

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
January 16, 2013

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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro

Excused: Keane, Kochenburger, Schaefer

Staff: Director of Finance Cherie Trahan, Assistant Town Manager Maria Capriola, Director of Parks and Recreation Curt Vincente and Director of Facilities Bill Hammon.

Town Manager Matt Hart welcomed those present and reviewed the subjects to be discussed. Both he and Mayor Paterson reported that at recent meetings there have been comments which indicate that municipal aid may be affected in the upcoming state budget.

II. TOWN COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Town Manager reviewed each of the Town Council's stated goals and objectives and the progress the Town has made.

Flag – As requested, the Assistant Town Manager will make a few identified status changes.

III. CURRENT YEAR FY 2012/13 OPERATING BUDGET

The Director of Finance reviewed aspects of the current year's budget including revenue and expenditure highlights.

Flag – Ms. Trahan explained the impact of the Storrs Center assessments on this year's budget and the budgets of future years. The tax abatements will begin next fiscal year. Once all the information is available Ms. Trahan will provide figures showing what the Town would have realized minus the abatements and what the Town will realize with abatements. Ms. Trahan will put this in the form of an issue paper for the budget.

IV. FISCAL YEAR 2013/14 OPERATING BUDGET

Staff described the expected FY2013/14 revenue and expenditure highlights, noting 1 mill equals \$970,000 in revenue. Ms. Trahan discussed trends in the Mansfield Board of Education proposed budget including the use of reserves and declining enrollments.

Flag – Ms. Capriola will provide the Collective Bargaining Agreement dates for all three entities, as well as wage and insurance tables.

V. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN BUDGET

The projected revenue sources and projected capital needs were reviewed. Mr. Vincente reviewed the need for playscape replacements. The cost for the recent improvements at Sunny Acres was between fifty and sixty thousand dollars. Mansfield Advocates for Children has been fundraising for the MCC playscape.

Mr. Hammon reviewed repair and maintenance issues. Some money has been budgeted for energy efficient projects.

VI. OTHER FUNDS UPDATE

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VII. COUNCIL PRIORITIES AND POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

Council members discussed the need for department heads to contemplate budget reduction scenarios. Ultimately, any service reductions would be a policy decision.

Flag – The Assessor will provide estimates for value that will be added by the additions of Michael's and Cumberland Farms.

VIII. BUDGET CALENDAR/NEXT STEPS

IX. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Pat Suprenant, Gurleyville Road, spoke to her concerns regarding using one time revenues and reserves and does not philosophically agree with a pay-as-you-go capital model. Ms. Suprenant noted the FICA payroll has increased 2% which impacts the income of residents. She asked the Council to try not to eliminate jobs.

Ed Waser, Maple Road, stated tax increases affect small business owners and asked the Council to be mindful of that fact. Mr. Waser asked the Council to push hard on changes to the minimum education funding requirements.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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