized to purchase office supplies when there is a need at the fire stations on nights/weekends and the town hall is closed; this firefighter has never made a food related purchase on the town credit card.

Approval for the purchase of food generally requires that it involve a work detail, certain mandatory training classes or mandatory meetings that have been prioritized, or as an incentive to promote a project or program.

A total of \$473.10 has been charged for food this fiscal year; all purchases were personally approved by me. Based on the reason for the purchase, the percentage of the \$473.10 charged to the town credit cards for food related items is as follows:

- 39% to promote a program or project, including:
 - A Fire Prevention Week kick-off meeting
 - Fire Fighter Testing (once test begins candidates cannot leave the room for any reason)
 - Spring Weekend organizational meeting with outside agencies
 - Fire Prevention Poster Contest – The schools have produced a County Winner for Mansfield in this State-wide competition every year for the last 4 years. This purchase was for pizza to reward a Mansfield Middle School class to for their participation in the Poster Contest; this purchase alone represents 25% of the total food related charges this fiscal year.

- 39% for Mandatory Training Classes or Department Meetings, including:
 - A Sunday morning EVOC (Emergency Vehicle Operations Class)
 - Refreshments on the final day of a week-long evening/weekend meeting schedule of a 30 hour EMT-Refresher class

- 22% for Work Details, including:
 - Repairing hose that failed during required annual hose testing. The repair of hose by department members saved the town several thousand dollars.
 - Rehab of Mansfield firefighters at the scene of a structure fire in Willington.
 - Rehab for firefighters that labored to place department apparatus and equipment back in service after returning from a structure fire in Coventry.

I hope this information sheds light on the department's use of credit cards specifically for food related purchases.



*Environmental Proclamation
Earth Day 2010*

April 22, 2010

WHEREAS the global community now faces extraordinary challenges such as environmental degradation, climate change, food and water shortages, and global health issues; and

WHEREAS all people, regardless of race, gender, income, or geography, have a moral right to a healthy, sustainable environment; and

WHEREAS it is understood that the citizens of the global community must step forward and take action to create positive environmental change to combat the aforementioned global challenges; and

WHEREAS a sustainable environment can be achieved on the individual level through educational efforts, public policy, and consumer activism campaigns; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to broaden and diversify the environmental movement to achieve maximum success;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that, I, Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor of the Town of Mansfield, Connecticut, hereby pledge this Earth Day, April 22, 2010, to support environmental initiatives in Mansfield and to encourage others to undertake similar actions.

**A Resolution of the Governing Board
regarding a
Regional Economic Partnership**

WHEREAS, the Town of _____ would like to join the
Northeastern Connecticut Economic Partnership,

WHEREAS, this partnership will be applying for Federal Designation through the Economic
Development Administration to be a Regional Economic Development District representing the
21 towns of the Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments and the Windham Region
Council of Governments, and one additional community from the Southeast Council of
Governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of _____
hereby agrees to become a member of the Northeast Connecticut Economic Partnership.

I hereby certify the preceding is a true vote of _____, at
its meeting on _____, a quorum being present.

Name:
Title:

Date

TOWN SEAL

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 15, 2010

DRAFT

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer
Excused: Kochenburger

II. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mayor Paterson welcomed members of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools to the meeting. Board Chair Mark LaPlaca reported the Board's approved budget is .04% lower than the current budget. Mr. LaPlaca cautioned the Council that the budget has significant amounts of federal stimulus money included both in the local budget and the ECSC state grant which won't be available next year. Superintendent Fred Baruzzi presented a review of the items eliminated from the budget but stated the budget, as presented, preserves all programs and services currently in place. Both the Board and Council commended Town Manager Matt Hart and Superintendent Fred Baruzzi for their individual and collaborative efforts throughout the year.

At this time the Council moved the special meeting to Room B.

III. UPCOMING BOND ISSUES

Council members were joined by members of the Open Space Advisory Committee who spoke in support of adding a one million dollar bond authorization for open space to the November ballot. The authorization was described as a line of credit which could be drawn from if needed. Committee members will review the wording of the last bonding authorization which failed because the requisite 15% percent voter turnout was not realized. The Committee will report back to the Council with their recommendations. Mr. Paulhus left at 7:30 p.m. By consensus the Council agreed to make the final decision at the meeting on the 19th.
Director of Finance Cherie Trahan reviewed the projected debt if all current and proposed projects are bonded.
FLAG – The Director of Finance will research what is considered a prudent bond amount for similar towns.

IV. REVIEW OF FLAGGED ITEMS

Ms. Trahan is preparing an analysis comparing the Town's cost for the in-house appraisal to the cost of the process for comparable towns. The initial review shows Mansfield's cost to be below or about the same as Coventry and Tolland.

Council members discussed the recommendation offered by the Library Advisory Committee to allow the Library Director complete discretion regarding the hours

of the library. Although no decision was made the Council agreed they would like the Library Advisory Committee and the Library Director to make recommendations for the operation of the library.

Council members discussed the reallocation of the \$2000 previously allocated for Safe Havens. Members discussed the importance of supporting agencies that directly service citizens of Mansfield. Decisions will be made at the April 19th meeting.

V. OTHER

No comments

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Keane moved and Ms. Moran seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

April 19, 2010

DRAFT

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the in the Arts and Craft Room of the Mansfield Senior Center.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Haddad, Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer

II. ADOPTION OF BUDGET AND RECOMMENDED APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. Haddad moved and Ms. Keane seconded the adoption of the budget.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to adjust the Contributions to Area Agencies as follows:

United Services	Increase	\$1,000
Sexual Assault Crisis Center	Increase	\$1,000
CT Legal Services	Increase	\$1,000
Community Companion	Increase	\$1,000
Save Havens	Decrease	\$2,000

Motion passed with Haddad, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Schaefer in favor and Keane, Lindsey and Paulhus opposed.

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to increase funding for the Senior Center Social Worker position by \$6,300 allowing an increase of eight hours per week beginning January, 2011.

Motion passed with Haddad, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Schaefer in favor and Keane, Lindsey and Paulhus opposed.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to add funding in the amount of \$8,200 for a Transportation Coordinator position (estimated at 10 hours per week) for the volunteer driver program.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to increase the Capital Projects Fund by \$1,000,000 for the Open Space account, to be funded through the sale of bonds.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to change the proposed Bond Funding to Capital Non-recurring Finding for the following items:

Replacement Boat	\$10,000
Fire Ponds	\$ 5,000
Playground Resurfacing	\$ 5,000
Amenities – Lion Park	\$10,000
Restroom Improv-BCP	\$ 3,000
Trail Improv/Parking- Commonfields	\$ 4,000
Pickup Mounted Message Sign	\$10,000

Snowplows	\$ 5,500
Tree Replacement	\$ 5,000
Small Bridges	\$10,000

for a total of \$67,500.

Motion passed with Haddad, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Schaefer in favor and Keane, Lindsey and Paulhus opposed.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to remove funding for the road works electronic message board.

Motion failed with all voting nay.

Ms. Lindsey moved and Ms. Keane seconded to eliminate funding for the amenities at Lion Park. The motion was withdrawn. Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to reduce the amenities budget for Lions Park by \$4,000 to provide the minimum amenities to make the soccer field useable.

Motion passed with Haddad, Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus and Schaefer in favor and Kochenburger and Ryan opposed.

Ms. Keane moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to remove funding for an architect for the Bicentennial Pond facility improvements.

Motion failed with Keane, Lindsey and Paulhus in favor and Haddad, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Schaefer opposed.

Ms. Lindsey moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to remove funding for the first stage of security improvements at the town hall. Mr. Haddad offered a friendly amendment that the project be moved to the 2011/12 Capital Project Fund Budget to allow time for the development of a plan for the project. The amendment was accepted by the maker and seconder and passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to remove \$6,000 for oil tank covers at the town hall.

The motion passed with Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan and Schaefer in favor and Haddad, Kochenburger and Paterson opposed.

Ms. Keane moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to remove all funding for Professional and Technical Services for Storrs Center project.

Motion failed with all opposed.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Haddad seconded to increase the General Fund Transfer Out to Capital Projects by \$57,500 and to increase the Capital Nonrecurring Fund the Transfer Out to Capital Projects by \$57,500.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Keane seconded to eliminate the addition of another state trooper.

The motion passed with Keane, Lindsey and Paulhus in favor and Haddad, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Schaefer opposed.

Ms. Keane moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to eliminate the funding for the MetroHartford Alliance membership.
Motion passed with Haddad, Keane, Lindsey, Moran, Paulhus and Ryan in favor and Kochenburger, Paterson and Schaefer opposed.

Ms. Lindsey moved and Ms. Keane seconded to eliminate the Community Center fitness equipment. The motion was withdrawn as the items are paid for by the membership.

Ms. Lindsey moved and Ms. Keane seconded to eliminate improvements to the ventilation system at the Community Center.
Motion failed with Keane, Lindsey and Paulhus in favor and Haddad, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Schaefer opposed.

Mr. Haddad moved to incorporate all the amendments as approved and increase the General Fund Balance by \$17,400.
Motion passed with Haddad, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Schaefer in favor and Keane, Lindsey and Paulhus opposed.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the following resolutions:

RESOLVED: That the General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling \$33,702,055 is hereby adopted as the proposed operating budget for the Town of Mansfield for the fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling \$20,051,420 is hereby adopted as the capital improvements to be undertaken during fiscal year 2010/11 or later years.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in the amount of \$957,545 be adopted.

It is further resolved, that the following Appropriations Act be recommended for adoption at the annual Town Meeting for budget consideration:

RESOLVED: That the proposed General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in the amount of \$33,702,055 which proposed budget was adopted by the Council on April 19, 2010, be adopted and that the sums estimated and set forth in said budget be appropriated for the purpose indicated.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51, the proportionate share for the Town of Mansfield of the annual budget for Regional School District No. 19 shall be added to the General Fund Budget appropriation for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal

year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 and said sums shall be paid by the Town to the Regional School District as they become available.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital Projects Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in the amount of \$20,051,420 be adopted provided that the portion proposed to be funded by bonds or notes shall, at the appropriate times, be introduced for action by the Town Council subject to a vote by referendum as required by Section 407 of the Town Charter.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 in the amount of \$957,545 be adopted.

Motion to approve the resolutions passed with Haddad, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Schaefer in favor and Keane, Lindsey and Paulhus opposed.

III. OTHER

The Chairman of the Finance Committee will present the budget at the informational session on April 21st. Speakers will be limited to 5 minutes each.

Ms. Lindsey and the Mayor will be present at Town Council office hours prior to the meeting on April 26th.

Members discussed the bonding process and the possibility of calling a second Town Meeting the night of the Budget Town Meeting to discuss the Four Corners sewer referendum. Finance Director Cherie Trahan will contact the Town's bond counsel to see if that would be feasible.

Mayor Paterson moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to conditionally support the addition of a special Town Meeting on May 11th if everything that is necessary can be accomplished to bring the Four Corners Sewer project to a Town Meeting following the Budget Town Meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Kochenburger seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE
TOWN OF MANSFIELD
PUBLIC HEARING April 26, 2010
“An Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property”

The Mansfield Town Council will hold a public hearing at 7:30 PM at their regular meeting on April 26, 2010 to solicit public comment regarding a proposed ordinance titled “An Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property.”

At this hearing persons may address the Town Council and written communications may be received. Copies of said proposals are on file and available at the Town Clerk’s office: 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, Connecticut. Information is also available on the Town’s website (mansfieldct.org)

Dated at Mansfield Connecticut this 12th day of April 2010

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

PAGE
BREAK



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Michael Nintean, Director of Building and Housing Inspection; Gregory Padick, Director of Planning
Date: April 26, 2010
Re: Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property

Subject Matter/Background

At Monday's meeting, the Town Council will conduct a public hearing on the 3/17/10 draft ordinance regarding off street parking on residential rental property. The attachments detail the proposed ordinance and revisions that have been proposed after considering public hearing comments on an earlier draft. This item also has been placed on the agenda as old business to give the Council the opportunity to debrief the public hearing.

Attachments

- 1) 4/20/10 Memo from the Planning and Zoning Commission re: Draft Off-Street Parking Ordinance
- 2) 3/22/10 Agenda Item Summary
- 3) 3/17/10 memorandum from Peter Kochenburger, Chairman Ad hoc Committee on Ordinance Development and Review
- 4) 3/17/10 draft Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property
- 5) 2/26/10 and 3/11/10 minutes from Ad hoc Committee on Ordinance development and Review



**PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
TOWN OF MANSFIELD**

**AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING
FOUR SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD
MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06268
(860) 429-3330**

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

Mansfield Town Council
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268

Re: Draft Off-Street Parking Ordinance

At its April 5th meeting, the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the current draft of the "Off-Street Parking Ordinance" and authorized me to communicate the Commission's support of the proposed ordinance. By requiring the designation and use of specific parking areas for rental properties, the ordinance will promote the public's health and safety. Also, designated parking areas will enhance the visual appearance of the neighborhood and, thus, not lower the value of adjoining properties.

The adoption of the draft ordinance is recommended.

Very truly yours,

Chairman Rudy Favretti
Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Michael Ninteau, Director of Building and Housing Inspection; Gregory Padick, Director of Planning
Date: March 22, 2010
Re: Draft Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property

Subject Matter/Background

Motor vehicle parking at many residential rental properties, particularly those with one, two or three dwelling units, has created unsafe, blighted and congested conditions and other negative neighborhood impacts within the Town. The requirements set forth in this proposed ordinance would promote the general safety, health and welfare of the people of Mansfield by requiring the submittal, approval and implementation of a parking space site plan. The maximum number of spaces would be limited to six per dwelling unit and all onsite parking must be accommodated within approved spaces. The draft ordinance, which would be applicable to one, two or three unit rentals within the Town's housing ordinance certification zone, contains standards for parking areas and enforcement provisions. This approach to addressing parking at rental properties has been endorsed by the Committee on Community Quality of Life.

An earlier 1/11/10 draft ordinance was presented at public hearing and numerous comments and concerns were raised. The Town Council referred the 1/11/10 draft ordinance to its new Ad hoc Committee on Ordinance Development and Review. The Committee held two meetings and, with staff assistance, drafted a number of potential revisions to the 1/11/10 ordinance. The attached Committee minutes and memorandum from Committee Chairman Kochenburger provide more information about the proposed revisions and the Committee's recommendation to send the revised 3/17/10 draft ordinance to a new public hearing.

Financial Impact

Based on the proposed \$35 application fee, this ordinance would generate approximately \$12,600 dollars within the first two years of implementation. After that initial period, the funds generated by the ordinance would be negligible. Staff time would be necessary to conduct site plan reviews, inspect improvements and add the information to the housing code database. However, we do anticipate that the proposed fees would be adequate to cover any additional staff resources needed to implement this ordinance. We also expect that future enforcement costs would be offset by the proposed \$90 fine provision.

Legal Review

The Town Attorney has reviewed the 3/17/10 draft revision to the ordinance and concluded that it is legally sound and may be enacted by the Council and implemented by Town staff.

Recommendation

The Ad hoc Committee on Ordinance Development and Review has recommended that the Town Council schedule a public hearing to solicit public comment regarding the proposed 3/17/10 draft ordinance on Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property.

If the Council concurs with this recommendation, the following motion is in order:

Move, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on April 26, 2010, regarding a proposed ordinance titled "An Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property."

Attachments

- 1) 3/17/10 memorandum from Peter Kochenburger, Chairman Ad hoc Committee on Ordinance Development and Review
- 2) 3/17/10 draft Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Rental Property
- 3) 2/26/10 and 3/11/10 minutes from Ad hoc Committee on Ordinance development and Review

MEMORANDUM

Town of Mansfield
Town Manager's Office
4 So. Eagleville Rd., Mansfield, CT 06268
860-429-3336
Hartmw@mansfieldct.org



To: Mansfield Town Council
CC: Matthew Hart, Town Manager; Gregory Padick, Director of Planning; Mike Nintean, Director of Housing and Building Inspection
From: Peter Kochenburger, Councilmember
Date: March 18, 2010
Re: Proposed Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Property

The Ad hoc committee on Ordinance Development and Review met on February 26th and March 11th to discuss the 1/11/10 draft ordinance regarding Off Street Parking on Residential Property. The minutes from these meetings are attached. At the committee's March 11th meeting, members agreed upon a number of potential ordinance revisions and it was unanimously agreed to recommend, subject to the Town Attorney's review, that a revised draft ordinance be presented at a new public hearing. Subsequently, the Town Attorney reviewed these committee-endorsed proposed revisions and a few additional technical changes were incorporated into the draft approved at the March 11th meeting..

Proposed revisions included in the attached 3/16/10 draft include:

1. Revisions to Section 3 Findings and Purpose to clarify and amplify the ordinance intent;
2. Revisions to Section 5 Applicability to incorporate new provisions for a resident owner exemption;
3. Revisions to Section 6 Parking Space Site Plan Requirements to clarify that the new requirements only apply in the rental certification zone, to eliminate a 20 foot setback from streets, to reduce from 10 to 5 feet the required setback from sidewalks/bikeways and to eliminate a requirement that spaces be within 20 feet of a driveway;
4. Revision of Section 7 Fees to increase from \$25 to \$35 the required fee;
5. Revisions to Section 8 Modification of Parking Space Site Plan to authorize staff to accept modifications of these requirements in existing parking areas without traffic safety or neighborhood impact problems even if the criteria of Section 6 are not met; and
6. Revision to Section 10 Enforcement: Violations, Citations and Fines to include a warning reference for initial or infrequent violations that are not considered a significant traffic safety or neighborhood impact problem

At the 3/22/10 Town Council meeting, Committee members will be prepared to discuss the revised draft and recommendation to hold a new public hearing on the proposed Ordinance.

Town of Mansfield
Code of Ordinances

“An Ordinance Regarding Off Street Parking On Residential Rental Property”

March 17, 2010 Draft

REVISIONS to 1/11/10 draft are indicated as follows:

Additions are underlined _____

Deletions are bracketed []

Section 1. Title.

This Article shall be known and may be cited as the "Ordinance Regarding Residential Rental Parking."

Section 2. Legislative Authority.

This Article is enacted pursuant to the provisions of C.G.S. § 7-148, et seq., as amended.

Section 3. Findings and Purpose.

The Town Council of the Town of Mansfield finds that motor vehicle parking at [many] numerous residential rental properties, particularly those with one, two or three dwelling units, has created, on a regular and frequent basis, unsafe, blighted and congested conditions and other negative neighborhood impacts within the Town. This situation has been most common on properties within the Town's Rental Certification Zone that do not have adequately sized and delineated parking areas that safely accommodate all residents and their guests. The requirements set forth in this ordinance will promote neighborhood compatibility and the general [welfare,] safety, health, [and safety] and welfare of the people of Mansfield by helping to ensure safe vehicular and pedestrian ingress and egress, safe emergency vehicle and personnel ingress and egress and the preservation and enhancement of neighboring property values.

Section 4. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Article, the words and phrases used herein shall have the following meanings, unless otherwise clearly indicated by the context:

Dwelling Unit: A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

Lot: A tract, plot, parcel or other unit of land having fixed boundaries designated on a plot, survey or assessor's map, or in a deed.

Residential Rental Property: Any lot containing one, two or three rental dwelling units.

Section 5. Applicability.

This Article shall apply to any such Residential Rental Property situated within the Rental Certification Zone of the Town of Mansfield established in the Housing Code, Chapter 130-35 of the General Code of the Town of Mansfield, except Residential Rental Property owned by the State of Connecticut and Residential Rental Property containing a dwelling unit which is the primary place of residence of the owner in which he or she remains for more than one-half of the calendar year, which [is] are exempt. To qualify for exemption, any such owner occupant must be the record owner of a minimum 50% fee simple interest in said Residential Rental Property in his or her personal individual capacity only.

Section 6. Parking Space Site Plan Requirements.

Any Residential Rental Property within the Town's Rental Certification Zone shall contain designated and approved parking spaces set forth in a Parking Space Site Plan in compliance with the following standards:

A. [Any] All non exempt on-site parking on any Residential Rental Property within the Town's Rental Certification Zone shall be in spaces designated in a Parking Space Site Plan submitted by the property owner and approved by the Town per the requirements of this section as set forth below. Any parking violation of any such Plan may subject such parking violator to citation and fine pursuant to Section 10 of this Article.

B. Subsequent to that date which is thirty days after written notification by the Town to a Residential Rental Property owner of the requirements of this Ordinance and its applicability to the owner's Residential Rental Property, no Certificate of Compliance required by the Housing Code of the Town of Mansfield may be issued to an owner of such Residential Rental Property or renewed, unless the owner has submitted a Parking Space Site Plan to the designated Town official and gained official approval of the Plan. Any violation of this subsection may subject any such property owner to citation and fine pursuant to Section 10 of this Article.

C. All site work required to implement an approved Parking Space Site Plan shall be completed within ninety days of said approval unless an extension of time is sought and secured pursuant to Section 9 of this Article. Any violation of this subsection may subject any such property owner to citation and fine pursuant to Section 10 of this Article.

D. To satisfy the requirements of this Article, any Residential Rental Property owner within the Town's Rental Certification Zone shall submit to the designated Agent of the Town of Mansfield for approval a drawn to scale Parking Space Site Plan of the owner's Residential Rental Property that depicts property lines, driveways, sidewalks/bicycle paths, dwellings and structures, all proposed on-site parking spaces, existing and proposed landscaped areas, trees over 12 inches in diameter (measured 5' above grade) within the area where parking is proposed, fencing, and other site features that may affect parking locations. In addition, the Site Plan shall detail the surface material of the proposed spaces. Any failure to satisfy the requirements of this Section is a Plan

Violation which may subject such owner to a citation and fine pursuant to Section 10 of this Article. To be approved, any such Parking Space Site Plan shall meet the following criteria, except that a Modification of the criteria may be sought and secured in proper circumstances, per Section 8 of this Article:

1. The number of proposed on-site spaces shall be adequate for all tenant vehicles and a limited number of guest vehicles. Depending on site and occupancy characteristics, a minimum of two (2) exterior spaces and a maximum of six (6) exterior spaces shall be provided per dwelling unit.
- [2. The spaces shall be located on or within twenty (20) feet of an existing or proposed site driveway.]
- [3]. 2. No parking space shall be located within [~~ten (10)~~] five (5) feet of a roadside sidewalk or bicycle path [~~or twenty (20) feet of a street~~].
- [4]. 3. Parking spaces shall be a minimum of eight (8) feet wide and eighteen (18) feet long.
- [5]. 4. Parking spaces shall be designed so that a backing up movement onto an adjacent street is not required.
- [6]. 5. Except for parking areas immediately adjacent to an existing site driveway or parking areas situated over one hundred (100) feet from a street, parking shall not occur between the street and the subject dwelling.
- [7]. 6. Parking spaces shall be paved or surfaced with an acceptable dust free surface such as compacted stone, stone dust or gravel. Lawn areas or other landscaped areas are not acceptable surfaces for parking spaces.
- [8]. 7. No existing landscape area or lawn area shall be disturbed and no tree over twelve (12) inches in diameter shall be removed to create new parking spaces, unless no other acceptable parking spaces can be established on site.
- [9]. 8. Parking spaces shall be designed and graded to address potential drainage and/or winter icing problems and suitable areas shall be provided for snow storage.
- [10]. 9. There shall be a permanent barrier or barriers separating the parking area from the rest of the site.
- [11]. 10. Any necessary Inland Wetland Agency or Public Works Department permits shall be obtained prior to Parking Space Site Plan approval pursuant to this code.

Section 7. Fees.

A Parking Place Site Plan review fee in the amount of [Twenty]-~~Thirty~~ Five Dollars [(~~\$25~~)] (~~\$35~~) per dwelling unit must be submitted to the town along with the proposed Site Plan. No review will be done and no approval will be granted prior to payment in full of this fee.

Section 8. Modification of Parking Space Site Plan.

[If a designated Town official finds there are specific site constraints or other factors that would result in exceptional difficulty or unusual hardship in adhering to the strict letter of the foregoing Parking Place Site Plan Requirements and that a modification of said Site Plan Requirements would still comply with the intent and purpose of this Article while not diminishing public safety, said designated town official(s) may permit a modification in an individual case] In a situation where a parking area without observable or known traffic safety or neighborhood impact problems was established prior to the effective date of this ordinance or if lot size or configuration, structure locations, topography and other site constraints or other documented factors would make strict compliance with the criteria of Section 6 unreasonable, the Town designated official(s) reviewing a Parking Space Site Plan is authorized to approve modifications of the section 6 criteria. No modification shall be approved that would result in an unsafe situation or one that would be inconsistent with the findings and purpose contained in Section 3. The details of any modification permitted by this subsection must be recorded and entered into an appropriate town file.

Section 9. Extension of Time/ Temporary Waiver of Compliance.

Any applicant who has a written contract for the performance of work necessary to comply with this Article but whose implementation of required parking improvements is delayed may submit a written petition to an authorized town official seeking a Temporary Waiver of Compliance. The petition shall include information reasonably necessary for the Town official to make a decision and include a signed statement by the contractor specifying the date of beginning and expected date of completion of the work. If the Town official finds that the delay is reasonable, said official may issue a Temporary Waiver of Compliance expiring on the date when the work should be completed. The applicant shall request a site inspection by the Town official on or before such date of completion. Upon notification that the required improvements have been completed, the designated Town official shall inspect the property and either confirm compliance or list any violations of this Article that remain. Failure to complete improvements within an authorized Extension of Time may subject the property owner to citation and fine pursuant to section 10 of this Article.

Section 10. Enforcement; Violations, Citations and Fines.

A. The Town Manager shall designate in writing one or more Town officials empowered to take enforcement or other action authorized by this Article.

B. Any person violating the provisions of this Article by failing to file or gain approval of a Parking Space Site Plan, by failing to complete site work required by an approved Parking Space Site Plan within the time period required or authorized by this Article, or

by parking in an area on Residential Rental Property not designated for parking in a Town approved Parking Space Site Plan, shall be deemed to have committed an infraction and may be issued a citation. Said citation shall inform the person named therein of the allegations against him or her, the amount of the fine due, and the date on which payment of the fine is due, which shall be no later than 10 days after the date of the citation. Said citation shall be hand delivered, affixed to the vehicle or property, or mailed by certified mail, return receipt requested, addressed to the person named therein at his or her last known address. Citations shall be punishable with a fine of \$90 dollars for each violation. Each separate day that a violation exists after the issuance of a citation shall be subject to a separate additional fine without the issuance of a separate citation.

Any initial violation or infrequent violation may be addressed through the issuance of a warning rather than a citation, unless a significant safety or neighborhood impact problem is observed or significant damage has been done to a lawn or other landscape area due to parking in an unauthorized area.

C. In addition to any other remedy authorized by this chapter, if any such fine issued pursuant to the provisions of this chapter is unpaid beyond the due date, the Town may initiate proceedings under the authority of Connecticut General Statutes section 7-152c and Chapter 129 of the General Code of the Town of Mansfield, Hearing Procedure, to collect any such fine.

Section 11. Appeals Procedure.

Any person fined pursuant to this chapter may appeal such fine pursuant to the provisions of the Town of Mansfield Hearing Procedure for Citations set forth in Chapter 129 of the General Code of the Town of Mansfield.

Section 12. Word Usage.

Whenever used, the singular number shall include the plural, the plural the singular and the use of either gender shall include both genders.

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
TOWN COUNCIL
Ad hoc Committee on Ordinance Development and Review
Thursday, February 26, 2010
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Conference Room B
7:30 am**

MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members present: P. Kochenburger, D. Keane, T. Moran
Guest(s): M. Hart, M. Ninteau, G. Padick

2. Draft Ordinance: Offstreet Parking on Residential Property

Mr. Kochenburger called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM. After a brief discussion, it was agreed to initially focus on the background and overall need for the draft ordinance, comments received to date and the various component elements of the draft. Noting the objective of reporting back to the Town Council as soon as possible, any potential revisions would be considered at a future meeting.

Mr. Ninteau briefly summarized an information packet that had been emailed to committee members. He noted that staff had drafted the ordinance after the Community Quality of Life Committee had endorsed the ordinance objective. He also emphasized that the draft should be considered in association with other potential tools that are being considered to address student occupancy issues and current enforcement problems.

A majority of the meeting was spent discussing the overall need for the ordinance, location and frequency aspects of the existing parking situation, implementation provisions, the potential cost to landlords and tenants and enforcement issues, particularly with respect to initial and/or infrequent violations. Committee members noted that more time was needed to study this issue and that a number of ordinance revisions should be evaluated before considering a recommendation to the Town Council. It was agreed that staff would draft potential revisions for committee consideration and that particular attention would be given to section 3 (Findings and Purpose), Section 6 D (Parking Space Site Plan Criteria), and Section 8 (Modification of Parking Space Site Plan).

4. Future Meetings

It was agreed to meet again on Thursday March 11th at 7:30 AM

3. Adjournment

The members adjourned the meeting at 8:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Padick
Director of Planning

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
TOWN COUNCIL
Ad hoc Committee on Ordinance Development and Review
Thursday, March 11, 2010
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Conference Room B
7:30 am**

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Mr. Kochenburger called the meeting to order at 7:32 AM

Members present: P. Kochenburger, D. Keane, T. Moran
Guest(s): M. Ninteau, G. Padick

2. Minutes:

T. Moran moved and D. Keane seconded that the minutes of February 26th be approved as drafted.
The motion carried unanimously

3. Draft Ordinance: Offstreet Parking on Residential Property

Committee members and staff reviewed, on a section-by-section basis, potential revisions to the previously distributed 1/11/10 draft ordinance. Particular attention was given to Section 3 (Findings and Purpose), Section 5 (Applicability), Section 6 D (Parking Space Site Plan Requirements), Section 8 (Modifications of Parking Place Site Plan) and Section 10 (Enforcement).

Subject to one minor wording revision, Committee members concurred that the proposed revisions to Section 3 were both important and needed in order to clarify and strengthen the ordinance intent. Potential revisions to Section 5, which also are being reviewed by the Town Attorney, focused on appropriate wording for an ownership exemption. After discussion, Committee members agreed that this exemption needed to be carefully defined and limited and that wording acceptable to the Town Attorney should be incorporated. Turning to the parking area requirements contained in Section 6, G. Padick explained that since the last Committee meeting, staff had reviewed the criteria for parking areas and a number of refinements are now considered appropriate to add flexibility, particularly for sites with existing dwellings that are either close to a street or significantly distant from a street. Members reviewed each of the draft parking area approval standards and concurred that the suggested revisions were appropriate.

G. Padick noted that, based on the Committee's discussion on February 26th, staff had reviewed and comprehensively revised Section 8 regarding modifications. As drafted the revisions to this section would authorize staff to approve modifications of the Section 6 standards for existing situations where traffic safety or neighborhood impact problems were not observable or otherwise known and where existing site characteristics or other factors made strict compliance unreasonable. After discussion and incorporation of a wording revision, Committee members expressed support for the recommended revisions to Section 8. Turning to Section 10 (enforcement), members discussed with staff anticipated enforcement processes and the need to specifically reference the right to issue warnings. After considering and revising the wording of a proposed new sentence in Section 10, members agreed that the proposed addition regarding the issuance of violation warnings, should be incorporated.

After discussing potential next steps, Committee members agreed that subject to the Town Attorney's review, they were ready to recommend to the Town Council that the revised draft ordinance be presented at a new public hearing. Staff agreed to reformat the proposed revisions to

the 1/11/10 draft to clarify proposed additions and deletions and P. Kochenburger agreed to approve a transmittal memorandum.

4. Future Meetings

No additional meetings were scheduled.

3. Adjournment

The members adjourned the meeting at 8:37 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory Padick
Director of Planning

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**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager
Date: April 26, 2010
Re: Mansfield 2020 (Strategic Plan) Update

Subject Matter/Background

At Monday's meeting, staff will provide a brief status report on the strategic plan. In addition to the progress we've made on the larger plan, staff has developed a new vision point specifically for town government. We welcome any comments on the attached draft.

Attachments

- 1) Strategic Plan Status Report – April 2010
- 2) Draft Government Vision Point

**Town of Mansfield
Strategic Planning Team
Government Vision Point
DRAFT**

Town Government Vision Point

The Mansfield community enjoys an open, ethical, and professional government that is efficient and effective in providing a broad range of quality services for quality living.

Core Values:

- Civility and Respect
- Dedication
- Fairness
- Quality and Excellence

Practices:

- Accessibility
- Accountability
- Effectiveness
- Efficiency
- Innovation
- Responsiveness

Practices:

Accessibility: Mansfield Town government strives to be accessible to all of its residents and stakeholders regardless of (dis)abilities, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.

Accountability: Mansfield Town government and its staff will be accountable to its citizens and stakeholders for implementing programs, services, and policies established by its elected officials.

Effectiveness: Mansfield Town government will deploy its resources in the most effective manner to support and enhance quality services for quality living and to positively affect outcomes.

Efficiency: Mansfield Town government will provide services and conduct its business in an efficient manner to maximize its organizational resources.

Innovation: Mansfield Town government challenges existing paradigms through responsible risk taking and intentional use of best practices.

Responsiveness: Mansfield Town government will be responsive to its citizens and stakeholders based upon available resources, legal constraints, and policy guidelines established by its elected officials.

Action items

- A. Human resources - evaluate human resource processes to promote core values. Action steps:
1. Update personnel rules and policies
 2. Develop performance management process (employee performance review)
 3. Develop formal employee development and training program
- B. Organizational culture – refine organizational culture and move organization from “good to great.” Action steps:
1. Promote shared common goal amongst our workforce of providing quality services to our residents.
 2. Promote a culture of community at work.
 3. Promote work-life balance by providing flexible work hours, an employee wellness program, and office ergonomics.
 4. Promote the concept that all departments, regardless of physical location, are part of “one organization.”
 5. Foster an environment that encourages employees to embrace change and to think creatively.
 6. Use training opportunities as a means for shifting culture

- C. Organizational assessment –engage in activities that lead to evaluating programs, measuring outcomes and benchmarking against comparable communities. Action steps:
1. Participate in ICMA Center for Performance Measurement.
 2. Identify and define core services; understand community expectations for service delivery standards.
 3. Conduct a “citizen willingness to pay for services” survey to determine citizens’ preferences for services and their willingness to pay for those services.
 4. Develop a system for gauging citizen response to services.
 5. Research best practices and benchmark against comparable communities; embrace best practices and modify them to fit Mansfield’s needs.
 6. Conduct program evaluation studies of programs, services, and departments. Using qualitative and/or quantitative methods when conducting program evaluation studies, make recommendations to improve effectiveness and efficiency of Town operations.
 7. Develop IT strategic plan focused on applications and systems integration to enhance services and develop efficiencies.
- D. Communications – Utilize a variety of mediums to better inform and educate residents. Action items:
1. Prepare and implement communications policy to ensure that public information is communicated to citizens in a consistent way throughout the organization.
 2. Embrace new technologies and social media as a means for communicating with our citizens.
 3. Understand generational differences in expectations for citizen communications; don’t completely abandon traditional means of communicating with citizens.
 4. Complete website upgrade.
- E. Council/staff relations – develop a process to ensure and promote positive council/staff relations, in furtherance of organizational vision, goals and objectives.
1. Develop and conduct comprehensive council/staff orientation
 2. Conduct annual retreat/planning workshop for council and senior staff
- F. Advisory committee/staff relations – support Council’s efforts in furtherance of organizational vision, goals and objectives through the work of their advisory committees.
1. Develop a process to ensure and promote positive committee/staff relations.
 2. Assist in developing standard orientation and training program for advisory committees.
 3. Assist in reviewing advisory committee structure and responsibilities; determine whether any reorganization is appropriate.
 4. Assist in developing a means for connecting advisory committees to Council on a more frequent and formal basis.
 5. Assist in developing a recognition program to recognize advisory committee service.

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Town Government

Vision Point: Town Government *NEW*

Current				
Action Item	<i>Town Government - Engage and lead Mansfield's management team to ensure that Town staffing, organizational and financial structure is appropriate to meet present and future challenges, and take advantage of opportunities presented by digital technology. Serve as effective and responsible steward of municipal finances and assets. Promote public participation and efficiency in town government and the public education of town residents.</i>			
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status
1	Ethics Ordinance	Assist Ethics Board and Town Council with any desired amendments to Ethics Ordinance. Submit recommendation to Council by May 2010.	M. Capriola/ Ethics Board	Ethics board has presented draft to Personnel Committee; Committee review currently underway. Personnel committee will submit a draft for Council's review and to the Town Attorney for recommended revisions.
2	Ordinance Regarding Financial Management Practices and Policies	Prepare proposed ordinance concerning various human resource management practices and policies	D. O'Brien	Drafting phase. Target submission to council by 6/30/10.
3	Ordinance Regarding Human Resource Management Practices and Policies	Prepare proposed ordinance concerning various human resource management practices and policies	D. O'Brien	Research phase. Will present draft to council in FY 10/11.
4	Personnel Rules and Policies	Complete revision to Personnel Rules; make substantial progress with update to personnel policies	M. Capriola /Labor Counsel	Staff has prepared revision to various chapters of rules, as well as various policies. Legal counsel to finalize draft amendment to personnel rules, for submission to personnel committee and town council by 6/30/10.
5	Town Council Media Project	Complete project	J. Russell	Complete
6	Town Council Orientation	Complete orientation for new Council	M. Capriola/SA Chaine	Complete
7	Website Upgrade	Complete project	J. Russell	Staff has presented new site to council; reviews were favorable. New site to go live by end of April 2010.

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
K-12

Vision Point: K-12 Education and Early Childhood				
Current				
<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Infrastructure - Maintain and enhance infrastructure deigned to promote sustainability and holistic education.</i>			
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status
8	Four Schools Renovation Project *NEW*	As member of school building committee, develop proposed school renovation project for submission to Town Council and Board of Education	Project Architect/School Building Committee	SBC presented recommendation to MBOE and Town Council in early March. MBOE to present recommendation to council by 5/24/10.
<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Promote healthy lifestyles.</i>			
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status
9	Promote healthy lifestyles for young children	Improve health, nutrition and physical activity for children 0-8	K. Grunwald	Dept. of Human services has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Graustein Foundation to implement Mansfield's Plan for Young Children. The plan includes a focus on health, nutrition and physical activity for children 0-8.
Future Action Items				
	<i>Expand youth services.</i>			
	<i>Provide affordable early care and education for children from birth through kindergarten.</i>			
	<i>Focus on holistic education.</i>			
	<i>Improve coordination of curricula, administration, and transportation among Region 19 towns.</i>			

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Historic Rural Character

Vision Point: Historic and Rural Character, Open Space and Working Farms					
Current					
Action Item	Preservation - Preserve existing farms and open space in Mansfield while increasing the number of farms and farming opportunities.				
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status	
10	Farmland and Open Space Preservation	Develop land management plans for key open space parcels; submit application to state's AGvocate program	J. Kaufman/Open Space Preservation Committee	After review of the program, the Agriculture Committee, in consultation with Staff, agreed not to apply for the Agvocate Grant. The Agvocate program has been geared towards communities in eastern CT without an agriculture committee/commission. Staff and the Parks Advisory Committee have been updating the land managment plans for existing properties. Next, management plans for the new properties will be developed.	
11	Agriculture Regulations	Revise regulations to promote small local agriculture and sustainable farming operations in manner that is cognizant of neighborhood impact	OSPC/PZC	The Planning and Zoning Commission has agreed to work with the Agriculture Committee to draft comprehensive revisions to Mansfield's Zoning Regulations on agricultural uses. Similar efforts are underway in many CT Municipalities and J. Kaufman and G. Padick are in the process of reviewing recently updated regulations and draft proposals from other Towns. A fall public hearing is anticipated.	
12	Bond Issue	Prepare proposed bond issue for Nov 2010 referendum	Finance/OSPC	As part of FY 10/11 CIP, Council has endorsed proposed bond issue of \$1 million for open space. Voters to consider proposed CIP at 5/11/10 budget town meeting (tentative).	
Action Item	Protect and maintain Mansfield's cultural history, including its historic structures and villages, scenic roads and views, stonewalls, and burial grounds				

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
 Historic Rural Character

No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status
13	Successfully integrate aquired burial grounds into Town practices & procedures.	Integrate admistration and operation of Riverside Burying Ground into Town practices & procedures.	M. Stanton	Riverside Burying Ground has successfully been transferred to the Town. The new cremation burying and scattering grounds have been approved by the Cemetery Committee and the fees endorsed by the Town Council. The necessary forms are available and the Cemetery Regulations have been updated and reprinted.

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Housing

Vision Point: Housing					
Current					
Action Item	<i>Promoting neighborhood cohesion; preventing blight problems; and reduction in property maintenance problems.</i>				
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status	
14	Committee on Community Quality of Life	Support and facilitate work of committee, including the development of an ordinance regulating residential rental parking and a tenant registration ordinance, and creating a new student use category for land use and housing regulations.	M. Ninteau/G. Padick/Advisory committee(s)	Town Council considering adoption of off-street parking ordinance. A public Hearing is scheduled for April 26th. PZC considering revision of definition of "family," which includes a reduction in the number of unrelated persons (from 4 to 3) that can occupy a single-family home (existing uses may qualify as a non-conforming use). A public hearing has been scheduled for May 3rd. At this time, advisory committee does not appear to support tenant registration ordinance.	
Future Action Items					
	<i>Encourage Uconn to provide more housing, particularly for graduate students and staff, and to upgrade the quality of existing graduate student housing.</i>				
	<i>Encourage affordable, accessible housing.</i>				

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Public Safety

Vision Point: Public Safety					
Current					
<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Police - Ensure efficient and effective deployment of resources to meet community demands and needs: Commission study during FY 2009/10 to review police service delivery system</i>				
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status	
15	Police Study	Review and analyze police services, with respect to present and future needs, resource allocation and potential partnerships.	M. Capriola	In May 2010, Town Council regionalism committee to interview selected consulting firms. Staff's preliminary target date for completed study is Sepetmber 2010.	
Future Action Items					
	<i>Protect and enhance quality of life in neighborhoods and villages throughout Town.</i>				
	<i>Be prepared to effectively respond to natural and manmade disaster (disaster preparedness).</i>				
	<i>Ensure efficient and effective deployment of resources to meet community demands and needs: Evaluate Fire and EMS Capital Infrastructure and Response Profile</i>				

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Recreation, Health Wellness

Vision Point: Recreation, Health and Wellness					
Current					
<i>Action Item</i>	<i>Community Center - Ensure the development and maintenance of activities, programs and facilities designed to foster healthy recreational activity. *NEW*</i>				
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status	
16	Mansfield Community Center *NEW*	Continue oversight of center operations, with a particular focus on membership recruitment and retention; complete consolidation of maintenance function with Department of Facilities Management	MCC Mgmt Team	Consolidation of maintenance function is complete. Membership recruitment and retention efforts have proven successful - in May 2010 staff to provide Council with annual update.	
Future Action Items					
	<i>Educate public (employers, individuals, Town Council) about the benefits of recreation, health and wellness.</i>				
	<i>Conduct a needs assessment of RHW including facilities (indoor and outdoor), programs and the use of technology.</i>				
	<i>Ensure adequate financial support for recreation, health and wellness.</i>				

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Regionalism

Vision Point: Regionalism				
Current				
Action Item	<i>Economic Development - Create a structure to support regional development efforts.</i>			
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status
17	Investigate value of a regional school system (pre K - 12)	Serve as member of ad hoc regionalization committee to analyze feasibility of providing certain preK-8 services (e.g. transportation) on regional basis	M. Paquette	Committee review ongoing, with a current focus on transportation and special education.
18	Natchaug River Basin Community Action Planning *NEW*	Participate as key stakeholder in community action planning process	G. Padick/M. Capriola	A new Steering Committee will have it's first meeting on April 29th and Gregory Padick, Director of Planning, has volunteered to participate as a member and will focus on Land Use and Economic Development aspects of the project.
19	Encourage town government to work with colleges and universities to develop regional initiatives	Facilitate work of council regionalism committee to examine feasibility of additional shared service options and opportunities for regional service delivery		Town manager served as member of Governor's Council on Local Public Health Regionalization and currently participates as member of town functions subcommittee for Speaker Donovan's MORE commission. Regionalism committee has recently met with representatives from Town of Windham - staff asked to research establishment of regional collaborative to provide shared services and will consult with universities re: resource capabilities. Regionalism committee to meet again in late May/early June 2010.
20	WINCOG Regional Economic Development Program *NEW*	Establish economic development program working in partnership with Mansfield Downtown Partnership and Windham Region Council of Governments.	WINCOG/MDP	WINCOG has adopted regional economic development plan, and is pursuing funding options to facilitate implementation of the plan. Priority recommendation of the plan is to establish regional economic development organization.
Future Action Items				
	<i>Water- Create a structure to support regional development efforts.</i>			
	<i>Transportation- Create a structure to support regional development efforts.</i>			
	<i>Housing- Create a structure to support regional development efforts.</i>			

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Senior Services

Vision Point: Senior Services				
Current				
Action Item	<i>Assisted/Independent Living Project - Promote the development of an assisted/independent living facility to meet the needs of Mansfield seniors. *NEW*</i>			
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status
21	Assisted/Independent Living Project	Provide consultation and advice to Council's preferred developer	K. Grunwald	Masonicare has extended their option to purchase property on Maple Rd. through 2011. They are waiting for credit markets to improve before starting construction.
22	Volunteer Transportation Program *NEW*	Work with advisory committees to develop recommendation for Town Council consideration	K. Grunwald	A sub-committee of the Senior Center Assoc. has been working on a plan to implement a volunteer driving program. The Council-adopted budget includes 10 hours/wk. for a volunteer transportation coordinator.
23	Wellness Program *NEW*	Work with advisory committees to examine feasibility of enhanced services	K. Grunwald	Funding proposed in the budget to conduct a feasibility study. Advisory committees should review work done by the Association's geriatric sub-committee before proceeding with this.
Future Action Items				
	<i>We now have a new centrally located Senior Center for the mature segments of our population.</i>			
	<i>A Board of Senior Citizens to oversee and coordinate senior affairs, ie. Assisted living.</i>			
	<i>Human Services maintains, updates and distributes a listing of agencies that provide home care and health services to seniors who choose to remain in their homes.</i>			
	<i>Mansfield has a town-wide coordinated transportation system which benefits all levels of our population.</i>			
	<i>Study the implications of tax relief for residents who are 70 years and older.</i>			
	<i>Encourage area businesses to provide part or full-time employment opportunities for seniors.</i>			
	<i>Explore possibility of hosting senior summer Olympics in conjunction with UConn.</i>			

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Sustainability Planning

Current				
Current				
Action Item	<i>Economic Development - Create and implement policies and programs for economic development that are consistent with Mansfield's plan of conservation and development and environmental sustainability policy.</i>			
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status
24	Economic Development Program *NEW*	Work with MDP, WINCOG, Town Council and other stakeholders to begin development of economic development program with focus on business development and retention	MDP/WINCOG/ G. Padick	Staff has enhanced economic & community development page on Town's website; will provide Council with status report in May/June 2010.
25	Mansfield Downtown Partnership - Storrs Center	Work with project team to prepare business plan for Phase I of project; assist Town Council with negotiation of potential development agreement with LeylandAlliance; oversee streetscape enhancement components of project	Downtown Partnership/ Financial Advisor/Legal Counsel	Storrs Road improvements in design phase. Town has executed urban action grant assistance agreement with DECD and issued RFQ to select designer for intermodal facility. Town negotiating development agreement with developer. Developer finalizing pro forma and financing for Phase 1A. Project update to council and community scheduled for 4/28/10.
Action Item	<i>Environmental - Incorporate principles of sustainability into Mansfield's identity by creating and implementing policies, practices and programs.</i>			
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status
26	Four Schools Renovations Project *NEW*	Work to ensure application of alternate and clean energy sources as part of Four Schools project	School Building Committee	Any new construction or "build to new" options to comply with minimum of LEED silver standards.
27	Mansfield Middle School Fuel Conversion Project *NEW*	Complete project	W. Hammon	Base project complete; project alternates to be complete by June 2010.
28	Sustainability Advisory Committee	Assist committee with its formation and development of a work plan; conduct inventory of municipal greenhouse gas emissions and begin to develop plan to achieve reductions	Public Works/ Sustainability Committee	New advisory committee continues to meet regularly and has developed draft inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. Committee has also reviewed school renovation project and has offered its assistance to building committee, MBOE and Town Council.

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Sustainability Planning

Action Item	<i>Sewer/Water - Establish and implement a comprehensive policy for sustainable water and sewer service that address Mansfield's short term and long term needs.</i>				
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status	
29	Four Corners Water and Sewer Project	Work with advisory committee and staff to develop proposed engineering and financing plan for Four Corners water and sewer project	L. Hultgren/Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee	Engineering design of sewer and water pipes in progress. Alternative water sources under study. Funds to complete design work requested in '10-11 Capital Budget. Grant applications filed with Federal legislators.	
30	Windham WPCA	Resolve arbitration with Windham WPCA	L. Hultgren	An amendment to the existing agreement with Windham that resolves the disputes has been drafted and is under review.	
Action Item	<i>Transportation - Create/implement sustainable transportation systems.</i>				
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status	
31	Storrs Center Intermodal Facility	Support and facilitate work of parking advisory committee and staff to develop parking management plan for Storrs Center	C. van Zelm/Parking Consultant/Advisory Committee	Steering committee developing proposed parking management plan for project; target completion date of fall 2010.	
Future Action Items					
	<i>Review, refine and revise land use policies and regulations to reflect environmental, sustainability and economic development policies.</i>				
	<i>Promote public participation and efficiency in town government and the public education of town residents.</i>				

Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision
Town-University Relations

Vision Point: Town/University Relations					
Current					
Action Item	<i>Community/Campus Relations - Improve relations between students and town residents.</i>				
No.	Task	Objective	Assigned Staff/Other	Status	
32	Spring Weekend *NEW*	Facilitate Town-Univ Relations Committee review of Spring Weekend activities; work with State Police and other key stakeholders to implement additional public safety measures	J. Jackman/D. Dagon/J. Kodzis	Committee issued first after-action report for spring weekend 2009. Public safety and other key stakeholders to introduce additional measures for spring weekend 2010, designed to reduce potential for violence and other problematic behavior and to reduce presence of individuals not affiliated with university.	
Future Action Items					
	<i>Encourage students to participate in greater community.</i>				
	<i>Strengthen existing town/university partnerships.</i>				
	<i>Create and support opportunities for diversity in town.</i>				
	<i>Strengthen interaction between university and local agriculture/business.</i>				

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**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Jessie Shea, Planning Office;
Kevin Grunwald, Human Services Director
Date: April 26, 2010
Re: Fair Housing Policy & Resolution

Subject Matter/Background

In order to apply for and receive funding under the Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program, the Town is required to maintain its Fair Housing Policy and Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Policy. Although these policies have not been rescinded, the Department of Economic and Community Development requires re-adoption of these policies in years in which we are applying for grant funds. Since we anticipate applying for a grant through the Small Cities program in June 2010, we should re-adopt the noted policies. These policies were last adopted in spring 2007. As a policy matter and as a legal requirement, it is important for the Town to help ensure that all citizens are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities.

Recommendation

If the Council supports re-adopting the policy statements and resolution, the following motions are in order:

Move, effective April 26, 2010, to adopt the attached Fair Housing Policy Statement.

Move, effective April 26, 2010, to adopt the attached Fair Housing Resolution.

Move, effective April 26, 2010, to adopt the attached Compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Policy.

Attachments

- 1) Fair Housing Policy Statement
- 2) Fair Housing Resolution
- 3) Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Policy Statement



**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
POLICY MEMORANDUM**

To: All Citizens & Town Employees
From: Mansfield Town Council and Matthew Hart, Town Manager
Date: (Revised) April 26, 2010
Subject: Fair Housing Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Town of Mansfield to promote fair housing opportunities and to encourage racial and economic integration in all its programs and housing development activities.

Programs funded and administered by the Town of Mansfield must comply with the provisions of Section 46a-64c of the C.G.S. and with related state and federal laws and regulations that prohibit discriminatory housing practices.

The Town of Mansfield or any sub-recipient of the Town of Mansfield will carry out an affirmative marketing program to attract prospective buyers or tenants of all majority or minority groups, without consideration of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, creed, sexual orientation, marital status, lawful source of income, disability, age, or because the individual has children in all programs and housing development activities funded or administered by the Town of Mansfield.

The Fair Housing Officer for the Town of Mansfield, Kevin Grunwald, or his designated representative is responsible for the enforcement and implementation of this policy. The Fair Housing Officer may be reached at (860) 429-3315 or Kevin.Grunwald@mansfieldct.org.

Complaints pertaining to discrimination in any program funded or administered by the Town of Mansfield may be filed with the Fair Housing Officer. The Town's grievance procedure will be utilized in these cases.

Complaints also may be filed with the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunity, Special Enforcement Unit, 21 Grand Street, Hartford, CT 06106, telephone (860) 541-3403.

A copy of this policy statement will be given annually to all Town of Mansfield employees and they are expected to fully comply with it. In addition, a copy will be posted throughout the Town of Mansfield.

Matthew W. Hart
Town Manager

Date

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION

Whereas, All American citizens are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, State and Federal Fair Housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, marital status, age, mental or physical disability, lawful source of income, sexual orientation, familial status, be given equal access to rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, The Town of Mansfield is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Town Council of the Town of Mansfield hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase and obtain financing for adequate housing of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis: and BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Town Manager of the Town of Mansfield, or his/her designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Mansfield.

Adopted by the Mansfield Town Council on April 26, 2010.

Certified a true copy of a resolution adopted by the Town of Mansfield at a meeting of its Town Council on April 26, 2010 and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

Date

Clerk

(Seal)



**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
POLICY MEMORANDUM**

To: All Citizens & Town Employees
From: Mansfield Town Council and Matthew Hart, Town Manager
Date: (Revised) April 26, 2010
Subject: Compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 Policy Statement

The Town of Mansfield does not discriminate in the provision of services, the administration of its programs, or contractual agreements. The Town of Mansfield seeks to fully carry out its responsibilities under the Title VI Regulations.

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Title VI provides that "No person shall on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any programs" covered by the Regulations.

This policy is effectuated through the methods of administration outlined in the of Mansfield's Fair Housing Plan and is fully implemented to ensure compliance by the Town, as the recipient, and by sub-recipients. The cooperation of all Town of Mansfield personnel is required.

Matthew W. Hart
Town Manager

Date



**Town of Mansfield
Agenda Item Summary**

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager; Jessie Shea, Planning Office;
Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works
Date: April 26, 2010
Re: Small Cities Public Hearing – Bikepath/Sidewalk Project

Subject Matter/Background

Staff wishes to hold a public hearing on May 24, 2010 at 7:30 p.m. at the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT to review and discuss its proposed application to the State Department of Economic Community Development for funds under the Small Cities Program.

The purpose of the public hearing is to obtain citizens' views on the Town's community development and housing needs and review and discuss specific project activities in the areas of housing, economic development or community facilities which could be a part of the Town's application for funding. The Town is considering submitting an application to construct an extension of the bikepath/sidewalk along the South Eagleville Road/Maple Road intersection to the South Eagleville Road/Separatist Road intersection. Other potential or proposed projects eligible for Small Cities funding may also be reviewed and discussed at this hearing.

If needed, staff will also be available to review the status of its current Small Cities activities at this hearing in anticipation of this submission.

Financial Impact

HUD provides Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money to States, whom may distribute the resources to non-entitlement communities (population less than 50,000). Funding for this project would come from Small Cities grant monies; in-kind resources such as staff time (i.e. administration, design) will be dedicated to this project.

Recommendation

Staff recommends holding a public hearing to review and discuss its proposed application to the State Department of Economic Community Development for funds under the Small Cities Program.

If the Town Council supports this recommendation, the following motion is in order:

Move, effective April 26, 2010, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 p.m. at the Town Council's regular meeting on May 24, 2010, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed application to the State Department of Economic Community Development for funds under the Small Cities Program.

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Energy Education Team
Minutes of the Meeting
March 16, 2010

Present: Britton (chair), Williams, Loxsom, Millius, Walton (staff), Smith, Lynn Stoddard (guest)

The meeting began at 7:06 p.m. Introductions were made.

The minutes from January 19, 2010 minutes were reviewed and accepted.

Lynn Stoddard facilitated goal-setting. The team's overarching goal is to have Mansfield become energy smart. This would be measured by a 30% reduction in Mansfield's residential and municipal energy consumption and an increase in the use of renewable energy by 20%. Some ways that energy reductions might be achieved include increasing the number of home energy audits (Home Energy Solutions), reducing the audit charge through a municipal contract, showcasing a Mansfield net zero house, creating a model school, piloting a residential energy reduction campaign, developing a Mansfield ride-share program and car-share program. Ways that the Town might increase the use of renewable energy include getting more CleanEnergyOptions sign-ups by raising awareness of other electrical suppliers who are cheaper, showcasing a Mansfield net zero house and installing solar powered charging stations in Town. The team will continue to develop these ideas at the next meeting.

Loxsom reported that five more energy challenge participants had infrared imaging done on their houses, which on all of the houses revealed problem areas. Walton reported that 411 households are signed on to CleanEnergyOptions, which represents 7.2% of the households.

There are two upcoming presentations that will be held in the Student Center Theater at Eastern Connecticut State University. "Energy Conservation and Solar Energy for Homeowners" will be held on Tuesday, March 31 at 7 pm. "Geothermal Energy for Homeowners" will be held on Tuesday, April 21 at 7 pm. Walton stated that she has sent out a press release to the papers, radio and Mansfield's e-mail notification system, QNotify.

The next meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2010. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Walton
Recycling/Refuse Coordinator

Cc: Lon R. Hultgren, Director of Public Works, Members, file, Town Manager, Town Clerk

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
March 11, 2010
Minutes

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice Chair, Chris Kueffner, Secretary, Martha Kelly, Holly Matthews, Min Lin, Katherine Paulhus, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: Griffin Deans, 4th grade student at Goodwin School shared video of invention of a bathtub book reading device. David Garvey, 104 Jonathan Lane, spoke in support of the one new elementary school option. He also suggested research merging oil, insurance, and special education with other districts.

COMMUNICATIONS: Mary Feathers presented the Report of the Building Committee. The report is an endorsement of Option D. The committee believes this option accomplishes objectives they were asked to accomplish.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Personnel Committee: Ms. Patwa reported that there will be an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss non-renewal of teachers and contract negotiations. EASTCONN Executive Board: Mrs. Paulhus reported that EASTCONN will host a summit on regionalization on April 1st.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- Language Arts/Reading and Mathematics Update - Karen Moylan, Mathematics Consultant and Judy Shay, Reading/Language Arts Consultant reviewed fall district assessment scores and their implications.
- Office of Policy and Management Municipal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant – William Hammon, Director of Facilities Management reported on the grant award of \$97,040. The grant is for three projects: light bulbs replaced in all town buildings, energy management computer system, and replacement of maintenance shop boiler.
- Liberty Bank Grant Application –Jeff Cryan, Principal MMS reported on the grant application toward school goals of developing confident learners.
- Budget Process –Mr. Baruzzi discussed the town's budget review calendar for the 2010-2011 budget.
- Health Impact Project Funding –Mr. Baruzzi discussed the Eastern Highlands Health District letter of support
- Proposal to Provide a Clinical and Educational Services Analysis to the Mansfield, Ashford, Willington and Region 19 School Districts –Mr. Baruzzi reviewed the Futures Education proposal to provide a review of the special services programs and a broad organizational overview on the feasibility of consolidating special education services of the four districts.
- Draft Town of Mansfield Policy on Transparency and Open Government – The Board referred draft to Policy Committee for recommendation.
- *Enhancing Student Achievement* –Three new projects were reviewed and will be implemented at the schools in support of this activity.
- Class Size/Enrollment – Mr. Baruzzi reviewed a change in the way MMS classrooms would be reported. The principals noted no significant changes this month.

School Building Project: Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance, presented financial information explaining the cost to taxpayers for each of the options. The Board asked questions and reviewed answers.

Mrs. Paulhus left at 10:20pm

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: **MOTION** by Ms. Patwa, seconded Ms. Matthews that the following item for the Board of Education meeting of March 11, 2010 be approved or received for the record: **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the February 11, 2010 Board meeting.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the request for unpaid childrearing leave effective April 26 – November 2010 by Julie Hodgson, Mansfield Middle School Writing Center teacher.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: None

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Matthews to move into Executive Session at 10:52pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Matthews to return to open session at 11:10pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Ms. Matthews to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent regarding non-renewal of teachers. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Lin to adjourn at 11:11pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Kueffner, Secretary

Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
March 11, 2010
Minutes

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice Chair, Chris Kueffner, Secretary, Martha Kelly, Holly Matthews, Min Lin, Katherine Paulhus, Carrie Silver-Bernstein, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi

The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: Griffin Deans, 4th grade student at Goodwin School shared video of invention of a bathtub book reading device. David Garvey, 104 Jonathan Lane, spoke in support of the one new elementary school option. He also suggested research merging oil, insurance, and special education with other districts.

COMMUNICATIONS: Mary Feathers presented the Report of the Building Committee. The report is an endorsement of Option D. The committee believes this option accomplishes objectives they were asked to accomplish.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Personnel Committee: Ms. Patwa reported that there will be an Executive Session following the meeting to discuss *non-renewal of teachers and contract negotiations*. EASTCONN Executive Board: Mrs. Paulhus reported that EASTCONN will host a summit on regionalization on April 1st.

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- Budget Process – Mr. Baruzzi discussed the town's budget review calendar for the 2010-2011 budget.
- Health Impact Project Funding – Mr. Baruzzi discussed the Eastern Highlands Health District *letter of support*
- Proposal to Provide a Clinical and Educational Services Analysis to the Mansfield, Ashford, Willington and Region 19 School Districts – Mr. Baruzzi reviewed the Futures Education proposal to provide a review of the special services programs and a broad organizational overview on the feasibility of consolidating special education services of the four districts.
- Draft Town of Mansfield Policy on Transparency and Open Government – The Board referred draft to Policy Committee for recommendation.
- Enhancing Student Achievement – Three new projects were reviewed and will be implemented at the schools in support of this activity.
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School Building Project: Cherie Trahan, Director of Finance, presented financial information explaining the cost to taxpayers for each of the options. The Board asked questions and reviewed answers.

Mrs. Paulhus left at 10:20pm

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: **MOTION** by Ms. Patwa, seconded Ms. Matthews that the following item for the Board of Education meeting of March 11, 2010 be approved or received for the record: **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor

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That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the request for unpaid childrearing leave effective April 26 – November 2010 by Julie Hodgson, Mansfield Middle School Writing Center teacher.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: None

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Matthews to move into Executive Session at 10:52pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded by Ms. Matthews to return to open session at 11:10pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Ms. Matthews to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent regarding non-renewal of teachers. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

MOTION by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Lin to adjourn at 11:11pm. **VOTE:** Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Kueffner, Secretary

Mansfield Commission on Aging Minutes
9:30 AM – Senior Center
Monday, March 8, 2010

PRESENT: K. Grunwald (staff), T. Quinn (Chair), S. Gordon, J. Scottron, Jane Blanshard (guest), M. Thatcher, E. Poirier, M. Gerling (staff), T. Rogers, C. Pellegrine, A. Holinko, K. Doeg, J. Quarto

REGRETS: W. Bigl, C. Phillips,

- I. **Call to Order:** Chair T. Quinn called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.
- II. **Appointment of Recording Secretary:** K. Grunwald agreed to take minutes for the meeting.
- III. **Acceptance of Minutes:** The minutes of the **February 8** meeting were accepted as written.
- IV. **Correspondence** – Chair and Staff: none.
- V. **New Business**
 - A. **Waldo Klein- State Commission on Aging:** Mr. Klein was unable to attend, but will be invited to a future meeting.
 - B. **Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities:** J. Blanshard, a member of that committee, reported on their accomplishments including increasing the fine for handicapped parking violations and advocating for an automatic door opener at TJ Maxx.
 - C. **Non-profit Agency Funding Requests:**
 - Pellegrine presented C. Phillips report on TVCCA's Meals on Wheels application. Her recommendation was that the application be funded for the full amount requested (\$3387.72). Recommendation was accepted unanimously.
 - A. Holinko reported on Community Companion's and Homemaker's request for \$4500. They have served 55 residents since July 1. She feels that it is important to support agencies like this as part of a network of services for seniors. Her recommendation is to fund this for the full amount requested. Approved unanimously.
 - M. Thatcher reported on the request from Dial-A-Ride. They received approximately \$71,000 in funding last year from the Town. They are asking for a modest increase due to rising fuel and insurance costs. She feels that this serves some of Mansfield's most vulnerable residents who can't drive; recommended funding the full request. Approved unanimously.

D. Long-Range Plan Review: T. Rogers reported that People's Bank has decided that they do not want to go through the Commission on the Triad program, as they prefer to deal directly with the Fire Chief and the Resident State Trooper. C. Pellegrine suggested that this program be included in the plan, once it goes before the Town Council. She would like to see support from People's Bank to update "At Your Fingertips." Concerns were raised about how to get this type of information out to all senior residents. J. Quarto suggested that this be incorporated in the annual town-wide mailing of Sparks. K. Doeg also suggested that this be established as a link from the web page. A. Holinko suggested that the availability of the booklet be publicized and sent out in response to specific requests. Motion made to update "At Your Fingertips." L. Bilokur, C. Pellegrine, T. Quinn, and A. Holinko volunteered to work on a draft plan with K. Grunwald to for how to update the Long-Range Plan. They will present to the Commission at the next meeting. In terms of volunteer transportation M. Gerling is working on this with the Association. A suggestion was mad to invite Sharry Goldman to the next Commission meeting to present on this work.

E. Follow-up on Matt Hart's suggestion to host a Community Forum: J. Quarto feels that it would be helpful to have a discussion around the needs of seniors in Town. C. Pellegrine and M. Thatcher would like more information about what is being proposed. M. Gerling reported that she was aware of a similar forum that was held in Dedham, MA, which did not go well. C. Pellegrine expressed concern that this could just be a forum for complaints; an opportunity to "air the dirty laundry." T. Rogers feels that talking to individual members at the Center is a better way of approaching this. A. Holinko supports the idea of reaching out to individual seniors to hear what their needs are. T. Quinn feels that this needs to be more structured, but other members feel that something is lost in the formality of a public forum. C. Pellegrine moved that the recommendation for a public forum be placed on hold as the Commission explores other options. L. Bilokur feels that there are problems at the Senior Center that need to be aired. J. Scottron feels that it would not be productive to focus on the past. Motion passed unanimously.

F. "Other": none.

VI. **Optional Reports** on Services/Needs of Town Aging Populations

A. Health Care Services

Wellness Center and Wellness Program – Kevin Grunwald announced that an offer has been made to someone for the Social Work position.

B. Social, Recreational and Educational

Senior Center – Marilyn Gerling distributed copies of her monthly report. She reported that she is working on developing a volunteer driver program.

Senior Center Assoc. –Tom Rogers reported that Town staff and the Association are planning for a reception for the finalists for the Coordinator’s position.

C. Housing

Assisted Living Advisory Committee, Wrights Way, Juniper Hill, Jensen’s Park, Glen Ridge, Other: no reports.

D. Related Town and Regional Organizations such as:

Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Resources of Eastern CT: no reports.

VII. Old Business

- A. Long Range Plan for 2007- 2010: discussed earlier.
- B. Sub-Committee Report: New Senior Center: J. Quarto reported that they have not done anything on this since Candidate’s Night.
- C. Triad: discussed earlier.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 PM. Next meeting: **Monday, April 12, 2010** at 9:30 AM at the Senior Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE TOWN OF MANSFIELD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Housing Authority Office
March 18, 2010
12:45 p.m.

Attendance: Mr. Long, Chairperson; Mr. Simonsen, Vice President; Mr. Eddy, Secretary and Treasurer; Ms Hall, Assistant Treasurer; Ms Christison-Lagay Commissioner; and Ms Fields, Executive Director.

The meeting was called to order at 12:50 p.m. by the Chairperson.

MINUTES

The Chairperson declared the acceptance of the minutes of the February 19, 2010 Regular Meeting without objection.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mr Loyzim from Wright's Village stated he believed his refrigerator is defrosting more frequently than the manufacturer's specifications would suggest and this is causing him to pay higher electric bills. Mr. Loyzim was told the commission would consider his complaint.

COMMUNICATIONS

None

REPORTS OF THE DIRECTOR

Bills

A motion was made by Mr. Eddy and seconded by Ms Hall to accept the February 2010 Bills. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Reports –A (General)

A motion was made by Mr Simonsen and seconded by Ms Christison-Lagay to accept the December 2009 Financial Reports. Motion approved unanimously.

Financial Report-B (Section 8 Statistical Report)

A motion was made by Mr. Eddy and seconded by Mr. Simonsen to accept the February Section 8 Statistical Report. Motion approved unanimously.

REPORT FROM TENANT REPRESENTATIVE

Resident Advisory Committee

Mr Eddy reported that there was no new progress. He anticipates setting up a meeting in April or May and hopes for better attendance once the weather is better.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee

A conference call was conducted with Charles Stuart, author of the Life Cycle Report. He answered questions and explained the formulas he used to establish the required reserves. The finance committee will consider the

information and in planning a three year financial plan to present to the Board for consideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Storage at Holinko Estates

A meeting was set for March 18th at 3:00 pm with Fran Raiola for all Board members to view and discuss the storage issues at Holinko Estates.

DECD Weatherization Program

Ms Fields will meet with Raymond Mack of CL&P on April 6, 2010 to review the program and the property. Mr. Mack will attend the April 15, 2010 Board Meeting to provide the Board with the proposed plan and scope of work that could be provided through this program for Wright's Village.

NEW BUSINESS

Unoccupied Unit Policy

The Board agreed that because this is state subsidized housing and there are families waiting for units, units should not be unoccupied for an extended period.

A motion was made by Ms Christison-Lagay and seconded by Mr. Simonsen to accept the Unoccupied Unit Policy stated below. Motion passed unanimously.

Unoccupied Unit Policy

A Tenant must reside in and occupy his/her leased unit. If, for medical reasons, a tenant has not occupied the unit for three consecutive months, the tenant must provide the Mansfield Housing Authority with a statement from a doctor that the person is expected to return to and occupy the unit within the next three months.

In the event a tenant has not occupied the unit for any reason for six continuous months the lease will terminate.

Mr. Loyzim is excluded from this policy only for the purpose of vacationing at his "camp" during the months of March through November due to his longstanding practice prior to this policy being approved.

Update – Solar Project

All documentation has been submitted to the Clean Energy Fund. The review of our application was completed, staff recommended and the Board of Directors approved a contingent grant for the project in the amount of \$69,825. Ms. Fields accepted this offer. Mr. Britton, with Sunlight Solar reviewed our project was able to expand the number of panels at a lower cost than originally estimated in December 2008 due to panel cost reductions.

Update – Energy Audit – Office Lighting

ConServ completed the retrofit of the office lighting on March 8, 2010 in accordance with the energy audit recommendations.

Update – Water Conservation

Ms Fields attended the Kick-Off meeting for the Water Conservation Study to be conducted by the Town. Energy New England was selected as the vendor

to perform the study of each of the Town's water customers. Audits will be done over a period of time as money permits. Once an audit is completed a report will be given to the owner which will provide water saving measures. Each measure will estimate the amount of water saved, cost of the measure and payback period. Each owner is then responsible to implement the water saving measures it chooses and can afford.

Use of HUD Section 8 Payment Standard

Ms Fields recommended that, effective April 1, 2010 the Housing Authority use the 2010 Section 8 one and two bedroom HUD payment standards for Mansfield, Willington and Coventry. Ms Fields is confident that the gross rents for enough of the one and two bedroom units are in line with the 2010 HUD payment standard to allow participants' access to affordable apartments. For the last few years, the Housing Authority has approved an additional 10% above the HUD payment standard because of the lack, at the time, of apartments that meet the HUD payment standards. The additional 10% adversely influences the Housing Authority's Section 8 financial position.

After lengthy discussion of the issue and review of the data, a motion was made by Mr. Simonsen and seconded by Mr. Eddy to have two votes on the issue, one to determine the payment standard for those towns in Tolland County (Mansfield, Willington and Coventry) and a second vote to determine the payment standard for those towns in Windham County (Ashford and Chaplin). Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms Christison-Lagay and seconded by Mr. Simonsen that the payment standard for one and two bedroom units for Mansfield Willington and Coventry be the 2010 HUD payment standard, effective April 1, 2010. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Simonsen and seconded by Ms Hall that the payment standard for one and two bedroom units in Ashford and Chaplin be the 2010 HUD payment standard, effective April 1, 2010. Motion received two "yes" votes and three "no" votes. Motion did not pass.

A motion was made by Ms Christison-Lagay and seconded by Mr. Simonsen that the payment standard for one and two bedroom units in Ashford and Chaplin be a 5% increase over the 2010 HUD payment standard, effective April 1, 2010. Motion passed unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Response to Jim Loyzim

The Board believes Mr. Loyzim's refrigerator problem will likely be solved by keeping it 1/3 to 1/2 full since refrigerators do not run as efficiently when mostly empty.

Ms Fields will send a letter to Mr. Loyzim stating that the Housing Authority will provide him with water jugs to fill his refrigerator and freezer if he does not have enough food to fill it. The Housing Authority will also have maintenance personnel pay special attention to his refrigerator to assess any potential issues going forward and monitor the temperature once it is full.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Dexter Eddy, Secretary

Approved:

Richard Long, Chairperson



Town of Mansfield Emergency Management Advisory Council

Minutes of Special Meeting April 8, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Elizabeth Paterson called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. in Council Chambers at the Audrey P. Beck Building.

ROLL CALL

Members present: Michael Kurland, Elizabeth Paterson, Matthew Hart, David Dagon and Robert Miller.

Member(s) absent: James Kodzis, Lon Hultgren and Fred Baruzzi.

Staff present: John Jackman. Jennifer Thompson is serving as secretary at this meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Paterson, noting that the agenda should reference March 10, 2008 minutes, called for a motion to revise or approve said minutes. Motion in favor to accept the minutes as presented was made by M. Kurland and seconded by D. Dagon. All being in favor, motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2009 Spring Weekend Planning
 - a. Management Plan: J. Jackman noted because of efforts made in this regard, expectations and attitudes of students and emergency personnel seem more positive. Members concurred that furtherance of this development takes time. Town representatives continue to work with the Mansfield Campus Community Partnership and Jim Hintz, Director of Off-Campus Student Services of the University of Connecticut. The challenge is demonstration of how these efforts are making a difference; for example, through student involvement in MCCP and off-campus visits. It is difficult to provide solid evidence to support affect. M. Kurland and E. Paterson expressed that notification to students of their rights and responsibilities of being off-campus residents is a quality of life issue, people need to know that this is a community too not just university campus

and a good neighbor message is important. It was felt that the numbers of participants consuming alcohol to excess at Spring Weekend are diminishing as participants are taking more care of each other. D. Dagon indicated that partnering up is happening. M. Hart reported that complaints from the community focus on resident troopers and local police ability to respond in town after midnight, a time when coverage is provided by officers from the Troop C barracks in Tolland and they have to prioritize issues by manner of call received. Council needs to further address this matter. Discussion ensued regarding the spread of student parties to Gurleyville and other areas, the profitability of purchasing homes for student rental and the more affluent type of parents/students to afford amenities of off-campus living.

- b. Goals & Objectives: Better parking for emergency vehicles is always a goal. D. Dagon reported that there has been operational planning and meetings with UConn representatives in effort to enhance ambulance response in the event of mass-casualty. Fire Marshal's office at UConn is staging area and our units will still be used for primary response. There will be some minor alterations in the layout of the triage center.
- c. Initiatives for 2009: Better communications between university and town must continue to be aimed for. Wildcards for how things will turn out in connection with Spring Weekend this year include the fact that no concert is scheduled during the weekend and that activities may occur in another lot at UConn besides X-lot. Concerns were expressed regarding additional numbers requiring crowd control and single means of access to and topographical nature of the additional UConn lot site. M. Hart noted for the record that he was aware that a concert was not happening about a month ago. All members conceded that they probably knew about this for about a month, but question how a decision occurred without consulting public safety agencies.

REPORTS

- Updates on Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Initiatives
 - a. Regional Emergency Planning: Homeland Security has influenced the creation of five planning groups to provide regional emergency management. These groups permit the 169 towns and 2 tribal nations within our state to work cooperatively together. It was noted that M. Hart services as Vice Chair for Region IV. A draft plan is in place, but more work on the governing structure is still needed.
 - b. Regional Drill: A table-top drill has taken place and another is scheduled on May 2nd for the Northeast.
 - c. Grants: Grant funding shall focus on training and exercise of the plan.

Eastern Highland Health District is a model example of regional cooperation with an effective governing body.

- Updates on Eastern Highlands Health District Initiatives

- a. Pandemic: The district meets monthly to focus on this issue. A table-top exercise was held last week to highlight community-based intervention of a pandemic. Items such as mass-transit, isolation and quarantine, school and daycare closures, and social and economical impacts were discussed. In addition to health district staff, schools and business community representatives were present. The reality of a pandemic threat has not decreased; rather, it has just been less publicized recently.
- b. Bioterrorism: Due to State budget constraints, funding for bioterrorism is level. Center Disease Control & Prevention spending guidance is pending so unsure at this time of affect to local health district.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be presented to the members, Chairman Paterson adjourned the meeting at 10:14 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Thompson



**TOWN OF MANSFIELD/MANSFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE**

March 24, 2010

**Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Council Chambers**

MINUTES

Present: Fred Baruzzi, Matt Hart, Mark LaPlaca, Anne Willenborg, Mark Boyer, Mary Feathers, Elizabeth Paterson

Staff: Bill Hammon, Cherie Trahan, Allen Corson, Greg Padick

Guest: Tom Dimauro of Newfield Construction

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Meeting called to order at 5:35p.m.

2. Minutes

Meeting minutes from March 3rd and March 10th were passed unanimously.

3. Opportunity for the public to address the Committee

No Comment

4. MMS Fuel Conversion Project Update

Punch list of items are being completed, project is almost 100% complete.

5. Review Information Session held on March 15, 2010

Discussed the comments that were made by the public at the Information Session on March 15th.

Need to communicate to the public how the committee came to the decision of the one school option.
Make a clearly defined list of the pros of the one school decision.

6. Discussion – Additional information to share with Mansfield Board of Education

Discussed a new option, Option E. This option would consist of building two new schools for 350 students each and closing the third grammar school. Presentation was made by Mr. Padick of his preliminary study of the 3 school sites. He believes the Vinton school site would be large enough to build a new school to the rear of the property whereas Goodwin school site does not have sufficient space.

Decision was made by the committee to present the new option E, two new smaller schools located at Southeast site and Vinton site, to the Mansfield Board of Education and Town Council.

Also to be presented to the Mansfield Board of Education and Town Council the revised costs of the one school option D. Most notable changes is reducing the number of students from 771 students to 700 students and the revised reimbursement rate from the state.

A new financial analysis will need to be completed. Costs for demolition of the two old schools will be included in the analysis. Also to be included, the costs to demolish Goodwin, possible sale of Goodwin, and the costs to maintain the empty building.

7. Other

A joint meeting will be held with the Mansfield Board of Education and the Town Council on March 31, 2010 at 5:30 pm.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia Ducharme

**Town of Mansfield
Public Safety Committee
January 13, 2010
Beck Municipal Building, Conference Room B**

Minutes

Members Present: A. Barberet, R. Blicher, G. Cole, C. Paulhus, R. Pellegrine, Warden
M. Rinaldi, Lt. W. Solenski, W. Stauder (Chair), S. Thomas
Staff Present: Maria Capriola (Town)

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm

II. Minutes of 10/14/09

A motion was made by Mr. Paulhus and seconded by Mr. Cole to adopt the minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Warden's Report and Discussion

Warden Rinaldi provided an update on the population. Currently there are 943 inmates and the overflow unit remains closed. A general discussion occurred regarding the List of Offenses; the IT Department (State) is working to update the list for the Committee to include the underlying causes for violations (i.e. conspiracy, criminal intent). The Committee discussed conditions of probation and stalking charges.

The Community Outreach program has been temporarily suspended due to H1N1 concerns. A school graduation is scheduled for Friday, January 15th; 13 inmates are receiving their GEDs. Revenue generated from the inmate photo program was recently donated to local non-profits: the Willimantic Soup Kitchen and the Town of Mansfield Human Services Holiday Fund (serves local families in need).

Bergin staff conducted practice drills for escapes (Code Green) on Wednesday, January 13th and no problems occurred. Deputy Warden Kearney retired; Bergin will get a replacement Deputy Warden to run programming and education. The gymnasium is being used for recreation and indoor activities during the winter; inmates do have the option to go outside daily but many do not choose to do so in the winter.

IV. Chairperson's Report

For housekeeping purposes, Ms. Stauder suggested that the Committee re-visit the issue of selecting a Chair, Vice Chair and a secretary or recorder. Ms. Barberet made a motion, seconded by Mr. Paulhus for Ms. Stauder to continue to serve as Chair. The motion was unanimously approved. By consensus the Committee selected Mr. Paulhus to serve as the Vice Chair. No member of the Committee was interested in serving as secretary; as a result, the Committee asked Ms. Capriola to

continue to record their meeting minutes. Ms. Capriola stated she was willing to continue to record the meeting minutes.

V. Emergency Notification System

By consensus, the Committee asked staff to prepare and send a letter to residents and business owners with property within ¼ mile of Bergin. The letter will ask these people whether they wish to be added or dropped from the emergency notification phone tree.

VI. Communications

The Committee reviewed the basics of the FOIA brochure.

VII. Public Comment

None.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria Capriola, M.P.A.
Assistant to Town Manager

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2010

Members Present: W. Ryan, C. Schaefer, D. Keane

Other Council Members Present: Meredith Lindsey

Staff Present: C. Trahan, M. Hart, D. Dagon

Guests: Gerald Paradis, Partner from Blum, Shapiro & Co, and Bruce Baron and Theodore Bartkoski from Certified Ambulance Group

Meeting called to order at 6:00pm.

1. Minutes from 02/08/10 meeting approved as presented
2. Cherie Trahan introduced Gerald Paradis from Blum, Shapiro & Co who reviewed the FY 2008/09 audit and Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. Mr. Paradis reported that there were no instances of non-compliance and no material deficiencies. We received an Unqualified Opinion on the audit. This year's report was submitted for the Government Finance Officer's Association Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting program.
3. Dave Dagon, Mansfield Fire Chief introduced Bruce Baron and Theodore Bartkoski from Certified Ambulance Group. Mr. Baron & Mr. Bartkoski gave an overview of the ambulance service billing that we currently participate in and an overview of the rescue billing program. Typically, automobile or homeowner's insurance will pay for the billing. The rate billed is determined by the services needed. There are a number of communities in Connecticut currently participating in the program, among them are Tolland, Willington, Enfield, Eastford, and New London.
4. Matt Hart reviewed the need to look into revenue diversification. This year we are receiving an additional \$400,000 in PILOT funding because we have a Federal Water Shed property. However, this funding is not included in the Governor's proposed 2010/11 budget. Our dependence on State revenues leaves us vulnerable to unplanned fluctuations. We will ask for an update from Denise Merrill.
5. Future agenda items will include a review of the rescue fee issue. We should also look into whether there are any other third party billing agencies and what percentage they receive for their services.
6. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 7:15pm.

Motions:

Motion was made to accept the February 8, 2010 minutes by Carl Schaefer. Seconded by Denise Keane. All in favor, motion so passed.

Motion to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Cherie Trahan
Director of Finance

**TOWN OF MANSFIELD
PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**Monday, March 22, 2010
Mansfield Community Center Conference Room
Minutes**

Members Present: Deputy Mayor Gregg Haddad (Chair), Chris Paulhus, Peter Kochenburger

Other Council Members Present: Denise Keane

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes of 2/22/10 were moved by Paulhus and approved without objections by Paulhus and Haddad (Kochenburger absent at time of vote).

2. ETHICS CODE

The Committee continued its review of draft revisions to the Ethics Ordinance, as recommended by the Ethics Board on 1/7/10. Further items flagged and/or discussed:

- 25-4C(6)aiv (third paragraph)– What should be the threshold for disclosure for shareholders, etc? To what extent is disclosure appropriate as defined in 25-4C(6)aiv third paragraph? (Flagged)
- 25-4C(6)bii – insert “by its body” after “himself” and before “or.” (Consensus)
- 25-4C(6)bii – can a board require recusal of its members? Refer to Town Attorney. (Flagged)
- 25-4C(9) – Change private employment to outside employment. (Consensus)
- 25-4C(10) – Change post-employment employment to post-service employment. (Consensus)
- 25-4D – are the whistleblower provisions consistent with statute and Town policies? (Flagged)
- 25-6C – move 25-6C to 25-5. Also, add the words “and then submitted to the Council for review and consideration” to the end of the sentence. (Consensus)

3. OPEN AND TRANSPARENT GOVERNMENT POLICY

Ms. Capriola provided an update as to the status of the referrals received and outstanding items.

4. RULES OF PROCEDURE

The Committee did not have time to review this agenda item (tabled to a future meeting).

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m. The Committee will meet again on 4/12 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria E. Capriola, M.P.A.
Assistant to Town Manager

MANSFIELD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 13, 2010

Chairman Pellegrine called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

Present: Members – Fraenkel, Katz, Pellegrine, Singer-Bansal

Alternates – Accorsi, Gotch

Absent: Members – Wright

Alternates – Clauson

CONTINUED BUSINESS MEETING – WILLIAM PAULSON APPLICATION

Pellegrine expressed her concern that there were only 4 board members in attendance that were present for the entire public hearing.

At the December meeting the question came up as to whether the ZBA could reduce the size of the proposal. Pellegrine asked Curt Hirsch to check previous actions to see if there was any precedence set for reduction of the size of a request for a special exception. He found no references or information in regards to this issue. Pellegrine also contacted the town attorney who gave a verbal response saying that the ZBA should not be reducing the size of a request. He said that it is the Zoning Board of Appeal's responsibility to either approve or disapprove and that it is the responsibility or the power of the zoning enforcement officer to work on a reduction in the size of the special exception. Pellegrine said that the choice then, is to approve it granting what is being requested, or disapprove it with the idea that the zoning enforcement officer will work with the applicant to reduce it to an acceptable size.

Katz said that she took another look at the property and feels that because the deck is up on a high bluff and there's a hedge in front of it, that it is not a safety issue. She feels that this special exception should be granted. Fraenkel agreed.

A motion was made to continue this business meeting on January 27, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to allow time for some of the board members to listen to tapes of the hearing. All in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 9, 2009

Fraenkel moved to approve the minutes of December 9, 2009 as presented, seconded by Accorsi. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sharon Tyler

MINUTES

Mansfield Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities

Regular Meeting - Tuesday February 23, 2010

2:30 PM - Conference Room B - Audrey P. Beck Building

- I. Recording Attendance: Chair W. Gibbs called the meeting to order at 2:35 PM.

PRESENT: Briana Hoganson (guest), C. Colon-Semenza, W. Gibbs (Chair), F. Goetz, J. Tanner, J. Blanshard, K.A. Easley (staff), K. Grunwald (staff)

REGRETS: J. Sidney

- II. Approval of Minutes: the Minutes for the January 26, 2010 meeting were accepted as written.

- III. New Business

- a. Network for parents of children with disabilities: Melissa Shippee is interested in being on this committee but was unable to attend this meeting. She is interested in connecting with other parents of children with disabilities. C. Colon-Semenza suggested utilizing the iParentNetwork's website, the school nurse, and Crossroads Physical Therapy in Columbia. Camp Horizons may be a

potential resource as well. J. Blanshard checked with the bus company about identifying other children, and was told that confidentiality prohibits this. Suggestion made to advertise in the Reminder. K.A. Easley suggested using the website to establish these links with other organizations.

- b. ADA Grievance Procedure: K. Grunwald distributed copies of a draft ADA Grievance Procedure . Discussion about the procedure and the scope of the responsibility of the committee. J. Tanner feels that it should be specified that this only relates to the Town. Also a feeling that there should be a clearer charge from the Committee on Committees along with a review by the Town Attorney regarding the grievance procedure. C. Colon-Semenza questioned whether or not the Town Attorney would have a conflict in providing consultation regarding an employee complaint. K. Grunwald will request clarification regarding the history of this role, scope and the role of Human Resources. We also may need training on this. Invite Maria Capriola to the next meeting.
- c. "Other": F. Goetz announced that there will be a walkathon to support the Brain Injury Association. He has sent the web link to K.A. Easley and she will post this link on the website as well.

IV. Old Business

- a. Transportation Resources: K. Grunwald will create a press release to publicize information in Sparks, Horizons, Mansfield Today and the newsletters at Jensen's, Glen Ridge and Juniper Hill and at the

library. He will also send information to local churches.

- b. Accessible Parking Fines/Signs: J. Tanner has started taking pictures of the private spaces in town where the new signs are needed. W. Gibbs reported that the fine on the UConn campus is \$131; he will see if they can post those signs as well. W. Gibbs will draft a letter to be sent to landlords of commercial buildings.
- c. Publicity efforts: K.A. Easley is looking for suggestions for links to add to the website. She has established a link with www.disabilityisnatural. J. Tanner suggested the website for the CT Chapter of the MS Society, along with a link to a website for adaptive equipment. C. Colon-Semenza suggested linking to the Nayden Clinic's site, along with a link for a rowing group for people with disabilities. C. Colon-Semenza mentioned that the birth-3 program is another resource to link with and provide information to.
- d. Status of other accessibility issues previously identified: no discussion.
- e. Commission on Aging Meeting: K. Grunwald reminded members that they are invited to the COA Meeting on March 8 at 9:30. J. Blanshard will make a brief statement on behalf of the Committee.

V. Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 3:25 PM. The next meeting is March 23.

Respectfully submitted,

Kevin Grunwald

MANSFIELD ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – SPECIAL MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 27, 2010

Chairman Pellegrine called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room B of the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

Present: Members – Fraenkel, Katz, Pellegrine, Singer-Bansal

Alternates – Accorsi, Clauson, Gotch

Absent: Member – Wright

Alternate Accorsi will act as a voting member of the Zoning board of Appeals for the following hearing.

CONTINUED BUSINESS MEETING – WILLIAM PAULSON APPLICATION

Pellegrine moved to approve the application of William Paulson, for a Special Exception of Art XI, Sec C.2.b to construct a 20' x 30' deck onto a non-conforming residence, at 527 Middle Tpke that will be no closer than 11' from the front yard setback where 50' is required.

Reasons for voting in favor of application:

- deck enhances property and does not adversely affect property values or the health and safety of others
- other properties on Rte 44 are close to the road and act to slow traffic
- would be a community asset, not a liability

Reasons for voting against application:

- deck is too close to road and is a detriment to neighborhood and the safety of others
- applicant could work with zoning officer to find possible alternatives
- if applicant had come to ZBA before deck was constructed, ZBA would have worked with applicant to try to reduce the size or seek alternate locations to avoid reduction in setbacks.

In favor: Accorsi, Fraenkel, Katz

Opposed: Pellegrine, Singer-Bansal

Motion failed.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sarah Accorsi, Secretary

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17 Hill Pond Drive
Mansfield, CT 06268-1604
April 19, 2010

REC'D APR 20

Matt Hart, Town Manager
Town of Mansfield
4 South Eagleville Road
Mansfield, CT 06268

Item #8

Matt;

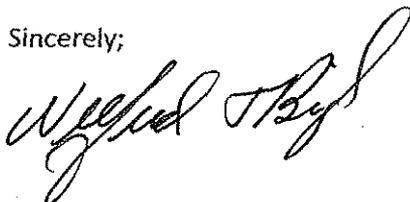
On behalf of the AARP Tax-Aide program, I would like to thank the Town of Mansfield for their continued support of this vital program. The program caters to the low and moderate income tax filers with an emphasis on those who are 60 years of age or older.

Special thanks go out to Jamie Russell, IT Director, for use of his knowledge and expertise in getting our network up and running for this tax season. I would also like to thank the Mansfield Senior Center for the use of their craft room, and the Mansfield Senior Center Association for the use of their desk top computers.

Of the 231 clients we saw this season 155 were residents of the Town of Mansfield. The other 76 were from surrounding towns where, for lack of a local coordinator, did not have their own program in place. Without the Town of Mansfield, these clients would either have to find another site or have their tax returns prepared elsewhere. We were at Juniper Hill Village for one day where we processed 6 clients who, due to mobility impairments, were unable to come to the Senior Center.

This letter would not be complete without thanking the following volunteers who put in a total of 398 man hours this tax season. Each year they receive study material that they must digest, participate in class room study, and pass an exam in order to be qualified to aid in the preparations of taxes for our clients. My thanks go out to Terry Brown, Sandy Gallo, Claire Gates, Zoe Leibowitz, Rita Pollack, and Robert Powers. Without the dedication of these individuals, this program would not be possible.

Sincerely;



Will Bigl
Local Coordinator
AARP Tax-Aide Program

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Sara-Ann Chainé

Item #9

From: Mary L. Stanton
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 4:14 PM
To: Sara-Ann Chainé
Subject: FW: Town Clerk
From: Joe Soltys [mailto:jjstys@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, April 19, 2010 4:00 PM
To: Mary L. Stanton
Subject: Re: Town Clerk

Unable to attend meeting of the town Council, please submit the following to the Council on my behalf:

RE: Motion to coonsider alterations to housing code.

RE: Motion to consider parking regulations on private property.

Since these are subtle attempts to regulate UConn students living off campus where there seems to be obvious lack of enforcement, I consider both of the motions to be frivolous and I motion they be tabled without further discussion.

Joseph J. Soltys. 2 Lynwood Rd. Storrs-Mansfield

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MEMORANDUM

Town of Mansfield
Town Manager's Office
4 So. Eagleville Rd., Mansfield, CT 06268
860-429-3336
maria.capriola@mansfieldct.org



To: Matthew Hart, Town Manager

From: Maria Capriola, Assistant to Town Manager

Item # 10

Date: April 19, 2010

Re: Success of Work Study Partnership with UCONN

As you know, the University of Connecticut has permitted work study eligible students to work in Mansfield during the academic year at **no direct cost to the town**. In the fall semester we had two work study students and in the spring semester we have five work study students. Additionally, we have been able to connect two students that are not work study eligible with unpaid internship experience in Mansfield and a third student is scheduled to intern this summer. The hours vary per student, but often average five hours per week. In aggregate during the academic year we have had between 10 and 30 hours of student labor per week¹. Students have been able to provide valuable assistance with a number of human resources, archiving, and sustainability projects in addition to video-recording the Town Council meetings. Staff is pleased with the students' work and impressed by their knowledge, professionalism and work ethic.

I was troubled by some citizen remarks made during public comment of the April 12, 2010 Town Council meeting. The citizen accused our UCONN student workers of purposefully editing the video-recordings in such a way that deletes the sound when members of the public speak. Another citizen inappropriately berated a student worker prior to the start of the meeting and made the same accusation. Our student worker kindly showed the citizen how to use the microphone, yet the individual still maintained their position. Lastly, on April 1, 2010 that same citizen was provided written instructions via email as to how to operate the microphone. Our student workers have been nothing but trustworthy and honest and I have absolutely no reason to believe that the accusation has any truth to it.

C: Mary Stanton
Jaime Russell

¹ Approximate range.

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TOWN OF MANSFIELD
OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Item # 11

GREGORY J. PADICK, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Memo to: Town Council
Zoning Board of Appeals
From: Gregory Padick, Director of Planning 
Date: 4/8/10
Re: 5/3/10 Public Hearing
Draft Zoning Regulation Revisions: Definition of Family/Boarding House; Political Signs

The attached draft amendments to the Zoning Regulations will be presented at a May 3rd public hearing. The hearing will be continued until May 17th and/or June 7, 2010. Explanatory notes are provided for the subject revisions. All comments on the draft regulation revisions must be received by the Planning and Zoning Commission prior to the close of the public hearing.

Please contact the Planning Office at 860-429-3330 if you have any questions regarding the proposed revisions or the PZC hearing process.

April 8, 2010 DRAFT
Proposed Revision to the Zoning Regulations:
Definitions of Family and Boarding House

(New provisions are underlined or otherwise indicated)

(Deletions are bracketed or otherwise indicated)

(Explanatory Notes are provided to assist with an understanding of the proposed revisions. These notes are not part of the proposed zoning revision)

1. Delete in its entirety existing Article IV, Section B.25 Definition of Family.
 25. [Family. One or more persons who live together and maintain a common household, related by blood, marriage, or adoption. A family may also include domestic help and gratuitous guests. In addition, a family may include not more than three persons who are not related by blood, marriage or adoption.]
2. Add a new Article IV, Section B.25 Definition of Family to read as follows:
 25. Family: A person living alone, or any of the following groups living together as a single non-profit housekeeping unit and sharing common living, sleeping, cooking and eating facilities:
 1. Any number of people related by blood, marriage, civil union, adoption, foster care, guardianship or other duly authorized custodial relationship, gratuitous guests, domestic help and not more than one (1) additional unrelated person. (Related by blood shall include only persons having one of the following relationships with another individual(s) residing within the same dwelling unit: parents, grandparents, children, sisters, brothers, grandchildren, stepchildren, first cousins, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews);
 2. Two (2) unrelated persons and any children related to either of them;
 3. A cumulative total of up to three (3) adult persons. More than three (3) adult persons may qualify as a family pursuant to other categories of this definition;
 4. Persons living together as a functional family as determined by the criteria listed below. For the purpose of enforcing these regulations, it shall be assumed (presumptive evidence) that more than three (3) persons living together, who do not qualify as a family based on categories one or two of this definition, do not constitute a functional family. To qualify as a functional family, the following criteria shall be met:
 - A. The occupants must share the entire dwelling unit and live and cook together as a single housekeeping unit. A unit in which the various occupants act as separate roomers may not be deemed to be occupied by a functional family;
 - B. The group shares expenses for food, rent or ownership costs, utilities and other household expenses;
 - C. The group is permanent and stable. Evidence of such permanency and stability may include:
 1. The presence of minor dependent children regularly residing in the household who are enrolled in local schools;
 2. Members of the household have the same address for purposes of voter's registration, driver's license, motor vehicle registration and filing of taxes;
 3. Members of the household are employed in the area;
 4. The household has been living together as a unit for a year or more whether in the current dwelling unit or other dwelling units;
 5. There is common ownership of furniture and appliances among the members of the household; and
 6. The group is not transient or temporary in nature;

April 8, 2010 DRAFT

Proposed Revision to the Zoning Regulations:
Definitions of Family and Boarding House

- D. Any other factor reasonably related to whether or not the group is the functional equivalent of a family.
 - E. Occupancy in a dormitory, fraternity, sorority, club, tourist home, emergency shelter, rooming or boarding house, group home or similar group occupancy shall not be construed to be a family. Many of these land uses are defined in Article IV, Section B.
5. Any group protected by the “reasonable accommodation” criteria of the Federal Americans with Disabilities Act or Fair Housing Act in that group members are the functional equivalent of a family sharing and in continued pursuant of their common commitment to rehabilitation or recovery from chronic drug or alcohol addiction or abuse, evidenced by substantial compliance with the following criteria, listed in order of importance:
- A. The residence facility is certified by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services as congregate sober housing.
 - B. Collectively, the residents lease the entire residence rather than any particular room.
 - C. Residents may remain indefinitely, but are required to leave the residence if they use drugs or alcohol.
 - D. Residents share equally most household expenses, including rent, a single household budget, most household chores, including cleaning, shopping and cooking, and the work of maintaining the premises.
 - E. Weekly meetings are used to discuss household, financial, logistical or interpersonal issues, and household safety, including fire safety.
 - F. Residents prepare food and eat together on a frequent basis and there is shared food in the refrigerator.
26. Revise Article IV, Section B.7 Definition of Boarding House to read as follows:
- a. **Board House.** A dwelling unit in which more than [four 4] three (3) persons, not a family reside.

Explanatory Note: The proposed revisions to Mansfield’s definition of family update and refine existing provisions, particularly with respect to blood relations; incorporate new provisions that authorize “functional families”; incorporate new provisions that authorize legally recognized living arrangements that qualify as “reasonable accommodation”; and reduce the number of unrelated individuals who automatically qualify as a family from four (4) to three (3). The proposed revisions, which recognize and provide for significant changes that have occurred over the past fifty years in family composition, are designed to preserve the character of Mansfield’s single family residential neighborhoods, protect property values, reduce the increasing number of single family homes that are purchased for the primary purpose of renting to transient persons (primarily college students), enhancing housing opportunities for families meeting the new definition and in general to promote the public health, welfare and safety. All existing single family uses that comply with the existing definition of family, but would not comply with the proposed definition of family, would become non-conforming uses if the new definition is adopted. Legally established non-conforming uses can be continued, regardless of ownership changes, unless there has been a voluntary change in use or a clear intent to abandon rights to the pre-existing non-conforming use. The proposed revisions to Mansfield’s definition of Board House are necessary to be consistent with the proposed definition of family.

**Proposed Revisions to Article X, Section C.h.4 of Mansfield's Zoning Regulations
Regarding Political Signs**

Proposed Zoning Regulation Revisions

Revise Article X, Section C.h.4 as follows:

1. Delete existing provisions.
2. Add the following new provisions:
 4. Political Signs

Subject to obtaining property owner approval, political signs on private property are authorized. Political signs also are authorized along street rights-of-way abutting private property subject to obtaining the abutting property owners approval. All political signs must be in compliance with the traffic safety criteria of Section C.7. of this Article.

Political signs shall not be located on public property or street rights-of-way abutting public property. To help reduce neighborhood impact and to help preserve Mansfield's scenic character, it is recommended that political signs be limited in size and number, be non-illuminated and be displayed for a limited period of time.

Explanatory Note:

The proposed Zoning Regulation amendment would eliminate current standards for political signs on private property which include restrictions on the number, size and period of time for display and limit the nature of a political sign. The proposed amendment retains an existing provision that prohibits political signs on public property but does authorize political signs along street rights-of-way provided abutting private property owners have granted permission. The proposed provision includes generic recommendations for political signs which are advisory and not mandatory. These recommendations are included to help reduce neighborhood impact and potential litter problems and to help preserve Mansfield's scenic character.



Town of Mansfield
Office of the Town Clerk

To: Staff Members
From: Mary Stanton, Town Clerk
CC: Matt Hart, Town Manager, Maria Capriola, Assistant to the Town Manager
Date: April 19, 2010
Re: Policy Regarding Advisory Committees' Communications with Outside Agencies

On February 22, 2010 the Town Council referred the Policy Regarding Advisory Committees' Communications with Outside Agencies to the Committee on Committees for their review. The policy was first established in a February 3, 2000 letter to Mansfield Advisory Committees and staff from Mayor Elizabeth Paterson and Town Manager Martin Berliner. Subsequently, on June 8, 2009 the Council approved the inclusion of the policy in the Policy Index of the Mansfield Town Council.

After a thorough review the Committee on Committees recommended that the policy, as currently written, remain in effect. This recommendation was communicated to the Council at their April 12, 2010 meeting.

The policy is as follows:

In conjunction with its review of the various responsibilities and roles of the Town's numerous elected and appointed commissions, committees and staff members, Mansfield's Town Council has discussed the issue of who should speak for the Town of Mansfield. We are fortunate to have many dedicated citizens serving on our boards and committees and a qualified and supportive staff, but it can be counter-productive to the Town's overall interest to have multiple opinions communicated to individuals or agencies outside of the Town's collective organization. On a number of recent occasions, letters have been sent by appointed advisory boards to State elected and appointed officials and private businesses. Some of the positions expressed in these letters have been inconsistent with the position of the Town Council. This situation has led to confusion over the Town's position on an issue of town-wide importance.

To address this issue, the Town Council, as Mansfield's elected policy board, has agreed to request that all advisory boards and staff members submit comments or concerns on issues of town-wide importance to the Town Council or Town Manager and not to State or private parties. We value your input and all comments and recommendations will be considered in developing policy positions for the Town. As

private citizens, you of course, retain your right to speak your mind. When you do so, please ensure that you are speaking as an individual, not as a representative of the Town of Mansfield."

Please communicate this policy to your committees' members.



PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION
TOWN OF MANSFIELD

AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING
FOUR SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD
MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT 06268
(860) 429-3330

Item #13

To: Town Council
From: Planning and Zoning Commission
Date: Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Re: 8-24 Referral; 2010-11 Capital Improvements Budget

At a meeting held on 4/19/10, the Mansfield Planning and Zoning Commission adopted the following motion:

“That the PZC approve, subject to the condition below, the proposed 2010-11 Capital Improvement Program.

Several items are land use-regulated and may require PZC and/or IWA approvals before implementation. The PZC respectfully requests that the departments involved with land use projects coordinate plans with the Director of Planning and Inland Wetland Agent and that the Commission/Agency be given adequate time to thoroughly review and act upon final plans for all projects that require PZC or IWA approval.

The PZC also recommends that the Town Council include in the 2010-11 Capital Improvement Budget funding for open space acquisition and management.”

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Mansfield Rid Litter Day

Saturday, May 1, 2010

Let's Clean Up Our Town

After a long winter, help rid your neighborhood of litter by picking it up on Saturday, May 1, 2010. Roadside wooded areas and wetlands collect a lot of debris. Not only is litter unsightly, plastic litter can be harmful to wildlife. Littered cans, glass and plastic bottles can be recycled and you are encouraged to keep them separate from other roadside litter. Bags of litter may be placed out with household trash if you have collection service or taken to the Mansfield transfer station for no charge. The transfer station is located on Rte 89, one mile from the intersection of Routes 195 and 89 in Mansfield Center.

For more information about Rid Litter Day or the Adopt-A-Road program, call the Public Works Office at 429-3333.

Litter Collection:

With household trash service—no service level restrictions (week of May 3 is unlimited household trash collection)

Drop-Off Site:

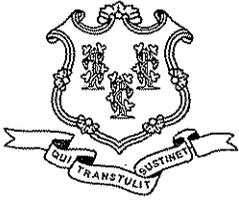
Mansfield Transfer Station on Rte 89. No charge.

Transfer Station Hours:

Tuesdays & Saturdays 8:30 am to 4:00 pm; Thursdays 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm



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**STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**



To: Municipal Chief Elected Officials, Water Pollution Control Authorities, Wastewater Superintendents, Wastewater Consultants, and Regional Planning Organizations

Item #15

From: Dennis J. Greci, P.E., Supervising Sanitary Engineer
Municipal Facilities Section, CT DEP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "D. Greci", written over the printed name.

Date: April 14, 2010

RE: Draft FY10 and FY11 Priority List for the Clean Water Fund
Availability for review and comment; Notice of Public Hearing

The public notice for the hearing on the draft FY10 and FY11 Priority List for the Clean Water Fund will be published in the state's 5 largest newspapers on April 16, 2010.

A public hearing will be held on the draft priority list at DEP Headquarters in Hartford on May 11, 2010 at 9:30 am in the 5th floor auditorium of 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut.

The draft FY10 and FY11 Priority List for the Clean Water Fund (CWF) program can be found at <http://www.ct.gov/dep/cleanwaterfund>.

The draft FY10 and FY11 priority list proposes a two year funding strategy that will reach a significant number of necessary wastewater infrastructure projects whose implementation is considered significant in meeting the 2014 TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) for Long Island Sound, as well as combined sewer overflow improvements in the state's largest cities which will serve to reduce serious negative impacts on water quality in our state. A number of special funding reserves have once again been proposed to assist in the implementation of other water quality improvements in Connecticut.

Interested parties are invited to review and comment on the proposed priority list. Please submit written comments to George Hicks, Bureau of Water Protection and Land Reuse, Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106-5127 on or before May 17, 2010.

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900 Chapel St., 9th Fl
Phone (203) 498-3000

Item #16

THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

WEEKLY UPDATE:

BILLS PROPOSING NEW STATE MANDATES ON MUNICIPALITIES 2010 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

(Report as of April 8, 2010)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

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The following is a select list of pending bills that propose new state mandates on towns and cities, which have been reported out of committee to the respective chambers for consideration. Some of these bills would have a significant fiscal impact on municipalities and their residential and business property taxpayers.

##

Please call Gian-Carl Casa, Ron Thomas, or Bob Labanara at (203) 498-3000 if you have any questions.

BILLS PROVIDING MANDATES “RELIEF”

The bills listed below represent key proposals that would provide mandates relief to local governments and property-tax payers. *CCM urges your support for their passage.*

<p>SB 197 File#: 194 Sen. Cal#: 147</p>	<p><u>IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION MANDATE</u> Would delay for one more year imposition of the in-school suspension mandate (until 2011). Although this relief is welcome the delay should be longer, given the fiscal problems on Connecticut’s horizon.</p>
<p>SB 226 File#: 195 Sen. Cal#: 148</p>	<p><u>ZONING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS</u> Would provide for more creative land use practices by eliminating the penalty of treble damages against zoning enforcement officers for frivolous or without probable cause citations.</p>
<p>SB 337 File#: Sen. Cal#:</p>	<p><u>MUNICIPAL POSTEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT FUNDING BONDS</u> Would establish a pilot program for one municipality to issue municipal postemployment benefit bonds.</p>
<p>SB 365 File#: Sen. Cal#:</p>	<p><u>POSTINGS ON WEBSITES</u> Would (1) clarify requirements to post minutes on municipal websites, and (2) provide municipalities the option of posting advertisements of a legal notice for the procurement of goods or services, including requests for proposals and bid solicitations on their websites in lieu of placing costly ads in newspapers.</p>
<p>HB 5255 File#: Hse. Cal#:</p>	<p><u>MUNICIPAL MANDATE RELIEF</u> Would allow towns to charge fees for certain services to cover administrative costs, remove towns from the requirement to remove and store the possessions of evicted residential tenants, limit the depreciation of utility property to 70% of total costs, change property tax laws governing telecommunication towers, and eliminate the requirement for towns to post minutes on their websites.</p>
<p>HB 5337 File#: Hse. Cal#:</p>	<p><u>MULTI-MUNICIPAL HEALTH CARE POOLING</u> Would clarify that municipalities and boards of education can pool for the purchase of health insurance. Municipal officials, property taxpayers and labor unions share an interest in lowering the cost of health insurance for towns and cities. Municipalities are doing what they can – changing benefit structures, increasing co-pays, implementing cost-sharing and establishing wellness programs. But costs still rise, driving up property taxes. This important bill provides one mechanism to help them fight their battle.</p> <p>CCM asks that the bill be improved by providing that the decision about pooling by boards of education be made by the municipal fiscal authority – the entity that pays the bills.</p>
<p>HB 5490 File#: Hse. Cal#:</p>	<p><u>MINIMUM BUDGET REQUIREMENT</u> This bill is an attempt to address the predicament local governments are finding themselves in trying to meet the minimum budget requirements (MBR) while funding and enrollment may be changing.</p> <p>While this proposal is a step in the right direction, it does not go far enough to</p>

	<p>provide the relief local governments need.</p> <p>This mandate means that, no matter what efficiencies can be found in board of education budgets, they cannot be reduced. In an era when every other state and local agency are having their budgets closely examined one entity – boards of education – are beyond scrutiny and beyond savings. Connecticut is facing an enormous budget hole if FY12. Exempting any part of government from being reviewed for efficiencies is a luxury that property taxpayers cannot afford.</p> <p>The Minimum Budget Requirement must be eliminated for FY 10-11 to allow municipalities to find savings for their property taxpayers. Every community in Connecticut spends more on K-12 public education than they receive from the State.</p> <p>An alternative, during these perilous economic times, would be to require that municipalities continue to spend more on education than they receive from the State.</p> <p>In addition, as was already done for this year (PA 09-1, June 19 Special Session, Section 19), municipalities should again be allowed to amend approved budgets to account for federal ARRA funds being paid directly to boards of education. Otherwise some boards will receive 114% of what is allocated by the town because they must finalize their own budgets before knowing what state grant distributions will be and how much they will receive.</p>
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BILLS CURRENTLY IN THE SENATE

<p>SB 63 File#: 80 Sen. Cal#: 93</p>	<p><u>PAID SICK LEAVE</u> Would, among other things, mandate that most towns and cities employees - - including - - provide paid sick days to their employees. CCM is sympathetic to the intent of this proposal however, similar to last year's proposal – is an unfunded state mandate on municipalities.</p> <p>In an economy where local officials are struggling to sustain critical services – amidst growing deficits, evaporating revenues, and layoffs – this bill would hurt hometown budgets.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Senate Floor</i></p>
<p>SB 300 File#: 347 Sen. Cal#: 237</p>	<p><u>NEW FMLA MANDATE</u> Would mandate that towns and cities provide paraprofessionals benefits in accordance with the federal Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA).</p> <p>Although well intended, the costs of this mandate would impact the local bottom-line. It would, among other things, set a bad precedent by lowering the eligibility threshold from 1,250 to 700 hours.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Senate Floor</i></p>

SB 382 File#: 302 Sen. Cal#: 206	<p><u>CHANGES TO HOME HEATING OIL</u></p> <p>Reduces the maximum allowable sulfur content in heating oil and establishes biodiesel blending requirements for such oil.</p> <p>The fiscal note states that this would be a STATE MANDATE on municipalities and the state as it will result in an increase in the per gallon price.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Senate Floor</i></p>
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BILLS CURRENTLY IN THE HOUSE

HB 5041 File#: 310 Hse. Cal#: 164	<p><u>MANDATE REQUIRING CROSS-REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY BY MUNICIPAL ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS.</u></p> <p>Would require cross-reporting of child abuse and animal cruelty by municipal animal control officers to the Department of Children and Families. The fiscal note inaccurately describes the bill, which would create added liability risks for municipalities and administrative burdens on local animal control officers.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: House Floor</i></p>
HB 5120 File#: 312 Hse. Cal#: 167	<p><u>EXPANDED RECYCLING</u></p> <p>This bill seeks to implement new requirements as a step towards increasing recycling across Connecticut.</p> <p>CCM has worked with proponents of this bill and the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to fully understand the implications the measures included in this bill would have on local governments and has comments on the following section of the bill:</p> <p>Section 6 – Would require that “common gathering venues” provide recycling containers. In discussions with proponents of the bill we were assured that this mandate would fall on the individual or entity generating recyclables. The language, as currently drafted, appears to place that burden on the venue itself – which in some cases could be the municipality that owns the park or beach or other venue. Instead, <i>this language should be tightened to clearly indicate the “generator” of the recyclable items be required to comply.</i></p> <p>CCM has always been supportive of measures that would encourage increased recycling in Connecticut and will continue to work with proponents of this bill to ensure that no new unfunded mandates are implemented and the goals of the legislation are achieved without unintended consequences.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: House Floor</i></p>

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Please note that many of these proposals have good public policy goals. However, when the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both. If the State decides such mandates are good policy, it should pay for them.

HB 5254 File#: 315 Hse. Cal#: 170	<u>MUNICIPAL JEOPARDY TAX</u> Would require tax collectors to notify the municipal CEO -- and the taxpayer -- prior to beginning a jeopardy tax collection. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: House Floor</i></p>
HB 5256 File#: 360 Hse. Cal#: 193	<u>DECISIONS BY LOCAL TRAFFIC AUTHORITIES</u> Would allow anyone with a complaint about a traffic light or sign, etc. to appeal directly to city councils. Direct appeals to local legislative bodies should be rare and done with care, so as not to burden such councils or micro-manage communities. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: House Floor</i></p>
HB 5269 File#: 422 Hse. Cal#: 220	<u>REDUCTION IN MUNICIPAL PENALTY REVENUE</u> Would reduce by one-third (from 18-12%) the penalty for delinquent property taxes. Cutting this penalty would not be "property tax relief" – it would simply shift more of the tax burden onto people and businesses that pay their property taxes on time. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: House Floor</i></p>
HB 5315 File#: 320 Hse. Cal#: 175	<u>TEACHER IN-SERVICE TRAINING</u> Would impose new requirements for teacher in-service training and would impose new unfunded mandates on local and regional boards of education. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: House Floor</i></p>
HB 5321 File#: 321 Hse. Cal#: 176	<u>PRIMARY DAY REGISTRATION PILOT PROJECT</u> Would require the Secretary of the State to create a pilot program for primary day registration. However, the bill does not specify how the pilot project should be set up and which municipalities would participate. CCM urges you to provide that participation in this pilot project be <u>voluntary only</u> and that no unfunded mandate be placed on local governments. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: House Floor</i></p>
HB 5422 File#: 373 Hse. Cal#: 206	<u>EDUCATION MANDATES RELIEF</u> Would allow municipalities an extra month to notify non-tenured teachers that their contracts will not be renewed. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: House Floor</i></p>
HB 5425 File#: 433 Hse. Cal#: 218	<u>MANDATED AUTISM SERVICES</u> Among other things, would create a new unfunded mandate on local governments by requiring behavior analyses and certain services for students with autism spectrum disorder and specifies the qualifications of the individuals who would be administering the analysis and services. <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: House Floor</i></p>

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Please note that many of these proposals have good public policy goals. However, when the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both. If the State decides such mandates are good policy, it should pay for them.

BILLS CURRENTLY IN COMMITTEE

<p>HB 5033 File#: 268 Hse. Cal#: 143</p>	<p><u>SCHOOL BUS SEAT BELTS</u> Would require that all school buses that are model year 2012 or newer be equipped with lap/shoulder (3-point) seat safety belts.</p> <p>While CCM is sympathetic to the reason behind this legislation, if enacted it would create yet another large unfunded state mandate on towns and cities without a proven increase in child safety. As we discuss this bill towns and cities have already suffered a \$100 million cut in state aid in this biennium; the State is currently facing a \$500-\$700 million deficit; and upwards of \$3 billion deficits in the out years. In this context the State should not even consider any new unfunded mandates on local governments – especially one with such staggering costs and unproven benefits.</p> <p>The Office of Fiscal Analysis (OFA) estimates that the cost to local and regional school districts could be up to \$106.6 million without taking into consideration lost seating capacity. While the fiscal note indicates a loss of about twelve seats per bus, more accurately the loss is actually one student per seat which is almost one-third of the buses capacity. Extrapolated out this seating capacity loss could mean a need of up to an additional 2,200 buses at a cost, per OFA, of up to \$82,000 to \$116,000 per bus.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
<p>HB 5237 File#: 181 Hse. Cal#: 118</p>	<p><u>NEW LAW ENFORCEMENT MANDATE</u> Would require new procedures for local police departments to comply with regarding high-risk missing person cases, such as mandating how information is received and investigate reports are conducted with respect to all appropriate federal and state databases. OFA has identified this proposal as a "STATE MANDATE" on municipalities that would impose new, additional costs on local budgets.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
<p>HB 5420 File#: 280 Hse. Cal#: 155</p>	<p><u>ASSESSMENT OF FOREST LANDS</u> Would allow properties currently in the 10 mil Preservation Program for forest lands to convert to PA 490 for assessment purposes.</p> <p>This would result in an increase in property tax revenues in the short run (next 1-5 years) for municipalities as the PA 490 rates are higher than the first phase of the 10 Mil Program. However, if those properties were to remain for the second 50-year cycle of the 10 Mil Program, the property tax revenue would be significantly more than if converted to 490 rates.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Planning and Development Committee</i></p>

* * *

Please note that many of these proposals have good public policy goals. However, when the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both. If the State decides such mandates are good policy, it should pay for them.

<p>HB 5489</p>	<p><u>SECONDARY SCHOOL REFORM</u> Would mandate all schools comply with new state minimum graduation requirements for all students graduating high school beginning with the graduating class of 2017, if federal funds are available, and 2019 <u>whether they are available or not</u>. This would necessitate significant increases in local spending for education as soon as 2015. (for the class of 2019)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
<p>HB 5491</p>	<p><u>NEW EDUCATION MANDATES</u> Would place a host of new unfunded mandates on certain schools and districts including, but not limited to, (1) providing online coursework; (2) offering advanced placement courses; (3) school governance councils; and (4) specific teacher evaluation process.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
<p>SB 61 File#: 79 Sen. Cal#: 92</p>	<p><u>WORKERS' COMPENSATION MEDICAL COVERAGE</u> Would, among other things, mandate that (1) no pre-approval of routine exams or treatment is needed, and (2) a workers' compensation commissioner can order such exam or treatment without a hearing. Under current law, a workers' compensation commissioner can order the treatment or exam only after holding a formal hearing.</p> <p>This has been identified by OFA as a "STATE MANDATE" on local governments that could "result in a potential significant impact to municipalities because it may increase the number of routine examinations and treatment required to be covered."</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
<p>SB 123 File#: 190 Sen. Cal#: 140</p>	<p><u>NEW BURDENS ON LOCAL INLAND WETLAND COMMISSIONS</u> Among other things, would (1) require that Inland Wetland Commissions consider "all evidence" brought before it during a permit application process and (2) place additional barriers to permitting regulated activities within certain areas.</p> <p>"All" evidence could be quite voluminous and not necessarily be pertinent or credible. This proposal could impose an <i>enormous administrative and financial burden</i> on the commissions, bogging down the process substantially. The new mandates and restrictions included in this bill would (1) hurt the process by which applications for regulated activity are examined; (2) open the door for future litigation; (3) and weaken, in some cases, the ability of local commissions to protect these sensitive areas.</p> <p>The Fiscal Note attached to File 190 is inaccurate. This bill is not merely conforming statutes existing practice, rather these are NEW mandates that would substantially impact the local inland wetland agencies - both financially and administratively - not to mention increasing liability to the municipality.</p>

* * *

Please note that many of these proposals have good public policy goals. However, when the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both. If the State decides such mandates are good policy, it should pay for them.

<i>Current Location: Planning and Development Committee</i>	
SB 168 File#: 125 Sen. Cal#: 113	<p><u>NEW WORKERS' COMPENSATION MANDATE</u></p> <p>Would mandate new workers' compensation coverage for all police officers who, in the line of duty, are involved in the death of an animal – regardless of whether there is (1) any physical injury to such police officers, and (2) any attempt by the animal to cause serious injury or death through the use of deadly force.</p> <p>The present law is reasonable and should not be changed because of a highly publicized, tragic event. CCM opposes this bill for the following reasons: (1) Would be a costly, unfunded mandate on towns and cities – as noted by OFA in similar proposals from years past the costs of just one emotional stress case could be significant. Adding a highly subjective, unfunded mandate to already constrained local budgets would do great harm. (2) If enacted, would be “applicable to any claim pending on or filed on or after [the bill becomes law]”. We do not know how many cases this could effect – it could create an enormous, costly liability for some towns and cities. Currently rejected claims that may be under appeal would be considered “pending” – thus, forcing added costs on local budgets – all at taxpayers' expense. (3) Towns and cities already offer health insurance, disability leaves and Employee Assistance Programs (EAPs) to employees suffering from mental or emotional impairments. These existing benefits provide that police officers and other employees will receive counseling, therapy, and other essential services to assist them and their families during difficult periods. This bill would unnecessarily and inappropriately create a new, costly special benefit. In fact, in the case that has sparked this legislation, the police officer did receive medical and therapy coverage from his employing municipality. (4) The bill is over-broad and unclear, allowing police officers to receive workers' compensation benefits due to such officer's “interaction” with any animal, provided officers “reasonably” believed they were in danger. Law enforcement officials are often called upon to investigate animal issues ranging from rabid wild animals to domestic animals that have escaped enclosures. The ambiguous threshold drafted in this language could cover countless encounters with any species – be it dogs, mountain lions, chimpanzees, bears, raccoons, bats, etc..</p> <p>The policy and cost implications of this bill should be carefully weighed. Changes to the entire workers' compensation system as a result of an individual case should not be the basis of any statewide public policy.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
SB 312 File#: 93 Sen. Cal#: 98	<p><u>REGIONALIZATION OF LOCAL 911 CENTERS</u></p> <p>Would mandate the consolidation of municipal public safety answering points into regional public safety answering points (PSAPs) via a de facto state mandate, by withholding critical funds to hometowns that do not comply with this mandate by the year 2016. SB 312 is the absolute wrong approach – and an unnecessarily</p>

* * *

Please note that many of these proposals have good public policy goals. However, when the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both. If the State decides such mandates are good policy, it should pay for them.

blunt stick absent any carrot. Now is not the time for the State to hold local aid hostage – particularly with regard to critical emergency services.

Current Location: Planning and Development Committee

Health Insurance Coverage Mandates

The following are several proposals that would mandate health insurance coverage for specific treatments, procedures and medical devices. Although well intended, the costs of these mandates would impact the local bottom-line and increase already skyrocketing costs of healthcare for municipalities.

<p>SB 14 File#: 2 Sen. Cal#: 36</p>	<p><u>NEW PREVENTATIVE HEALTH INSURANCE</u> Would, among other things, prohibit certain health insurance policies from imposing a co-payment, deductible, or other out-of-pocket expense (e.g., coinsurance) for preventive care services. This proposal could increase costs to certain fully insured municipal plans -- and may result in increased premium costs at the local level.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Senate Floor</i></p>
<p>SB 15 File#: 3 Sen. Cal#: 37</p>	<p><u>Rx DRUG CO-PAYMENT</u> Would prohibit individual health insurance policies and group medical contracts covering prescription drugs from imposing different copayments for prescriptions based on where the prescription is filled (i. e., retail v. mail-order pharmacy).</p> <p>According to OFA, this mandate may increase costs to certain fully insured municipal plans which offer discounted copayments for prescriptions filled through the mail-order pharmacy in comparison to the local retail pharmacy, such as the Municipal Employees Health Insurance Plan, (MEHIP). This bill has been identified by OFA (File No. 3) as a "STATE MANDATE" on municipalities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Senate Floor</i></p>
<p>SB 259 File#: 89 Sen. Cal#: 91</p>	<p><u>MAMMOGRAM COVERAGE</u> Would, among other things, mandate that municipalities provide increased coverage for MRIs of a woman's entire breast or breasts if (1) a mammogram shows heterogeneous or dense breast tissue, or (2) a woman is considered at an increased breast cancer risk because of family history, has own prior breast cancer history, positive genetic testing, or other indications determined by her doctor.</p> <p>This proposal has been identified by OFA as a "STATE MANDATE" on municipalities that could "increase costs to certain fully insured municipal plans which currently do not cover MRIs at...[this proposed] required level."</p> <p>Although well intended, the costs of this mandate would impact the local bottom-line and increase already skyrocketing costs of health care for municipalities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Senate Floor</i></p>

* * *

Please note that many of these proposals have good public policy goals. However, when the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both. If the State decides such mandates are good policy, it should pay for them.

<p>HB 5009 File#: 7 Hse. Cal#: 22</p>	<p><u>HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE</u> Would, among other things, mandate health insurance coverage for ostomy-related supplies, prosthetic devices, hearing aids for children, wigs for patients who suffer hair loss due to certain medical conditions, and bone marrow testing. This proposal would also mandate insurers provide health behavior wellness, maintenance or improvement programs.</p> <p>Although well intended, the costs of this mandate would impact the local bottom-line and increase already skyrocketing costs of health care for municipalities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
<p>HB 5013 File#: 8 Hse. Cal#: 23</p>	<p><u>ADDED HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS</u> Would, among other things, establish a catastrophic medical expenses account as a separate, nonlapsing account -- and mandate that employees, including towns and cities, collect a fee of \$1 per person covered under their policies and plans.</p> <p>It is not clear that this fee could be recouped from plan participants due to collective bargaining arrangements. It is also unclear whether municipalities with self-insured health plans would be exempt from this health insurance mandate under federal ERISA legislation.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Finance Revenue and Bonding Committee</i></p>
<p>HB 5212 File#: 215 Hse. Cal#: 129</p>	<p><u>NEW INSURANCE MANDATE FOR BLEEDING DISEASES</u> Would mandate that group health insurance policies provide (1) access to and coverage for medically necessary services, equipment, and supplies provided by a bleeding disease specialty home care pharmacy, and (2) coverage for all clotting medications prescribed by a licensed physician if the policy provides coverage for outpatient prescription drugs.</p> <p>Non-partisan OFA staff have concluded that this proposed state mandate would "increase costs to certain fully insured municipal plans which do not currently cover the services required." Now is not the time to impose new, unfunded state mandates on local budgets at taxpayers' expense.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
<p>SB 50 File#: 160 Sen. Cal#: 129</p>	<p><u>NEW & EXPANDED HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATES</u> Would mandate that all orally-administered anticancer medications be covered on the same basis as intravenously administered anticancer medications. Would also broaden certain existing insurance mandates by expanding the applicability of coverage for tumor removal, outpatient chemotherapy, leukemia treatment, reconstructive surgery, nondental prosthesis, and oncologist-prescribed wigs.</p> <p>Though well-intended, non-partisan OFA staff has identified this proposed state mandate as potentially causing "significant increased premium costs when municipalities enter into new health insurance contracts...". Local budgets simply</p>

* * *

Please note that many of these proposals have good public policy goals. However, when the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both. If the State decides such mandates are good policy, it should pay for them.

	<p>cannot absorb the negative fiscal impact of this proposal during Connecticut's worst financial crisis in generations.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
<p>SB 92 File#: 24 Sen. Cal#: 52</p>	<p><u>PRESCRIPTION EYE DROPS</u> Would mandate that group health insurance policies provide additional coverage for prescription eye drops for employees in certain situations.</p> <p>This proposal has been identified by OFA as a "STATE MANDATE" on municipalities that could "increase costs to certain fully insured municipal plans that currently do not provide the coverage mandated. The coverage requirements may result in increased premium costs when municipalities enter into new health insurance contracts."</p> <p>Although well intended, the costs of this mandate would impact the local bottom-line and increase already skyrocketing costs of health care for municipalities.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>
<p>SB 260 File#: 247 Sen. Cal#: 186</p>	<p><u>MANDATED EXPANSION OF HEALTH INSURANCE FOR PARKINSON'S & MS</u> Among other things, would mandate that health insurance coverage be expanded to include Parkinson's disease or multiple sclerosis (MS) clinical trials and off-label prescription drugs. Currently, such coverage already exists for medically necessary hospitalization services and other routine patient care costs.</p> <p>Again, this well-intended proposal would be a new state mandate on municipalities that would impose a negative fiscal impact on local budgets. Faced with layoffs, concessions, and major cutbacks -- the General Assembly should not be proposing any new, unfunded state mandates on local governments.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Current Location: Appropriations Committee</i></p>

* * *

Please note that many of these proposals have good public policy goals. However, when the General Assembly mandates municipal expenditures without reimbursement it drives up the cost of local government, forcing municipalities to choose between raising property taxes, curtailing other local services, or both. If the State decides such mandates are good policy, it should pay for them.

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900 Chapel Street, 9th Floor
New Haven, Connecticut 06510-2807
Telephone (203) 498-3000 Fax (203) 562-6314

E-mail: ccm@ccm-ct.org
Web Site: www.ccm-ct.org

THE VOICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



Willimantic River Alliance, Inc.

info@WillimanticRiver.org www.WillimanticRiver.org

P.O. Box 9193, Bolton, CT 06043

REC'D APR 20

April 19, 2010

Item #17

Mr. Matt Hart
Town Manager, Mansfield Town Hall
4 South Eagleville Road
Storrs, CT 06268

Dear Mr. Hart:

In recent years there has been rising interest in both the health of the Willimantic River and its recreational uses. This spring we have already witnessed more paddling and hiking activity than in previous years by residents and visitors alike.

Indicative of this growing interest was the "Source to Sea" project undertaken by The Last Green Valley (TLGV). Part of that project resulted in the development of three Water Trails along the Quinebaug River, and this year TLGV is expanding its effort to other rivers in northeastern Connecticut. In cooperation with TLGV, the Willimantic River Alliance is developing an official Water Trail for the river extending from Stafford to Windham.

This project inventories river access points and provides detailed information about the River's features as well as aspects of the Towns the River passes through. In coordination with John Monroe of the National Park Service, we are developing a detailed Paddler's Guide that will be available on our website (www.willimanticriver.org) later this summer. The trail will also be designated with signage that is common to the entire Water Trail system being developed by TLGV.

As an official Water Trail, the River would be a valuable asset to every riverfront town. The Willimantic River Alliance would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or other Town representatives to discuss how your town may benefit and participate in the Water Trail project. We will be contacting you to set a convenient time.

Until then, we invite you to join us at our Water Trail Open House at Willington Pizza on Rt.195 in Willington on Wednesday, April 28, from 6:00 to 7:00 PM.

We look forward to a discussion about how an official Water Trail will enhance recreational opportunities and promote tourism along this wonderful River.

Sincerely,

Laurence Diamond
President

**PAGE
BREAK**

Sara-Ann Chainé

From: Mark Paquette [director@wincog.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 25, 2010 1:51 PM
To: Mark Paquette
Subject: Transportation Policy
Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Blue

On Monday, March 11th, Secretary LaHood announced a new US DOT Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Regulations and Recommendations. The Policy Statement highlights sections from the US Code and Code of Federal Regulations that pertain to walking and bicycling. It also provides some recommended actions that transportation agencies may consider to make walking and bicycling safer and more convenient.

See link to new policy statement: http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/bikeped/policy_accom.htm

Thank You.

Mark N. Paquette
Executive Director
Windham Region Council of Governments
860-456-2221
director@wincog.org
www.wincog.org

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United States Department of Transportation Policy Statement on Bicycle and Pedestrian Accommodation Regulations and Recommendations

Signed on March 11, 2010 and announced March 15, 2010

Note: Also available on the [United States Department of Transportation Website](#)

Purpose

The United States Department of Transportation (DOT) is providing this Policy Statement to reflect the Department's support for the development of fully integrated active transportation networks. The establishment of well-connected walking and bicycling networks is an important component for livable communities, and their design should be a part of Federal-aid project developments. Walking and bicycling foster safer, more livable, family-friendly communities; promote physical activity and health; and reduce vehicle emissions and fuel use. Legislation and regulations exist that require inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian policies and projects into transportation plans and project development. Accordingly, transportation agencies should plan, fund, and implement improvements to their walking and bicycling networks, including linkages to transit. In addition, DOT encourages transportation agencies to go beyond the minimum requirements, and proactively provide convenient, safe, and context-sensitive facilities that foster increased use by bicyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities, and utilize universal design characteristics when appropriate. Transportation programs and facilities should accommodate people of all ages and abilities, including people too young to drive, people who cannot drive, and people who choose not to drive.

Policy Statement

The DOT policy is to incorporate safe and convenient walking and bicycling facilities into transportation projects. Every transportation agency, including DOT, has the responsibility to improve conditions and opportunities for walking and bicycling and to integrate walking and bicycling into their transportation systems. Because of the numerous individual and community benefits that walking and bicycling provide — including health, safety, environmental, transportation, and quality of life — transportation agencies are encouraged to go beyond minimum standards to provide safe and convenient facilities for these modes.

Authority

This policy is based on various sections in the United States Code (U.S.C.) and the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) in Title 23—Highways, Title 49—Transportation, and Title 42—The Public Health and Welfare. These sections, provided in the Appendix, describe how bicyclists and pedestrians of all abilities should be involved throughout the planning process, should not be adversely affected by other transportation projects, and should be able to track annual obligations and expenditures on nonmotorized transportation facilities.

Recommended Actions

The DOT encourages States, local governments, professional associations, community organizations, public transportation agencies, and other government agencies, to adopt similar policy statements on bicycle and pedestrian accommodation as an indication of their commitment to accommodating bicyclists and pedestrians as an integral element of the transportation system. In support of this commitment, transportation agencies and local

communities should go beyond minimum design standards and requirements to create safe, attractive, sustainable, accessible, and convenient bicycling and walking networks. Such actions should include:

- Considering walking and bicycling as equals with other transportation modes: The primary goal of a transportation system is to safely and efficiently move people and goods. Walking and bicycling are efficient transportation modes for most short trips and, where convenient *intermodal* systems exist, these nonmotorized trips can easily be linked with transit to significantly increase trip distance. Because of the benefits they provide, transportation agencies should give the same priority to walking and bicycling as is given to other transportation modes. Walking and bicycling should not be an afterthought in roadway design.
- Ensuring that there are transportation choices for people of all ages and abilities, especially children: Pedestrian and bicycle facilities should meet accessibility requirements and provide safe, convenient, and interconnected transportation networks. For example, children should have safe and convenient options for walking or bicycling to school and parks. People who cannot or prefer not to drive should have safe and efficient transportation choices.
- Going beyond minimum design standards: Transportation agencies are encouraged, when possible, to avoid designing walking and bicycling facilities to the minimum standards. For example, shared-use paths that have been designed to minimum width requirements will need retrofits as more people use them. It is more effective to plan for increased usage than to retrofit an older facility. Planning projects for the long-term should anticipate likely future demand for bicycling and walking facilities and not preclude the provision of future improvements.
- Integrating bicycle and pedestrian accommodation on new, rehabilitated, and limited-access bridges: DOT encourages bicycle and pedestrian accommodation on bridge projects including facilities on limited-access bridges with connections to streets or paths.
- Collecting data on walking and biking trips: The best way to improve transportation networks for any mode is to collect and analyze trip data to optimize investments. Walking and bicycling trip data for many communities are lacking. This data gap can be overcome by establishing routine collection of nonmotorized trip information. Communities that routinely collect walking and bicycling data are able to track trends and prioritize investments to ensure the success of new facilities. These data are also valuable in linking walking and bicycling with transit.
- Setting mode share targets for walking and bicycling and tracking them over time: A byproduct of improved data collection is that communities can establish targets for increasing the percentage of trips made by walking and bicycling.
- Removing snow from sidewalks and shared-use paths: Current maintenance provisions require pedestrian facilities built with Federal funds to be maintained in the same manner as other roadway assets. State Agencies have generally established levels of service on various routes especially as related to snow and ice events.
- Improving nonmotorized facilities during maintenance projects: Many transportation agencies spend most of their transportation funding on maintenance rather than on constructing new facilities. Transportation agencies should find ways to make facility improvements for pedestrians and bicyclists during resurfacing and other maintenance projects.

Conclusion

Increased commitment to and investment in bicycle facilities and walking networks can help meet goals for cleaner, healthier air; less congested roadways; and more livable, safe, cost-efficient communities. Walking and bicycling provide low-cost mobility options that place fewer demands on local roads and highways. DOT recognizes that safe and convenient walking and bicycling facilities may look different depending on the context — appropriate facilities in a rural community may be different from a dense, urban area. However, regardless of regional, climate, and population density differences, it is important that pedestrian and bicycle facilities be integrated into transportation systems. While DOT leads the effort to provide safe and convenient accommodations for pedestrians and bicyclists, success will ultimately depend on transportation agencies across the country embracing and implementing this policy.

Ray LaHood, United States Secretary of Transportation

APPENDIX

Key Statutes and Regulations Regarding Walking and Bicycling

Planning Requirements

The State and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) planning regulations describe how walking and bicycling are to be accommodated throughout the planning process (e.g., see 23 CFR 450.200, 23 CFR 450.300, 23 U.S.C. 134(h), and 135(d)). Nonmotorists must be allowed to participate in the planning process and transportation agencies are required to integrate walking and bicycling facilities and programs in their transportation plans to ensure the operability of an intermodal transportation system. Key sections from the U.S.C. and CFR include, with italics added for emphasis:

- The scope of the metropolitan planning process "will address the following factors... (2) Increase the safety for motorized and *non-motorized users*; (3) Increase the security of the transportation system for motorized and *non-motorized users*; (4) Protect and enhance the environment, promote energy conservation, improve the quality of life..." 23 CFR 450.306(a). See 23 CFR 450.206 for similar State requirements.
- Metropolitan transportation plans "... shall, at a minimum, include... existing and proposed transportation facilities (including major roadways, transit, multimodal and intermodal facilities, *pedestrian walkways and bicycle facilities*, and intermodal connectors that should function as an integrated metropolitan transportation system..." 23 CFR 450.322(f). See 23 CFR 450.216(g) for similar State requirements.
- The plans and transportation improvement programs (TIPs) of all metropolitan areas "shall provide for the development and integrated management and operation of transportation systems and facilities (including *accessible pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities*)." 23 U.S.C. 134(c)(2) and 49 U.S.C. 5303(c)(2). 23 CFR 450.324(c) states that the TIP "shall include ... trails projects, pedestrian walkways; and bicycle facilities..."
- 23 CFR 450.316(a) states that "The MPOs shall develop and use a documented participation plan that defines a process for providing... representatives of users of *pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities*, and *representatives of the disabled*, and other interested parties with reasonable opportunities to be involved in the metropolitan planning process." 23 CFR 450.210(a) contains similar language for States. See also 23 U.S.C. 134(i)(5), 135(f)(3), 49 U.S.C. 5303(i)(5), and 5304(f)(3) for additional information about participation by interested parties.

Prohibition of Route Severance

The Secretary has the authority to withhold approval for projects that would negatively impact pedestrians and bicyclists under certain circumstances. Key references in the CFR and U.S.C. include:

- "The Secretary shall not approve any project or take any regulatory action under this title that will result in the severance of an existing major route or have significant adverse impact on the safety for nonmotorized transportation traffic and light motorcycles, unless such project or regulatory action provides for a reasonable alternate route or such a route exists." 23 U.S.C. 109(m).
- "In any case where a highway bridge deck being replaced or rehabilitated with Federal financial participation is located on a highway on which bicycles are permitted to operate at each end of such bridge, and the Secretary determines that the safe accommodation of bicycles can be provided at reasonable cost as part of such replacement or rehabilitation, then such bridge shall be so replaced or rehabilitated as to provide such safe accommodations." 23 U.S.C. 217(e). Although this statutory requirement only mentions bicycles, DOT encourages States and local governments to apply this same policy to pedestrian facilities as well.
- 23 CFR 652 provides "procedures relating to the provision of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations on Federal-aid projects, and Federal participation in the cost of these accommodations and projects."

Project Documentation

- "In metropolitan planning areas, on an annual basis, no later than 90 calendar days following the end of the program year, the State, public transportation operator(s), and the MPO shall cooperatively develop a listing of projects (including investments in *pedestrian walkways and bicycle transportation facilities*) for which funds under 23 U.S.C. or 49 U.S.C. Chapter 53 were obligated in the preceding program year." 23 CFR 332 (a).

Accessibility for All Pedestrians

- Public rights-of-way and facilities are required to be accessible to persons with disabilities through the following statutes: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (Section 504) (29 U.S.C. §794) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) (42 U.S.C. §§ 12131-12164).
- The DOT Section 504 regulation requires the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to monitor the compliance of the self-evaluation and transition plans of Federal-aid recipients (49 CFR §27.11). The FHWA Division offices review pedestrian access compliance with the ADA and Section 504 as part of their routine oversight activities as defined in their stewardship plans.
- FHWA posted its [Clarification of FHWA's Oversight Role in Accessibility](#) to explain how to accommodate accessibility in policy, planning, and projects.

Additional Resources

For more information about:

FHWA Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Resources

- [FHWA's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program](#)
- [FHWA guidance documents on walking and bicycling](#)
- [Publications related to walking and bicycling](#)
- [Information about State and local resources](#)
- [Equestrian and Other Nonmotorized Use on Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities](#)
- [Framework for Considering Motorized Use on Nonmotorized Trails and Pedestrian Walkways](#)
- [Manuals and Guides for Trail Design, Construction, Maintenance, and Operation](#)
- [Recreational Trails](#)
- [Shared-Use Paths Along or Near Freeways and Bicycles on Freeways](#)
- [Snow Removal on Sidewalks Constructed with Federal Funding](#)
- [Federal Aid funding resources for walking and bicycling facilities](#)
- [Federal funding spent on walking and bicycling facilities](#)

Accessibility

- [FHWA American with Disabilities Act \(ADA\) resources](#)
- [U.S. Access Board information about ADA for public rights of way](#)
- [Accessibility Guidance for Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities, Recreational Trails, and Transportation Enhancement Activities](#)

Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety

- [FHWA Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Program](#)
- [FHWA Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Research](#)
- The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's [Pedestrian](#) and [Bicycle](#) Safety Programs

Context Sensitive Solutions

- [FHWA and Context Sensitive Solutions](#)

State Bicycle and Pedestrian Contacts

- [State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinators](#)

To provide Feedback, Suggestions, or Comments for this page contact Gabe Rousseau at gabe.rousseau@dot.gov.

This page last modified on March 19, 2010

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United States Department of Transportation - Federal Highway Administration

PAGE
BREAK

JUST ADD WATER

Aqua-therapy classes ease aches and pains

The Mansfield Community Center in Mansfield, Conn., is offering residents a new ingredient to help mend their bodies—just add water.

Aqua therapy has become an increasing trend in the parks and recreation arena. As more people turn to aquatics to get fit, they also see the benefits for treating arthritis, chronic pain and poor circulation, and for help with recovery from accidents and injuries.

Aqua therapy has been a part of the center's repertoire for the last three years. In order to offer quality classes without incurring additional costs, the center partnered with Select Medical—a local physical therapy office. This allows Select Medical to rent pool space to help rehabilitate clients; in exchange, Select Medical therapists conduct the classes for the center's members.

"We are fortunate to have really great instructors who are certified in physical therapy," says Elle Noel, Aquatics Director. "It's become a very sought-after class by our members and other residents of the community."

The Nuts And Bolts

During rental times when therapists are working with clients, members still have access to the pool.

During class times, the pool is solely for the class.

The aqua-therapy programs are open to both

members of the community center and non-members, but members have first dibs on the classes. The program has been so successful that there is always a waiting list; the center is now looking to increase its class offerings.

The classes are offered twice a week in 45-minute sessions. Participants are limited to 10 to 12 per class to ensure that each person is receiving enough attention. The sessions incorporate both group activities and one-on-one therapy.

The cost is \$81 for members and \$109 for non-members. In order to accommodate all participants' needs, class members who work with an assistant or aide are permitted to bring them to the classes free of charge.

Poolside View

The classes take place in a 93- to 95-degree therapy pool. The therapy pool is smaller than a traditional pool, and is kept at warmer temperatures to loosen muscles.

The pool has a gradual slope, making it easier to enter, and also has a handicap-lift that is ADA-approved. The pool begins at 4 feet and advances to 5 feet at its deepest, allowing the water to be about chest-to-waist high in most areas.

"The depth is important because the person needs to be submerged. In aqua therapy, he or she uses the water resistance as a tool," says Noel.

Equipment for an aqua-therapy course includes

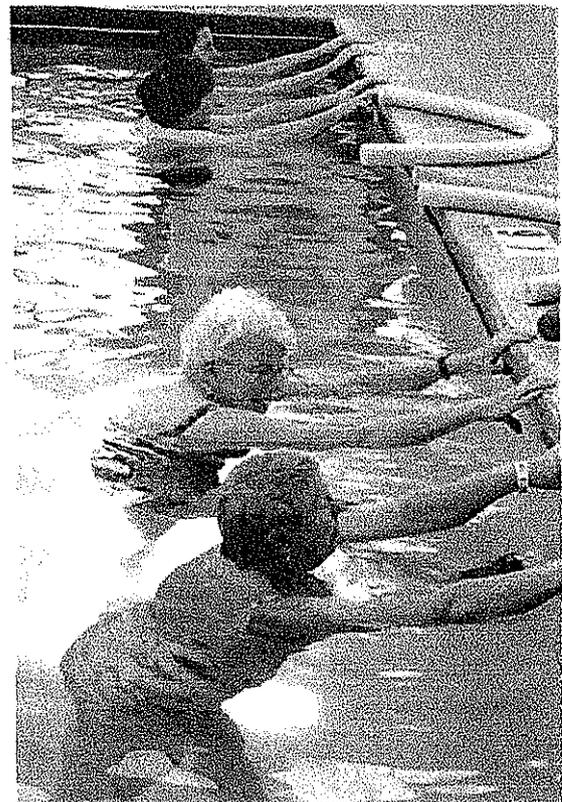


PHOTO COURTESY OF HARLEY CHESHER

therapy paddles, noodles, aqua belts and bar bells. The community center had most of the equipment already for aqua-fitness class offerings, but had to purchase the hand-held therapy paddles, which allow for changes in water resistance to let more or less water through.

Beneficial For All

Noel explains that the difference between aqua therapy and traditional aqua-fitness courses is the former course helps with reducing pain and aggravation due to health-related injuries, while the goals of the latter course are mainly cardio and stretching.

One of the participants, 55-year-old Kenneth Jones, started the program due to chronic pain issues associated with two total-knee replacements, three fused vertebrae and a rotator-cuff injury.

"This class has been a blessing for me, and I look forward to attending every week," he says. "Not only has it improved my overall health, but it has allowed me to be part of a group and connect with people who have similar issues and concerns."

Since taking the class, Ken has gained more mobility in his joints, feels more flexible overall, and has gained strength in his knees, shoulder and back. He says his doctors have even commented on his health improvements, and encouraged him to keep taking the class.

There are often repeat participants, says Noel. "Sometimes we have people who came from rehab and still need some help increasing their flexibility and range of motion. Others just need to keep working on their bodies and feel it's important to continue their classes."

The classes also can accommodate wheelchair-bound residents, giving them a chance to exercise.

Noel attributes the overall success of the program to the partnership with Select Medical.

"The key to running a successful program is finding the right instructors," says Noel. "We have found instructors with expertise and patience, and they have made all of the difference." **PRB**

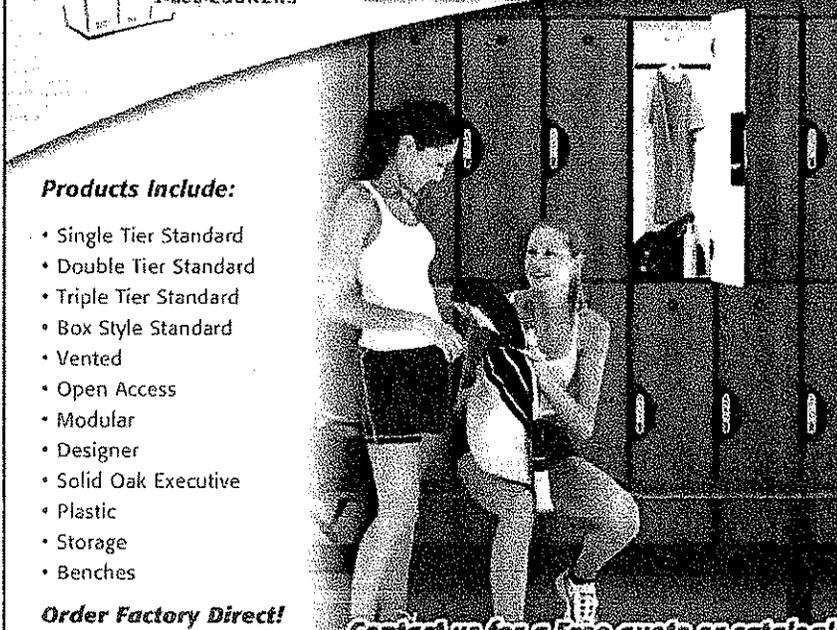
Heather Reichle is a freelance writer living in Columbus, Ohio. She can be reached via e-mail at HReichle28@yahoo.com.

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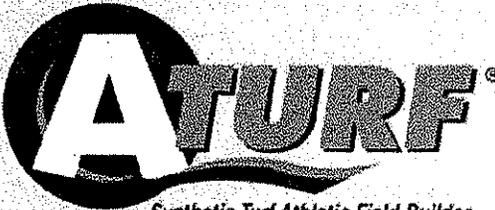
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Chamber news

Discussing "The State of ..."

... Windham

... and Mansfield

Work Students in Futures at Aug School

Work students from Connecticut State are working with the staff at Natchaug to host a "Let Your Inner" educational career day, April 15, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

and, Erica Holloway, 1, Jonathan Myette, Wrensen and Heather at to provide third-grade students at school with valuable information to get them thinking about their futures and to encourage them to explore possible careers. In the afternoon, Eastern students will be taken out to the local youth center and put them on campus.

Disruptcies at for 3 decades

According to the Business Journal, recently that 2009 saw the highest number of business failures in Connecticut since 1970. The number reached 467. This does not count businesses that have closed their doors, but others or simply



Meeting with local business representatives and several interested citizens, Windham's government leaders outlined the town council's goals, concerns and outlook at a March meeting.

Town manager Neal Beets and Mayor Ernie Eldridge talked about establishing a new Economic Development Commission, adding a walking police beat downtown and central business district improvements including sale of vacant buildings and a new parking garage design. Quality of life concerns include adequate support for police and fire budgets, a resource officer for the middle school/high school to be split and addressing noise at college "party houses."

Education concerns are focused around a proposed \$40 million magnet school and shared services. Cost reduction proposals for government include analysis of parking enforcement as well as cost of leaf collection and snow removal.

Housing concerns include deteriorating neighborhoods, zoning enforcement and property maintenance requirements. Only quality neighborhoods can attract the level of owners and tenants the community needs to protect image and investments.

The "vision" seen for the town includes the advantages of a diverse population, a home for the arts, festivals, college town atmosphere, outdoor activities and an improved economic center for both traditional business and tourism.



Meeting with business representatives, Town of Mansfield officials recently provided a briefing about municipal issues and financial concerns.

State Representative Denise Merrill pointed out that all state grants are being "level funded" at best and the budget gap for the 2011-2012 budget is growing. Efforts are being made to help small businesses with tax credits, capital and export assistance.

Town Manager Matthew Hart noted that 42% of Mansfield's revenue stream is intergovernmental reflecting the role of the University and Bergin Correctional Institute. Economic development initiatives include Storrs Center, Four Corners and the potential for both regional economic development cooperation and regional services delivery and sharing.

School Superintendent Fred Barruzi stressed the Mansfield education budget holds a 0% increase. The Middle School has been converted to gas power from electric, a study is ongoing on elementary school consolidation/rebuilding and a special education review is underway with Ashford and Willington.

Region 19 Superintendent Bruce Silva indicated that a K-12 study is underway with an eye to evaluating consolidation potential. There are now 1200 high school students at EO Smith. A reduced outdoor track project is proposed at approximately \$2million. Finally, he indicated that 15-30% of local education budgets across the state go to support special education.

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Editor:

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'Tis budget season throughout the land and my concern is focused on Mansfield. My concern is with and for the people of Mansfield.

For the people because, as all of us should know, taxes are going up. With the continued free spending attitude of the town of Mansfield, the Mansfield Board of Education and Regional School District 19, we can expect expenditures to go up, up, up.

In addition to projects and expenditures already authorized, we can expect millions and millions of additional dollars to be expected of us for the Region 19 track/football field upgrade (\$3-4 million), the K-8 school renovation/construction project (\$19 million), and most significantly, the Mansfield Downtown Project (\$220 million).

Look at the current budget projections for the near future and you will see an ever-increasing

debt to be borne by the taxpayers.

My concern with the people of Mansfield is involvement. With the projected expenditures combined with future wants or wish lists, we are headed down a fiscally irresponsible path.

The people must get involved and express their opinions to town council, town management, our school officials and anybody willing to listen. An informed public is an intelligent public.

Information on the budgets can be obtained from the town web site, www.mansfieldct.org, as well as www.savemansfieldct.com.

Please attend budget meetings and town meetings. Please vote in future referendums for Region 19 and the Town of Mansfield. Please get involved.

Ric Hossack
Mansfield

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Editor:

4/19

The people of Mansfield have the opportunity to express their opinion about the town budget at a public hearing on Monday, at 7:30 p.m. at council chambers. You should attend and voice your opinion. I'm opposed to the budget for many reasons. Mostly I feel that the town is poorly managed and no one pays attention to the cost to the taxpayer.

I don't trust the information we are given. If you read enough you will see that the custodians for the community center have been incorporated into the board of education budget. Why? Is this to make the community center numbers look good?

Letters to the editor

We pay for a wellness program for our employees yet we provide vending machines which offer pure junk food. These are three large machines which must cost us quite a bit in electricity. The taxpayer pays to run these junk food machines at the same time they pay to teach employees good eating habits. We have one fireman who regularly buys 12 bagels with a tub of cream cheese on the town's credit card. Then we pay to send our firefighter, in their fire trucks, to exercise during work hours. What does the town want?

Cream cheese chunkies or fit, trim firefighters? You, the taxpayer, pay for both: the cream cheese and, the exercise program. I'd tell you what the wellness program costs but I can't figure it out.

Have you read about California going broke with all its debt? Connecticut's not in great financial shape; it has a lot of debt. Now Mansfield is going down the same road. Very soon you will be obligated to pay close to 10 percent of the town budget for debt. Is this wise? Come to the public hearing to voice your opinion.

Betty Wassmundt
Storrs

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Mansfield budget to go to hearing

By **CAITLIN M. DINEEN** 4/10
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — Town councilors will host a public hearing regarding the town's proposed spending plan for 2010-11 Monday at the beginning of their regular meeting.

The hearing is scheduled to take place at 7:30 p.m. in the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

Residents can voice their opinion on the proposed \$43.53 million combined town/education budget.

Those who cannot attend the hearing can submit written correspondence on the budget to the town clerk's office prior to Monday's hearing.

The proposed town/school budget — which reflects a 0.4-percent increase over the current budget — is expected to be adopted by councilors April 19.

Councilors have a budget workshop scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Beck building to finalize the budget package.

It then goes to voters May 11 during the scheduled town meeting, which could then adjourn to referendum — if one is petitioned — within 21 days after town meeting approval.

Under the plan, the combined town/education budget — which is comprised of town, Mansfield Board of Education and Regional School District 19 funding — totals \$43,537,285.

When broken down the combined town/school budget is as follows:

- \$13,024,895 for the town's general government.
- \$20,588,160 for the Mansfield Board of Education.
- \$9,924,230 for Mansfield's share of the Regional School District 19 spending plan to be approved separately.

According to Town Manager Matthew Hart, the general government portion of the combined budget would increase \$185,145 or 1.4 percent.

In addition to the town/education spending plan,

two other budgets are up for vote in May.

The proposed capital improvement budget — which is being financed by nearly \$17.6 million in state and federal funds for the proposed Storrs Center Project — amounts to \$19,074,420.

The remaining money for the capital fund, totaling \$365,045, would come from bonds, other state grants and town-contributed money.

According to town officials, the capital fund would pay for community development, public works, facilities management, general government, community services and public safety.

The proposed capital and nonrecurring fund — which funds one-time purchases or expenditures — is \$900,045.

Nonrecurring fund dollars can be transferred within existing budget line items or be used as payments for one-time items such as fire truck payments, parks and recreation activities and funding the property revaluation.

When all three budgets — the town/education budget and the two capital fund budgets — are combined, they amount to approximately \$63.51 million in municipal spending.

The three budgets are presented as separate questions to voters so it is possible for some budgets to fail while others pass.

Despite a spending increase, town officials said the town's mill rate would decrease under the proposed spending plan due to the recently complete revaluation in town.

Currently, the mill rate is 25.71 but it would decrease to 25.62 mills.

How that impacts individual taxpayers is unknown because tax bills are dependent on whether a property increased or decreased in value following the revaluation.

At a rate of 25.62 mills, the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$5,124 in taxes.

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Mansfield forum to focus on school project

By CAITLIN M. DINEEN
Chronicle Staff Writer

4/12

MANSFIELD — Residents interested in learning more about the proposed construction of one or two new, all-inclusive elementary schools in town are encouraged to attend a forum Tuesday night.

The forum — co-hosted by the Mansfield Advocates for Children and the League of Women Voters — starts at 7 p.m. in the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

The forum will focus on the educational and financial implications of proposed projects recommended by the board of education's school building committee. "Our goal for this event is to provide another opportunity for residents to gather necessary information as the decision-making process moved toward a possible referendum in the fall," said Gloria Bent, League of Women Voters president.

Currently, Mansfield has three elementary schools including Annie E. Vinton Elementary School, Dorothy C. Goodwin Elementary School and Southeast Elementary School.

Previously, the committee had only recommended the construction of one elementary

school to replace the three existing schools in town.

The one-school proposal would result in the three existing schools shutting down and all pre-k through grade 4 pupils attending the new school.

The new building would be located at the Southeast School site.

However, as a result of negative feedback from community members, the building committee also recommended a second option.

The two-school option would result in the construction of two elementary schools to replace the three existing schools.

The buildings would be located at the Southeast and Vinton sites.

The two-school option would cost \$59.58 million, including proposed Mansfield Middle School renovations, with local taxpayers funding \$26.9 million when taking into account state reimbursements.

One new consolidated elementary school — with a total price tag of \$48.03 million — would cost local taxpayers approximately \$20 million taking into account reimbursements.

According to Town Manager Matthew Hart,

the initial cost to taxpayers for the one-school option was \$16 million.

However, a combination of the state's reimbursement rate decreasing and a lower projected enrollment figure resulted in a higher taxpayer price tag.

Hart said, although the committee recommended two proposals to be reviewed by board of education members, the committee endorsed the one-school option.

Tuesday's forum will have several panelists including Hart, Mansfield Finance Director Cherie Trahan, architect Kathy Dorgan and Dr. Anysia Mayer and Dr. Sally Reis, both of the NEAG School of Education at the University of Connecticut.

When a final proposal is selected, it would need town council and board of education approval before going to voters.

Because the project includes town funding and impacts residents on a large scale, the final proposal would go to voters in a town-wide referendum.

A referendum date has not yet been scheduled, but school officials were originally hoping for a fall vote.

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Mixed bag of opinions at budget hearing

By CAITLIN M. DINEEN
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — Taxpayers offered a mixed bag of opinions Monday night as they sounded off on the town's proposed \$43.53 million combined town/education spending plan for 2010-11.

The 45-minute hearing was held at the beginning of the town council's regular meeting.

"We need to look at the petty spending," said resident Mike Sikoski. "Look at the small stuff that adds up."

A majority who spoke on the bud-

get said they thought town officials should reign in "excessive" spending, but there were some residents supporting the controversial Storrs Center project and town spending in general.

The proposed town/school budget — which reflects a 0.4-percent increase over the current budget — is expected to be adopted by councilors April 19.

Councilors have a budget workshop scheduled for Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the Beck building to finalize the budget package.

It then goes to voters May 11 during

the scheduled town meeting, which could then adjourn to referendum — if one is petitioned — within 21 days after town meeting approval.

Under the plan, the combined town/education budget — which is comprised of town, Mansfield Board of Education and Regional School District 19 funding — totals \$43,537,285.

When broken down, the combined town/school budget is as follows:

- \$13,024,895 for the town's general government.
- \$20,588,160 for the Mansfield

(Mixed bag, Page 4)

Mixed bag of opinions at budget hearing

(Continued from Page 1)

Board of Education.

• \$9,924,230 for Mansfield's share of the Regional School District 19 spending plan to be approved separately at the District 19 budget vote in early May.

Town officials said the mill rate would decrease under the proposed spending plan due to the recently completed revaluation in town.

Currently, the mill rate is 25.71, but it would decrease slightly to 25.62 mills.

How that impacts individual

taxpayers is unknown because tax bills are dependent on whether a property increased or decreased in value following the revaluation.

At a rate of 25.62 mills, the owner of a home assessed at \$200,000 would pay \$5,124 in taxes.

Residents against the proposed budget said they thought town officials should control unnecessary spending.

Sikoski and fellow resident Betty Wassmundt said they thought incentive programs and other events offered to town employees

should not cost taxpayers money.

"Public employees are not schoolchildren who need special rewards to do something they need to be doing," said Sikoski, adding his review of town documents show \$500 worth of Wal-Mart gift cards bought as rewards for town employees.

Other residents took their allotted five minutes and spoke against the proposed Storrs Center project.

The proposed \$220 million project is a mix of residential developments, retail shops and commercial buildings to be built

along Storrs Road from Dog Lane to South Eagleville Road.

The project is to be funded by a mix of federal, state, local and private funding.

"This is not the time for us to continue to pursue a dream when reality says the rest of the town needs assistance," said resident Carol Pellegrine.

Pellegrine said she thought the project was "perhaps" a good idea in a better economy, but now, it seems unattainable.

"We need to admit the emperor, indeed, does not have any clothes on," she said.

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Mansfield probate court will move

(Continued from Page 1)

After months of officials' looking at various locations — including sites in Mansfield and Tolland — the new consolidated court, to be called the Mansfield-Tolland Probate Court, will be at Tolland's Hicks Memorial Municipal Center at 21 Tolland Green.

In addition to Mansfield, and Tolland, the new court will also include Willington and Coventry.

Under the consolidation, residents of all four towns will vote on one judge to oversee the entire

district. That vote will take place during fall elections.

Earlier this year, Mansfield officials sought to relocate the town's human services department to free up space as a potential site for the court.

However, that idea was not well received by councilors or residents who thought the move would reduce the amount of available space at the town's wellness center.

According to Hart, Tolland's state trooper will be relocated and that space will be used for

the court.

"It's more than adequate space," he said. "It may prove to be a very nice space."

He said the consolidated court would cost a projected \$16,259 to fund in fiscal year 2011-12 and the four towns would split the cost based on their grand lists.

Under this configuration, Mansfield would pay \$4,297, Tolland would pay \$5,625, Coventry would pay \$4,243 and Willington would pay \$2,092 of the bill.

He said each town would pay a one-time \$1,250 renovation fee

associated with converting the state trooper's office into a probate court.

Town officials said they understood the need to move the court, but were still upset about the move.

"It doesn't seem there is any viable alternative," said Deputy Mayor Greg Haddad. "(Tolland) has more space and a better facility."

Haddad said he was glad the court wasn't relocated anywhere further away.

Probate court in Mansfield to move to Tolland

By CAITLIN M. DINEEN
Chronicle Staff Writer

4/13

MANSFIELD — Citing a lack of space, town officials said Mansfield's soon-to-be consolidated probate court will be located in Tolland.

Mansfield Town Manager Matthew Hart told councilors Monday during that — after "exhaustive" efforts to keep the court in town — it would be located in Tolland.

"It's a somewhat difficult recommendation from me," said Hart, adding he was hoping to keep the court in Mansfield.

In effort to reduce costs associated with the state's probate court system, the state Probate Redistricting Commission endorsed a proposal to consolidate the state's probate courts.

Under the proposal, the current 117 courts will be reduced to 53 next year.

The 13-member probate commission was created in May to alleviate inherent financial problems in the probate court system. It includes judges, legislators, and officials from Gov. M. Jodi Rell's administration.

The probate court system saw a \$4.1 million deficit in fiscal year 2008-09 and judges predicted the system would be bankrupt by the middle of this year.

The consolidation is projected to save between \$8 million and \$10 million annually.

Currently, Mansfield shares probate court services with Coventry, with the court headquartered in Mansfield's Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

Meanwhile, Tolland's court is shared with Willington and is located in Tolland.

(Mansfield probate court, Page 4)

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Al Malpa photos

TOP: About 75 people turned out Tuesday night for a public forum on proposed changes in the number of elementary schools in Mansfield. The forum was sponsored by the Mansfield League of Women Voters and Mansfield Advocates for Children. ABOVE LEFT: Mansfield resident Jess Higham asks a question about administrators for the one-school option. ABOVE RIGHT: Sally Reis, of the department of educational psychology at the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education, answers a question.

Forum weighs options for elementary schools

By CAITLIN M. DINEEN 4/14
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — A forum on the potential consolidation of the town's three elementary schools highlighted the good and bad that comes with larger schools.

Expert panelists said there is current research that supports both smaller community schools and larger, all-inclusive education settings.

"There are benefits to larger schools and there are benefits to smaller schools," said Sally Reis, from the Neag School of Education at the University of Connecticut.

It was a full house Tuesday as approximately 75 residents attended the forum, which was co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters and Mansfield Advocates for Children.

Tuesday's event featured six panelists, including Town Manager Matthew Hart, architect Kathy Dorgan, Mansfield Finance Director Cherie Trahan, Reis, Anyisia Mayer of the Neag School of Education at UConn and Ande Bloom of the Eastern Highlands Health District.

Panelists were there to field questions from forum attendees and to give a little information about the

(Forum, Page 6)

Forum weighs school options

(Continued from Page 1)

project from an unbiased perspective, according to event organizers.

Under the proposal, the town's three existing elementary schools — Southeast Elementary School, Dorothy C. Goodwin Elementary School and Annie E. Vinton Elementary School — would be replaced by either one or two new pre-k through grade 4 schools.

The one-school proposal would result in the three existing schools shutting down and all pre-k through grade 4 pupils attending the new school.

The new building would be located at the Southeast School site on Route 89.

However, as a result of negative feedback from community members, the building committee also recommended a second option.

The two-school option would result in the construction of two new elementary schools to replace the three existing schools.

The buildings would be located at the Southeast and Vinton sites.

The two-school option would cost \$59.58 million, including proposed Mansfield Middle School renovations. Local taxpayers would fund \$26.9 million when taking into account state reimbursements.

One new consolidated elementary school — with a total price tag of \$48.03 million — would cost local taxpayers approximately \$20 million, taking reimbursements into account.

Prior to Tuesday's forum, residents had attended information sessions and expressed a strong dislike for the proposed consolidation, saying they prefer the town's current smaller community school setting.

However, despite fears from parents an all-inclusive school would lack a "community" feeling, panelists said parents should be open to change if it seems best for the children.

Reis said pupils are more likely to find someone with similar interests in a larger school setting.

"When you're the only one like you in a grade level or setting it's more difficult," she said.

While Reis said there were some pros associated with a larger school setting, some said it may make it more difficult to staff and retain teachers.

Anysia Mayer, also from the Neag School of Education, said teachers, in general, prefer smaller schools because there is less bureaucracy and more collaboration opportunities.

During the forum, residents asked questions on a variety of topics, including the number of administrators in the new building or buildings and how residents could tell board of education members directly which option they prefer.

Some residents took time to simply share their opinion.

"I think the board of education, town council and town leaders have already made up their

minds and what direction they'd like to go," said resident Richard Pellegrine. "And that bothers me."

While Pellegrine spoke out against the consolidation, other residents said it is important to consider what environment is best for schoolchildren in Mansfield.

Resident Ann Kouatly, who is a school librarian, said a larger school could still have a community feel with the right teachers and school officials.

"You can make a large school into many small communities," she said, adding she may have a different perspective on education in town because she does not have children in the school system.

During the forum, Kouatly said school size does not matter.

"Smaller is not always better," she said. "In my education experience, sometimes bigger is better."

Next, board of education members will host meetings through the remainder of the month to further discuss the proposal.

The next meeting will take place Thursday in the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m.

According to board Chairman Mark LaPlaca, May 13 is the board's "target date" to vote on a recommendation that will go to town council members May 24.

Officials said the project would be sent to taxpayers in November for a vote.

Mansfield set to get brand new web site ^{4/16}

By **CAITLIN M. DINEEN**
Chronicle Staff Writer

MANSFIELD — To better communicate with residents, Mansfield is undergoing a bit of a facelift, but this one doesn't require a scalpel or anesthesia.

Currently, members of the town's information technology (IT) department are creating a new web site for the town. The web site — which will be www.mansfieldct.gov — is replacing the town's current site.

The existing web site, www.mansfieldct.com, has been used since 2003, said IT Director Jamie Russell.

According to Russell, the new site is being created in response to a request from residents for an easier web site and the need to better organize online documents and information.

"It's a project that's been a while in the making," said Russell to town council members Monday during their regular meeting.

Russell introduced councilors to the new web site earlier this week.

The town's current web site is a tradition dot-com site, but Russell said even the simple task of changing the town's name to a dot-gov site is significant.

"It gives it a more official name," he said.

Other changes include a "document center" that residents can use to search for any documents pertaining to the town and various departments within.

Russell said the document center acts like a central hub for residents and others who search for information related to the town.

There is also an advance search option for residents searching for documents with specific terms or keywords in them, he said.

In addition to making the site a useful research tool, Russell said the site was meant to be usable for all residents and computer-levels.

To make the site more user friendly, the text on the site can be enlarged or shrunken by each visitor.

According to Russell, it was important to make the site usable by all residents.

The site is not only the location for contact information, but is used as a calendar, bulletin board and central communication hub for all things Mansfield, he said.

One feature Russell highlighted Monday was the audio files of governmental meetings will be accessible online.

He said the new site should be running in the next few weeks.

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Opinion

4/19

Chronicle

Lucy B. Crosbie
President

Kevin Crosbie
Publisher

Charles C. Ryan
Editor

Editorial

We offer these threads, needles

Needles to the new Mansfield-Tolland probate court district that doesn't include a part-time location in Mansfield, a decent-sized town with a major state university within its borders. The only location for the court — in the Tolland town office building — also serves Mansfield, Willington and Coventry. We agree the probate system needed to be streamlined. The state-wide program hopes to save the state up to \$10 million by merging 117 districts into 53. But, Mansfield should — at the very least — have room in town for a part-time office, similar to how Colchester has a small office as part of the main Windham-area probate district. Mansfield would best be served with a full-time location, but absent any tangible options the town should, at least, host a secondary site. With a community center and town hall complex, there has to be room for a probate court.

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It's business as usual for Storrs Center project

By CAITLIN M. DINEEN
Chronicle Staff Writer

4/19

MANSFIELD — Despite coming under fire at a recent budget hearing, it's business as usual for officials at the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, which continues work on the proposed \$220 million Storrs Center project.

While a few residents have verbally supported the ongoing project, others have said town officials need to stop contributing funding.

During last Monday's budget public hearing, residents including David Freudmann and Carol Pellegrine said the project has become too expensive for the town to keep funding without anything to show for it.

Since fiscal year 2001-02, Mansfield has contributed \$700,500 to the partnership and \$125,000 is budgeted in the fiscal year 2010-11 budget for the partnership.

The proposed project is a mix of residential developments, retail shops and commercial buildings to be built along Storrs Road from Dog Lane to South Eagleville Road.

The project is to be funded by a mix of federal, state, local and private funding.

Partnership Director Cynthia van Zelm said the project is moving along and the design — which is nearly 30

(It's business, Page 4)

It's business as usual for Storrs Center project

(Continued from Page 1)

percent complete — should be going to the state Department of Transportation for approval by the end of the month.

"I think that a lot of the design is getting very close," she said.

She said, "if all goes well," a groundbreaking could happen in early 2011. She did not specify exactly when, citing the lengthy DOT process the project is subjected to.

Once the design is 30 percent complete and has been approved by DOT officials, it will be presented to residents in a yet-to-be-scheduled meeting.

According to van Zelm, the design is subject to state approval at 30, 75, 90 and 100 percent completion rates as part of a process that involves state and federal funding.

Although that meeting has not been scheduled yet, there is an informational session planned for Wednesday, April 28, at 7 p.m. in the Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building.

Van Zelm said this meeting is a chance for residents to be updated about the project's current status.

The project — which is complete with several phases — currently has nine letters of intent from restaurants and other businesses who said they intend to open shop in Phase 1A of the project.

Phase 1A is the north-end section of the project including Dog

Lane.

Those include Pomfret-based Vanilla Bean Café, Moe's Southwest Grill, Storrs Automotive, Wings Over Storrs, Travelplanners, Campus Cuts, Body Language, Tailoring by Tima and Cosimo's Italian Restaurant.

Storrs Automotive, an automobile repair shop, Campus Cuts, a hair salon, Body Language, a tattoo studio, and Tailoring by Tima, a clothing alteration shop, are current tenants in the building that will be razed before new construction begins.

Van Zelm said although Leyland Alliance — the project's master developers based in Tuxedo, N.Y. — are responsible for finding future tenants, residents have a chance to voice their opinion about what type of food will be available.

Currently, the partnership is conducting an online survey to gauge the type of food available in the restaurant to be opened by the owners of the Vanilla Bean Café.

Van Zelm said the owners approached partnership officials because they wanted to gauge what area residents wanted as a restaurant.

"I was very pleased because they approached us," she said, adding the survey is available until the end of May.

The link for the survey can be found at www.storrscenter.com.