

April 23 2012

I would like to discuss some of the comments made at the last council meeting. This wouldn't be necessary if you, the council, provided a second opportunity for the public to speak but never the less I have waited my two weeks to comment.

Councilor Moran addressed the issue of retroactive raises, in response to public comment regarding the proposed increase for the town manager. By denigrating public comment as "misconceptions" you have created your own misconception. Mansfield has continually provide retroactive increases to public employees, almost as a matter of course.

I refer to your October 14, 2008 meeting where you granted non-union personnel a retroactive increase. You did the same thing on October 24, 2011 meeting. On your February 14, 2011 meeting you ratified managements retroactive increase for the union. Also on April 11, 2011 you had the same discussion regarding the town manager's increase. Do you see a pattern here?

As was stated by a citizen, retroactive increases are ridiculous, especially for the public sector. They are patently unfair to taxpayers. If an employee performs as expected or above the call of duty, an increase in salary is certainly warranted but retroactively, NO.

I cannot understand how issuing retroactive increases to contracts that are negotiated past their expiration point benefits the taxpayer in any way. You presently are still negotiating with the fire fighters union on a contract that expired in July 2010 and have worked \$124,000 into the budget for contingency, specifically for this contract. It makes me wonder from which view point the negotiations are conducted. Are you looking out for the taxpayers [which is what you should be doing] or are you simply pacifying the public sector with unsustainable increases ?

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