

DRAFT
Town of Mansfield, Four-Corners Advisory Committee
Minutes of the Meeting – February 2, 2010
Council Chambers, Mansfield Town Office Building

Present: Nesbitt (Chair), Plante, Ferrigno, Pacholski, Girard, Rawn, Spak, Hart, Schaffer, Hultgren (staff), Gouin (Milone & MacBroom), vanZelm (guest -- Mansfield Downtown Partnership), Sobanik (guest – Celeron Square), Freudmann (guest – Eastwood Road), Paulus (guest --Town Council)

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by chair Nesbitt.

The minutes of the December 15, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved on a motion by Hart/Plante.

Nesbitt was elected continuing chair of the committee on a motion by Plante/Rawn.

Nesbitt introduced Jeanine Gouin of Milone and MacBroom (consultants who prepared the joint UConn/Town water and wastewater planning document in 2007). Ms. Gouin handed out a map and two information sheets explaining the permitting process relating to water supply in Connecticut which is regulated by both the Department of Public Health and the Department of Environmental Protection. Discussion with the Committee members ensued. She noted that the permitting processes for either new wells (regardless of location) or piping water into a new area were quite involved, time consuming and expensive (on the order of \$200,000 for a three phased study, testing and permitting). Hultgren said that he had obtained a budgetary estimate of \$2M from Milone and MacBroom for the development of a new wellfield to serve the four-corners area.

Hultgren updated committee members on the on-site water exploration study (phase I) being performed by Charter Oak Environmental. He said that the report should be available for the Committee's March meeting and that the results so far were encouraging, in that there appear to be some deeper stratified drift deposits in the Cedar Swamp brook area.

Pacholski reported that results from UConn's Willimantic River yield study should be presented at the next UConn Water/Wastewater Policy Advisory Committee meeting. Restrictions on the wellfield withdrawal rate are a good possibility in years of extreme low-flow. If the DEP's current proposal on streamflow standards (now in public process) is adopted by the State, it could impact UConn's withdrawal rates even further.

Hultgren explained that he had requested funds for further study (phase II) of potential well areas and for the first half of the pump station design in the Town's FY 2010-2011 capital budget. Considerable discussion then took place over whether or not to request all of the money needed for study and design now so that the water supply study and permitting work (which could take up to 2 years) didn't hold up the project. Approximately \$300,000 (plus bonding and legal costs) would be needed to fund the water supply study/design and the design of the sewer pump station. Hart said he would discuss this with the Town Council at its upcoming retreat. Most committee members favored trying to obtain the spending authorization for all of the study and design work sooner than later.

Hultgren handed out and explained two funding requests to be submitted to Congressman Courtney's office for federal funding in FY11. He explained that the first request (sewer only) was separated from the full (sewer and water) request so that it could be forwarded to the CT DECD who had requested grant requests in the \$1M range. The two funding requests were endorsed on a motion by Plante/Schaffer. These will now be placed on the Town Council's Feb 8th agenda. Committee members that are available are encouraged to attend the Council meeting in support of the grant requests.

Nesbitt reported on his research into USDA grants for sewer and water systems for smaller communities. Staff will check with USDA representatives to see if the four corners district could meet the criteria for this grant program.

Under other business, Nesbitt suggested another public information session on the project might be in order for April of this year. He also suggested that the fiscal impact analysis be re-examined to make sure it was not too conservative in its assumptions. Staff and the fiscal impact subcommittee will review this in early March.

The discussion of the design guidelines subcommittee's report was postponed to a future meeting.

The next meeting was set for 7 PM on Tuesday March 9th.

Respectfully submitted,

Lon Hultgren
Director of Public Works