

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
March 27, 2006

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:40 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Redding  
Absent: Schaefer

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Distribution of FY 2006/2007 Proposed Budget

Martin Berliner, the Town Manager, turned over the presentation of the proposed budget to Assistant Town Manager Matt Hart, Director of Finance Jeffery Smith and Comptroller Cherie Trahan.

Mr. Hart thanked the staff for their work and outlined the proposal including a General Fund Budget (including Region 19's contribution) of \$39,125,200; a Capital Fund Budget of \$3,884, 500; and a Capital and Non-recurring Reserve Fund of \$2,077,640. He noted that the budget, as presented, reflects the Governor's proposed budget.

Mr. Hart itemized key policy initiatives in the budget including:

1. Clean energy and energy conservation
2. Community quality of life issues and community-campus relations
3. Emergency services operations
4. Housing code enforcement program
5. Independent/assisted living
6. Mansfield Community Center improvements
7. Mansfield Downtown Partnership's Storrs Center project
8. Open space acquisition
9. Strategic Planning

The budget message stresses the importance of the Town Council and the Boards of Education working together to balance the ability to provide quality services and the ability of the residents to support these services.

2. Issues and Options

Mr. Hart and Mr. Smith delivered a series of issue papers including:

1. Fund Balance

The budget includes a \$50,000 appropriation from the CNR Fund to the General Fund.

2. Revaluation  
The majority of work is done in-house but this budget proposes that any consulting work be funded from the General Fund and have added \$7,500 for that purpose.
3. Fire Marshall/Inspector Certification  
The cost of training four firefighters as Deputy Fire Marshals is included.
4. Volunteer Benefits Program  
An appropriation of \$40,000 is included to support a "pay per call" program to reward volunteers.
5. Housing Code Enforcement Program  
If the program is approved by the Council, this budget includes the staffing support needed to implement a Housing Code Program.
6. Contributions to Area Agencies  
The itemized list indicates only those agencies whose proposed amount is other than that requested.
7. Debt Service Fund  
An appropriation of \$250,000 from the CNR Fund is included for debt service payments.
8. Bonding  
The Capital Fund Proposed Budget includes a \$1,000,000 Open Space appropriation and a \$1,250,000 appropriation for the Community Center.
9. Capital Improvement Program Funding  
As Pequot/Mohegan Grants continue to decline adjustments have been proposed in this budget that will allow the town to fund technology and various capital improvements.
10. Mansfield Community Center/Department of Parks and Recreation  
There are four major issues regarding the Community Center: member benefits, facility subsidies, improvements and Adult Education Programs. These items will be discussed in detail later in the process.
11. Ten year trend – education spending

#### IV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

So passed unanimously

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Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk