

TOWN OF COVENTRY  
Town Council Meeting  
July 7, 2015 – 6:00 P.M.

The Council meeting began with a roll call with all Council Members present in addition to Attorney Bill Bernstein and the undersigned.

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all present and a review of the Emergency Evacuation Plan was provided by the undersigned.

The first item of business was Discussion and resulting action on awarding a contract to R.T. Nunes & Sons, Inc. West Warwick, RI for the installation of sidewalks and associated curb and pavement work on Reservoir Road at a cost of \$625,000, to be financed from a State of Rhode Island Clean Water Finance Agency loan and the Infrastructure Bond passed in the November 2014 referendum.

The undersigned explained the project. \$304,700 of the project will be the funding of sidewalks as granted through a loan by the RI Clean Water Finance Agency (RICWFA) in 2014. The remaining work consisting of curb and pavement will be at a cost of \$320,300 paid for exclusively by the infrastructure bond passed by the electorate in November of 2014.

Greg Laboissonniere asked why the cost of the entire project was lower than that which was bid by RT Nunes & Sons, \$625,000. The undersigned explained that Public Works Director, Kevin McGee had negotiated the cost of that bid down to that price after clarification with RT Nunes & Sons. The undersigned explained that this could be done particularly when only a single bid is received.

Tammy Duxbury questioned why only one bid was received and where the bids were advertised. It was indicated that four companies were sent bids; one additional company asked for a copy of the bid specification and an advertisement was placed in the Kent County Times for at least two weeks. She asked why there was no advertisement in the Providence Journal, at which time the undersigned indicated that the Providence Journal was much more expensive than the Kent County Times.

Discussion continued into the integrity of the final project to be able to hold truck traffic. It was explained that the road would be reclaimed and a new base and wearing course would be placed on Reservoir Road which would be stronger than the pavement that currently exists.

Town Engineer Bob Joyal explained that the sidewalks would be on the east side of Reservoir Road and that traffic would have to be reduced to one lane during the majority of the project. The project length is estimated to be eight weeks and therefore not able to be completed before the beginning of school at the Coventry High School.

Much concern was voiced about the traffic control which the undersigned indicated would be performed by Police Detail. Bob Joyal explained that the Police Detail would be paid for by the Town. The project will be inspected by Mr. Joyal as well as the designing engineer, Crossman Engineering.

It was indicated that the RICWFA was anxious to get this project started inasmuch as the monies were granted in 2014 when construction should have begun. With the late start of construction it should meet the requirements of this loan which was received in 2014.

Discussion then moved to the width of the final, completed construction. Tammy Duxbury indicated that the road was much too narrow and why the Town could not obtain property to widen the project before construction began. The undersigned indicated that this would delay the project as much as two years and place the funding from RICWFA in jeopardy. In addition, the cost of the project would escalate significantly. It was indicated that if more width was needed in the future, it would probably have to come from the western side of Reservoir Road.

The undersigned indicated that the project will include yellow flashing lights at the entrance of the High School on Reservoir Road.

The undersigned also indicated that a private force main sewer exists on the east side of Reservoir Road from the manufactured home park to Route 3. This sewer encroaches on much private property but also in the right of way, it would lie under the newly placed sidewalk.

Discussion ensued between Tammy Duxbury and Kerry McGee as to why the sewer could not be moved before construction began. Again the undersigned indicated that it would delay the project and add a significant amount of expense to it.

With all discussion having been had, a motion was made by Mr. McGee and seconded by Ms. Duxbury to approve the award of the contract to RT Nunes & Sons. The Town Council voted 5-0 to award the contract.

A roll call vote was had to move into this executive session with all five Council Persons favoring to do so at 6:48 p.m. on Tuesday, July 7, 2015 to discuss matters of possible litigation as per RIGL 42-46-5(a) (2) and matters related to the question of the investment of public funds where the premature disclosure would adversely affect the public interest as per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (7)

After returning from executive session, a motion was made by Vice-President Carlson seconded by Councilman McGee to seal minutes. All voted aye.

A motion was made by Ms. Duxbury and seconded by Ms. Carlson to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas R. Hoover  
Town Manager