

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
February 25, 2008

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

Solicitor Patrick Sullivan
Acting Manager Paul Sprague

Absent: Justin Pomfret

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant
Invocation led by Kenneth Cloutier
Town Sergeant reviewed evacuation plan.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to approve minutes of Town Council meeting on February 11, 2008. All voted Aye. So voted.

APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

1. Authorizing Town Manager to execute agreement with West Bay Community Health

Manager Sprague explained that the town is a member of West Bay Community Health, comprised of different municipalities and school departments who have joined together to purchase health care insurance for its employees in a cost effective manner.

West Bay has agreed to reduce its administrative fee from \$55.00 per month per subscriber to \$38.50 a month for the period of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

This resolution authorizes the town manager to execute an agreement with West Bay to amend the current agreement in order to realize these savings.

Mr. Hyde asked what our net savings would be.

Mr. Sprague noted \$40,000 for municipal for the first year and close to \$160,000 for the schools.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to adopt resolution. All voted Aye. So voted.

PUBLIC HEARING AND ENSUING ACTION

1. Capital Improvement Budget

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to open public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

Raymond Spear, Chairman School Committee
261 Phillips Hill Road

Mr. Spear stated that the school department has submitted its' capital requests. This was prepared before the outcome of the bond vote. Of major concern is that this may have been our last chance at a 50% reimbursement. We are looking into having the bond period extended forward from January 26. This would still mean a \$5 million dollar reimbursement.

As far as the fire codes, we have received permission from the fire marshal to extend that for a year, but the school must provide steps to be taken in each building.

Several buildings need roof repair, and the longer it goes on, the more it will cost. We have boilers that are 35 – 40 years old. There are serious problems with the athletic fields at the high school. Would like your support to go for a second bond issue only for the schools; also ask you to maintain upgrading of the computer equipment. We have 1.2 million dollars that has been approved by the state that we can get reimbursed at 50%, would ask for the town to use their surplus funds, the following year would come back to the town.

Charles Vacca
124 Fairway Drive

Mr. Vacca – Suggested that the town try to place the police station on the federal register and maybe as a result would be open to special grants and funding. Also suggested that the town plan ahead, train our own employees so that we could be able to do our roof repair. Mr. Vacca noted that as per the auditor, he is against dipping to the town's surplus.

Mr. Colaluca to Mr. Lefebvre – Are the bleachers in the Parks and Recreation request for Rice Field?

Mr. Lefebvre – Yes.

Mr. Hyde – I think that we have all agreed that the Island Drive Bridge and the Barbs Hill Bridge are necessities. The Anthony Village project is a 90% state match. That makes sense to me. In the future there will be money coming from TIF districts. In the future TIF can build these projects rather than the taxpayers. Harris Mill will bring in an additional \$648,000 a year; am also looking at Centre of New England as a TIF district.

Mr. Cloutier – I agree, in the long term having TIF for capital improvements is a good idea. Don't want to cut too much here from this budget, don't know if TIF money will be coming in next year or not. Until TIF comes through, we need to be diligent in keeping up the town.

Mr. Hyde – It is a tight year, need to make cuts where you have to.

Manager Sprague reminded council that two years ago we had a 0% capital improvement budget. Last year \$496,000 was approved. This year there is a myriad of things and we have already taken this budget and cut from \$16 million to 1.9 million. Noted that many things need repair, the fleet in DPW is very old.

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

- EXECUTIVE SESSION
RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1) (5)
 1. Acquisition/disposition of property
 2. Personnel

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to go into Executive Session. Roll call vote: Ken Cloutier – Aye; Anthony Colaluca – Aye; Bruce Thompson - Aye; Frank Hyde - Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to come out of executive session. Roll call vote: Ken Cloutier – Aye; Anthony Colaluca – Aye; Bruce Thompson - Aye; Frank Hyde - Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to seal minutes of executive session. All voted Aye. So voted.

PUBLIC FORUM

Nick Cambio spoke at public forum concerning issue with sewer assessments regarding his development off of Hopkins Hill Road. Many residents from the Highlands condominiums on Hopkins Hill Road were in attendance.

Mr. Paul Harrington spoke indicating that even though he has paid his assessment, that this is a burden. Suggested that the town put this money in escrow until lawsuit is completed.

Councilman Thompson indicated to Mr. Cambio that this was poor timing on Mr. Cambio's part to bring these residents to the Council meeting tonight, as there is ongoing litigation, the town is working on this and not able to discuss at this time.

Mr. Cambio spoke regarding the many letters he sent to the previous town manager regarding the Maisie Quinn interceptor. He spoke of the tax treaty that he has with the town and of his agreement to pay 1.9 million over 10 years to assist the town with sewers for lower Maisie Quinn.

Asst. Solicitor Sullivan – This Town Council is interested in resolving this matter. Have engaged professionals and are working on the issues of assessments.

Gary Cote - We need to figure this out amicably; this does not just involve Mr. Cambio's condos.

George Glover
Jaclyn Drive

Mr. Glover – Lives in Highlands and has also paid his assessments.

Bob DiPadua
62 Laurel Avenue

The Town Council and Nick Cambio need to end this. There has to be a resolution and an end.

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

Town Clerk