

SPECIAL MEETING-MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
April 16, 2008

Mayor Elizabeth Paterson called the special meeting of the Mansfield Town Council to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Mansfield Community Center.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

- Sheldon Dyer, 139 Woods Road, addressed the Council regarding the Community Center. Mr. Dyer is the Chair of the Recreation Advisory Committee, but spoke for himself in support of the Community Center. He briefly reviewed the recent Community Center study supporting some of the revenue enhancement suggestions like increasing corporate memberships, but cautioned against altering the fee schedule too much. Mr. Dyer commented the Town is very fortunate to have such a facility.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- The following budget items were discussed:

- 1. Library

2. Area Agency Contributions

Flag – Page 139 - Meals on Wheels

Mayor Paterson requested this item be revisited prior to adoption of the budget.

Flag - Page 139 – Windham Area No Freeze

Mr. Schaefer would like to add \$500 from the Town Council Media Project to this program

Flag – Page 139- Contributions to Area Agency

In future years Mr. Schaefer would like to add an additional column showing the amount each agency requested from the Town.

3. Community Development

Flag – Page 143 – Building Inspection

Ms. Koehn requested a clarification as to why if the total number of proposed building permits is anticipated to be higher is the revenue anticipated to be lower.

Mr. Schaefer left the meeting.

Flag – Page 147 – Planning Administration

After the Strategic Plan is completed the additional workload may require additional resources for this department.

4. Recreation

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

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Howard Raphaelson, 119 Timber Drive, commented that the consultant's study on the Community Center offered neither compelling changes to the running of the facility nor any real opportunity for increased revenue with the exception of raising fees. Mr. Raphaelson is concerned that if fees are increased dramatically we will reach the point of diminishing returns because membership will begin to drop off. The limited square footage of the Center is a fact that the Town must deal with.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, agreed with Mr. Raphaelson's comments and wondered what affect the new Tolland facility will have on the Community Center. She suggested making the Center work so everyone in Town can use it or make it private with no Town funding. Ms. Wassmundt requested the job descriptions for administrative assistants and would like the total for the Parks and Recreation budget prior to the Community Center.

Sheldon Dyer, 139 Woods Road, commented the Community Center might have to eliminate some programs in order to provide room for more revenue producing activities. He noted that the Recreation Advisory Committee would continue to explore all possibilities.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clouette moved and Ms. Duffy seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk