

10/28/13

To: Town Council
From Betty Wassmundt

5 minutes is not enough to comment on everything in this packet.

Parking Agreement.

What is the total overage on this garage?

Has that money been paid to whomever it was owed? If so, where did the money come from? Was it someplace in which budget?

I assume the overage is \$1.5 million +/-, not a trivial amount of money. Who was responsible for this mistake? Who is to be held accountable for the overage – approximately 15% of the garage cost? You the council, the town attorney, town manager, Director of Public Works? Who? Where is accountability in this town?

What was the net operating income for the first year of the garage operation?

Letter of Intent.

What is the rush to sign this Letter? Please identify this rush to the public tonight, if there is some pressing reason.

You had so many questions from last week's meeting, from just three people, that management provided a supplement to this packet to answer them. Imagine the questions you'd get from the public if you had an open forum, with notice, to allow questions.

Now you say you have the best open, transparent government; prove it. Do not sign this Letter tonight and hold a forum on this water project.

Do you understand the environmental impact of this inter-basin water transfer? You have people in town with expertise in this area. Invite them to come for discussion. We all need to understand the environmental implications before we agree to support this Letter.

Everyone knows that the State should do a comprehensive water study. That's what you should be encouraging before you sign this Letter. Water and the environment is the heritage we leave to future generations. You're in charge of that environment right now with this Letter in your hands. You claim to be environmentalists yet at a public hearing on the impact of the North Hillside Roadway on wetlands, farmland, etc, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor attended to support the Tech Park with no concern or even a comment about the environment. Are you doing the same here?

You should answer the concerns raised by the Conservation Commission before you sign this Letter.

I conclude: you should not authorize the Town Manager to sign this Letter at this time.

Have you considered all the consequences for the people of Mansfield?

October 28, 2013

Brian Coleman

26 Centre St.

Mansfield Center CT 06250

Dear Council Members,

I would like to recommend to the council that it abolish the rental parking ordinance completely. A new common sense ordinance is now in place. The nuisance ordinance, it has teeth and has proven effective because it also has repercussions for students with the university. It would need revision to cover all residents in order to be a lawful ordinance.

While we are at it, the ordinance on no more than three unrelated people can reside in one rental has added to the problem. You went from 4 to 3 students in one house and now have spread the student population out into the neighborhoods. For every one hundred student houses you need an additional 30 houses to house the same number of students as the previous ordinance. Occupation should be based on the number of bedrooms and the ability of the septic/sewer system.

Brian Coleman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Coleman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Town Council Candidate

HOW TO BE ON THE MANSFIELD TOWN COUNCIL,

with no great difficulty

1a) If there are long legal documents associated with any motion, read through them from about pages 5-7; come up with some extremely abstract point.

1b) Otherwise, do not read *any* motions. Instead, read at random several minutes of various committees---no more that 2 or 3. Have questions about them.

--and that's all. If you have read legalese or read various minutes, everyone will assume you have read everything else, very carefully; and, with abstruse questions, they *will* know you have read everything else.

You should be able to do 1a) and 1b) in half an hour at your leisure and with bourbon. If you cannot, then read during the meeting itself, again with questions. Avoid bourbon.

2) Come a few minutes beforehand—actually before anyone else arrives. Be seated and study the *last* motions, slowly shaking your head. Do this while others, audience and Council-members, arrive.

3) At appropriate moments (but only once per session), when things get tense, walk out of the room slowly, again with a shaking of the head (head should be lowered, shaking only slightly). Get water, bring it back in, still slowly. If things are still tense, look around, still again slowly—BEFORE YOU SIT DOWN; and look above it all, all the petty controversies, the meager arguments. (If I have the chance, I'll train you how to do that.) Sit down. Drink the water, slowly, look down at the cup. (Be sure that the camera is on the Council, so your movement will be preserved)... Note that what you do, must

always be done *slowly* and with deliberation and a little sadness, not for yourself but for the rest of the Council.

- 4) Just immediately after the Council adjourns, especially if the camera is still rolling, gather around the Mayor or the Town Manager, so that you will be seen To Be Important. Better yet, mouth something—it does not have to make sense or even be heard.
- 5) Finally, when you leave, even though the camera may be off, be stern and silent, as though you still had important things to say, even though the Council knows you probably haven't. The audience, and even some confused members of the Council, may believe you do. If so, that will make it easier for the next Council meeting.

Remember: The camera is the most important of all: At Council meetings we are there only once, with only a few people who dislike us. But on camera, we are seen by possibly 10 times as many, and meetings are repeated; moreover, there may be some people who like us! What we do on camera is far more important than what we do in real life. And, of course, overall there's a larger realism here.

- 6) I myself, by the way, have done none of these things. In fact I have not even thought about them.

Carl W. Schaefer

April 8, 2012