

REGULAR MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
November 27, 2006

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the regular meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Hawkins moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2006 meeting. Ms. Blair noted that Monticello Road should read Monticello Lane.

The motion to approve as corrected passed with Ms. Blair abstaining.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Paterson requested a moment of silence in honor of and respect for our troops around the world.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Hollie Stevens, 119 Hillyndale Road, who was walking with Mrs. Roychoudhuri when she was attacked by the dog, presented a letter she wrote to the Town Manager (attached).

V. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Expansion of Membership to Conservation Commission

Mayor Paterson opened the public hearing on the amendment to the Chapter 11 of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances (Conservation Commission). Matt Hart, Town Manager, briefly explained that the amendment would expand the size of the Commission to include alternate members.

Quentin Kessel, 97 Codfish Falls Road, who serves as Secretary to the Conservation Commission, commented on the need for alternates as Commission members are very busy and sometimes cannot attend all meetings.

Mr. Haddad emphasized the need for the alternates to regularly attend meetings. Mr. Clouette asked if the duties of the alternates are delineated.

Dennis O'Brien, Town Attorney, said that the most appropriate way to address the responsibilities of the alternates would be in the bylaws of the Conservation Commission.

Mayor Paterson closed the public hearing at 7:52 p.m.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS

2. Expansion of Membership to Conservation Commission, Amendment to Chapter 11 of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances

Mr. Hawkins moved and Ms. Koehn seconded, to adopt an amendment to Chapter 11 of the Mansfield Code of Ordinances (Conservation Commission) as prepared by staff in its draft dated November 11, 2006, and which amendment shall become effective 21 days after publication in a newspaper having circulation in the Town of Mansfield.  
Motion so passed.

3. Community/Campus Relations

Mike Ninteau, Director of Housing, updated the Council on how the new housing inspection program is progressing. Mr. Ninteau reported that he is receiving good cooperation from both landlords and tenants. In the first three months of operation, the department has conducted 275 inspections and found 54 violations most of which could be easily corrected. The Council thanked Mr. Ninteau for his work noting that this program could serve as a model for other communities.

4. Issues Regarding the UConn Landfill

Rob Miller, Director of Eastern Highlands Health District, responded to questions previously posed by Council members regarding the UConn water supply systems. He reported that after reviewing the copper testing results it appears that water systems are in compliance and that the sample testing protocols seem to be in order.

5. Community Waste and Wastewater Issues, Four Corners Sewer Study

Representatives of EarthTech briefed Council members on the study they have undertaken to collect data and identify a sewer service area in the Four Corners area of town. The consultants will be looking at additional data and alternatives for the area. The next step in the process is a public information session.

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective November 27, 2006, to schedule a public information session regarding the Four Corners sewer project for 7:30 P.M. at the Town Council's regular meeting on January 8, 2007.  
Motion so passed.

6. Videotaping and Broadcasting of Town Council Meetings

By consensus the Council agreed that the Town Manager would put together a staff committee to look at the options and develop an action plan. Two of the components that will need to be addressed are the volunteer staffing of the equipment and the cost of the equipment. Budgeting for needed equipment will be included in the next fiscal year's budget.

7. Acceptance of Various Town Roads

Mr. Clouette moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded effective November 27, 2006, to authorize the Town Manager, subject to the conditions cited below, to accept the initial segment of Jonathan Lane as a Town road. Town acceptance shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Developer completion and certification of road monumentation and setting of boundary pins as depicted on approved subdivision plans.
  2. Developer submission of acceptable as-built plans for road and associated drainage improvements
  3. Execution by the Planning and Zoning Commission Chairman, Mansfield Controller, and the developer of a one-year maintenance bond agreement that addresses all regulatory requirements and approval conditions including special maintenance requirements for the detention basin. The maintenance bond also shall include developer commitments to take appropriate actions to eliminate an existing drainage problem on Lot 9 (56 Jonathan Lane) and to maintain in a safe, passable condition, including all necessary sanding and snow plowing. Phase 2 portions of Jonathan Land and Bake Lane that provide that provide vehicle turnaround capacity.
- Motion so passed.

#### 8. Financial Statements for the Period Ending September 30, 2006.

Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective November 27, 2006, to accept the financial statements dated September 30, 2006, as recommended by the Finance Committee.

Ms. Koehn questioned the increase in diesel fuel cost and asked what can be done to conserve fuel. Jeffrey Smith, Director of Finance, noted that school buses and snowplows are the biggest users of diesel and that the Town is exploring biofuel possibilities. At a future meeting the Town Manager will present a summary of energy conservation efforts currently in operation and under consideration.

Motion so passed

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### 9. Animal Control Issues

Dennis O'Brien, the Town Attorney, reported on a meeting he attended regarding the dog biting incident that happen on Spring Hill Road. At that meeting it was agreed that an addendum to the initial order would be issued. Included in that addendum is a requirement for a six- foot fence that has locks or combinations at all gates. The fencing must be acceptable to the Animal Control Agent. Euthanasia was discussed but the Town Attorney stated that it appears that if the dog is to be put down it should have happened during the quarantine period.

Mr. Clouette asked that staff review all the procedures used in this process. Ms. Koehn suggested that a dog behaviorist might be useful. Mr. Haddad questioned

what would happen if the owner does not comply with the order. Mr. O'Brien stated that the town could issue a misdemeanor and remove the dog from the premises.

The Town Manager noted that the town does not have a leash law and that the state law applies. Dogs are not to roam off the owner's property.

#### 10. Connecticut Department of Transportation- Chaffeeville Road Project

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded, effective November 27, 2006, to schedule a public information session regarding the Chaffeeville Road Project for 7:30 P.M. at the Town Council's regular meeting on December 11, 2006

Mr. Haddad requested that all material from the last time the DOT looked at this situation be included in the packet.

Motion so passed.

#### 11. Agreement between the Eastern Highlands Health District and the Town of Mansfield.

Mr. Haddad moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to approve the following resolution:

Resolved, to authorize the Town Manager, Matthew W, Hart, to execute the proposed Agreement Between the Eastern Highlands Health District and the Town of Mansfield for Accounting, Bookkeeping, Data Processing and Human Resources Services, the terms of which Agreement shall be effective retroactive to July 1, 2006.

Motion so passed.

#### 12. Social Services Block Grant Application

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective November 27, 2006, to authorize Town Manager, Matthew W. Hart, to submit an application to the US Department of Health and Human Services for a Social Services Block Grant in the amount of \$3,657.

Mr. Schaefer noted that the amount of this grant has been constant for a long time while the expenditures for the program continue to increase and suggested the Denise Merrill, State Representative for Mansfield, be approached regarding an increase in the grant.

Motion so passed.

#### 13. Fiscal Year 2006/2007 Wage Adjustment for Nonunion Personnel

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Hawkins seconded, effective November 27, 2006, to: 1) increase the pay rates in the Town Administrators Pay Plan by 3.5percent; 2) authorize the Town Manager to award those employees in the pay plan with a

3.5% percent wage increase retroactive to July 1, 2006; and 3) make the additional changes to the compensation for nonunion employees as recommended by the Town Manager in his memorandum dated November 27, 2006.

Motion so passed.

#### 14. Department of Information Technology

The Town Manager opened the discussion saying that while the IT staff is doing an admirable job the town needs to take another direction. He stated that to do the things the town wants to do we need a true IT department with adequate staffing. Jeff Smith, the Director of Finance, described the plan to date noting that the new department will service both Boards of Education and the Town.

Mr. Schaefer expressed concern regarding the cost and requested more details outlining what the next level will entail. Ms. Koehn expressed support for the idea. Ms. Blair questioned the current level of staffing since the department is already minus one person.

By consensus the Council agreed to support the staff exploring the idea with the understanding that they will return with a more detailed plan.

#### 15. Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2007

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Haddad seconded, effective November 27, 2006, to adopt the Town Council Meeting Schedule for 2007, as presented by the Town Clerk.

Motion so passed.

### VIII. DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS

-

### IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

-

Mr. Clouette reported on a recent Town Gown meeting he attended at which the landfill, the housing code and the off campus housing director search were discussed.

-

### X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

-

Mr. Paulhus thanked all those who worked to make Martin Berliner's retirement party such a success.

### XI. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

-

Attached

### FUTURE AGENDAS

-

-

### XII. PETITIONS, REQUEST AND COMMUNICATIONS

- 16. Department of Public Works re: Hunting Lodge/Birch Road
- 17. VNA East re: December Health Screening – Mr. Hawkins noted that Mansfield was not listed as a site for the next round of health screenings. Mr. Hart will review our agreement with VNA.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to move into Executive Session.  
Motion so passed.

Present: Blair, Clouette, Haddad, Hawkins, Koehn, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer  
Also Present: Matt Hart, Dennis O'Brien

18. Status Report re Pending Claims and Litigation

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Blair seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Motion so passed.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk