

Town Council Meeting
February 25, 2013

EXECUTIVE SESSION
Per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (2)

For the purpose of discussing matters of litigation
For the purpose of discussing matters pertaining to collective bargaining

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Present: President Gary Cote, Vice-President Kerry McGee, Councilman Jendzejec, Councilwoman Carlson, Gregory Laboissonniere

Town Manager Thomas Hoover, Town Solicitor Frederick Tobin

Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation by Vice-President McGee
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

President's Comments

President Cote commended the Public Works Department for the tremendous job done during the blizzard of 2013.

Motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to seal minutes of tonight's Executive Session. All voted aye.

Motion was made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve Town Council minutes from February 4, 2013. All voted aye.

PROCLAMATION

President Cote presented proclamations to Chuck Smith and Louis Testa of the Department of Public Works, Guy Lefebvre of the Department of Parks and Recreation and Chief Bryan Volpe of the Police Department and Emergency Operations Center for the outstanding performance of each department during the Blizzard of 2013 (NEMO). He also publicly thanked and commended the town fire departments and rescue teams.

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

School Committee member Ann Dickson reported on school events. On February 17, three members of the School Committee, the Superintendent and the Director of Compliance attended a workshop at Rhode Island College with the Department of Education. Discussion took place on topics including the BEP (basic educational plan), graduation requirements and NECAP exams. As a result our Director of Compliance is creating a school policy and school administrators are developing a plan to prepare "at risk" students to graduate.

On February 20, the Feinstein girls' basketball team won the state championship for the second year in a row. We are also happy to report that one of our high school

teachers, Julie Boyle, has been awarded Rhode Island Teacher of the Year. The School Committee continues to review the Superintendent's budget.

RESOLUTIONS

Appointing members to the Coventry Land Trust

Motion made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to appoint Patricia Morgan-Smith and Alicia Pomfret to the Coventry Land Trust. All voted Aye. Ms. Pomfret was sworn into office by President Cote.

Appointing members to the Sewer Subcommittee

Motion was made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to appoint Leonard Piette and Judy Simpanen as full members and Joseph Spada as an alternate member. All voted Aye. Mr. Spada and Ms. Simpanen were sworn into office by President Cote.

Appointing members to the Personnel Board

Motion made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Vice-President McGee to appoint Kevin McGee, Michael Brault and John Studley to the Personnel Board. All voted aye. Mr. Brault and Mr. Studley were sworn into office by President Cote.

Receiving and accepting the Fiscal Year 2011/2012 Independent Audit

Paul Dansereau of Baxter Dansereau & Associates LLP presented the town's annual Financial Audit Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012 and noted that much of the detail information is located at the back of the report.

He gave a brief overview of Page 13 discussing the Town's Statement of Net Assets (cash, buildings, vehicles) and Liabilities; Page 14 - Statement of Activity, which gives more of a long term picture; Pages 15 and 16 - governmental fees, revenue and expenditures.

He referred to page 17 and summarized the Reconciliation of the State of Revenues, including expenditures and changes in the fund balance of the governmental funds; on pages 18 and 19 discussed the town's assets in proprietary funds including the sewer enterprise fund and on Page 20 the statement of cash flow showing usage of the enterprise money. Page 21 shows the town's fiduciary funds, police pension fund, municipal pension fund and private purpose funds.

He also pointed out the single audit section with the town's internal control on page 123 and the town's schedule of expenditures of federal awards on Pages 127 and 128. He is happy to report that there were no compliance issues and no issues on the financial end of the audit.

Manager Hoover added that the Government Accounting Standards Board, (GASB) has all types of restrictions, rules and regulations. It might be helpful, especially for a layperson to understand, if you go to page 68 of the audit where you can see that we

actually under spent our budget by \$2.7 million. There are a number of reasons for that, but in the Police Department we had a very low number of personnel compared to what was budgeted due to about seven officers out on military duty. You won't see this every year, and it is hard to even call it a surplus when we have pension liabilities. (See full financial audit report in Council folder)

Councilman Laboissonniere raised a question on Page 18, as to why there is land listed under the internal service fund/self insurance reserve in the amount of \$141,600 and what type of asset would that be as he thought this is only a cash investment fund. Vice-President McGee also had a question and referred to Page 32 under the custodial credit risks, where the report indicates that as of June 30, 2012 there is \$4,260,747 of the bank balance that is uninsured. Manager Hoover asked the Finance Director to check into.

Motion was made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

Approval to issue school related debt through Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation (RIHEBC)

Manager Hoover advised that this is standard procedure and pertains to the five school bonds that were approved last November by the voters. According to RIHEBC, a resolution must be adopted by the town's governing body before issuance of the bonds can take place. This is scheduled to go before RIHBEC next week.

Motion was made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Vice-President McGee to adopt resolution. All voted aye.

PUBLIC HEARING

Amending Section 106-4 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances with regard to schedule of permit fees

Motion made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to open public hearing. All Aye.

Manager Hoover reported that after a survey of other cities and towns, we found that our building permit fees are low compared to others around the state. By allowing the proposed fee changes in this amendment, it will put us in line with the rest of the state.

Bruce Zaloudek, Building Inspector, agreed and further explained that our plumbing and electrical inspectors are paid only half of a \$25.00 fee to inspect, sometimes for example, being paid only \$12.50 to go out and inspect the same property twice in Western Coventry. After 20 years, I feel it is time for an increase and agree that it will bring us more in line with the rest of the state.

Motion made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to close public hearing. All voted aye.

Motion made by Vice-President McGee seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to adopt ordinance amendment. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Sen. Raptakis advised that there are about six bills in the General Assembly that will affect Coventry in some way. The bills can be viewed on the state website. He suggested that maybe the Council could meet in the future to decide which pieces of legislation they will support, then adopt resolutions to submit to the Senate and House. Council will also have an opportunity to amend legislation.

Deborah Pagano, 27 Catalpa Way, spoke on behalf of CASE. She inquired about the status of baseline testing by Sage regarding Reservoir Road property. Manager Hoover replied that he did not have a time frame yet and the CASE organization will be contacted once Sage goes out to the site.

Ms. Pagano had some concerns about solid waste and the potential for wetlands violations on the property and asked what the town is doing about it. Manager Hoover replied that jurisdiction would lie with DEM. He will check with the zoning officer to see if DEM has been notified.

Ed Warzycha, IT Department, announced that the new town website is up and running with a new website address of Coventryri.org.

A motion was made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye.

Town Clerk