

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
June 22, 2015

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the June 8, 2015 meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, expressed support for the budget proposal offered by Councilor Raymond at the last meeting but would like additional cuts to be made.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, echoed Mr. Hossack's comments and called for additional cuts.

Tom Levine, Thomas Road, expressed his disappointment to hear talk about cuts to the Board of Education budget since the schools have taken cuts for a number of years. Mr. Levine urged the Council to use their discretion and keep the current quality of programming.

Denise Keane, Atwoodville Road, thanked Councilors and Town staff for their work on the budget and is in agreement with the cuts offered by the Republicans. Ms. Keane urged Councilors to be aware of the effect of the mill rate on working people.

Ray Haddad, Conantville Road, expressed appreciation for doing the right thing and suggested the budget be an ongoing process. Mr. Haddad said the referendum showed the people prefer there be no budget increase.

Brian Coleman, Centre Street, urged acceptance of \$400,000 in budget reductions and stated that it was great to see so many people voting at the referendum.

Peter Millman, Dog Lane, offered congratulations to all who voted in the referendum and stated that while the Council needs to pay attention to the results there was a lot of misinformation being circulated. Mr. Millman stated that information on the budget was not fairly presented in the Mansfield Independent. He urged a "just right" option on the ballot.

Arthur Smith, Mulberry Road, requested the Council find common grounds from which to work and listed incidents of bipartisan efforts in the past. Mr. Smith asked that hiring the budgeted new positions be delayed or reconsidered.

Henry Cerwinski, Storrs Heights Road, expressed his disappointment in the actions of the Council and asked that the Council be a good steward of his money.

Janine Pender, Stafford Road, felt compelled to speak tonight to express her concerns about the budget noting that her family is still recovering from a job loss. Ms. Pender is in support of the suggested cuts and would like to the Town to concentrate on the essential services.

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Rochelle Marcus, Homestead Drive, read a letter from Tutita and Douglas Casa, urging the Council not to cut the Board of Education budget. (Statement attached)

Ed Hall, Mansfield Hollow Road, spoke in support of the proposed cuts.

Brian Anderson, Ridge Road, was disappointed with the results of the referendum and asked the Council for restrained cuts as the referendum shows a split in the Town. Mr. Anderson noted the Town has a moral obligation to assist those in need.

Tony Lent, Daleville Road resident, full member of the Storrs Publishing LLC, and Chair of the Republican Party, stated the referendum allowed all a chance to vote. Mr. Lent is in favor of the proposed cuts. Mr. Lent said the Mansfield Independent News was an idea before he became the Chair of the Republican Party.

David Vaughan, Warrenville Road, stated that he is not overtly political but given the results of the referendum he believes huge cuts would be a major mistake. Mr. Vaughan supports the budget as originally offered and believes it is important to invest in the Town.

April Holinko, Mansfield Depot, thanked the Council for their work and stated that since additional money for the Board of Education was added at the Town Meeting removing that money would not be an actual cut. Ms. Holinko is in support of the cuts as proposed by Councilor Raymond.

Barbara Vaughan, Warrenville Road, stated that people in Town were confused about the mill rate and the reevaluation which may have influenced the vote. Ms. Vaughan urged the Council not to make drastic cuts.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report the Town Manager offered the following comments:

- Offered thanks to Interim Superintendent of Schools Richard Kiesel for his work;
- Noted the Governor has not yet signed the budget and that the General Assembly will be meeting in Special Session on June 29th and 30th; and
- Responded to questions regarding the renewal contract from the Connecticut State Police. Mr. Hart will provide additional information on the details of the contract following the negotiations.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

No comments offered.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Storrs Center Update

The Town Manager reported the construction on the Main Street Homes will begin later this month. Staff is still waiting on a response from the funding agency as to whether membership fees may be charged for a project built with state or federal funds. Mr. Hart will report back to the Council.

2. Naming of Public Street in Storrs Center

Mr. Kegler moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee on Naming Streets and Buildings to review and recommend a name for the new public street located east of the buildings at 34 Wilbur Cross Way and 490 Wilbur Cross Way, also known as buildings VS8/9 and VS-10.

Mr., Kegler amended his motion to include the appointment of Mr. Ryan (Chair), Mr. Marcellino and himself as members of the Committee.

The motion as amended passed unanimously.

The Committee will set a date for their first meeting.

3. Fiscal Year 2015/16 Budget and Referendum

Mayor Paterson thanked Councilor Raymond for the thoughtful suggestions she offered at the last meeting and expressed her appreciation to residents of all parties for their contributions to the process.

Mr. Ryan, on behalf of the Democrats offered a list of suggested reductions to the budget approved at the May 12, 2015 Town Meeting totaling \$300,000.

Members discussed the firefighter position, the Board of Education budget, possible service impacts, the increase in healthcare costs, the decrease in state funding and the possibility of a compromise decreasing the budget by \$350,000.

Ms. Raymond moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to recess for 10 minutes

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 9:47 p.m.

Ms. Wassmundt suggested her vote in favor of the compromise would be contingent on leaving the funds allocated for the new finance position in contingency until all financial reviews have been completed.

Members discussed the new finance position.

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Ms. Wassmundt seconded to recess for 5 minutes.

The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 10:05 p.m.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kegler seconded to reduce the budget approved at Town Meeting by \$350,000 as detailed in the packet distributed today with an additional \$25,000 decrease to the Board of Education budget and an additional \$25,000 decrease to the Town budget.

Ms. Wassmundt offered an amendment to leave the \$68,940 for a finance position in contingency pending further Council review and endorsement.

The amendment failed for lack of a second.

The original motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no. (Documents referred to and distributed at tonight's meeting are attached.)

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kegler seconded, effective June 22, 2015, to reduce the FY 2015/16 budget for the Board of Education by \$117,400.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kegler seconded, effective June 22, 2015, to eliminate the \$148,000 contribution to fund balance in the mill rate calculation for FY 15/16.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kegler seconded, effective June 22, 2015, to reduce the FY 2015/16 General Fund (Town Operations) budget by \$87,000 as detailed in items 2 through 6 above.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kegler seconded, effective June 22, 2015, to increase the FY 2015/16 General Fund (Town Operations) budget for Contingency by \$2,400 for potential fire service costs.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Kegler seconded, effective June 22, 2015, to adjust the FY 15/16 General Fund (Town Operations) budget for the changes in the Resident State Trooper program per the above.

Motion passed unanimously.

Move, effective June 22, 2015 to adjust the FY 15/16 Capital Improvement Program and Capital Nonrecurring Fund budgets for the changes noted above.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to approve the following resolution:
RESOLVED: That the General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, appended totaling \$38,444,120 is hereby adopted as the proposed operating budget for the Town of Mansfield for the fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.

RESOLVED: That the Capital Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield, totaling \$2,323,900 is hereby adopted as the capital improvements to be undertaken during fiscal year 2015/16 or later years.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$2,085,470 be adopted. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

Ms. Raymond and Mr. Ryan seconded to move the following resolutions:
RESOLVED: That the General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$38,444,120 which was adopted by the Council on June 22, 2015, be appropriated and that the sums estimated and set forth in said budget be appropriated for the purpose indicated.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-51, the proportionate share for the Town of Mansfield of the annual budget for Regional School District No. 19 shall be added to the General Fund Budget appropriation for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 and said sums shall be paid by the Town to the Regional School District as they become available.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$2,323,900 which was adopted by the Council on June 22, 2015, be appropriated provided that the portion proposed to be funded by bonds or notes shall, at the appropriate times, be introduced for action by the Town Council subject to a vote by referendum as required by Section 407 of the Town Charter.

RESOLVED: That the Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$2,085,470 which was adopted by the Council on June 22, 2015, be appropriated and that the sums estimated and set forth in said budget be appropriated for the purpose indicated.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

Mr. Marcellino moved and Mr. Ryan seconded the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Tax Rate for the Town of Mansfield for Fiscal Year 2015/2016 be set at 29.87 mills, and the Collector of Revenue be authorized and directed to prepare and mail to each taxpayer tax bills in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes, as amended, and that such taxes shall be due and payable July 1, 2015 and January 1, 2016.

The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

4. Proclamation Designation the Month of July as National Parks and Recreation Month in the Town of Mansfield

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Raymond seconded, effective June 22, 2015, to authorize the Mayor to issue the attached proclamation designating the Month of July as National Parks and Recreation Month.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. 2015 Recreational Trails Program Grant – Universal Access Trail Bicentennial Pond

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded the following resolution:

Resolved, effective June 22, 2015, to submit an application in the amount of \$316,839, to be funded 80% by the State and 20% by the Town, to the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's Recreational Trails Program for the purpose of improving wheelchair accessibility, trail linkages, and educational and physical activity opportunities at the Schoolhouse Brook Park/Bicentennial Pond Recreation area.

Motion passed unanimously.

6. Agreement Between the Town of Mansfield, the Mansfield Board of Education and the Region 19 Board of Education for Financial Management, Information Technology, Risk Management and Employee Benefits Services

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded, to authorize the Town Manager to execute the proposed Agreement between the Town of Mansfield, the Mansfield Board of Education and the Region 19 Board of Education for Financial

Management, Information Technology, Risk Management and Employee Benefits Services for the term commencing on July 1, 2015 and expiring on June 30, 2016. The motion passed with all in favor except Ms. Wassmundt who voted no.

VIII. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger offered the following recommendations of the Committee on Committees:

The reappointment of Ken Feathers and James Morrow to the Open Space Preservation Committee for terms ending 12/31/2016,

The reappointment of John DeWolf to the Ethics Board for a term ending 6/30/2018,

The reappointment of Denise Keane as an alternate on the Ethics Board for a term ending 6/30/2017,

The reappointment of Maria Capriola as an alternate on the Eastern Highland Health Board of Directors for a term ending 2/27/2018,

The reappointment of Elizabeth Paterson to the Eastern Highland Health Board of Directors for a term ending 10/4/2018,

The appointments of Rita Braswell for a term ending 9/1/2017 and Rita Kornblum for a term ending 9/1/2018 to the Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran reported the Personnel Committee has received suggested policy adjustments to the gift policy from the Board of Education which the Committee will review. A regular review of current projects with Human Resources has also been instituted. The Committee has set a calendar for the Town Manager's review which will include a 360 degree review.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORT

No comments offered.

X. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

7. W. Hawkins (06/17/15) - Council members discussed possible ways to honor Mr. Hawkins's service. The Town Manager suggested a proclamation.

8. A. Smith (06/08/15) - Mr. Smith's questions will be addressed at the next Finance Committee meeting.

9. A. Wright (06/17/15)

10. Attorney Deneen re: Budget Referendum Provisions of the Town of Mansfield Charter

11. Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection re: Water Diversion

12. State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection re: Monthly Police Services Occurring in Mansfield- Statistics include all calls.

13. State of Connecticut Senate Republican Offices re: state budget

14. State of Connecticut Siting Council re: Interstate Reliability Project

15. Connecticut Water Company Public Information Meeting on Route 195 Water Main Project

16. University of Connecticut re: Construction Notice

17. Construction of Main Street Homes to Begin This Month

XI. FUTURE AGENDAS

Ms. Wassmundt requested a report on the cost and benefits comparison between CROG and the Town's former membership in WINCOG.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Moran seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m.
Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

June 22, 2015