

June 25, 2012

Mansfield Town Council
Eagleville Road
Storrs, CT 06268

Dear Councilors:

An article appeared in today's edition of the Willimantic Chronicle, which is misleading as to the authority of local zoning boards with regard to jurisdiction over the construction of buildings on state lands, and in particular, the University of Connecticut's proposed Tech Park.

Although the Director of Planning Linda Painter submitted a letter to the Mansfield PZC from Assistant Attorney General William N. Kleinman to Thomas Callahan Vice President and Strategy Officer for Bioscience Connecticut dated December 16, 2011 regarding a request for an informal opinion, she failed to provide page 2 in which the Assistant Attorney General states, "The office has consistently opined that *in the absence of specific statutory authority*, local zoning authorities have no jurisdiction over the construction of a building on state land, even if the building being constructed is owned by a private entity."

Now, in 1996 a bill was passed that gave the town of Mansfield specific statutory authority. The bill divided the University of Connecticut Educational Properties, Inc. known as UCEPI Project into two categories: those relating to UCEPI research and Technology and the second into the mercantile and trade uses. It established a mechanism for local review and comment on planning, zoning and wetlands, and it made the mercantile properties subject to local property taxes. It also added Mansfield's Planning and Zoning Chairperson to the UCEPI Board and it guaranteed Mansfield the right to be heard at any public hearing. If UCEPI waived any zoning and wetlands regulations and the town objected, the town could submit a complaint to a mediation panel. Any properties leased to a third party were taxable.

I ask that you set the record straight and correct this misconception with the Mansfield PZC and with the Willimantic Chronicle. I also ask that you champion these same rights that your predecessors fought for and won over 16 years ago.

Regards,


Pat Suprenant

441 Gurleyville Road
Storrs, CT 06268

Attachment: Letter dated December 16, 2011 to Thomas Callahan from Atty. Kleinman; Old Amended Bill Analysis, Page 7 of 9.



THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

MARK LAPLACA, Board Chair

AUDREY P. BECK BUILDING
FOUR SOUTH EAGLEVILLE ROAD
MANSFIELD, CT 06268
(860) 429-3350
Fax: (860) 429-3379

To: Town Council, Matt Hart
From: Mark LaPlaca, on behalf of the Mansfield Board of Education
CC: Fred Baruzzi
Date: June 22, 2012
Subject: Code of Ethics

At our meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2012, the Board of Education by consensus directed me, as Board Chair, to communicate the following to the Town Council and Town Manager:

- The Mansfield Board of Education agrees with the Town Council that a Code of Ethics should be applied to all town employees, including BOE employees.
- Since the law is, at best, unclear as to whether or not a municipality has the authority to regulate BOE employees through an ethics ordinance, the Board, as previously communicated through our attorney, intends to adopt a parallel policy to the town's ethics ordinance.
- The Board's Policy Committee has reviewed the town's ethics ordinance and recommended to the full Board to adopt a policy identical to the town's new ethics ordinance with the following changes:
 - Minor language revisions where necessary to specify that the policy only applies to BOE employees and not all town employees.
 - Under the section Definitions, after the definition of Gift, there is a list of items entitled "a gift does not include" – the recommendation is to change the very last bullet point in that list to the following:

"Gifts in-kind of nominal value tendered on gift-giving occasions generally recognized by the public."

This difference from the town's ordinance is meant to accommodate long-standing, appropriate and educationally valued practices with regard to gift giving. It is important to note that the proposed ethics policy prohibits the solicitation of gifts, the acceptance of gifts intended to influence the judgments or actions of school employees, and gifts of inappropriately large value.

- The Board agreed, by consensus, to all of the above, and intends to vote on the policy at our next meeting on July 10th.
- The Board respectfully requests that the Town Council remove the language including BOE employees from the town ordinance in order to remove any possible confusion or potential legal issues.

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FROM: HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE, ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON THE NEEDS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, MANSFIELD ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

SUBJECT: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION PLAN

DATE: 6/22/2012

CC: TOWN COUNCIL, TOWN MANAGER, DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT,
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

We are writing as advisory committees who all have constituents who are dealing with public transportation issues from a number of different perspectives. While each of the groups that we represent has unique needs, we believe that the core issue that they are struggling with relates to the lack of an integrated municipal policy on public transportation. While the Town successfully supports a number of valuable transportation initiatives including Dial-A-Ride, the WRID fixed route bus, and the Senior Center's volunteer driver program, there is no single entity that coordinates these efforts and ensures that the broad public transportation needs of Mansfield residents are being met. We believe that as an advisory committee to the Town Council that is charged with addressing this area of public policy, you are the group that is in the best position to advance this issue. To that end, we would like to send representatives from each of our committees to meet with you to discuss our concerns and interests. Prior to that meeting we would encourage you to address the following questions:

1. To what extent does the Transportation Improvement Plan that is part of the Town's Plan of Conservation and Development serve as a guide to transportation planning, and how is this being monitored?
2. As a strategic plan, does Mansfield 2020 provide guidelines for public transportation initiatives, and if it does, who is responsible for implementing this?
3. How can we best work effectively with your committee to advance these concerns?

Thank you, and we look forward to hearing from you.

MEMO

6/25/12

To: Matt Hart, Town Manager
From: Lon Hultgren, Director of Public Works
Re: Force Account Work in the Storrs Center Project

As per Councilman Freudmann's request, here is summary of the force account work done or planned for the Storrs Center project. This work will be confined to the public aspects of the development as follows.

Work Description	Estimated Costs	
	Labor/Equip	Mat'ls
1. Install branch water line in Dog Lane (Due to the delays in getting a contractor to begin on Dog Lane, we had the first section of water line installed on Dog Lane by the Town crew.)	\$40,000	\$64,000
2. Install temporary drainage in the Village Street around the garage and TW-2 construction area. (Due to delays in getting the Village Street contract out to bid, we needed to have this "bypass" drainage installed to conduct storm water from Dog Lane through the project area.)	\$60,000	\$22,000
3. Plant some trees on Dog Lane and the Village Street (Considerable savings will be realized by purchasing and planting these trees ourselves.)	\$8,000	\$5,000
4. Reconstruct lower portion of post office road (Installing drainage and rebuilding the eastern end of the roadway/cul-de-sac with Town forces will also save a lot.)	\$75,000	\$25,000
5. Grading, seeding and planting trees in the Town Square (This work will be spread over two construction seasons, and hence does not lend itself to a landscape contractor, although some specialty work (hardscape) could still be contracted out.)	\$50,000	\$25,000
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	\$233,000	\$141,000

As the work in Dog Lane, the Village Street, the Post Office Rd and the Town Square are items scheduled to be paid for from the \$3M tax abatement fund, the Town crew's participation will help lower the costs of this work so that funds are available to do more in completing the new streets and the Intermodal Center. For example, the site contractor's estimate for the Dog Lane water line work was \$150,000. Our crew installed it for about \$104,000. Similar savings are expected to have been realized in the Village Street temporary drainage work (contractor's estimate was also \$150,000) and are anticipated for the Post Office Road work and the construction of the Town Square. The Town's crew was available for this work this spring as a result of the 2011-12 winter's reduced clean-up work in repairing curbs, sweeping sand from town roads and restoring plow damage.