

January 14, 2013

To: Town Council

From: Betty Wassmundt

I want to discuss the hydroelectric project at the Kirby Mill. Surely we all agree that this project will provide for a sustainable energy source and that is good for everyone.

As I recall, the owners came to Council to request that this Town consider purchasing the excess energy generated by the facility at the same rate that the town would normally pay for its energy. It was stated that this would assist the owners in getting a mortgage for the project.

In effect, Town of Mansfield taxpayers are being asked to subsidize the mortgage of a private individual.

Why so?

From my research, it seems that the owner would be reimbursed for excess energy by the power company at the current rate of about 3 cents per kilowatt. The cost to the town is substantially more than this; I think I'm paying about 8+ cents per kilowatt.

Also, this reimbursement is done just once a year in April. Likely the proposed contract with this town will provide for monthly payments - so as to pay a mortgage.

The Mansfield taxpayer is being asked to subsidize the mortgage of a private individual.

I request that Council discuss this proposed contract for what it is – a policy decision. It is a policy decision by this Council to, or not to, provide a subsidy to a private individual. If you do this, will you do the same for all people who have renewable energy sources in town. Several people have extensive solar systems; I'm planning one. I can provide lots of excess energy. Will you subsidize my project?

I request that Council seriously discuss this policy decision. I request that town management directly provide a copy of the contract, as it is prepared to date, along with the consultant's report to date. I request that town management provide all information about this project as directly as possible including the consultant's contract; financial expenditures to date and an estimate of town staff time spent on this project. By chance I saw a staff communication which indicated that staff was working on this project several months before it was brought to council.

Is it the policy of this Council to subsidize the project of a private individual?

January 14, 2013

Town Council  
Town of Mansfield  
Four South Eagleville Road  
Storrs, CT 06268

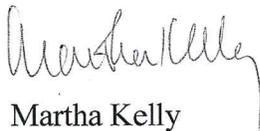
Council Members:

Subject: School Building Issue

I would ask that in the midst of your re-thinking of the school building project, that you consider retaining the fifth-grade students at their respective preK-fourth grade buildings. (As of December 2012, 138 fifth-grade students are enrolled at our middle school.) This may (1) alleviate the student population deficit which is an impediment to the improvement plans for our three grammar schools and (2) decrease the scope of the building project recommended for our middle school.

To do this some curricular changes would occur; therefore, we might want to review programs offered at other districts that define middle school as grades six through eight.

Thank you.



Martha Kelly

29 Bundy Lane  
Storrs, CT 06268

N.B.: I am a member of Mansfield's PreK through Eighth-grade Board of Education, but I do not represent the board; this letter is written by me as a private citizen. MK