

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
September 12, 2011
WORK SESSION

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Excused: Paterson

II. REVISIONS TO ETHICS ORDINANCE

Deputy Mayor Moran described the process from the Ethics Board's initial draft ordinance to the latest Personnel Committee's draft ordinance dated September 8, 2011. Town Attorney Dennis O'Brien reported the only change in the latest draft is the inclusion of a provision which specifically allows public officials and resident employees to vote at town meetings. The most significant change from the current ordinance is the inclusion of a complaint and investigation process.

The Council agreed to refer the following issues to the Personnel Committee for additional consideration:

- 25-3 Purpose - add "guide officials in standards of conduct" as proposed in the Ethics Board's draft.
- 25-4 Definition of Immediate Family – Members discussed the pros and cons of expanding the definition to include cohabitating partners' relatives.
- 25-4 Definition of Financial Interest – Members discussed the suggested removal of the word "trivial" with some members feeling the word is too subjective and others believing that its inclusion is standard language and will be defined by the Ethics Board, if needed.
- 25-4 Definition of Gift – add "travel" to the list of acceptable exceptions when a public official acting in an official capacity attends an event.
- 25-4 Definition of Gift – remove "like" and substitute "included but not limited to" in the examples of a "life event."
- 25-4 Definition of Gift – add language encouraging public officials and employees to seek an advisory opinion if in doubt.
- 25-4 Definition of Individual With Whom One is Associated – substitute "town official or public employee" for "person."
- 25-5 Board of Ethics – substitute "members" with "electors."
- 25-5 Board of Ethics – clarify that Board of Ethics members may serve on advisory committees.
- 25-5D Board of Ethics – include language prohibiting employees from serving on the Board of Ethics
- 25-7 Organization and Procedure – relocate 25-7 between 25-5 and 25-6 as in the Ethics Board draft.
- 25-6 Rules – reorganize headings to outline form as in the Ethics Board draft.
- 25-6C Rules – expand the currently proposed UConn exception to ECSC and other state employees.
- 25-6G Rules – add "written" prior to "Town policy"

- 25-7C Organization and Procedure – identify specific period for “time to time.”
- 25-9D Former Public Officials/Employees – review employment limitations for former public employee or official.

III. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk