TOWN OF MANSFIELD
Ad-Hoc Committee for Responsible Contracting
Monday, December 17, 2012
Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
Council Chamber

9:00 a.m.

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Call to Order/Roll Call

Approval of November 5, 2012 Minutes

Opportunity for Public to Comment

New Business
1. Special Guest Speakers
    a. Fire and Life Safety Code Enforcement and Inspections
    b. Procurement for Public Projects
        i. Construction Inspection and Wage Verification Procedures
    c. Other

2. Future Meeting Dates/Next Steps

Adjournment

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTING

Monday, November 5, 2012
Council Chambers, Audrey Beck Municipal Building
Minutes - DRAFT

Members Present: Deputy Mayor Toni Moran (Chair), Mayor Elizabeth Paterson, Chris Paulhus

Other Council Members Present: David Freudmann

Staff Present: Maria Capriola, Matt Hart

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT
Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road. Asked the Committee to define its purpose and identify reasons for consideration of such an ordinance. Expressed concern that adoption of a responsible contracting ordinance will discourage contractors from locating in Mansfield.

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike Road. Referenced article from the Mansfield Independent News re: responsible contracting. Expressed his opposition to adoption of a responsible contracting ordinance.

In response to remarks made during public comment Hart and Moran offered clarifications regarding the timeline of events leading up to the creation of the Ad-hoc Committee on Responsible Contracting. In the fall of 2011, various trades unions approached the Mansfield Downtown Partnership to express concerns regarding labor conditions at Storrs Center. Hart and Howard Kaufmann, principal from Storrs Center Alliance, met with the union representatives to listen to the union's concerns and to review the safety and worker document protocols that the developer's general contractor, Erland Construction, was using at Storrs Center. Furthermore, in the spring of 2012, a handful of UConn professors, as private citizens, circulated a petition and brought similar concerns to the attention of the Downtown Partnership. Hart, Moran and Simpson, as members of the Downtown Partnership Board, along with Kaufman and van Zelm, met with this group of faculty. During these meetings, the faculty presented the concept of a RCO as a means to promote and ensure fair labor standards in public works projects. The partnership representatives did not endorse or draft a responsible contracting ordinance but did bring the concept to the attention of the Council as a whole. Members of the Downtown Partnership Board did not have joint meetings with the UConn President's Committee on Social Responsibility as was implied in remarks made during Public Comment.

1. RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTING ORDINANCES

Committee members expressed an interest in becoming more familiar with:

- Existing regulatory procedures such as prevailing wage, worker documentation, procurement process (bid preparation and award process), etc.
    - How does prevailing wage impact fringe/benefits?
- Guaranteed pay and healthcare requirements
- Apprenticeship programs
- Pre-authorization provisions
- Preference for local contractors and hiring locally
- Ability to enforce state/federal laws
    - How feasible would it be for the Town to enforce a responsible contracting ordinance and/or state/federal laws?
- The experience of a comparable community that has implemented a responsible contracting ordinance

Committee members expressed an interest in having the following guest speakers attend meetings if possible:

- DPW Director, Finance Director, Clerk of Works (to review procurement process, wage verification procedures)
- DOL (apprenticeship programs)
- Independent Contractors Association (model ordinance, pre-authorization provisions
- Local Chamber of Commerce (preference for hiring local contractors and employees)
- Staff from Killingly (comparable community with responsible contracting ordinance)
- Town Attorney to assist with legal review and considerations
- Labor relations experts from area universities such as Central

There were no special requests for information or research at this time. Cornell University's labor relations program was recommended as a possible resource for information.

2. NEXT STEPS

First, the Committee will invite the DPW Director, Finance Director, and Clerk of Works to review the procurement process and wage verification procedures. Other guest speakers will follow. The Committee will try to meet twice per month. Moran reminded Committee members that it is permissible to schedule meetings and distribute materials through email but that it is not acceptable for Committee members to engage in discussion via email.

Paulhus made the motion, seconded by Paterson to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Maria E. Capriola, M.P.A., Assistant Town Manager, Town of Mansfield