

February 27, 2012

To: Town Council

From: Betty Wassmundt

I have an apology, a thank you and two requests.

My apology to Councilor Moran for suggesting that she was the Tricky Toni who devised the Ethics Code definition of Public Employee. I learned subsequently that it was not she; it was Machiavellian Matt.

My thanks to Councilor Shapiro for requesting that town management limit their presentation at the upcoming public hearing on the school project. Enough of the endless power point presentations, most of which are useless.

A request to council: please establish a policy to prohibit all power point presentations from town management. You've done a very good job of limiting the public's time before you; you need to limit town management's waste of your time. Recall the presentation just given to you at the last school workshop, the one with the shades of orange. What did you learn from it that could possibly have taken so much of your time? And consider the time and cost to produce this material. You could have been told the essential information in less than 5 minutes and in a more comprehensible way. I suggest we hold a little ceremony; I'll bake you a cake in celebration. We'll get a box and all town employees will come with their little power pointers; they'll drop them in the box never to be seen again.

Next, ethics is a favorite topic of mine; a request regarding the never ending discussion of benefits available to the Mansfield employee and not available to the public. I request that the Town Manager bring in to the next council meeting all written, and unwritten, town policies and practices from all departments. Management is the authority as to policies and practices. It's past time to make all policies and practices known to all people; even to the practice of notarizing employee's documents free of charge. I trust that council members will support this request. Remember, you are elected to represent the public.

Good evening!

I wonder if there is a tentative date for the public forum about the "UConn Water Company" status.

There is another aspect of this "water company" concept that cannot wait. It is UConn's Hazardous Waste Materials Storage Facility (known as Hazmat Site). Tonight I want to urge you to act urgently and boldly the HazMat Site be removed from the Fenton River Watershed. I believe you have enough information about the site and its potential risk of a spill which will be catastrophic.

The location of this site has been a controversy for OVER TEN years. I want to add that this site underwent 2 EIE siting processes, and both recommended moving the facility out of the Fenton watershed. Yet, UConn may make it permanent site and expand it to hold more waste that will come from the Tech Park.

As far as I know, UConn is in violation of the original permit, and was told by various state agencies, such as OPM to remove or relocate the facility and UConn promised to do so; but the facility is still there. And there is no indication that UConn has a slightest intention to relocate it.

In a democracy, nobody is above the law. Yet UConn is allowed to thumb its nose at the state agencies. It has not been punished or enforced to comply with the state orders for this issue. It looks like state legislature and its creation of state agencies are like paper tigers when come to UConn's will.

God forbid if an individual or private company ignores the order! All the enforcement powers would be at their door immediately.

Unfortunately, neither Mansfield nor the towns can wait any longer for this potential disaster is removed. Fenton River is designated as a drinking water source for many towns. OPM warned UConn that "there is no protection against runoff to nearby streams, all which eventually feed into the Willimantic water system." Any spill from this facility will cause huge environmental and fiscal catastrophe.

The clock is ticking. Please do not wait till the tragedy happens.

The bottom line is that UConn just isn't going to do it unless you, our town management, force them to act. Therefore I urge you to stand up for our water and environment, and work with the legislature and/or use any means to relocate this monster away from our clean watershed.

Thank you!

Tulay Luciano
808 Warrenville Road, Mansfield Center

February 27, 2012

Mansfield Town Council
Four South Eagleville Road
Storrs, Connecticut 06268

Dear Council Members,

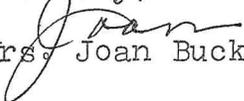
I am writing to ask about certain aspects of the draft Ethics Ordinance. Thank you for considering them.

On page 7 under "Use of Town Property", is it your plan to have the Board of Ethics develop a specific list of facilities or items and the circumstances under which those may be obtained for personal use? Such a provision would make very clear what and under what circumstances items may be used or obtained.

On page 4 under "Public Employee" there is reference made to a person's "federal employer identification number". Why is this information important? Do all Mansfield employees, including employees of the education department, have the same federal employer identification? If not, why not?

Thank you for the effort which has been expended on developing this Ordinance. I look forward to speaking with you about my concerns.

Sincerely,


(Mrs. Joan Buck)