

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
January 24, 2011

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. WORK SESSION

School Building Project

Town Manager Matt Hart reported the School Building Committee met recently to discuss possible reductions to Option E. School Administrators have met with Rick Lawrence of Lawrence Associates to review possible changes to the original proposal. The identified changes will decrease the overall footprints in the new schools by 4,599 square feet without compromising the needs of students (Handout attached). The Middle School proposed changes to the office area will not be included and all 4 new classrooms will be science rooms with updated equipment. The other Middle School components will remain as proposed.

Director of Finance Cherie Trahan compared the cost of the new Option E2 including the purchase of land with the existing Option E (Handout attached). Construction savings would be approximately four million dollars.

Council members discussed the timing of the proposed debt, the current debt and budget situation, the location of the two potential schools, the distribution of students in Town, potential job opportunities, and the deadline for a decision to be made by Council.

By consensus the Council agreed that a workshop to discuss the pros and cons of each project would be scheduled.

Chair of the Board of Education Mark LaPlaca invited members to join the Board as they conduct tours of each of the schools prior to their budget meetings.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Stacy Geist, Oak Drive, expressed some concerns with possible plans to place the second school at the Goodwin School site including the fact that the majority of students live in the southern section of the Town, the Goodwin site would require the purchase of additional land and the Goodwin School has a larger fluctuation in student population.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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