

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
February 26, 2013

Deputy Mayor Antonia Moran called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Moran, Paulhus, Ryan, Shapiro,  
Excused: Kochenburger, Paterson, Schaefer

Board of Education Members Present: April Holinko, Martha Kelly, Mark LaPlaca,  
Jay Rueckl, Shamim Patwa, Randy Walikonis

Also Present: Superintendent of Schools Fred Baruzzi, Town Manager Matt Hart,  
Director of Finance Cherie Trahan, Director of Information Technology Jaime  
Russell, Director of Facilities Management Bill Hammon

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

No comments offered.

III. SCHOOL BUILDING PROJECT

Deputy Mayor Moran welcomed those present to the meeting. In an earlier communication, the Council requested a meeting with the Board of Education asking them to provide a list of critical repairs necessary to maintain the existing buildings for 7-10 years; a similar list for the Mansfield Middle School; options to phase in planned heavy alterations; and to discuss possible funding issues.

Chair of the Board of Education Mark LaPlaca recapped the reasons the Board has asked the Council for clarification. Mr. LaPlaca noted that a maintenance prioritization plan for a few years is a very different plan than one to maintain and repair the facilities for the long term. There will be a need to balance some longer term issues with cost as there will be a tipping point at which time major repairs will have to be done, and therefore a de facto decision not to build new will have been made. The list presented tonight will need to be reviewed annually and does not provide funds to enhance educational programs. Security enhancements may require additional funds.

Mr. Baruzzi outlined the major areas of concern which are safety, technology, playscapes and maintenance of buildings. The proposed capital expenditures for these areas are estimated to cost \$400,000 per year.

Mr. Hammon reviewed the facilities management plan for the three elementary schools and the middle school, cautioning there may, at any time, be a need for an emergency expenditure not itemized on this list. The projects listed are only the most critical repairs which need to be done. Needs for 7 to 10 years out are difficult to predict.

Ms. Trahan commented the Town would like to initiate a pay-as-you-go approach to fund these repairs but until the Town's Capital Improvement fund is fully established some bonding may be required. Funding for these repairs will be contained in the Town's capital projects budget.

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Mr. Russell reviewed the computer infrastructure plan. The plan takes a conservative approach and identifies the areas having the most needs.

Board and Council members discussed some of the options and the effect different funding strategies would have on the overall program. The Council will continue to discuss long term school building plans and budgeting options at a future Council meeting.

Deputy Mayor Moran thanked staff and the Board of Education for their input.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Antonia Moran, Deputy Mayor



Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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