

Town Council Meeting
January 13, 2014

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 PM

- A. For the purpose of discussing matters related to the acquisition or lease of real property for public purposes as per RIGL 42-46-5(a) (5), with regards to the private sewer line on Reservoir Road in the Town of Coventry
- B. For the purpose of discussing matters of potential litigation regarding the Flat River Road Sewer Construction as per RIGL 42-46-5(a) (2)
- C. For the purpose of discussing matters of litigation regarding Springfield Armoury L.P. vs. Patricia Picard as per RIGL 42-46-5(a) (2)
- D. Discussion on the job performance of the Town Manager, Annual Evaluation, as per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1)

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

Present: President Gary Cote, Vice-President Kerry McGee, Councilwoman Carlson, Gregory Laboissonniere, Town Manager Thomas Hoover, Town Solicitor Frederick Tobin

Absent: Councilman Jendzejec

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant
Moment of Silence
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Vice-President McGee to adjourn Executive Session. All voted Aye.

Motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Vice-President McGee to seal minutes from Executive Session. All voted Aye.

President's Comments

President Cote wished all a Happy New Year. He advised that the Town Council will soon begin the next budget cycle and encouraged the public to attend the hearings and let their voices be heard.

Approval of Town Council minutes December 9, 2013 - A motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve minutes. All voted aye.

POLICE PROMOTIONAL AND SWEARING IN CEREMONY - Andrew Brodeur was sworn in by President Cote as a Patrolman on the Coventry Police Department.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Discussion and resulting action on tax abatements and additions for December 2013
- 2. Resulting action regarding Renewal of Private Detective licenses for:
 - a. Robert Conover, 2747 Flat River Road
 - b. Kevin Beese, 6 Wilshire Way
 - c. David Thatcher, 6 White Pine Rd
- 3. Resulting action regarding approval of sewer tie in for:
 - a. Brian White, 16-18 Anthony Street
 - b. Gregory Inman and Mark Tourgee, Plat 19, Lot 16.4 Nooseneck Hill Road
- 4. Resulting action regarding renewal of firearms licenses for:
 - a. Mid-State Gun Co, 1200 Tiogue Avenue
 - b. Rhode Island Gunworks, 303 S. Main St.
 - c. Hawkins Machine Co., Inc, 374 Hopkins Hill Rd.

A motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve Consent Agenda. All voted aye.

LICENSES

1. Application for Second Hand license by Denise Mascis for Rainbow Relics, 89B Sandy Bottom Road

Denise Mascis, 710 Maple Valley Road, explained that Rainbow Relics will be a shop dealing in antiques and vintage collectibles.

Motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve second hand license subject to proof of a retail sales permit from the State of RI. All voted aye.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Discussion and resulting action on the award of a contract to Fuss & O'Neill for engineering services at a cost of \$3,120 as required by the consent agreement with the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management for the repair of Upper Pond Dam (Breezy Lake)

Manager Hoover explained that under the Consent Agreement, it is a requirement of DEM that an engineering consultant be elected by January 1, 2014 for initial site inspection and report. We have received two proposals and found that Fuss & O'Neill was the most responsive bidder. I recommend approval of this resolution in order to perform the site inspection and report so that work may begin.

Councilwoman Carlson asked if the cost of \$3,120 is only for the report at this point, and whether there is a known cost for the project yet. Town Engineer Bob Joyal responded that the \$3,120 is only for the inspection and report, and not until after that inspection and report will there be a project cost. He added that the work on the dam will probably have to take place when the lake is down, maybe in July or August. The inspection report should be completed by March 1. Manager Hoover indicated that this issue will be brought back before Council at that time.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve resolution. All voted aye.

2. Discussion and resulting action on the award of a contract to Weston and Sampson for operation and maintenance of the Town of Coventry sanitary sewer system at an annual cost of \$150,150

Manager Hoover explained that the purchase of the Woodland Manor Sewer System includes a major pump station and extra maintenance. With this addition, maintenance costs increase from \$110,000 to over \$150,000. We have had a contract with Weston and Sampson for maintenance since 2005, but believe it is time to put out request for proposals, preferably within the next 30-60 days. Until that time I am asking approval of fees on a monthly basis. We are hoping to bring in the most responsible bidder by spring, whether it is Weston and Sampson or not. However, we need to amend the contract with Weston & Sampson for operation and maintenance of the system and this will take place on a month to month basis until we can go out to bid. I am requesting that you approve this resolution for the monthly contract amendment until which time as we can get RFPs out. Councilwoman Carlson asked where money is to cover this and Manager Hoover replied from the sewer fund.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Vice-President McGee to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

3. Discussion and resulting action regarding the lease of tower space by Verizon at the Coventry High School

Ed Warzycha, IT Director, advised that the town owns the cell tower and will get 100% proceeds from the Verizon rental, which in this case will go to the school department. There will still be one vacant space remaining for rental on the tower. This has been ongoing for a few months and Verizon is anxious to get going on this work as soon as possible.

Councilwoman Carlson asked about the lease and Mr. Warzycha replied that it is a five year initial lease, with the potential of up to 30 years, which could potentially bring over one

million dollars into the schools.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson, seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve resolution. All voted aye.

4. Discussion and resulting action regarding the lease of copy machines and scanners by the Town of Coventry

Mr. Warzycha explained the proposed sixty month contract for lease of equipment, noting that the agreement offers monetary savings of approximately \$800 to \$850 a month for the term of the contract, as compared to our current contract, which is approximately \$10,000 a year savings. The agreement covers all equipment in the Town Hall and the annex, every department except Human Services. Mr. Warzycha believes it is better to lease than purchase, as four years down the road the machines are basically obsolete. The lease covers everything and if there is a problem they take care of it at no additional cost. This is a local company that has been in business for years.

A motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve resolution. All voted aye.

5. Discussion and resulting action on authorizing the Town Manager to enter into an amended Economic Development Incentive Agreement with WW III Development, Inc. as part of the purchase of the Reservoir Road Sewer Line

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Vice-President McGee to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

5. Amending the Coventry Code of Ordinances Chapter 217 Taxation, Article IV Exemption for Veterans, Section 217-12, providing a one thousand (\$1,000) tax exemption on real property situated in the Town for any person owning and occupying said property who is an active member of the armed forces of the United States, as allowed under RIGL 44-3-4(j)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to open public hearing. Roll call vote, all voted aye.

Councilwoman Carlson explained that she proposed this ordinance after the wife of an active duty serviceman brought it to her attention that active duty servicemen do not receive an exemption, even though enabling legislation had been put into place but never acted upon.

There were no questions or comments from the public.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to close public hearing. All voted Aye.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Vice-President McGee to approve ordinance. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ken Jackson, 2799 Harkney Hill Road commented that he is looking forward to the establishment of open government this year and believes that changes are needed to make town actions more visible. He advised that he is submitting several requests for information to the town and will file a complaint with the Attorney General if he is refused his requests.

David Florio, 153 Princeton Avenue, commented that he believes that any information requested by Mr. Jackson that may pertain to resumes of employees and applicants is considered confidential information. In addition, if Mr. Jackson has any complaints with the Town Charter, he should bring that before the Charter Review Commission.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to adjourn meeting. All voted aye.

Town Clerk

