

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
February 12, 2007

- Worksession – 5:30 p.m. Meeting with Legislative Delegation

President Pomfret introduced Senators Blais and Raptakis along with Representatives Serpa, Sullivan and Moffitt.

Manager Kerbel thanked the delegation for grants awarded to the Town of Coventry over the past few years.

The Town Council voiced their concerns over various issues, most importantly Senate Bill 3050 and the constraints this will place on the town.

Legislators agreed and indicated that some of the unfunded mandates that the schools are required to implement should be looked at as they create a great impact on school budgets.

President Pomfret asked that consideration be given to the Town of Coventry in obtaining our fair share of aid.

Representative Sullivan feels there are excellent communications with this town and the town manager. He also thanked Councilmen Cloutier and Thompson for their helpfulness recently regarding local neighborhood issues.

Councilman Colaluca thanked Representative Sullivan for looking into the crosswalk situation at Jerry's plaza.

President Pomfret voiced concerns regarding Maple Valley Road, Route 102 and Waterman Hill. Neighbors are requesting a blinking light or stop sign, dangerous intersection.

Councilman Thompson asked if the schools would receive the \$600,000 in aid that they did last year. Representative Moffitt stated that was a year-to-year allocation and uncertain at this time.

Representative Serpa would be interested in ending some unfunded mandates if there is no negative affect on the children.

Discussion turned to Scituate Reservoir and alternative sources for energy that the town should look into, such as a wind farm.

Councilman Hyde requested that granite curbs be implemented on Route 3. Senator Blais agreed that concrete eats right through, and he is proposing a bill to require granite curbs.

President Pomfret brought up the needed repairs on the Barbs Hill Bridge.

Superintendent DiPietro reminded the legislative body of the impact that Bill 3050 will have and President Pomfret requested as much state aid as we can possibly get.

Worksession to resume after Council Meeting

- *6:30 p.m. Town Council Meeting*

Present: Kenneth Cloutier, Anthony Colaluca, Justin Pomfret, Bruce Thompson, Frank Hyde

Town Manager Richard Kerbel
Town Solicitor Patrick Sullivan

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Pomfret
Invocation by Councilman Colaluca
President Pomfret reviewed the Emergency Evacuation plan

- Public Comment

Dwight McDonald
Hunters Crossing

Stated that there is an increased need for monitoring speeding in Hunters Crossing.

Kim Paul
181 Colvintown Road

Requested that something be done regarding cleaning up Global property on Colvintown Road. An environmental consultant has submitted potential solutions and she has copies of those reports.

Raymond Spear
261 Phillips Hill Road

Regarding the capital budget, would like council to take a look at a bond issue, especially with the constraints ahead of Bill 3050.

Donald Masse
74 Reservoir Road

Would like to thank the police for their efforts on Reservoir Road. Many tickets have been issued. Suggested looking into sidewalks for safety issues.

Ronald Ghizzarelli
50 Harrington Road

Supports the capital improvement budget for the schools, also feels that the council should look into bonding for the improvements.

- Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Colaluca to approve minutes from Council Meeting January 22, 2007. All voted Aye. So voted.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resolution #24-07-2731 affirming award of a contract for purchase of thermal imager for police department; funding provided by a Homeland Security Grant
2. Resolution #25-07-2732 affirming award of a contract for a 2006 Ford F-250 pickup for the police department; funding provided by a Homeland Security Grant
3. Resolution #26-07-2733 affirming award of a contract for an Emergency Response Trailer for Police Department; funding provided by a Homeland Security Grant

4. Resolution #27-07-2734 affirming award of a contract for 20/20 Perfect Vision Records Management System for the Town Clerk's Office; funding provided for in the Document Preservation and Upgrade Fund
5. Tax Abatements for the month of December in the amount of \$3,252.19 with additions in the amount of \$4,652.53
6. Sewer contractor's license for Michael Perri & Sons

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Anthony Colaluca to approve Consent Agenda. All voted Aye. So voted.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Application by Marcus Vitali and Michael Pate for Perks, 1532 Main Street, for Class B limited liquor license

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to open public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

Present: Marcus Vitali and Michael Pate

Mr. Vitale – Would like to be able to serve beer and wine with dinner. We close at 10:00 p.m. on weekends and 9:00 p.m. during the week.

Jeannette Hartley
6 First Street

Mrs. Hartley stated that her main objection is that the owner of the property has not been responsible in the past, resulting in problems with noise, drunkenness, trash all over the place. However, while Dave's Perks was in that building, didn't hear of any problems.

Solicitor Sullivan gave history of the property, noting that there were many problems when there was a nightclub on that property. Since that time, the town purchased property abutting the restaurant and the greenway. Restrictions relating to alcoholic beverage licenses were put in the deed, and the only license allowed at that location is a B Ltd license (beer and wine only).

Mr. Pate – Want to have a family type restaurant; we've cleaned up alot and invested a lot of money.

Council discussed applying the following stipulations to Perks:

STIPULATIONS:

1. Temporary B Ltd. License to be reviewed at the May 21, 2007 Town Council meeting.
2. If corporation, Board of Directors, shareholders, officers or owners change, the B Ltd. Liquor license is revoked.
3. B Ltd. license is non-transferable
4. No transfer allowed of any assets to a third party
5. No alcohol served after 9 p.m. on Thursdays and Sundays; no alcohol served after 10 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays.
6. No live entertainment license
7. No outside alcohol

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Bruce Thompson to grant B Ltd license with above stipulations to be reviewed at the May 21, 2007 council meeting. Motion passes 4-1 (Councilman Hyde votes No.)

CONTINUATION OF WORK SESSION
Capital Budget Discussion

Town Manager Kerbel distributed letter of recommendation received from Coventry Planning Commission regarding Capital Improvement Budget along with the advertisement that appeared in the newspaper advertising the Capital Improvement Budget Public Hearing on February 26, 2007. (See Capital Budget requests on file for municipal and school departments).

- Chief O'Rourke told Council that he changed the amount requested on the detective vehicle from \$10,000 to \$6,000.

Regarding the boat for Johnson's Pond, he indicated that the boat would be docked on the pond for the season; boat will be 16-18 feet long.

- Guy Lefebvre, Director of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Lefebvre reviewed his requests. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Hyde questioned if the grant for Harris Mill is for the same property that recently had a zone change which included an offer by the applicants to rehab this "park" and then give back to the town, at no expense to the town. Paul Sprague stated that it is the same.

Mr. Lefebvre stated that tennis/basketball courts are in very poor condition and need rehabilitation, bleachers are needed at Ravenwoods, Foster, Memorial and Fish Hill parks for spectators.

- Sheila Barrett, Public Works, prioritized DPW projects:

#1 Recycling truck, cab and chassis, #2 front end loader, #3 dump truck, #4 fuel pumps with ability to pump from either side, #5 service truck, #6 Island Drive bridge needs to be replaced, #7 Stormwater quality improvements, #8 air duct cleaning, #9 sanders.

- Superintendent Ken DiPietro reviewed priorities of the School Department, reminding the Town Council that last year the school department was level funded, resulting in the closure of Flat River Middle School. Mr. DiPietro submitted a Capital Budget Request for the Coventry Public Schools in which each item requested is explained and classified regarding its urgency.

Mr. DiPietro also added that more parking is needed at Blackrock School, boilers are working at the present time at Oak Haven, Hopkins Hill and the high school, but replacement is needed; the high school cannot hold events at their own track because of disrepair. We need to think outside of the box this year, feels maybe bonding would be a good way to go.

Discussion ensued regarding bonding, whether it should be done, what should be included, if it should be inclusive all at once rather than return again the following year.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye. So voted.

Town Clerk