

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: August 24, 2009
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Requests for Information

- *Energy Plan Savings (Koehn)* – Staff is working on a response to this request.
- *Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee Resolution* – Please see item number 20 in your Council packet for a copy of the requested resolution.
- *Mansfield vs. Windham WPCA Update (Koehn)* – The Town of Mansfield contracts with the Town of Windham WPCA for certain sewerage services. The Windham plant is now undergoing a statutory upgrade and Windham has assessed Mansfield a percentage of the cost of that upgrade. Since the inception of the agreement, the Windham WPCA has developed various merchant facilities to treat grease and septage, and these merchant facilities bring in additional revenue. Mansfield filed an arbitration against the WPCA claiming that the Town was entitled to a portion of the revenues from the merchant facilities, and that the Town should receive a commensurate credit against our obligation to assist in funding the plant upgrade. The arbitrator has issued an interim ruling denying Mansfield's claim for a share of the revenues derived from the processing of septage and grease at the facility. We are now moving forward at a staff level to resolve the remaining issues that the arbitrator has not ruled upon, such as how future plant expansion will be handled, in light of the arbitrator's ruling. To the extent that the issues cannot be resolved by the parties, we may need to return to arbitration. Staff will keep the Council apprised of our progress.
- *Ponde Place and Water Utility Coordinating Committee (Koehn)* – I now have a better understanding of this request and staff will prepare a response for the September 14th Council meeting.
- *Status of Greek Amphitheater (Koehn)* – The subject project includes the construction of a 500 seat classic Greek Amphitheater, Exhibit Hall /Area of Refuge and associated plaza and site landscaping. The amphitheater seating and associated stage are being constructed with marble imported from Greece. The Hellenic Society Paideia and the efforts of many volunteers are financing the project. Based on Planning and Zoning Commission approval conditions and the submitted application, the use of the amphitheater is limited to five performances per year where attendance is expected to exceed 150 persons. The Inland Wetlands Agency and Planning and Zoning Commission conditionally approved the amphitheater project in 2002. Zoning and building permits were issued in 2006. Stop work orders were issued in 2007 due to unauthorized work involving revisions to approved plans. In 2008, the PZC and Building Department approved certain plan revisions and work was reauthorized for installation of amphitheater seating. Lower seating levels have been installed and portions of the stage area have been constructed. The applicant has verbally related that revised architectural plans for the Exhibit Hall/Area of refuge are expected to be ready in the next few months. The revised plans will need to be approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission and Building Official. It is anticipated that project completion remains years away.

Departmental/Division News

- Department of Public Works:
 - *Federal Stimulus Projects* - Our two transportation-related federal stimulus (ARRA) projects are moving along. The revised plans and specs for the Birch Road bikeway were submitted to the DOT this week and we expect to be able to bid this project this fall. Plans and specs for the milling and overlay of Mansfield City Road under Route 6 are in process and we hope to have these submitted in early September as well. Both projects will require public information meetings to meet the federal project guidelines.
 - *Gas Line Installation* - We expect to finish the gas line installation down Davis Road (except for paving) this week. Mansfield Middle School will be on-line for heat this winter.
 - *Hunting Lodge Road Bikeway* – We will be paving the Hunting Lodge Road bikeway next week, just in time for the UConn move-in. Landscaping and some driveway work will remain for September.
 - *Single Stream Recycling* - We have converted to single stream recycling, although sorted recyclables are still permitted for those who choose to recycle that way. Sorted recycling will continue at the Transfer Station.
- *Farmers' Market Service Fees* - The Eastern Highlands Health District Board of Director's adopted proposed amendments to FY2010 EHHD Fee Schedule effective November 1, 2009. The amendments adopted now provide new service fee categories for food vendors at farmer's markets within the health district. It is important to note that the Storrs Farmer's Market Master attended our June public hearing and provided testimony in support this proposed fee schedule.
- *Historic Documents Preservation Grant* – The Town of Mansfield's application for Historic Document Preservation Grant funding has been approved in the amount of \$5,000. The grant contract, schedule to end June 30, 2010, will allow the Town to continue its historic document preservation work.
- *Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision* – I would like to conduct a workshop with the Town Council to review the Town Government Vision Point and prioritize other components of the plan. Please watch your email for some suggested dates to conduct this session.
- *Parking Steering Committee for Storrs Center* – I have close to a complete slate of nominees to serve on this committee and plan to present you with a recommendation at your September 14th meeting.

Upcoming Events

- *Celebrate Mansfield Weekend, September 11-13* – Join the Mansfield Downtown Partnership, the Town of Mansfield, the Mansfield Community Center, the Mansfield League of Women Voters, the Altnaveigh Inn & Restaurant, and Storrs Farmers Market for a weekend full of community fun! Go to www.mansfieldct.org for a more information including a listing of events.

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, August 25, 2009, 10:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, August 26, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Four Corners Sewer Advisory Committee, August 27, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Downtown Partnership Board of Directors, September 1, 2009, 4:00 PM, Mansfield Downtown Partnership Office (1244 Storrs Road)
- Mansfield Advocates for Children, September 2, 2009, 6:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, September 2, 2009, 6:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, September 2, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Ethics Board, September 3, 2009, 4:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- Community Quality of Life Committee, September 3, 2009, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Youth Service Bureau Advisory Board, September 8, 2009, 11:30 AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town/University Relations Committee, September 8, 2009, 4:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, September 8, 2009, 7:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Historic District Commission, September 8, 2009, 8:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Board of Education, September 10, 2009, 7:30 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, September 14, 2009, 5:00 PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, September 14, 2009, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Beautification Committee, September 14, 2009, 8:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, Monday, September 14, 2009, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the Town Calendar at www.MansfieldCT.org for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*