

**Town Council
14 March 2011**

Good Evening

Tonight I would like to know why you as a council cannot hear the people of Mansfield? I know you listen to us talk when we are given the opportunity but you do not seem to hear. You have listened to numerous people discuss the school building project, both for the two school option and for the “maintain our schools” option and yet you continue with the most expensive path we can undertake. You have listened to our former finance director forewarn you against the two school option, exemplifying the train wreck of debt coming our way if you choose to pursue it. You have listened to many parents pleading for you to keep the three elementary schools for the sake of our children. Not only for the social consequences and educational betterment but for the fiscal responsibility that goes with it. You cannot continue to ask the taxpayers of Mansfield to pony up every time someone gets the idea to do something.

In tonight’s packet is the Town of Mansfield Annual Report for 2009/2010. On page 162, Bill Hammond, Director of Facilities Management, states the department has “established an in-house preventative maintenance program to ENSURE that all buildings and related equipment are kept in good repair” This includes the schools. You would be unjustified in fixin’ somethin’ that ain’t broke.....

Please consider the taxpayers of Mansfield, both current and future taxpayers, and put this issue to rest. Do not choose the two school option, do not bring this to referendum just because a lot of time and energy have been expended on it, and do not indebt the taxpayers of this town.

Please hear us.

**Ric Hossack
Storrs**

72 Timber Drive
Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268

Mansfield Town Council
Audrey P. Beck Building
South Eagleville Road
Storrs-Mansfield, CT 06268

March 13, 2011

Dear Town Council Members:

The recent decision to approve the two elementary school building project has been applauded by many residents of our town. Your forward thinking discussion and resulting conclusions will serve the children of Mansfield well for years to come. One more decision remains, however, and that is the siting of the schools. Initial proposals outlined the building of new facilities on the Southeast and Vinton campuses, both located in the southern section of town. I hope that you will seriously consider building the schools in the northern and southern sections of town. There are a number of reasons why this would be of long-term benefit to our town:

- North and south locations would provide for a more reasonable bus ride for children who live near 4-Corners and in neighborhoods surrounding the UConn campus. Even with our present three-school configuration, students are on the bus for a significant part of their morning and afternoon. Locating both schools in the southern part of town could increase bus rides significantly. Even if the amount of time were within state guidelines, they could still end up being excessive for our youngest students.
- As noted by one of the speakers at the forum last spring, a network of paths is available or in the planning stages for the areas surrounding Goodwin and Southeast Schools, thus facilitating wellness goals for our children. In fact, in the Goodwin neighborhood, many families already walk within the school neighborhood.
- These locations would also foster a greater sense of cohesion for two existing micro-communities. Furthermore, use of the Goodwin site in particular will help to stabilize a neighborhood at risk. Without an elementary school located in the 4-Corners area, this neighborhood may further succumb to the rampant increase in rental housing and empty businesses already seen in recent years.
- A study of the area surrounding the Goodwin lot shows that adjacent lots provide appropriate land for the construction of a new school. While it is true that there is a cost to the purchase of necessary acreage, there is also a cost in lost tax revenue as property values decline or in funds spent to repurpose the Goodwin facility.

Once again, I am asking that you make your decisions with the future of our community in mind. Our residents benefit from the planning and foresight of our town officials in many areas of government and the education of our children is one of the most important charges facing citizens and elected officials alike. Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Jeannette Picard

Mary L. Stanton

From: Matthew W. Hart
Sent: Monday, March 14, 2011 10:49 PM
To: Mary L. Stanton
Subject: FW: School Building Vote This Evening

For the record.

Matt

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 Matt Hart  
 Town Manager  
 Town of Mansfield  
 860-429-3336

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**From:** dbri22@aol.com [mailto:dbri22@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2011 6:29 PM  
**To:** Diane Briody; Matthew W. Hart; Elizabeth Paterson  
**Subject:** Re: School Building Vote This Evening

Hey Matt  
 Sorry this didn't get to you sooner....my computer froze a bit. Hope it's not too late to be considered by the Council.  
 Thanks.  
 Joe

-----Original Message-----

From: dbri22 <dbri22@aol.com>  
 To: Hartmw <Hartmw@MANSFIELDCT.ORG>; PatersonE <PatersonE@MANSFIELDCT.ORG>  
 Sent: Mon, Mar 14, 2011 6:27 pm  
 Subject: School Building Vote This Evening

Hi Matt

I hope this finds you well.

It is my understanding that the town council will be voting this evening on where in town to build 2 new schools. Unfortunately, work is going probably going to prevent me from attending tonight's meeting and from thus, being able to comment in person. It is my hope that you will pass along my comments on this issue to the members of the council. I apologize for the last minute nature of this request as I just got into town last night and am heading back out shortly. Below are some (hastily written) thoughts about this important issues.

I have viewed this issue with interest and have viewed the decision of how to approach the issues of building/renovation etc from three aspects: financial, educational, and community. I believe, given the options and information available, that the two-school solution appropriately balances the pros and cons in all of these areas. While there may be some minor variations, the particular location of the two schools doesn't significantly impact the financial and educational considerations. However, the issue of community is greatly impacted by where these two new schools will be built.

In brief, it is my belief that schools, particularly elementary schools, are a critical part of creating a sense of community - of shrinking a town as geographically large as Mansfield - by bringing people and families together on a fairly regular basis around events in the school, the education of their children, and the events in the community.

As you, and the Council are aware, the north end of Mansfield struggles under a unique set of pressures

not as present in the other sections of town. The location of the University and the significant presence and pressures of student rentals etc, has challenged neighborhoods in this part of town to maintain their integrity, character, and sense of community. I believe that a decision to not to locate an elementary school on/near the current Goodwin site (vs. the Southeast, Vinton sites) would deal an significant blow to any hopes of this part of town maintaining its sense of community. While there may be other options for the use of the current Goodwin space, I don't believe there is anything that has the ability to create and maintain a sense of community in a town. A decision to locate schools elsewhere would be a significant step backwards in the efforts many in this town have made to create a sense of community. Although, it may not be felt immediately, a decision to build elsewhere would result in a shift of focus among residents (particularly new families moving to town) towards the south end of town and leave the north end void of a reason to move/relocate to this part of town. It would serve as just another reason not to consider living in this part of town - student rentals, and far from schools.

It is for these reasons that I strongly encourage the Town Council to support and vote to designate the Goodwin site as one of the sites for any new school construction.

Thanks for considering these comments and for carefully considering this most important issue to the community.

Joe Briody

# Memo

To: Town Council  
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager *MWH*  
CC: Town Employees  
Date: March 14, 2011  
Re: Town Manager's Report

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

## Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Mansfield Community Center Pool* – Please see item #7 in your packet for a memo from Parks & Recreation Director Curt Vincente in response to your questions about the accidental draining of the pool.
- *Mansfield Community Center Membership Fee Schedule* – Please see item #8 in your packet for a memo from Parks & Recreation Director Curt Vincente in response to the questions about membership fees.
- *Roberge Property* – Director of Planning Gregory Padick has prepared a memo in response to the issue Mr. Roberge brought to the Council on February 14, 2011. Please see item #6 in your packet for more information.

## Departmental/Division News

- *Emergency Management*
  - *January 11-12, 2011 Snow Storm* - President Obama has granted the request for a disaster declaration for the January 11–12 snow storm. The declaration includes public assistance for Category B work (emergency protective measures, including snow assistance). We anticipate receiving \$30,000–\$40,000 (the formal grant guidelines are not yet known) in grants for snow removal and protective measures from FEMA. The eligible costs include: overtime (generally regular hours are not eligible); equipment costs; and repair/replacement of damaged public facilities. Additional categories may be granted as FEMA and DEMHS survey costs and damage. In addition, FEMA, U.S. Department of Agriculture and or the Small Business Administration may offer assistance to private businesses, homeowners and agricultural businesses
  - *March 6-7, 2011 Flooding* - As a result of the heavy rains on March 6-7, the three rivers in Mansfield (Mount Hope, Fenton and Willimantic) flooded at the 10-year reoccurrence rate. The flooding closed Laurel Lane east of the bridge (impassable to vehicles, foot travel via old right of way to Chaplin) and Thornbush Road west of the railroad tracks (for the residents of the seven dwellings, travel by foot along the tracks is possible). In addition, Bassetts Bridge Road was closed due to flood control operations at Mansfield Hollow Dam. Bassetts Bridge Road remains presently closed due to flood control operations. DPW will inspect the road once the water has receded, remove any debris and make any necessary repairs prior to opening the road (in the past sections of the road have washed out and larger debris damaging guard rails and posts). During the storm there was one known power outage which impacted the Mansfield Middle School. CL&P restored power at 10:10AM and school remained open. DEMHS is presently conducting a damage assessment survey to make an initial determination of requesting assistance from FEMA for this storm and related flooding.
- *Finance* – As detailed in item #10 of your packet, Moody's has reaffirmed Mansfield's Aa2 rating for our \$2.8 million issue of General Obligation bonds. Cherie Trahan and I attended last week's bond sale – Morgan Keegan & Co., Inc. was the successful bidder with a true interest cost of 3.277%, which is a more favorable rate than we had anticipated. I would like to commend Cherie for her work to manage our debt

service and to restore our fund balance. As we have discussed and as Moody's has highlighted, it will be important for the Town to continue its efforts to restore fund balance for the General Fund.

- **Parks and Recreation**

- We've started using social networking (Facebook) to get the word out about our programs, special events and news about what's happening at the community center and in parks and recreation. We have over 400 people who "like" the Mansfield Community Center webpage. We've also been using Constant Contact to create emails about programs and events, and to target specific groups of people to receive this information.
- April 9<sup>th</sup> will be a busy day the Mansfield Community Center:
  - The Kids' Annual Flea Market will be held at the Community Center from 10AM-1PM. It's an opportunity for families to sell unwanted toys, sports equipment, etc. For registration information, please contact the community center.
  - The Little Angels Bicycle Drive will be held from 9AM-1PM. Have a tricycle, kids bicycle, adult bicycle or bicycle helmet that is taking up space and collecting dust? Please consider donating to the Little Angels Bicycle program. Bicycles that are received are evaluated and then repaired if necessary by the Little Angels staff before being distributed. Logon to [frebicycles@littleangelsbicycles.com](mailto:frebicycles@littleangelsbicycles.com) or call Little Angels directly at (860) 429-4290. The Little Angels will have a truck to collect bikes in at the community center.
  - Kids Fingerprinting is a FREE program sponsored by New York Life Insurance Company, to help keep our kids safe. Children are fingerprinted and photographed and ID cards are given to the parents. In case of emergency the parents have, in an easy to find kit, the child's photo, fingerprints, and other pertinent information needed by the police. All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian to have an ID made.

### **Major Projects and Initiatives**

- *Storrs Center Project* – Staff has issued the building permit for work at 10 Dog Lane, which will be used as a temporary location for Select Physical Therapy while Phase 1A is constructed. This is the first building permit that we have issued for Phase 1A, which represents an important milestone for the project.

### **Upcoming Meetings\***

- Regulatory Review Committee, March 16, 2011, 1:15PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Conservation Commission, March 16, 2011, 7:30AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Personnel Committee, March 21, 2011, 6:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Special Finance Committee Meeting, March 21, 2011, 6:00PM, Conference Room A, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Committee on Committees, March 21, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Communications Advisory Committee, March 21, 2011, 7:00PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Planning and Zoning Commission, March 21, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Traffic Authority, March 22, 2011, 10:30AM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Advisory Committee on the Needs of Persons with Disabilities, March 22, 2011, 2:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Cemetery Committee, March 23, 2011, 3:30PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Sustainability Committee, March 23, 2011, 5:00PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

- **Special Town Council Meeting**, March 23, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Mansfield Community Campus Partnership, March 24, 2011, 4:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- **Special Town Council Meeting**, March 24, 2011, 7:00PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, March 28, 2011, 7:30PM, Council Chambers, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

*\*Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the Town Calendar or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*



# ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

March 14, 2011

Town of Mansfield, Connecticut



## OVERVIEW

Staff team consisting of:

- Town Manager
- Director of Planning
- Partnership Executive Director
- Partnership Special Projects Coordinator



## GOALS

- Encourage new businesses
- Support existing businesses
- Promote strong business community
- Promote sustainable development
  - Intelligent land use
  - Job creation
  - Enhance grand list



## CURRENT EFFORTS

- Development of Storrs Center
- Infrastructure for Four Corners
- Addition of Economic and Community Development page to Town's website
- Participation in federal and regional economic development initiatives
  - WINCOG economic development plan
  - Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)
- Visitation program with businesses and economic development stakeholders



## CURRENT EFFORTS

- Developing materials and information for current and new businesses
- Improve and enhance Geographic Information Systems (GIS) capabilities
- Committed to join CT Economic Resource Center (CERC) Sitefinder program



## FUTURE EFFORTS

- Develop more coordinated Town/University economic development program
- Assess permitting process
  - Develop consolidated application
- Develop economic development protocol
- Review governance/advisory committee models



# Economic and Community Development

Mansfield is a vibrant, diverse, and caring community that offers its residents and the region unique cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities. The Town is committed to principles of environmental protection and intelligent land use, business retention, and sustainable development.

Whether you are looking to start a new business, expand an existing business, or relocate your established business, Mansfield is an ideal location. As the home of the University of Connecticut, our town offers big city amenities in a small town setting. Educational and cultural opportunities, up-to-date research, and other resources to strengthen your business are available through the state's flagship university. Several museums, performances spaces, and the Mansfield Community Center offer a wide range of cultural and recreational opportunities. Our superior school system and extensive system of parks, preserves, and trails make Mansfield an attractive home for your employees.

We invite you to take some time to review our Plan of Conservation and Development and our strategic plan, "Mansfield 2020: A Unified Vision," to acquaint yourself with the values and goals of our community.

We hope you will find the information and links found at this site to be useful resources as you plan your business's future in Mansfield. Additional information may be requested from the Town Manager's office (860.429.3336)

*Elizabeth C. Paterson*  
*Mayor*

*Matthew Hart*  
*Town Manager*

