

Town Council Meeting  
February 11, 2016

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:00 p.m.  
RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (2)

A motion was made by Councilwoman Duxbury seconded by Councilman McGee to go into Executive Session. All voted aye.

Present at Executive Session: President Shibley, Council members Duxbury, McGee, Carlson, Town Solicitor Gorham, Interim Town Manager Thibeault, Attorneys Vincent Ragosta and Timothy Bliss; Councilman Laboissonniere was absent.

1. Ucci v Town of Coventry
2. Extending contract of Interim Town Manager
3. SRP Pension Plan document

A motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to come out of Executive Session. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Duxbury seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to seal minutes of Executive Session. All voted aye.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 p.m.

Present: Councilwoman Duxbury, Councilman McGee, Vice President Carlson, President Shibley, Town Solicitor Gorham, Interim Town Manager Thibeault; Councilman Laboissonniere was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance by Alan Gessner of Boy Scout Troop 39, Summit  
Invocation by President Shibley  
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

Approval of Town Council minutes January 26, 2016

A motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to approve minutes. All vote aye.

President's Comments

President Shibley thanked DPW for a job well done during the snow storm this week.

COUNCIL DISTRICT UPDATES

Councilman McGee, District 3, Vice-President Carlson, District 1 and Councilwoman Duxbury, District 5, recognized DPW for the great work they did during the recent snowstorm. Mrs. Duxbury added that DPW has received many compliments in her neighborhood; they did a great job clearing snow, basically from curb to curb. She and Councilman McGee would like to meet with the school's maintenance facility person to see if the town and the school department can work together to clear some of the sidewalks around the school area.

District 4 President Shibley announced that Ace Hardware is coming to town and will be located across the street from the Anthony Mill Lofts. Doherty's is up and running with their parking lot usually full and hopefully we will see more business come to town.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Awarding bid for generator for Human Services Department

DPW Director Kevin McGee stated that through the national bidding process he has located a generator for \$37,500 (Milton Cat), the low bidder. A couple of years ago we thought we were going to have to pay \$100,000 for a generator. However, Milton Cat had one that actually exceeded our requirements, comes in at half the cost and has a four to six week delivery. Since it is diesel powered we can fill it from our own tanks.

Mr. McGee further advised that he has plans to include \$135,000 in the FY 17 capital budget for a generator at the Town Hall. Councilwoman Duxbury asked if DPW has a generator and Mr. McGee replied that both DPW and the annex have generators. Mrs. Duxbury thought it would be a good idea to have a generator at the Town Hall also, perhaps the Town Hall could be used as a shelter in an

emergency.

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

### 2. Extending the contract of Finance Director to act as Interim Town Manager

Councilwoman Duxbury explained to the public that the extension of Mr. Thibeault's interim manager contract simply fills the gap of about ten days before the new Town Manager begins employment on February 16.

A motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilman McGee to approve contract extension. All voted aye.

### 3. Approving SRP pension plan document

Interim Manager Thibeault explained that one year ago a tentative agreement was signed by the Trustees of the SRP pension, the SRP Union, the Town of Coventry and the Coventry School Committee. That agreement called for a plan document to be drawn up along with a financial improvement plan which met with state criteria, namely 60% funding in the next 20 years and 100% in approximately 30 years. The agreement is being recommended tonight by the attorneys to the parties including the Town of Coventry. Once you take action on this plan tonight, it will go to the Board of Trustees for the SRP union, the School Committee and once final votes are taken, everyone will be bound by the plan document.

The document calls for the Town of Coventry to make annual contributions to make up the difference between what is needed and what the funding would be if we didn't put the additional monies in. The FY16 budget was approved for \$425,000; some actuarial work recently suggested that we can bring it down lower to \$412,000, which represents the first option to make state mandated payments. The second option is to keep making payments of \$425,000 and we will be funded in full ahead of schedule. Attorney Tim Bliss, Esq., 50 Park Row West, Providence, wrote the document and is present tonight if there are any questions.

President Shibley acknowledged that this has not been easy. However, we do think that this is good and feel it is fair. In addition, it will free up the incentive money that the state is holding back from the town.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve resolution, accepting Option 1. All voted aye.

### ORDINANCE (First reading)

#### 1. Amending Coventry Zoning Ordinance and Zoning Map, AP 76, Lot 1 from Rural Residential-2 (RR-2) to R-20

Solicitor Gorham explained that this zone and map change is part of an agreement pertaining to Mr. Doug DeSimone for White Tail estates, located off Leuba Road. Originally it was denied by the Planning Board and an appeal was taken to the State Housing Appeals Board. The project that had been rejected by the Town included a number of duplexes and was about 25% low income. There was a lot of neighborhood objection concerning Leuba Road, the need for major improvements and its inability to handle additional traffic that would be generated.

The case was settled and there was an agreement in writing contingent upon the Town Council approving a rezoning of the property and also contingent upon Planning Board approval of the revised plan which eliminates low and moderate housing, duplexes, and reduces significantly the number of lots. Most importantly there would be an agreement for major improvements to Leuba Road before the development is complete. The Planning Commission looked at the new plan, approved it and recommended that we change the zoning. So, although with this amendment you are approving a more intense zoning classification, by agreement there will be fewer lots than if the low and moderate income project had gone in, plus you will get improvements to Leuba Road from the developer.

There will be a public hearing and you have the right to reject this amendment. You are only bound to listen and give consideration to the zone change. If approved, it comes with a condition that it will go back to planning and zoning for further approval. They have already approved the preliminary stage. This actually is a change in the zoning map. We will see what happens at the public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to advertise for public hearing. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilman McGee to adjourn meeting. All voted aye.

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Town Clerk