

Arthur A. Smith  
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Mansfield Town Council

January 12, 2015

Dear Town Council Members:

I was in attendance at the Town Council Meeting held last December 8, 2014 and found it disconcerting that the Town Manager Matthew Hart would not answer Councilor Wassmundt's question whether or not a warrant had been served by the State police to obtain Town documents. I hope that the Town Council will enter into a full discourse on his decision for and in the public record.

This posturing not to disclosure public information puts into perspective the difficulty the public has had in recent years in obtaining information in this public forum, control of information is control of the narrative which appears to be more important than transparency in local government, perhaps the New Year will began with a new agenda.

But questions still remain and since information is the currency of democracy and not control of the narrative, the story line, I will continue to ask them.

- 1) Have either Cherie Trahan or Matthew Hart given our town attorney or the investigating police notice that they have retained legal counsel to assist them as the police investigation of our town's finances is pursued? This question raises the issue of whether the CFO should have so many clients to provide financial services to, in addition to the town?
- 2) What management skills not project management skills are included in the performance measures used to evaluate the performance of the town manager?
- 3) Was a secret meeting held to which the town was not given notice when Matthew Hart gave authorization to assume the operating cost of the pumping station near the post-office condominiums, if not how did the obligation without Town Council approval, and the cost associated with the obligation get past the scrutiny of our CFO, Cherie Trahan?
- 4) Our Town Manager, appears to take down the questions raised during these public comment periods but since we fail to receive replies, can his notes be subject to FOIA retrieval, as documents with a public interest that outweighs an interest in withholding?
- 5) Has the University of Connecticut in any forum, Town and Gown meetings included, stated that they have not and will not consider partnering or constructing with state money Biosafety level 4 Laboratories in the Storrs/Mansfield area? Please note that Vaccine research work is starting at CAROGEN Corp. in Farmington Biosafety level 4

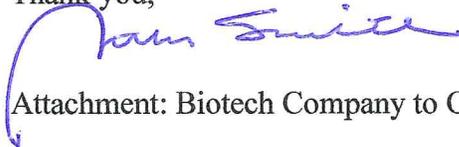
labs been ruled out for this community? Beverly Wood has assured us that she has vast experience in this area, how should we understand this?

6) I have noticed that the Mayor and the Town Manager talk during these Town Council meetings and the public is unable to hear their conversations, given the final ruling in Docket #FIC 2013-221, are you in compliance with CTFOIA mandates?

I look forward to hearing back from you on all of these issues raised at your earliest convenience.

7) UConn has been cutting back in a number of it's expenditures for public services for the residents of Mansfield /Storrs, the Senior program at the Jorgenson, the Community school for the Arts and support for Discovery Depot, has the CFO looked to this trend to forecast future Town expenditures, for the upcoming budget, should this trend continue? Will profit, regarding the Community School for the Arts contract, include or exclude the UConn Foundation financial support?

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pam Smith". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned to the right of the "Thank you," text. A blue arrow points from the signature down to the attachment text below.

Attachment: Biotech Company to Open New Lab- Courant