

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
April 9, 2007 – 6:00 p.m.

WORK SESSION

- School Budget

Presentation by Superintendent Ken DiPietro. Mr. DiPietro gave overview of the six sections of the school budget. (See handouts in council folder) Budget increase requested of 5.25% over the 2007 FY allocation to schools.

Mr. DiPietro stated that there is a declining trend in enrollment, down from 2003. There are about 600 less children in elementary schools today. We are also facing possible program reductions at the high school as a result of lower enrollment in certain classes. Mr. DiPietro asked for support of the Town Council regarding School Committee's proposed budget for the 2007-08 school year.

Results of lower enrollment will also have an impact on staffing, anticipating decline of approximately 12 teachers. Mr. DiPietro also outlined expected increases in fringe benefits, services and supplies; he also notes that costs for tech services have been moved into the information services line. Also figuring into the budget are implications concerning the possibility that state aid could be less, tuitions and rentals could be lower, not sure on insurance rates yet along with certain costs for renovations. Effort was made to present a budget compliant with Senate Bill 3050.

Mr. Thompson asked if reductions were all retirees.

Mr. DiPietro said no, maybe half.

Mr. Colaluca asked if all towns provide dental coverage. Mr. DiPietro indicated that Coventry has one of the better plans.

- Code Revisions

Solicitor Sullivan told the council that a process was undertaken last year to revise the code book. It has been redone with General Code and just a few changes have been made:

1. Established the ability of Municipal Court to assess fines from \$300-\$500.
2. Changes have been made in fire codes. The state has jurisdiction over this, permits will be needed for explosives and blasting and this new ordinance will be in compliance with the new fire code.
3. Article 1, Section 4 Parks and Recreation having to do with proper bathing attire.

- 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 Anthony Colaluca
President Pomfret reviewed evacuation plan.

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve Town Council minutes of March 26, 2007. All voted Aye. So voted.

- PUBLIC COMMENT

Joseph Despres
39 Anthony Street

Mr. Despres believes the town should continue to bill him separately for the 50% interest he holds in his property, just the way it has been done for the past 30 years.

Mr. Sullivan – Explained that by doing it this way, it protects people from those who may not pay their 50% interest share of taxes.

Bob Thibeault
18 Grant Drive

Mr. Thibeault distributed handouts to council regarding implementation of wind turbines. This is something I had worked on with Greg Laboissonniere, who couldn't make it here tonight. The Town needs to increase revenue. Other municipalities have benefited from this. You have the ability to generate electricity. I propose that Coventry investigate at a location such as the former Picillo site on Pig Hill Lane. We need a feasibility study. If confirmed, the Town could realize quite an impact. Town would own both the land and the turbines. Town could sell excess electricity. Proceeds could be used to work on capital projects. For more information there is a website at www.hullwind.org. I have spoken with Senator Blais and Representative Sullivan at the state level and they are both interested.

President Pomfret feels this is a project worth looking into.

Mr. Thibeault suggested that possibly TIF could be used on this project.

Mr. Hyde – Noted that there is a Senate Bill LC00503 relating to education. He endorses passage of this bill and believes that if someone wants to give or donate to the school department, we should be able to take it.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Resolution # 39-07-2746 appointing Municipal Pension Board of Trustees
2. Resolution #40-07-2747 appointing Police Pension Board of Trustees
3. Application by Alice Conneally for perpetual care in Plainland Cemetery
4. Tax abatements for month of March in the amount of \$126,381.81 with additions of \$4,320.00.
5. Resolution #41-07-2748 authorizing the Town Manager to execute agreement regarding Community Development Block Grant

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Frank Hyde to remove item #5 from Consent Agenda. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to adopt items 1-4 on consent agenda. All voted Aye. So voted.

Maren Luciani of the Planning Department gave 2007 Community Development Block Grant presentation to Town Council.

Town Manager Kerbel explained that this resolution also authorizes the Town Manager to file the application with the Community Development office.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Frank Hyde to approve item # 5 - resolution authorizing the Town Manager to file application and execute agreement regarding Community Development Block Grant. All voted Aye. So voted.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution #42-07-2749 endorsing legislation H 5990 relating to State Affairs and Government – State Rural Conservation

President Pomfret explained that this resolution is for the protection of forest lands.

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to adopt resolution. All voted Aye. So voted.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Application by James Boynton, 96 Saxony Drive, Warwick, RI for Transfer of Class B liquor license at Come Along Inn, Inc., 402-404 Washington Street, (new owner)

Present: James Boynton, applicant
Joel Chase, Attorney representing Mr. Boynton
Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to open public hearing. All voted Aye. So voted.

No one spoke in favor, no one opposed.

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

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to approve transfer of Class B liquor license subject to approval of the Board of Health and receipt of good standing letter from Division of Taxation. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Bruce Thompson seconded by Frank Hyde to go into executive session. Roll call vote taken. All voted Aye. So voted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

R.I.G.L. 42-46-5 (a) (2)

- The Oaks *Town of Coventry v Spectrum Properties 2004-0377*
- Centre of New England *DEM v. Town of Coventry 05-346T LDA*

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Bruce Thompson to come out of Executive Session. Roll call vote. All voted Aye.

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

President Pomfret indicated that a vote was taken in Executive Session to settle the case of The Oaks, Spectrum Properties v. Town of Coventry No. 2004-0377 by unanimous vote subject to the conditions contained in the letter from Spectrum.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Town Clerk

