

January 13, 2014

Dear Mansfield Town Council,

Tonight you will vote on whether or not to sign an agreement with Connecticut Water Co., the company designated by UConn to provide water to the section of town closest to UConn. This is not a simple decision.

This decision will change the landscape of Mansfield for generations to come. This is not the water supply plan that the Four Corners Committee was charged to study several years back.

Town leaders are telling Mansfield citizens that zoning and conservation plans will keep excessive development in check after the water line comes through. We as citizens have nothing to worry about right? Wrong!

I am referring to the public private partnership or a 3P. What is a public private partnership? Simply put it is a business agreement between government and the private sector. The definition is far less important than what they are used for. They are used to fast track projects, infuse capital into projects that governments don't have. They can be used to side step town referendums and planning zoning as well. We should be familiar with this. Storrs Center.

Perhaps we can refer to our Town Manager, Matthew Hart, who along with Governor Malloy and Bruce Tobey presented at a Conference called "Implementing Public Private Partnerships in Connecticut" on June 14, 2012 at Central Connecticut State University.

Matt Hart spoke for nearly a half hour on the Storrs Center project a P3 project, he stated the town was very much a co-developer in the project. He didn't mention that the town fell short 3 million dollars for public infrastructure at Storrs Center. The town was forced to borrow 3 Million dollars at 8% from the developer EDR. This is now being paid through tax abatements circumventing a referendum.

Our planning and zoning department was presented one plan and got another. You see? Your leaders can use 3Ps to circumvent the will of the people. Rules and regulations as we know them are thrown out the window.

Governor Malloy stated that the new legislation that was created, in the special job session in October 2011, which was highly contested by both republicans and democrats, for the use of 3Ps, which would help build housing and parking facilities for UConn. Governor Malloy stated he was an impatient man and wanted to get things done quickly.

Also presenting at the conference was Bruce Tobey, representing the law firm who was paid to consult the town on the water agreement you are voting on tonight. He thoroughly explained the new legislation and the advantages of fast tracking projects.

You see folks, this is the trend in Hartford and in Mansfield and the water is needed for these types partnerships to proceed, in fact how many of you know you are voting on a 3p tonight?

I would like to ask Mr. Hart and our state legislators Is the town of Mansfield seeking more p3s with the University of Connecticut or any other entity?

Brian Coleman

Centre St.

To: Betty

CAN MANSFIELD

Enter into an
agreement designating
an "Exclusive Service
Area"

w/o other agency
approval?

Do we know
the answer to this
question?

- A. Smith