

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: October 25, 2010
Re: Town Manager's Report

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

Council Business/Items of Interest

- *Fall Semester Police Overtime Costs and Aspen Square Management Enforcement Actions* – As requested, later this fall I will provide you with an estimate of police overtime costs that the Town has incurred this semester. We will also request a report from Aspen Square Management regarding any enforcement action that it has taken this semester at its Carriage House Apartments location.
- *Clinical Supervision for Senior Services Social Worker* - At the last meeting, Councilor Keane asked for a status report on the clinical supervision for the senior services social worker. I am happy to report that we have retained Ms. Debra Hinchey with VNA East to provide LCSW supervision to Barbara Lavoie, starting this Monday, October 25, 2010.
- *Youth Services Advisory Committee* – Council requested information on the qualifications of non-resident members of the Youth Services Advisory Committee. Staff has informed me that Sevan Angacian is a graduate PhD student at UConn who is working closely with youth services this year conducting research on the COPE program. Eileen Griffin is a longtime member of the advisory committee who initially came as an intern in youth services. Jeff Smith brings finance expertise and remains a Mansfield taxpayer. Teri Hebert brings expertise from her experience working as a teacher at Natchaug Hospital.

Departmental/Division News

- *Human Services*
 - The Town of Mansfield's Human Service Department has been awarded a \$1,500 grant from Community Mediation to host a *Community Conversation About Education*. The conversation will be planned and carried out by a local planning committee made up of representatives from a broad cross-section of the community in order to ensure that the discussion reflects the concerns and interests of diverse constituencies. While an ultimate goal of the process is to have an impact on local priorities and to stimulate action projects with broad-based support, the goal of this specific conversation is to keep the community informed regarding Mansfield's *Plan for Young Children*. Individuals who are interested in participating in the planning committee should contact Sandy Baxter at 429-3338.
 - Town Council members are invited to attend the *Issues of Poverty* conference, to be held at Eastern Connecticut State University on Friday, October 29, 2010 to explore the challenges of poverty reduction and opportunities for volunteer partnerships. The conference will take place in the Betty R. Tipton Room of the Student Center from 8:45 am to 1:30 pm. Representatives from organizations addressing issues of poverty in New England, Connecticut and the Windham Region will present a snapshot of current efforts, followed by in-depth breakout sessions and a keynote speech from Patricia Julianelle, Legal Counsel for the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth. Kevin Grunwald of the Department of Human Services will be facilitating the breakout session on the "Turn the Curve" initiative, which is focused on efforts in

Windham and Mansfield. Ms. Julianelle will also give a comprehensive talk about the issues of homeless children and youth on the evening of Thursday, October 28 at 7:00 pm in the Student Center Theatre. All are welcome to attend. This is a great opportunity to learn more about efforts to address the varied issues related to poverty in our communities and to collaborate with local organizations to effect change. There is no cost for this event but registration is required, and seating is limited. Please visit the Center for Community Engagement website to register, www.easternct.edu/cce, and click on "conferences". This conference is made possible by a generous grant from Connecticut Campus Compact, and is sponsored by the Center for Community Engagement and the Division of Student Affairs at Eastern Connecticut State University.

- *Parks and Recreation*

- *New Child Care Room Hours.* Beginning Monday, October 25th, child care hours are being extended to be more compatible with our fitness-class schedule. The new hours are:
 - Mon., 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4:15-8 p.m.
 - Tues., 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4:30-7:30 p.m.
 - Wed., 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4:30-8 p.m.
 - Thurs., 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and 4:30-7:30 p.m.
 - Fri. and Sat. 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
 - Sun., 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- *Member Appreciation Week* is October 25-29. There will be special giveaways and events happening each day. A schedule of activities will be posted at the community center and online.
- Sun., November 14 from 1-4 p.m. the Parks and Recreation Department is sponsoring a *Family Open House*. There will be sample classes, demonstrations, information booths and more. This event will be open to everyone free of charge. There will be a special family fun night following the open house.

- *Town Manager's Office*

- *ICMA Conference* – From October 16-20, I attended the ICMA Conference in San Jose, CA. At the conference I attended a number of workshops concerning sustainability, economic development and capital projects management, as well as other topics. I found the sessions and the conference as a whole to be quite informative, and very applicable to my work here in the Town of Mansfield. I appreciate the Council's support of my professional development activities.
- *Recent Water Conservation Efforts* - In light of the recent rains, the University of Connecticut is lifting the mandatory conservation measures. However, since the stream flow in the Fenton River has not fully recovered, the University will continue to monitor the situation and keep in effect a Stage 1A water conservation alert. The letter to the community is attached to this report.

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Police Services Study* – An important part of the police service study will include soliciting stakeholder input through focus groups, surveys, and public information sessions. We are attempting to solicit feedback from a wide cross-section of stakeholders in the community such as residents, students that live off-campus, business owners and landlords. This week our consulting team will hold two focus groups with members of the community. Also, at 5:00 PM this Thursday, October 28th the consulting team will meet with members of the Committee on Community Quality of Life and the Mansfield Community Campus Partnership. In addition, **members of the public are encouraged to participate in a brief online survey about police services in Mansfield.** The survey link will be located on the Town's website, www.mansfieldct.gov, and will open on October 27th. Members of the public without internet access can access public computers at the Mansfield Public Library, the Mansfield Community Center or the Mansfield Senior Center.
- *South Eagleville Road/Maple Road Walkway Project* – The state did not approve Town's application for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funding for this project. The walkway is an important initiative and I recommend that the Town plan to fund the project via the capital projects fund. We will

include this item as a priority project for the Council's consideration as part of the proposed FY 2011/12 capital improvement program.

- *Storrs Center Project* – As the Town Council is well-aware, for some time now staff has been negotiating a development agreement with master developer Storrs Center Alliance regarding the public components (e.g. garage/intermodal facility, streetscape improvements) of the Storrs Center project. We are making progress and I anticipate that next month we will present the Town Council with a proposed development agreement for review and discussion in public session.

Member Organizations

- *Windham Region Chamber of Commerce* – At 7:30 AM on Wednesday, October 27th at the Nathan Hale Inn & Conference Center Senator Donald Williams will be welcomed by The Windham Region Chamber of Commerce to discuss programs available for small business financing and legislation designed to streamline the environmental permitting process. There will be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions and give input. The cost per person is \$15, which includes breakfast. To register, call the Chamber at 860 423-6389.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Communications Advisory Committee, October 26, 2010, 10:30AM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Traffic Authority, October 26, 2010, 10:30AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, October 26, 2010, 2:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, October 27, 2010, 5:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Solid Waste Advisory Committee, October 28, 2010, 7:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- IWA/Planning and Zoning Commission, November 1, 2010, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Beautification Committee, November 1, 2010, 7:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, November 2, 2010, 7:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, November 3, 2010, 5:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, November 4, 2010, 4:00PM, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office
- Community Quality of Life Committee, November 4, 2010, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, November 8, 2010, 5:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, November 8, 2010, 6:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, November 8, 2010, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

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