

REGULAR MEETING – MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL  
May 13, 2013

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: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2013 special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Freudmann seconded to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2013 regular meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved and Ms. Moran seconded to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2013 special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Paulhus moved to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2013 special meeting as presented. The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Kochenburger, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Schaefer who abstained. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2013 special meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL

Ric Hossack, Middle Turnpike, asked for an answer to the questions regarding the Town's acquisition of the pump station near the post office and urged the Council not to approve the hiring of legal counsel for the water project.

Winifred (Winkie) Gordon, Charter Oak Square, asked the Council to consider that the Town's needs may be separate from those of UCONN when it comes to water issues. Ms. Gordon urged the Council to include advice from those who advocate for water.

IV. REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

In addition to his written report Town Manager Matt Hart offered the following comments:

- Thanked the Jeffrey P. Ossen Family Foundation for their generous support of Mansfield's Community Playground.
- Reported that he, the Mayor, the Board of Education Chair, the Director of Finance and the Superintendent of Schools met with our legislators to discuss state aid for the Town. The budget is still in flux.
- Reported the sewer fund will absorb the maintenance cost for the pump stations.

V. REPORTS AND COMMENTS OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mayor Paterson reiterated that at this point there is no definitive answer to the amount of state aid the Town will receive. The Mayor believes the numbers the Council used in their budget decisions is the best scenario.

Mr. Ryan reported three residents attended the Budget Information session and that the Mayor did an admirable job throwing out the first pitch at the opening of the Little League season.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

1. Appointment of Special Legal Counsel for Water and Wastewater Project

Mr. Kochenburger moved and Mr. Ryan seconded, effective May 13, 2013, to authorize the Town Manager to engage the firm of Pannone, Lopes, Deveraux & West, LLC to serve as special legal counsel for the Town of Mansfield to assist with water supply issues and related matters, pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached

Professional Services Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Pannone, Lopes, Deveraux & West, LLC.

Referring to suggested changes offered by the Town Manager, Mr. Shapiro offered a friendly amendment incorporating those changes.

Accepted as a friendly amendment the motion now reads:

Move, effective May 13, 2013, to authorize the Town Manager to engage the firm of Pannone, Lopes, Deveraux & West, LLC to serve as special legal counsel for the Town of Mansfield to assist with water supply issues and related matters, pursuant to the terms and conditions set forth in the attached Professional Services Agreement between the Town of Mansfield and Pannone, Lopes, Deveraux & West, LLC and as supplemented by the materials distributed by the Town Manager at this evenings meeting.

The motion passed with all in favor except Mr. Freudmann who was in opposition.

## 2. Community Water/Wastewater Issues

Town Manager Matt Hart updated the Council on recent discussions with Windham Water Commission with regards to the water supply project.

## 3. Community/Campus Relations, UCONN Spring Weekend

Chief Dagon, Deputy Chief/Emergency Management Director Raiola and Sgt. Cournoyer presented information on the relatively uneventful Spring Weekend. The Town Manager and the Mayor commended the efforts of the Town, UConn, State Public Safety Officials, and the students. Council members urged all involved to stay vigilant and to encourage UCONN to keep in place the current restrictions on guests and parking, as they are essential to this effort.

Deputy Chief Raiola agreed to ask Eastern to let Freedom Green know when they are having a fireworks display.

Mr. Hart discussed the need to understand the impact UCONN's *Next Generation Connecticut* initiative will have on the Town and suggested the Town seek funding for a fiscal impact analysis to determine the impact of an additional 5000 students and associated expansion. The Town Manager will keep the Council informed.

## 4. Storrs Center Update

The Town has contracted with Weston and Samson to operate and maintain the two pump stations at a cost of \$15,600 per year, which is covered by the sewer budget. Mr. Hart will provide additional information regarding ownership of the stations at the next meeting.

Council members discussed the traffic flow pattern on Rte.195, which has been designed to calm traffic.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### 5. Fee Waiver

Mr. Schaefer recused himself from discussion of this matter.

Chair of the Finance Committee Bill Ryan commented the Committee has agreed that it is appropriate to consider changes to the Fee Waiver Ordinance and offered the following motion:

Recommend the appointment of an Ad Hoc Ordinance Development Committee for the purpose of examining the Fee Waiver Ordinance with regards to Park and Receptions activities with the idea of making modifications to that Ordinance.

If approved Mr. Kochenburger, Mr. Ryan and Ms. Keane volunteered to serve on the Committee.

The motion passed with all those participating in favor of the motion.

### 6. Financial Statements dated March 31, 2013

Finance Committee Chair Ryan moved, effective May 13, 2013, to accept the Financial Statements dated March 31, 2013.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Appointment of Auditor to Conduct Financial Audit for Fiscal Year 2012/13  
Finance Committee Chair Ryan moved, effective May 13, 2013, to appoint Blum, Shapiro and Company, P.C. as the auditing firm for the Fiscal Year 2012/13.  
Motion passed unanimously.

8. Transfer of Uncollected Taxes to Property Tax Suspense Book  
Finance Committee Chair Ryan moved, effective May 13, 2013, to transfer \$61,507.61 in uncollected property taxes to the Mansfield Property Tax Suspense Book, as recommended by the Collector of Revenue.  
The motion passed unanimously.  
Mr. Hart noted collection efforts will continue and that the Tax Collector will meet with the Finance Committee to discuss the rationale for inclusion on the Suspense List.

9. Relocation of UCONN Main Accumulation Area  
Ms. Moran moved and Mr. Paulhus seconded, effective May 13, 2013, to authorize the Mayor to sign and submit the attached letter in support of the University's efforts to relocate the Main Accumulation Area.  
Mr. Kochenburger offered an amendment to the letter changing the word "well" in the second paragraph to "adequately".  
Accepted as a friendly amendment the motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

10. Neighborhood Assistance Act Programs  
Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded, to schedule a public hearing for 7:30 PM at the Town Council's regular meeting on June 10, 2013, to solicit public comment regarding potential program applications to the Neighborhood Assistance Program.  
The motion passed unanimously.

#### VIII. DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

No comments offered.

#### IX. REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Ryan noted the Finance Committee discussed the relocation cost for Storrs Center. The costs have been finalized with both the Town and UCONN contributing \$276,000 to the effort. The original budget for the endeavor was \$750,000. The Mansfield Downtown Partnership has received a Main Street award for its successful relocation efforts.

Ms. Moran, Chair of the Personnel Committee, commented the next meeting has been canceled and will be rescheduled at which time the Committee will revisit the discussion of the Human Service Department.

Ms. Moran, in her capacity of Chair of the Responsible Contractors Ordinance Committee, noted that two additional sessions will be scheduled with representatives of the local trade schools and local contractors.

#### PETITIONS, REQUESTS AND COMMUNICATONS

- 11.M. LaPlaca re: Board of Education Budget
- 12.S. Bourque re: Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony
- 13.B. Hammon re: Security Improvements at Town Buildings
- 14.Mansfield Commission on Aging re: Human service position vacancies
- 15.Notes on April 25 Meeting on Seniors and Senior Center Needs
- 16.Planning & Zoning Commission re: EIE for the Eastern Connecticut State University 2008 Campus Plan Update
- 17.Mansfield Historical Society re: Request for police coverage
- 18.Town of Mansfield Approximate Number of Accounts
- 19.Town of Mansfield Notice and Warning of Annual Town Meeting
- 20.CIRMA re: Members' Equity Distribution

- 21.State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management re: 2011 Equalized Net Grand List
- 22.Eastern Regional Tourism District's Integral Role in Promoting Eastern Connecticut/Mystic Country
- 23.Mansfield Budget Mailer 2013
- 24.Mansfield Historical Society Newsletter, April 2013
- 25.Mansfield Minute, May 2013
- 26.Student Daily Digest re: Changes to Rock Painting Policy
- 27.WindhamARTS re: Designated Regional Service Organization for Northeast Connecticut

X. FUTURE AGENDA

No additional subjects were offered.

Mr. Shapiro moved and Mr. Ryan seconded to move into executive session to discuss the sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6)(D) and to include the Town Manager in the discussion.

Motion passed unanimously.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Sale or purchase of real property, in accordance with CGS§1-200(6) (D)

Present: Freudmann, Keane, Kochenburger, Moran, Paterson, Paulhus, Ryan, Schaefer, Shapiro

Also included: Town Manager Matt Hart

XII. ADJOURNMENT

The Council reconvened in regular session. Mr. Paulhus moved and Mr. Shapiro seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Elizabeth C. Paterson, Mayor

Mary Stanton, Town Clerk

May 13, 2013