

TOWN OF MANSFIELD
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
MAY 10, 2016
MANSFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

Town Clerk Mary Stanton called the Annual Town Meeting for Budget Consideration to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium. The Town Clerk read the Notice and Warning of the Meeting and explained the eligibility requirements for voting. She then requested nominations for Moderator.

Toni Moran nominated Bruce Clouette to serve as Moderator. Hearing no other nominations, the nominations were closed. Motion to approve Mr. Clouette as Moderator passed unanimously.

Without objection Town Clerk Mary Stanton was appointed secretary to the meeting and Town Attorney Kevin Deneen was appointed as the parliamentarian. A request to adopt Roberts Rules of Order was approved without objection with the stipulation that each person would be allowed to speak for five minutes.

Mr. Clouette introduced the Chair of the Council's Finance Committee Bill Ryan and Mansfield Board of Education's Chair Randy Walikonis to present a more detailed explanation of the budget.

Councilor Ryan reviewed the General Fund Budget including the general government expenditure trends and cost drivers and the projected revenues. Mr. Ryan presented information on the positive revenue impact of the Storrs Center project and the state funding impacts that have yet to be determined. Mr. Ryan noted that the adopted budget is based upon Governor Malloy's second budget and is a worst case scenario.

Board of Education Chair Randy Walikonis commented on the Board's budget which maintains current programs with an increase of 4.3%. Mr. Walikonis reported that increases in salaries and benefits are the major cost drivers and outlined the capital improvements being funded. A planned facilities study will inform decisions on future school building needs.

Mr. Ryan reviewed highlights of the Capital Fund and the Capital Non-Recurring Fund. In summary, Mr. Ryan noted there will be no increase in the mil rate.

Mr. Ryan recognized Mayor Shapiro who commented that this budget is predicated on the worst possible outcome of the state budget process. In light of that the budget fully funds the schools and new funds are allocated to infrastructure. Mr. Shapiro commended the budget team for their excellence and diligence.

Mr. Ryan offered the following resolutions for consideration:

RESOLVED: That the proposed General Fund Budget for the Town of Mansfield for fiscal year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 in the amount of \$41,130,430 which proposed budget was adopted by the Council on April 27, 2016, be adopted and that the sums estimated and set forth in said budget be appropriated for the purpose indicated.

RESOLVED: That in accordance with the 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, 2016 to June 30, 2017 and said sums shall be paid by the Town to the Regional School District as they become available.

RESOLVED: That the proposed Capital Projects Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$4,597,170 be adopted 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 proposed Capital and Non-Recurring Reserve Fund Budget for fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017 in the amount of \$3,042,600 be adopted.

The motion was seconded by Alex Marcellino.

Moderator Clouette outlined the process for proposing amendments to the proposed budget and the voting process. Mr. Clouette asked for comments on the budget.

Martin Sommer, Warrenville Road, offered kudos for the additional firefighter and asked for clarification as to whether costs related to the proposed Region 19 building project are included in the proposed budget.

Peter Millman, Dog Lane, thanked the Town Council and Board of Education for their work and asked if renewable energy options were considered for the replacement of the Vinton boiler. The Town Manager stated that the project will replace the current boiler with an energy efficient gas fired boiler. Larger school projects will consider more energy efficient systems.

Allen Barstow, Woodland Road, moved to increase the Education (Program #60001) budget by 2%, or \$459,610.

Mr. Sommer seconded the motion and spoke in favor of the amendment expressing concern regarding the decreases in technology funding in past years.

Kathy Ward, member of the Mansfield Board of Education and a Chatham Drive resident but speaking as an individual, stated that the Board was very thoughtful

in putting together the budget which maintains programs and class sizes. Ms. Ward is not in favor of the amendment.

Toni Moran, Town Council member and Mansfield City Road resident, but speaking as an individual, reported that since the Governor's budget actually cut funds to schools this proposed budget reflect an reallocation of Town funds to the Board's budget.

Ben Shaiken, Town Council member and Olsen Drive resident, but speaking as an individual, stated that in recent years when the Board's budget was increased at the Town Meeting the budget was defeated in the referendum. Mr. Shaiken stated that Town Council provided the funds requested by the Board.

Brian Anderson, Ridge Road, supported the comments of Mr. Shaiken.

Kelly Lyman, Superintendent of Schools, addressed how technology cuts have been made up through the use of grants and Town Council allocations.

Raluca Mocanu, Maple Road, requested the per capita expenses per student for FY 2105/2016 and FY 2016/2017.

Ms. Lyman reported the current year's cost per pupil is \$17,396 and the upcoming year's cost per pupil is \$18,414.

Tom Levine, Thomas Drive, noted that years of no rise in expenditures were essentially cuts in spending. Mr. Levine is not in favor of the amendment as the increase in the proposed education budget is appropriate. He expressed appreciation to the Town Council and Board of Education.

Genevieve McGann, Cedar Swamp Road, thanked the Town Council and Board of Education for their work and called the question.

The motion was seconded and passed by a show of hands with two thirds of those present voting in affirmative.

The Moderator called for a voice vote on the amendment.

The amendment failed.

Mr. Clouette called for a vote on the original motion offered by Mr. Ryan.

The vote was by paper ballot.

Those in favor were 182 and those opposed were 24. The budget passed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

