

July 13, 2015

Dear Mayor Patterson, Deputy Mayor Shapiro, Council Person Moran, Council Person Kegler, Council Person Ryan, Council Person Kochenburger, Council Person Raymond, Council Person Marcellino, and Council Person Wassmundt:

My name is Cindy Dainton. I reside on Mansfield City Road in Mansfield Center. As a matter of full disclosure, I am not a Mansfield native but was transplanted here when I was 4 years old. I attended the following Mansfield Public Schools: Storrs Grammar School, Buchanon School, Southeast School, Mansfield Middle School and EOSmith High School. I have a Bachelors of Science Degree and a Master's Degree in Human Development/Gerontology.

Democracy, a form of governance by the people, is an important element in the Town of Mansfield. An element that I believe each of you holds very dear as elected members of the Town Council. My comments have nothing to do with any political party but rather about democracy. It is time to look at the Town Charter and specifically at the requirement for the Town Budget Meeting (Chapter C, Article IV, C405).

The town of Mansfield was incorporated in October of 1702. Queen Anne's War began in 1702. At this time, schools only taught reading and writing. There were only two "Grammar" schools in the state of Connecticut. Towns that had less than 100 families were only required to have schools open for six months of the year. Taxes to support schools were not adopted until later on in the 1700's.

I have been researching the Town Charter online using the Town of Mansfield website. According to the charter published online, it was adopted in November 1970. At this time, chalk, as found in your gift bag, was widely used in the classrooms in the schools in Mansfield. IPI Math, Home Economics, Industrial Arts, Music, Languages, English, Social Studies, and Science were just some of the classes taught. Computers were only beginning and were not common place in schools. In fact, my father collected the disposed of computer cards from the lab and we made holiday wreaths out of them. Instead of computers there were slide rules. Penmanship was taught in the elementary schools and "bluebooks" were widely used in high schools and colleges all across our country. These subjects and "tools" could be considered historic, some of which are no longer used or taught.

The Town Charter was revised on November 2nd, 1993, April 4th, 1996 and August 6th, 2007. I believe that the time for change has once again come forward. As can be seen at the recent budget season, the participation was almost 7 fold at the referendum rather than the budget meeting. There are a number of reasons for this:

- Greater publicity for the referendum
- Longer number of hours for voting allowing for those who cannot attend a budget meeting (work schedules, physical limitations, etc) to participate
- Environment was pleasant and non-threatening at the referendum

One does not need to look far to realize that our Nation, our State, and our Town are undergoing changes and challenges.

I have full faith that this Town Council will be able to resolve this issue in a prudent and reasonable fashion. Each of the elected members plays a very important part in the governance of the Town of Mansfield. Thank you for your patience. May Democracy prevail!

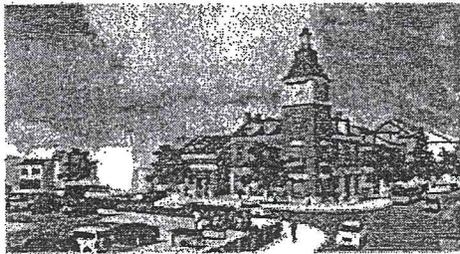
Respectfully,

Cindy Dainton

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Town of Mansfield
FROM: Lyle Wray, Executive Director
RE: CRCOG Dues Change
DATE: November 19, 2014

At its most recent Board meeting, Capitol Region Council of Governments' Policy Board voted to change the CRCOG's dues structure as well as increase the dues for the Shared Services Fund to open more opportunities for CRCOG to take advantage of shared service opportunities without state or federal aid. As a result, the dues base was equalized to \$3,000 per town and \$0.64 per capita. Town of Mansfield's dues in FY2014-2015 is \$16,748 and will be \$19,495.36 in FY2015-2016. This letter is to inform you of that change and also to give you a partial listing of CRCOG projects that benefit the Town of Mansfield.



All CRCOG municipalities in the region benefited from receipt of a \$4.2 million HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant for the MA/CT Knowledge Corridor. A wide range of activities, all of which will be completed by October 31, 2014, support metropolitan and multi-jurisdictional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and work force development, transportation and infrastructure investments. In addition, CRCOG received a \$300,000 Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) grant that funded the 2014 update of the Capitol Region Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan. Once the Department of Energy and Environmental

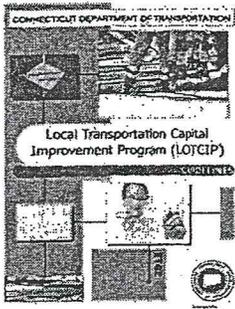
Protection and FEMA approve the plan, participating municipalities can apply for FEMA hazard mitigation project grants. CRCOG staff also provides GIS analysis, map production, and technical assistance such as U.S. Census Data analysis, as well as the acquisition and development of aerial imagery and other data products in conjunction with hosting and maintaining a regional web-based GIS system. CRCOG also established the Capitol Region Green Clearinghouse to share best practices that support regional sustainability in the areas of green infrastructure, access and mobility, environment, affordable housing, and food security.

Mansfield can also take advantage of newly-developed model sustainable land use regulations that support housing diversity and affordability, encourage energy efficiency and the use of alternative energy, allow for compact development, and support local food systems and food security.

The Capitol Region Purchasing Council (CRPC) program saves its members money through conducting competitive bids on their behalf, and providing access to volume-based savings. CRPC conducted 17 bids in FY2013-14, saving its members over \$1.8 million. CRPC also runs a Natural Gas Consortium and a CRCOG Electricity Consortium that resulted in FY2013-14 savings of over \$400,000 for members of those consortia. CRPC has also seen a large increase in utilization of our Job Order Contracting program (ezJOC) which provides on-call construction and renovation services to our members. To date, over \$9 million of projects have been completed for our member municipalities and agencies in ezJOC. CRPC serves 95 member municipalities and agencies and CRCOG dues include CRPC membership.

CRCOG also launched a new IT Services Cooperative in FY2014 that helps municipalities leverage their access to the expanding state-run high speed fiber Nutmeg Network and includes a competitively bid partnership with Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology, houses the CRCOG regional online permitting system and will include a competitively bid fiber build-out contract.

Mansfield did not participate in the CRPC program. Depending on the level of participation, towns of comparable size have received benefits ranging from \$4,600 to over \$70,000. Mansfield also participates in the Regional GIS Parcel Layer and Web Update which will be going live in December of 2014. Mansfield's portion of the update is \$5,940.



In FFY 2013, CRCOG obligated over \$6 million in federal STP Urban Transportation Funds to start design, right of way acquisition or construction of previously approved road projects. Over the last year, the CRCOG Transportation Program also advanced municipal transportation, enhancement, or congestion related projects. CRCOG also provided technical assistance to towns to solve traffic problems, program federal monies, and worked with CTDOT on design issues through corridor studies and general technical assistance. Regarding future funding for municipally sponsored projects, CRCOG worked to expend the first year of Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program funds of \$6.5 million by finalizing agreements, programming projects, and establishing the on-call framework needed to successfully implement the program. CRCOG will continue to work with the Town and other stakeholders to

advance a \$540,000 study of gateway corridors to UConn Storrs. The town also received approximately \$32,350 from the State Matching Grant Program for Elderly and Disabled Demand Responsive Transportation (Municipal Grant Program).



The CRCOG Public Safety Program works to coordinate regional public safety and homeland security activities. These programs help protect our communities and prepare us to respond and recover, as a region, from disasters. Since 2009, CRCOG has received approximately \$14.5 million in Public Safety dollars, comprised of funds from the State Homeland Security Grant Program, Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, Metropolitan Medical Response System, Interoperable Emergency Communications, Urban Areas Security Initiative, and the Citizen Corps Program. For the region as a whole, CRCOG has facilitated numerous exercises including table-top, functional and full-scale, contracted for a full capability assessment, conducted various After Action Reviews, established a Long Term Care Facility Mutual Aid Plan and instituted the Get Ready Capitol Region citizen awareness website and campaign. Through

CRCOG, regional teams including Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT), Dive, the Hartford Bomb Squad, Regional Incident Dispatch, Command Post, Special Needs training unit, and the Medical Reserve Corps also received extensive training and equipment. Individual towns have received the following: \$200/day reimbursement for first responders attending approved training or exercises; assistance with local training and exercises, SWAT equipment, fingerprint machines, cots, upgrades to local emergency operation centers, credentialing capability, and CAPTAIN Police and Fire equipment and services.

This is a partial listing of CRCOG projects and benefits. CRCOG also offers other benefits that cannot be measured monetarily including technical assistance in shared services, transportation and land use planning. Through the increase in dues, CRCOG will have more opportunities to establish additional programs that will benefit the CRCOG membership.

Please contact Pauline Yoder at (860) 522-2217, extension 245 or pyoder@crcog.org if you have any questions. CRCOG would be happy to make a presentation to your locally elected body on our current work and on the dues memo at your convenience.