

SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
February 28, 2008

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

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

Solicitor Patrick Sullivan
Acting Manager Paul Sprague

President Pomfret - At the beginning of this budget, the total requests were over \$16 million dollars. That was narrowed down to 1.9 million. Last year \$496,000 was approved, the year before that, -0-. Manager Sprague enumerated his recommendations, totalling \$1,061,760 this year.

President Pomfret recommended Town Council's C.I.P. as follows:

- Public Works/Engineering
Barbs Hill and Island Bridge \$27,000
- Public Works/Roads & Bridges
35,000 GVW dump truck \$112,500
- Public Works/Vehicle Maintenance
Hydraulic Vehicle lift \$30,000
- Public Works/Building Maintenance
Town Hall Annex/Roof \$67,000

President Pomfret - The hydraulic lift will save us money in the long run in maintenance, being able to work on our own vehicles rather than send everything out. Can work on police vehicles also, which are now outsourced. Parks and Recreation has their own mechanic.

Mr. Thompson - Good for preventative maintenance also.

Mr. Hyde feels this would be a good investment.

Mr. Colaluca asked how Col. DaSilva feels about doing our own maintenance.

Col. DaSilva – Depends on the turn around time and how long the vehicle will be down.

President Pomfret explained that the town hall annex roof is in desperate need of repair. Manager Sprague said that only a portion of the roof will be done.

President Pomfret - If you look at these four numbers, we have come up with a total of \$236,500 for a total on DPW capital budget.

Councilman Colaluca – I understand that we are looking into receiving grants, and that is why we are striking the HVAC for the Town Hall Annex.

Mr. Thompson believes that we should allocate the \$99,000 for stormwater improvements.

Mr. West – We haven't recorded any money having been expended for that project (stormwater).

President Pomfret – Stated that \$99,000 for stormwater improvements adopted in the FY 08 capital budget have not been done and asked Mr. Sprague to see that it gets done.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve Capital Improvement Budget for DPW in the amount of \$236,500. All voted Aye. So voted (Approved 4-0, Councilman Hyde arrived late after the vote)

Parks and Recreation

Councilman Cloutier – I understand that along with the Anthony Village \$10,000 that we will get a grant. Mr. Lefebvre explained that for our \$10,000, the state should reimburse \$90,000.

Regarding the athletic field fencing – I think it makes sense that for the investment the town has put into Rice Field, should make sure it is protected. I suggest taking out \$48,841 and leave the athletic fencing at \$15,000, which should be enough to complete the security fencing to protect our investment. Also, I would strike out the roof replacement and fleet replacement, but leave the bleachers in at Rice field (\$36,419). The bottom line on Parks and Recreation comes to \$61,419.

Mr. Colaluca asked about the \$25,000 donation from Walgreens. Manager Sprague explained that we do not have that donation at this point and can't count on it until a building permit is issued.

Motion made by Kenneth Cloutier seconded by Anthony Colaluca to adopt Parks and Recreation capital improvement budget at \$61,419. All voted Aye. So voted.

Police Department

Mr. Colaluca – There are two items on the police list. One is a detective vehicle and the other is repair of parking lot. We are removing the detective vehicle – will transfer the town manager's vehicle to the police station. Unfortunately have to cut out parking lot as well, will have to wait another year.

Col. DaSilva stated that he has a price of \$50,000 to do a parking lot, from Dennis Smith in DPW.

President Pomfret would like to add back in \$50,000 for parking lot for police station.

Mr. Colaluca mentioned that the Council is looking into acquiring the property next to the police station for a parking lot. That was one of the reasons that we removed the parking lot from this year's capital improvement budget.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to add in \$50,000 to police budget. Total Police Department Capital Improvement Budget will be \$50,000. All voted Aye. So voted.

School Department

Mr. Sprague – The fire marshal and deputy have informed us that they will prepare grant applications for the fire code upgrades. These upgrades can be phased in over 18-24 months. One school would cost about \$100,000; two schools about \$200,000. Chief Seltzer will assist with applying for federal funds, maybe \$400,000 to \$500,000 under a grant. In the last four out of five years he has been successful in securing federal funds.

Mr. Hyde – Regarding the reimbursement for state aid, would like to know how that looks, the 50/50 match, is there anything in the account that has been returned to the town?

Mr. West (Finance Director) - \$160,000.00

Superintendent DiPietro indicated that the \$160,000 has already been applied to operating revenues.

Mr. Hyde – Regarding fire code upgrades, my recommendation would be to appropriate \$100,000. I know this will be phased in.

Mr. Colaluca – Believe \$100,000 will be enough for one school.

Mr. DiPietro - Probably Blackrock is first.

Mr. Cloutier – What else is left?

Mr. DiPietro – Blackrock, Oak Haven, Tiogue the physical plant and the high school.

Mr. Cloutier – If we do Blackrock first, and Chief Seltzer can get the \$400,000-\$500,000 next fall, then we can conceivably do the rest.

Mr. DiPietro - If there is \$100,000 allocated, we will do whatever we have to do to see how many we can get done. Even if we have to do the little physical plant, we will try to put our own monies against it. We will know how we stand once the school year begins.

Mr. Hyde – Need to talk about roof replacement. What are the priorities on roof replacement.

Mr. DiPietro – The rear end of the Feinstein administrative wing is top priority. The front is done. This is the worst building, need \$350,000, there are sump pumps in there now. This is the wing where the vo-tech school was. The high school is the oldest roof, but it is huge, no money to do that, will cost \$3 million. Blackrock needs to be done; our interest is to do the fire codes this year.

Mr. Spear – If you could move forward with some of the fire code work, we could do one roof now. We cannot do all of these things now, but as soon as we can.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to approve a total of \$150,000 for the school department, which will consist of \$100,000 for fire code upgrades and \$50,000 for roof repair. All voted Aye. So voted.

LIBRARY

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to adopt a zero dollar Capital Improvement Budget for the library this year. All voted Aye. So voted. (4-0, Councilman Colaluca left meeting early)

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye. (4-0) So voted.

Town Clerk