

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

June 4, 2012

Present: President Gary Cote, Vice-President Kerry McGee, Councilman Jendzejec  
Councilman Mattson, Councilman Spear

Town Manager Thomas Hoover  
Town Solicitor Frederick Tobin

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant  
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

President's Comments

President Cote reminded everyone that the Walk for Life is taking place Friday night at the Coventry High School. Any support will be appreciated.

Councilman Spear announced that he will not seek re-election due to health issues and other personal matters. He is honored to have been able to serve on the Town Council and contribute to this community.

President Cote thanked Councilman Spear for his service and remarked that it has been a privilege working with him.

Approval of Town Council Minutes from May 7 and May 14, 2012

Councilman Spear questioned Resolution #14 of the minutes of May 14, 2012. Manager Hoover explained that the resolution could not be acted upon due to pending action in court. The resolution is not moving forward.

Motion made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilman Spear to approve minutes of May 7 and May 14, 2012. All voted aye.

SWEARING IN OF POLICE OFFICERS

President Cote swore in Officer Christopher R. Cote and Officer Jonathan Nickerson. Councilman McGee swore in Officer Devan J. Casey

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Application by Western Coventry Fire Department for one day Live show Entertainment license for a fundraiser on June 30, 2012
2. Resolution approving sewer tie in at 671-673 Washington Street
3. Change of ownership of Colwell's Campground to Bamford Lakeside Properties, LLC (Brian and Carol Bamford)
4. Application by Greene Public Library for Class F (one day) beer and wine license on June 23, 2012 for a wine tasting event from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
5. Application by Johnson's Pond Civic Association for fireworks permit on July 4, 2012 (Rain date July 5, 2012)
6. Approving the tax abatements for May 2012.
7. Renewal of Auto Salvage License, Russell L. Chatelle, dba RC Repair, 625 Hammet Road

Motion made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilman McGee to approve consent agenda. All voted aye.

Councilman Spear moved that the \$100 live show entertainment fee for Western Coventry Fire Department be waived.

Solicitor Tobin stated that there is no provision in the ordinance for waiving fees.

The council can collect the money in form of a fee and then give a donation back to the cause.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to donate the \$100 fee back to the Western Coventry Fire District.

## RESOLUTIONS

1. Appointing a bipartisan nine (9) member School Building Committee in conformance with Section 4.07 (d) of the Town of Coventry Home Rule Charter

Councilman Raymond Spear and Councilman Ted Jendzejec volunteered to be appointed as Town Council members.

Motion made by Councilman Mcgee seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to appoint Nancy Sprengelmeyer, Thomas Hetherman, Raymond Dionne, Matthew Morse, Peter Stringfellow, William Finnegan and John Colaluca. All voted aye.

2. Appointing an eight member bipartisan Design and Building Committee to develop a Representative Stephen J. Anderson Memorial Park on Town owned property adjacent to Tiogue Lake in the vicinity of the spillway on Tiogue Avenue

Councilman Spear recommended that it would be in the communities' best interest to identify some of the outstanding things this individual contributed that makes it desirable for this recognition.

Bill Hall responded that Stephen Anderson served several terms representing the Town of Coventry in the General Assembly. He felt Tiogue Lake was an asset to this town and did everything he could to make this asset better. It was Bill Halls recommendation that we identify this particular area adjacent to the lake as a memorial to honor him.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman McGee to appoint William Hall, Robert DiPadua, Raymond Sullivan, Jeff Hakenson, Gerry Narkiewicz, Rita Anderson, Jeremy Anderson and Christopher Anderson. All voted aye.

3. Approving the renewal of a contract to Rambone Disposal for use of the transfer station and the hauling of waste to the Central Landfill, Johnston, RI.

Manager Hoover stated the contract with Rambone Disposal will run out at the end of this month. There is an option in the contract to renew for another 3 years with no change in price, providing the same service.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman McGee to approve resolution. All voted aye.

4. Approving the award of a contract to PFM for financial advising services

Manager Hoover recommended the award of the bid to PFM. We have used them for several years and they have provided excellent service.

Motion made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Spear to approve resolution. All voted aye.

Motion made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Matteson to deal with Resolution Items #5, 6, and 7 at one time. All voted Aye.

5. Approving the proposed EDA sewer extension project for Flat River Road and Industrial Drive at an estimated cost \$3,270,812 in EDA grant and financing from the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency

6. Approving the proposed sewer extension project to Town Hall, the Department of Public Works and the Town Hall Annex buildings at an estimated cost of \$750,000 in financing from the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency

7. Approving Contract Amendment #1 for a redesign of the Flat River Road and Industrial Drive Sewer Project and the extension of a sewer to the Town Hall, The Department of Public Works and the Town Hall Annex, by James J. Geremia & Associates, Inc. at an estimated extra cost of \$42,788 as part of financing from the Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency

Manager Hoover confirmed funding is available for all three projects. The extension project for Flat River Road and Industrial Drive at an estimated cost of \$3,270,812 will be paid for through a Federal EDA grant with additional financing.

The sewer extension project to Town Hall, the Department of Public Works and the Town Hall Annex buildings at an estimated cost of \$750,000 will be financed through the Rhode Island Clean Water Agency.

This will save the taxpayers' money by hooking up to sewers instead of trying to constantly repair septic systems.

Manager Hoover added to do all this will require a change order to the existing engineering contract with James J. Geremia & Associate, Inc. in order to redesign it at an estimated cost of \$42,788. He recommends and supports this project. If we are going to do this very important project we should do it right.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman McGee to adopt Resolutions #5, 6 and 7. All voted aye.

8. Approving a Power Purchase Agreement with Wind Energy Development LLC of North Kingstown, RI for the installation of a wind turbine project at the Town owned Picillo Farm at no cost to the Town of Coventry

A bid was received from WIND Energy Development LLC to allow for the installation of two turbines providing 8 megawatts of electricity, which is very close to what the Town and School Department needs are for the whole year. The 20 year agreement will save the town money as well as the taxpayers. After evaluation, discussions with Wind Energy and meetings with residents, Manager Hoover advised moving forward with the power purchase agreement.

Councilman Mattson asked if there will be an option to build more than the two turbines.

Steve Wood assistant legal counsel for Wind Energy responded that they cannot fit three turbines, and the two turbines were more closely matched. The agreement does not allow for more than two turbines.

President Cote added that the town will be able to track energy costs over the next 20 years at no cost to the town or the taxpayers. There is potential of upwards of 15 million dollars in savings over the next 20 years. The 20 year agreement could be renewed if the site and the project are still feasible. If the town decides not to renew then Wind Energy Development will be given a certain amount of time to get their project down and off our property. There is not much more that can be done with the Picillo property. Future councils will be in a better position because we will have a set cost for at least the power that we use in the town when it comes to budgetary items.

Solicitor Tobin explained the changes to the agreement. Because it is a hazardous site the most recent change in the agreement indicates that the hazardous waste to be cleaned up will only be hazardous waste that is generated from the point the agreement is signed going forward. Safety shutdowns have also been changed today and that is basically to indicate that if a tower on the site needed to be taken down to put up a second tower and there was a shutdown of the site, so that we couldn't have the turbines working, the town would be responsible for the cost incurred during that shutdown.

Motion made by Councilman Mattson seconded by Councilman Spear to accept the contract. All voted aye.

9. Approving the award of a contract for the design of the Pawtuxet River Riverbank Project

The council received a grant to remediate the property adjacent to the Anthony Mill and Concordia to put it back to its original condition before the flooding of March, 2010. The two mill owners came up with a 10% match and this will be done with no cost to the taxpayers.

Planning Director Paul Sprague advised that the USDA and the Resource Conservation Services informed us that three million dollars is available to the town for remediation of the river, replacement and design of new sea walls and to remove debris and stabilize the tower. They set a date for completion of 8/26/12.

Thirteen engineers participated in a prebid meeting and site walk. Five bids were opened valuing in range from \$214,000 – \$628,790 for design engineering services and construction oversight. We recommended the Town Council engage the services of Fuss & O'Neil for \$214,900. By way of background Fuss & O'Neil assigned eleven engineers for this project and has worked on over 500 water based projects. Somewhere in the vicinity of ten million dollars will go into this restoration. We will have to go out to bid for the actual construction.

Motion made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Mattson to adopt resolution. All voted aye.

10. Requesting the Rhode Island General Assembly to approve Senate Bill S 2928 entitled "An Act Relating to Taxation – Taxation of Farm, Forest and Open Space Land" to enable the Tax Assessor to save postage in the first mailing of a form to landowners to confirm that space is still farm, forest or open land

Tax Assessor Pat Picard supports approval of Senate Bill S2928 to save the town postage fees. Right now we are required to send mail out at the certified postage rate. This bill will allow mail to be sent at the first class rate saving about \$2,000.

Motion made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Mattson to adopt resolution. All voted aye.

11. Approving the exchange of a retired police cruiser to the Central Coventry Fire District in return for a Bi-directional amplifier (BDA) provided to the Coventry Police Department by the Central Coventry Fire District

Manager Hoover advised the council to return this resolution to him to send out to bid.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Mattson to refer back to the manager for further clarification. All voted aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeff Hakanson, 30 Lakeside Drive thanked the Town Council for recommending himself, Gerry Narkawicz and members of the Tiogue Lake Association to sit on the Design and Building Committee to develop the memorial park in the name of Stephen Anderson. Steve was a true gentlemen, well spoken and a true statesman and representative of the Town of Coventry for many years.

Bob Thibault, 18 Grant Drive, asked if Wind Energy Development LLC has the exclusive development rights over any future projects that may occur at the Picillo site or is it strictly just for the installation of the two turbines. If technology improves, where you could put in a new classic turbine or some other type of device to capture wind power, does the town have the ability to put those items on there or would the wind energy people have the exclusive development rights over the entire parcel? What is the total cost of providing electricity to the Town and Municipal buildings?

Manager Hoover explained Wind Energy would have review rights over future projects. But if it does not hamper the production of the energy by these wind turbines then there wouldn't be a problem. And we would have control only of the site. Manager Hoover will find out and provide the information regarding the total cost of providing electricity to the town and municipal buildings.

Greg Labossonniere, 131 Colvintown Rd, thanked the council for moving forward on the wind turbine project. He commended Councilman Spear on his many years of service in the town of Coventry. He is also in agreement with President Cote to look for more outside revenue sources.

Ralph Pratt, 900 Hopkins Hollow Rd., Greene, thanked Manager Hoover for supplying him with a copy of the power purchase agreement. Hopes everything works out.

Neil Fielder, 72 Columbia Avenue – Mr. Fielder came in to pick up the proclamation for the Monsignor Blessing Council's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event. Since the proclamation was not on the agenda, Manager Hoover will have the proclamation signed by the Town Council president before the event on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Mattson to adjourn meeting. All voted aye.

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Deputy Town Clerk