

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
February 26, 2007

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Anthony Colaluca to come out of executive session. Voice vote taken: Kenneth Cloutier – Aye; Anthony Colaluca – Aye; Justin Pomfret - Aye; Bruce Thompson – Aye; Frank Hyde – Aye.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to seal minutes of Executive Session. All voted Aye. So voted.

WORKSESSION – 6:00 p.m.

- Annual report from auditors, Parmelee, Poirier and Associates

Mr. Paul Dansereau presented the Town Council with Coventry's Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2006 along with a management letter and comments. (Reports on file)

Mr. Dansereau gave overview regarding last year's fiscal report. He stated that there is a strong balance in the general fund, only downside being pension issues, a problem that is common among many cities and towns. Mr. Dansereau noted that the pension is an issue to be dealt with over time, not presenting an immediate problem.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 6:30 p.m.

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 given by Kenneth Cloutier.
President Pomfret reviewed evacuation plan.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Frank Hyde to approve minutes from Town Council meeting on February 12, 2007. All voted Aye. So voted.

- Public comment

Kenneth DiPietro, Superintendent
Coventry School Department

Mr. DiPietro distributed summary chart to Town Council, the result of a report by the Capital Improvement Study Team (CIST report). This summary projects long range capital improvements for the school department.

Wayne Asselin
30 Lorraine Avenue

Mr. Asselin suggested the possibility of giving Arnold Road and Hopkins Hill Roads back to the State to take care of and save the town some money.

Manager Kerbel stated that he had spoken with the Chief Engineer of DOT regarding this issue a few months ago, hasn't heard anything recently.

Ms. Barrett said the state has offered to make road "swaps", but our roads are in better shape than the state roads.

Resolution appointing one member to the Board of Canvassers

Manager Kerbel explained that this resolution was put on the agenda in error. The Republican Town Committee has to submit a list of five names of candidates for the Board. Mr. Kerbel also confirmed that Mr. Hudson does not wish to be reappointed.

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Frank Hyde to table resolution until proper documentation is filed. All voted Aye. So voted.

- Public Hearings

Upper Maise Quinn Sewer Ordinance

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to continue public hearing to March 26, 2007. All voted Aye. So voted.

Adoption of Capital Budget

Resolution # 28-07-2735 adopting Capital Improvement Budget

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

Manager Kerbel – As required, the Town Council must act on the Capital Budget adoption thirty days prior to the manager introducing the operating budget to you. At the last meeting, department heads were present to go over their capital needs, and this is the result with our requests of \$496,600 (a 3%) increase over FY 2007. You'll note that the projects are listed.

Mr. Kerbel indicated that he felt that some of the requested items would qualify more for bonding than inclusion in the capital improvement budget.

Richard Sanetti gave presentation regarding Tax Increment Financing for bonding purposes rather than seeking a general obligation bond. Mr. Sanetti stated that a study commission had been formed regarding the use of TIF. He noted that former Town Councilmen Gregory Laboissonniere and Robert Thibeault worked very hard on this study. Findings were that TIF is recommended for Capital Improvement projects.

TIF is about breaking away from traditional taxpayer funding and building assets without raising the tax rate. You use the incremental difference to pay the bond. Mr. Sanetti urged the Town Council to implement tax increment financing and capture the revenue. Especially with the effects of Senate Bill 3050, other communities will also be looking for answers. The Town Council has the power to do something. This is in your hands. It is about taking the initiative and it is about the future. It's time to designate the districts and get moving on it.

Gregory Laboissonniere
131 Colvintown Road

Mr. Laboissonniere thanked Mr. Sanetti for his passion regarding tax increment financing. TIF gave the town the ability to make their own decisions. It is very clear that you cannot go back in time. You need to set your TIF district. With every certificate of occupancy that is issued at Centre of New England for example, you lose the capability of a larger TIF. Please identify your district, establish the time line and you can start immediately.

Manager Kerbel- Would need to finalize TIF by July 1. Even if we choose to go to a general obligation bond, would still be by the first of July.

Jeff Hakanson, Tiogue lake Association
30 Lakeside Drive

Thanked the Town Council on behalf of Tiogue Lake Association for putting money into the drainage control for the lake.

Mr. Sanetti reminded the Town Council of the tour the Council had previously taken, what they saw and what was needed. Three possible TIF locations are the Centre of New England, Brookside Plaza on Route 3 and Harris Mill on Main Street in Phenix. This needs to be done right now without wasting the tax rate.

President Pomfret asked Finance Director Warren West what he thought about TIF.

Mr. West stated that he is very "pro" TIF, especially with the enactment of Senate Bill 3050. TIF gives us the opportunity to work with the town not being on the hook.

Mr. Kerbel – Suggested a work session with fiscal advisors regarding TIF and the impacts of bonding with TIF.

Mr. West – TIF essentially would fall under the control of the Town Council, not the state or federal government.

Mr. Ghizzarelli – Feels that this may be the way to go. Would like to have public hearing and work session.

Gary Cote – Take into consideration that time is of the essence.

Mr. Kerbel – The risk is greater with TIF, it comes with a higher interest rate and more costs.

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

Mr. Hyde – Would like to add to the Capital Improvement Budget the \$15,000.00 for Anthony Village.

Mr. West – Can take out of the impact fees rather than add to Capital Budget.

Council agreed that \$15,000.00 be taken from impact fees rather than add to Capital Budget.

Mr. Hyde – How much money was spent last year out of the capital budget?

Manager Kerbel - \$482,000.

Mr. West – I would have to check on what exactly was spent, approximately \$482,000.00.

Mr. Hyde – Do you have a ball park figure as to what is left?

Mr. West - \$20,000.00.

Mr. Hyde – Believe that Harris Mill should be used as a TIF district.

Mr. Thompson - What is the deadline for school fire codes?

Mr. DiPietro – June 2008.

Mr. Hyde stated that he would like to prepare a resolution designating Harris Mill as a TIF district.

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

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye. So voted.

Town Clerk