

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL
January 23, 2012

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

I. ROLL CALL

Present: Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro
Excused: Paulhus

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2012 meeting as amended. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Open Space Acquisition – Hickory Lane Lot 7 (aka Lot 19 river Ridge Estates)
Director of Planning and Economic Development Linda Painter presented information on the history of the parcel of land being considered.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, spoke in opposition to the Town accepting this donation and asked the Council to explain the value to the Town. Ms. Wassmundt also asked the Council to look at the open space parcels in Mansfield to see if some of them could be sold.

Jim Morrow, Chair of the Open Space Preservation Committee, explained the parcel turns an inside corner which makes the neighboring existing open space parcel a lot larger.

David Freudmann, Eastwood Road, agreed with Ms. Wassmundt and feels the Town has enough open space. He asked that the property not be taken off the tax rolls.

IV. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike Road, asked the Council to consider reinstating the second opportunity for public comment and the disseminating of editorials and newspaper articles concerning the Town. Mr. Hossack also asked the Town to provide the public with packets for committee meetings.

Steve Bacon, Attorney for residents of Hawthorne Lane, spoke to their efforts to mitigate the impact of the CL&P Reliability Project on their neighborhood. The residents met with CL&P and worked out an agreement which the residents are asking the Council to endorse.

Ron Manizza, Bassetts Bridge Road and representing the Friends of Mansfield Hollow, spoke in opposition to the transmission lines stating the lines would inflict permanent damage on the Town. Mr. Manizza stated the project would lower the value of all surrounding homes and be a net negative for the Town.

Richard Civie, Beech Mountain Road, asked the Town Council to form a committee which would include a consortium of experts to oppose the project. Mr. Civie stated that he is willing to serve on such a committee and asked that his request be added as a future agenda item.

Pat Suprenant, Gurleyville Road, thanked the Council and Town Manager for beginning the discussion regarding UConn's status as an unregulated water entity and asked the Council to address a series of submitted questions. (Statement attached)

Victor Civie, Beech Mountain Road and speaking for Citizens United, reviewed a distributed handout. Mr. Civie urged all transmission lines be placed underground and stated that he has filed as a party before the Siting Council. (Handout attached)

Barbara Byron, Brookside Lane, remarked that the transmission line are unsightly and pose a health hazard.

Betty Wassmundt, Old Turnpike Road, asked the Council to answer whether or not UConn is subject to the rules and regulations imposed on other water suppliers and if not urged the Council to take the necessary steps to change their status.

V. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Due to network difficulties the Town Manager's report was not available but will be sent out tomorrow. Mr. Hart noted DOT has suspended work on the Rte 195/Chaffeeville Road project until after the winter with an expected completion date in September. He also reported although Jorgenson is no longer able to provide the half price tickets to the Senior Center, staff will look at the possibility of group rates. Mr. Hart is engaged in ongoing discussions with the Shifrins concerning the Town's use of the hydroelectric power they plan to generate.

VI. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ms. Keane reported she attended the Mansfield Discovery Depot Board of Directors meeting and one of the decisions made was to install new carpets to keep the facility nice and bright for the children.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

2. Connecticut Light and Power Interstate Reliability Project

Director of Planning and Economic Development Linda Painter discussed the PZC's recommendation to oppose the project but to support the Hawthorne Lane alternative and offered, based on the last Council discussion, a number of additional mitigation measures.

Council members discussed the suggested measures, the history of the Siting Council's decision in the western part of the state and the benefits of underground lines versus overhead lines.

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Moran seconded to endorse the recommendation of the Planning and Zoning Commission to oppose the CL&P Interstate Reliability Project's projected route and to urge the additional mitigation measures, incorporated by reference, as outlined in the staff's recommendations found in the January 23, 2012 Town Council packet on pages 21 and 22. (Recommendations attached)
Motion passed unanimously.

3. Community Water/Wastewater Issues – Town Council Work Session

Councilor Shapiro recused himself from the discussion and any subsequent action.

Town Manager Matt Hart reviewed his recommendations for conducting a work session focusing on the regulation of public water and wastewater systems in Mansfield.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to schedule a Special Meeting of the Council to discuss water/wastewater issues. This work session will be scheduled after the Environmental Impact Evaluation has been issued, but prior to a final recommendation being presented.

The motion passed with Keane, Kochenburger, Lindsey, Moran, Paterson, Ryan and Schaefer in favor.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to move Item 6, Hawthorne Lane Conservation Easement Amendment, as the next item of business.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Open Space Acquisition – Hickory Lane Lot 7 (aka Lot 19 river Ridge Estates)
In response to Council questions regarding public access to the site, Director of Public Works Lon Hultgren explained the Town has steadfastly maintained that Hickory Lane, after the Elizabeth Road intersection, is abandoned. Linda Painter reported the Town's Selectmen discontinued the road in 1923.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution:
Resolved, to accept the donation of Hickory Lane Lot 7, aka Lot 19 River Ridge Estates, from Ms. Eileen Ossen and to authorize the Town Manager to execute any necessary agreements or paperwork necessary to acquire the subject parcel.
The motion passed with Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Ryan, Schaefer and Shapiro in favor and Keane and Lindsey opposed.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to move Item 7, Revisions to Voting District Boundaries, as the next item of business.

Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to move Item 8, appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals, as the next item of business.

Motion passed unanimously.

5. Amendments to Town of Mansfield Personnel Rules

Chair of the Personnel Committee Antonia Moran moved, effective January 23, 2012, to adopt the Personnel Rules as presented by staff and endorsed by the Personnel Committee.

In response to concerns expressed by Ms. Keane regarding Section 6.2.e (1), the Town Manager agreed if, in the future, problems arise the issue of adding additional structure to this section would be brought back to the Personnel Committee for further review.

The motion passed with all in favor.

The Mayor thanked the Personnel Committee and Assistant to the Town Manager Maria Capriola for all their work.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

6. Hawthorne Lane Conservation Easement Amendment

Mr. Ryan moved and Ms. Keane seconded, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on February 14, 2012, to solicit public comment regarding the proposed modification to the Hawthorne Lane conservation easement.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Revisions to Voting District Boundaries

Registrars of Voters Andrea Epling and Beverly Miela outlined the changes to the voting districts as a result of the redistricting of the Town. A portion of Mansfield is now in the 48th State House District.

Ms. Lindsey moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded, effective January 23, 2012, to adopt the new voting district boundaries for the Town of Mansfield, as recommended by the Registrars of Voters.

Motion passed unanimously.

8. Appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals

Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective January 23, 2012, to appoint Ms. Sarah Accorsi as a full member of the Mansfield Zoning Board of Appeals for an initial term to expire on November 18, 2013.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ryan moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, effective January 23, 2012, to appoint Mr. Richard Brosseau as an alternate member of the Mansfield Zoning Board of Appeals for an initial term to expire on November 18, 2013.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. Resolution of Endorsement – Risk Management/Brokerage Services Analysis
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Schaefer seconded to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS: The State of Connecticut is making available regional service sharing funds through Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) which encourages regional collaboration;
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED: that the Town of Mansfield hereby agrees to participate in the WINCOG Regional Performance Incentive Program:
Risk Management/Brokerage Services Analysis
The Risk Management/Brokerage Services Analysis project will involve reviewing and making recommendations for cost savings across a wide spectrum of risk management and brokerage services currently undertaken by WINCOG member towns.
Motion passed unanimously.

10. Resolution of Endorsement – Windham Region GIS & Cadastral Data Center
Mr. Schaefer moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the following resolution:
WHEREAS: The State of Connecticut is making available regional service sharing funds through Section 5 of Public Act 11-61 (An Act Concerning Responsible Growth) which encourages regional collaboration;
BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED: that the Town of Mansfield hereby agrees to participate in the WINCOG Regional Performance Incentive Program:
Windham Region GIS & Cadastral Data Center Expansion.
The Geographic Information Systems project will expand on the current WINCOG Cadastral Data Center and provide additional GIS services to the member towns.
Motion passed unanimously.

IX. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Lindsey questioned why site inspections and enforcement letters are significantly lower in the recent report on zoning enforcement activity. The Town Manager will look in to the matter but assumes it may be the result of enforcement of the recently enacted ordinances.

X. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Kochenburger, Chair of the Committee on Committees, offered the following recommendations;
Appointment of Kristin Schwab to the Sustainability Committee,
Appointment of Ron Baker as a citizen representative to the Human Services Advisory Committee,
Reappointment of Michael Kurland to the Eastern Highland Health Board of Directors for a three year term ending 1/13/2014.
Motion to approve passed unanimously.
Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, reported the Committee is working on a new form for the Town Manager's evaluation and on the evaluation itself. The form will be available for review at the February 14, 2012 meeting.

XI. PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

11.V. Civie re: Rebuttal of Atty. Fitzgerald January 9, 2012 Letter
12.T. Luciano re: UConn's Unregulated Water
13.E. Paterson/M. Hart re: STEAP Grant for Storrs Center and Village Street
14. Open Space Preservation Action Plan – Mr. Schaefer questioned whether or not the Town is planning to participate in the preservation programs described in this

communication. The Town Manager reported an open space action plan will be presented by the appropriate advisory committees at a future Council meeting.

15.Mansfield Self Storage re: Rent-Free Storage

16.State of Connecticut Department of Transportation re: Tentative Vendor-in-Place Paving Program

XII. FUTURE AGENDA

Mr. Ryan delayed his request to have a review of the need for the establishment of a Charter Revision Committee until fall, citing the multitude of items currently before the Council and a lack of urgency to discuss this item.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Shapiro moved and Ms. Lindsey seconded to adjourn the meeting at 10:06 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

January 23, 2012