

**Town of Mansfield
Board of Selectmen
Minutes of May 27, 2009**

Present: Chairman Ann Baldwin, Vice Chairman Kevin Moran, Clerk Jess Aptowitz, Selectman Sandra Levine, John D'Agostino, Town Manager

Check Donation

Town Manager D'Agostino presented Carol Luca, West Side Benevolent representative with a check for \$300 that was raised by the town employees during the annual May 1st town hall breakfast.

Jay Barrows presentation

Unsung heroine Claire DeRosa was named one of the top 100 Heroines of 2009 honored by the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women (MCSW).

There are many individuals in our communities who volunteer their time and energy towards community and school activities, Rep. Barrows stated in his nomination letter. "It is the efforts of these special people who enrich the lives they touch every day. Claire DeRosa surpasses that definition to not only better the lives of the children and neighbors with whom she works, she inspires others around her to do the same."

Children Tom, Tim and Kristen and husband Tom were present for award.

TM search sub committee interview

Scott Leite, Health Agent, is a candidate for the tm search sub committee.

Has worked for the town for over 20 years and is a former selectman in Rehoboth. Vast experience working with professional search committees over the years and would like the chance to assist Mansfield with their current search.

- Selectman Moran asked what the most important task the town manager should be able to do. Answer: In addition to management functions and long term planning, a good town manager should have interaction with the various town boards and committees. Active knowledge in applying town charter to the job is a plus.
- Selectman Aptowitz asked "how would you feel if the candidate you advocated for was not selected?" Mr. Leite stated it happens and you deal with it. You work with the manager that is appointed.

- How should the tm deal with town contracts, labor negotiations, etc?

Mr. Leite responded that some one has to make the final decision with regards to town legal matters however; the tm often should employ assistance with large tasks such as contract and labor negotiations.

- Selectman Levine asked Mr. Leite how he felt about ranking candidates?

The consultant should separate the candidates among qualifications and then forward to sub committee for review.

- Selectman Levine: What do you think are characteristics that make a candidate rise above the rest?

A confident management style that works well with others and fosters department communication is key; however they must be able to make a solid decision once input is given and considered.

- Chairman Baldwin: What makes you stand out from the other applicants?

I have over 30 years of varied municipal experience and willingness to serve the community.

The Board of Selectmen then thanked Mr. Leite for taking the time to come and talk with them.

Water and Sewer rates FY10

Lee Azinheira, DPW Director; Ken Hackett, Waste Water Operations Manager and Kurt Gaffney, Water Superintendent were present for discussion.

In 2006, we established sewer projections to fund capital improvements that included 20% increases for FY07, 08, 09 and 12% for FY10.

We are proposing a 4% water rate increase for FY10 in order to meet the proposed FY10 budget. The initial budget required an 8% rate increase, but we have reduced the budget by \$150,000 due to various departmental changes.

Selectman Aptowitz asked if any cutbacks have been made in the 09 budgets? (both water and sewer) Mr. Azinheira stated his staff has been able to change things up and operate short handed. However, it has been difficult and not everything got done as soon as they

would like. They have decided to continue to operate this way so they would not have to layoff any new employees (that had filled open positions).

Selectman Moran asked about the use of chemicals. Are we going to see a large spike in use or price for this coming year? Mr. Gaffney stated they try to project usage but you can never really tell. They are however saving money by changing from potassium hydroxide to sodium hydroxide use.

Motion: To approve 12% increase (sewer) effective June 1, 2009 for July monthly bills. (Moran/Levine) 4:0 passes

Selectman Levine asked if any changes were made in usage of sodium products.

Mr. Gaffney stated that there were changes in the pumping rates at Walsh and at Cate Springs there were no changes in sodium usage or pumping.

Selectman Aptowitz had questions about staffing vehicle usage but will address it at another time.

Selectman Moran was worried about chemical usage rates and costs. Answer: A lot depends on the weather so it is difficult to accurately forecast sometimes.

Cate Springs will have upgrades done this year and Walsh Well hopefully the year after.

Chairman Baldwin asked if the open but not filled positions are still funded for the Fy10 budget year? Answer: Yes, just in case it is truly needed.

Motion: To approve 4% increase (water) effective June 1, 2009 for July monthly bills. (Levine/Moran) 4:0 passes

Board of Registrars interview

Mary Barton Rau, Interested in community service and feels that the Board of Registrars is an important one.

Selectman Levine: What do you think is important on this job?

A voter registration drive to get more residents involved in the voting process.

Chairman Baldwin stated that she knows that Mary is involved in educational matters as well.

Motion: To appoint Mary Barton Rau to a term expiring Jan 2010. (Aptowitz/Moran) 4:0 passes

FY10 budget presentation with Dept Heads

Eric Hart, Town Accountant and Karen Dumont, Town Manager Executive Secretary assisted Mr. D'Agostino with the budget presentation.

As you know FY09 has been a challenge and FY10 will be even more so with reduced aid and municipal layoffs. As the Senate has not released their budget yet and town meeting must go on we are operating on an assumption of revenue utilizing the most recent figures to date. As it stands the municipal side will have to cut 12 positions next year. These cuts would include 2 firefighters and not filling two vacant police officer positions.

Mr. D'Agostino went over the FY10 expenditures and reductions at great length during a PowerPoint presentation and the board then adjourned for a five minute recess.

Fire Chief Boldrighini: No one wants to see one dept. being pitted against another. We have worked very well with the schools in the past and look forward to working with them in the future. Unfortunately our run #'s are up and continue to rise. If the town starts to cut fire fighters public safety starts to fail as the need for services cannot be met.

Multiple runs are becoming common place and this leaves the town vulnerable to not being able to respond to a call in a timely manner or not at all. Fire personnel have been stretched thin and have had to rely on mutual aid more and more. Fortunately the staff is well trained and has been able to respond to emergencies accordingly.

Police Chief O'Neill: The facts speak for themselves. Our town population has grown substantially over the years thus attracting business to a large commerce park and unfortunately, crime.

The day shift is as busy as ever controlling traffic and attending to matters of public safety. The evening shift has always been an active one responding to calls and will continue to be so as the economy suffers.

Brenda Hodges, School Superintendent spoke briefly about the FY10 budget. 5 million dollar deficit with 2 million dollars in cuts so far. Class size will definitely rise and teachers will continue to be cut in order to balance the school budget in future years.

Net school spending starts at "foundation level" that was started in the 1980's as a theory of what each town or city should be minimally spending on education. The Town of Mansfield spending one of the lowest amounts per pupil in the state (compared with other

similarly sized school systems). A large number of graduates pass the MCAS and go onto college. Mansfield's drop out rate is also one of the lowest around.

The town has spent a lot of money in the past on the school system and it is in danger of losing this standard of education if funding is not available.

Selectman Moran stated yes, we do not want to pit one department against the other, however Chapter 70 funds are not being distributed as usual this year and the municipal side of the town government will disproportionately suffer.

He went to conference where it was supported that towns can and should share the stimulus monies. "It's still revenue to the town and we should take our share." He further stated that the board should not abdicate its responsibility to direct funds appropriately. Mr. D'Agostino then asked the board to take a vote to restore the fire department positions, but the board declined to.

Selectman Aptowitz asked "why do people move to the Town of Mansfield?" The schools, excellent public safety, etc... As a resident and selectman he understands that public safety is paramount and as a parent of a special needs student, adequate school spending is equally important. Budget cuts have not been made privy to the bos on an ongoing basis; the tm makes these cuts, not the bos.

The bos and school must work together so each other's needs may be addressed. Public safety equipment and school needs are equally important and must be worked out. One budget must be presented at town meeting. The bos usually supports the fincomm's recommendations but they have not seen them yet.

Selectman Aptowitz attended regional Board of Selectmen meeting last week and there were a lot of good ideas of how the schools and municipal sides can work together.

Mike Trowbridge, School Committee came to the podium and stated that the school has made cuts to an already understaffed department and will have to make additional cuts without the stimulus funds.

Five minute recess called. (Levine/Moran) 4:0 passes

Selectman Levine stated that this is indeed a tough time and she can't say which services are more important than another. Although we are one town, there are two budgets, the school and the town budget. The schools have much more flexibility with their budget due to education reform and are doing a great job with the funds they have. However, The fire dept has substantial needs as well and we depend on them for our safety and our lives. The same is true for the police dept. Can we sacrifice road work? Well, that

affects the schools, public safety and traffic safety as well. So what has to give? We all have to give a bit for the good of the community as a whole.

A lengthy discussion ensued between the town manager, bos and school committee.

Andy Gazzolo, FinComm Chairman, spoke about the budget crisis we are currently in and about the future issues that we will continue to have until we find a new way to control costs.

The board decided to postpone town meeting until June 16th and to meet over the next two weeks with school and municipal officials in an attempt to hammer out a solution.

Motion: To extend meeting to 11pm. (Aptowitz/Levine) 4:0 passes

Motion: To change the date of town meeting to June 16, 2009. (Levine/Moran) 4:0 passes

Mr. D'Agostino made a closing statement to the bos and the audience about the budget issues at large and why the cuts that have been made where made. In his 28 years of public service this is the first time he has to make such drastic cuts in services and personnel.

TM search firm selection

Bob Slavin, Slavin Management Consultants and Tom Groux from Groux & Associates were the two consultants that interviewed last week. After a brief discussion the following motions were made.

Motion: To appoint Groux and Associates as the town manager search firm.

Tom has been a tm and is a MA consulting firm intimately acquainted with MA law.

(Levine/Moran)

Motion: To appoint Slavin Management Consultants (Aptowitz/Baldwin) after passing gavel to Vice Chairman Moran. Vote from Selectman Dentino opened and he voted for Slavin making a 3:2 passes (Levine/Moran nay)

The bids were then opened and Slavin Management bid base cost of \$14,280.00 plus travel expenses from Georgia and Connecticut in addition to professional fees not to exceed \$22,134.00. Groux and Assoc. bid base cost of \$9,000 plus travel expenses from Chatham (\$75 round trip) in addition to professional fees of up to \$2000.00.

TM search firm subcommittee composition discussion

Not discussed.

Weekly Business

- Warrant No. 48B in the amount of \$1,334,165.63
Motion: Approved (Moran/Aptowitz) 4:0 passes
- Warrant No. 48A in the amount of \$1,769,506.18
Motion: Approved (Moran/Aptowitz) 4:0 passes
- Minutes of bos meeting on April 8, 2009
Motion: Hold for next week
- Minutes of bos meeting on April 15, 2009
Motion: Hold for next week

Drainlayer license application from C&N Construction:

Motion: To approve. (Aptowitz/Moran) 4:0 passes

Application for street closure for Family Fun Night on July 14th
(North Main St. from 5pm to 9pm)

Motion: To approve. (Aptowitz/Moran) 4:0 passes

The Airport has received grant to update the Airport Master Plan. The MAC now requires the bos to sign off on all grant assurances.

Motion: To approve the chairman signing the grant. (Levine/Aptowitz) 4:0 passes

Fund transfers: John explained why there were two transfer requests before the board. One for printing costs in tm office. One in MIS.

Motion: Transfer from town clerk to tm printing (town warrants) \$2,134.53
(Levine/Moran) 4:0 passes

Motion: Transfer for MIS server and printer down \$4,500.00 (Levine/Moran)
4:0 passes

Correspondence

- Invitation to Boy Scout Troop 51, eagle court of honor on June 21st at 2pm. Ryan Burke and Alan Miller are being honored.
- Invitation to a creative problem solving workshop to identify student opportunities to assist municipalities in moving toward economic and environmental sustainability on May 29th , 9am at SRPEDD in Taunton.
- Invitation to Bristol Aggie graduation on June 4th at 7pm in Dighton.
- Letter from Joseph Murphy, Marshall Ave requesting two additional stop signs at the intersection of Smiley and Marshall Avenues. NOTE: (*Officer Lawson does not feel it is warranted but as road commissioners it is your call*) The board deferred to Officer Lawson in this situation.
- Letter from Edward Rosenberg of the Elks inviting the board to join them on June 14th for the Flag Day Ritual; 3pm at the South Common.
- Email from Thomas Fuller, Darby Drive asking the board to consider several items.
- Letter from the Old Colony Council, Boy Scouts of America, announcing this years honorees. They are State Senator, James Timilty and his sister, Governor's council member, Kelly Timilty.

Town Managers Report

Ongoing Verizon FISO issue: No. Attleboro has also requested permits be pulled by Verizon and they won't. Atty. Mangaretti will draft a letter to Verizon and discuss it with the board next week.

Selectmen's Old & New Business

- Old business from Selectman Levine:
- Old business from Selectman Dentino: Not present
- Old business for Selectman Moran:
- Old business from Selectman Aptowitz:
- Old business from Chairman Baldwin:

- New business from Chairman Baldwin:
- New business from Selectman Aptowitz: Please look into parking issues on Mill St. near Flint Farm during peak evening and weekend hours. The street gets very congested.
- New business from Selectman Dentino: Not present
- New business from Selectman Moran: Always been in favor of education but other services are important too. He looks forward to meeting with the school committee and working our issues out.
- New business from Selectman Levine:

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn at 10:56 PM
(Aptowitz) 4-0 Passes

Jess Aptowitz

Signature of Clerk

August 12, 2009

Date of Approval