

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
April 2, 2008

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Audrey P. Beck Building.

I. ROLL CALL

- Present: Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer

- II. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- No Comments

- III. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Mansfield Board of Education

Mayor Patterson welcomed the members of the Board of Education and Staff. Present for the Board were Min Lin, Martha Kelly, Shamin Patwa, Mark LaPlaca, Christopher Kueffner, Katherine Paulhus and Mary Feathers. Staff present were Gordon Schimmel, Superintendent of Schools, Fred Barruzzi, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, James Palmer, Principal of Annie E. Vinton, Jeffrey Cryan, Principal Mansfield Middle School, Norma Fisher-Doiron, Principal of Southeast School, Debra Adamczyk, Principal of Goodwin School and Candace Morell, Asst. Principal of Mansfield Middle School.

Mr. Schimmel noted that he was aware of the Town Manager's request for a reduction of the budget to a 5.5 percent increase. Mr. Schimmel and the Board are quite confident they will be able to accomplish this without compromising any programs. They will present their options at the next Board of Ed meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

In order to reduce the budget Mr. Schimmel feels the support of the District's share of the partnership with the Neag School of Education for a proposed "Teacher-in-residence position will need to be postponed.

In addition, restoration of funds for on-going technology and computer infrastructure that were transferred last year to a source outside the current budget will not be done this year.

Members also discussed Early Retirement, Administrators Salaries, medical benefits between the Town and the Board of Education, Energy costs and MERS.

In closing, Mr. Schimmel thanked the Town Council for all the support they have received from the Council and welcomed members to visit at anytime.

2. Daycare

- Page 194 – Mr. Smith will check with Bill Hammon on why the energy costs have declined.

After much discussion, the Council suggested that Mary Jane Newman, Director of the Mansfield Discovery Depot come before the Council to answer questions members have regarding the demographics of the center.

### 3. League of Women Voters Offer of Hospitality at Annual Meeting

Members have agreed to have the League of Women Voters arrange a dessert social prior to the annual meeting.

Matt Hart noted that the Region voted on reducing their budget by \$200,000.

The Public Information Budget meeting will be held on April 7, 2008, the next Council Meeting on April 14, 2008.

## IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, had questions regarding the grant from the University of Connecticut to the Mansfield Discovery Depot and expressed concerns that some residents cannot afford to send their children to the center.

She also voiced her concern about discussions previously held regarding funds being appropriated for the Southeast Park Improvements in comparison to the excess amount of funds being appropriated to the Community Center.

At Ms. Wassmundt's request information from the finance department regarding the Community Center will be provided shortly.

Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to move into Executive Session.

## V. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Issue: Personnel

Present: Matt Hart, Town Manager, Jeff Smith, Director of Finance, Clouette, Duffy, Haddad, Koehn, Nesbitt, Paterson, Paulhus, Schaefer.

## VI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Schaefer moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Christine Hawthorne

Assistant Town Clerk