

SPECIAL MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
June 17, 2015

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: Kegler, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Raymond, Ryan, Shapiro, Wassmundt
Excused: Marcellino

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to consider Item 2, Fiscal Year 2015/16 Budget and Referendum prior to Item 1, Setting of the Mill Rate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016.

The motion passed unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. To set the mill rate for Fiscal Year 2015-2016

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to defer the setting of the mill rate to the June 22, 2015 meeting.

Motion passed unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS

2. Fiscal Year 2015/16 Budget and Referendum

Council members thanked those members of the community who voted at the referendum.

To begin the discussion Councilor Raymond offered the following suggested adjustments to the budget:

Board of Education Budget:

- Eliminate the \$92,400 added at the Town Meeting to fund math and language arts coordinators;
 - Reduce spending by \$48,294 based on reduced K-8 census; and
 - Find additional \$25,000 in spending reductions.
- Subtotal reduction: \$165,694

Town Budget:

- Eliminate the new fire fighter from the Fy2015/16 budget for a savings of approximately \$11,000 – \$15,000;
 - Reduce Budget “Tab Y” (as shown in accompanying handout) by 10% for a savings of approximately \$49,028;
 - Eliminate the \$148,000 contribution to the Fund Reserve and instead transfer unspent PILOT fund and other funds from the current budget into the Fund Reserve; and
 - Find an additional \$25,000 in spending reductions.
- Subtotal reduction: \$233,028 - \$237,028

Total reduction: \$398,722 - \$402,722 or approximately 1% of the budget.

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Councilors discussed the recommended adjustments noting the results of the referendum and that the Council has the authority to change only the bottom line of the Board of Education budget. Members also discussed the need to continue to show that the Town is increasing the Fund Balance and the ongoing overtime and part time employment concerns in the Fire Department. Director of Finance Cherie Trahan confirmed the amount of the projected reduction due to changes in the MBR (Minimum Budget Requirements) statute.

Town Manager Matt Hart will reach out to the Acting Superintendent of Schools Richard Kisiel regarding the suggested reductions in the education budget. Mr. Hart will also provide information on how the proposed adjustments will affect the budget and specific recommendations for the reductions. Staff will review the funds available for the facilities need assessment, the fraud risk assessment and establishment of the whistle blower's tip line and report back to the Council.

The Town Manager reviewed the proposed budget adjustments to the state trooper program as a result of the increased reimbursement rate to the State including proposed staffing changes and funding sources.

Council members agreed to continue this discussion at the June 22, 2015 meeting.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Moran moved and Ms. Raymond seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:28 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

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