

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
Coventry Town Hall Council Chambers
1670 Flat River Road, Coventry, RI
July 9, 2007 – 6:15 p.m.

Work Session: Preparation for Financial Town Meeting

President Pomfret asked Superintendent DiPietro how he plans to manage the \$600,000 deficit.

Superintendent DiPietro referred to memo he submitted to Manager Kerbel regarding State Aid Level Funding Reconciliation.

Mr. DiPietro summarized proposed efforts to reconcile this shortfall as follows:

1. Refocus an additional \$100,000 of grant funding to maintain services and programs
2. Further consolidate elementary and high school classes to reduce by 2.0 FTE teachers saving an additional \$120,000. This includes savings from leaves of absences.
3. Request that the Town waive contribution to Workers' Compensation currently budgeted at \$40,000. Retain \$5,000 in the line item to allow for an increase in the contribution up to \$40,000 in the event that revenue or costs savings results in a year end balance
4. Plan to eliminate short term, substitute coverage for non-regulatory support staff
5. Ratably reduce all school requests to reduce \$50,000 in supplied & services
6. The remaining \$260,000 in needed reconciliation will need to be considered by the School Committee at its meeting on July 17, 2007. With no other alternatives, the Superintendent will propose program changes which would result in staff reductions

The School Committee hopes that at the Financial Town Meeting the public will consider reinstating up to \$99,999 to the FY08 School Budget.

Mr. Hyde asked if the sports program will remain.

Mr. DiPietro stated yes, sports will remain in place along with Oak Haven. Music and arts program will remain with the reduction of one teacher. The schools have not dropped one program.

Raymond Spear, School Committee Chairman, appreciates the support of the Town Council and is hopeful that money will be reinstated to the School Department with regard to the remaining \$260,000 shortfall.

Manager Kerbel directed council to resolution on Page 12 of handout of the Proposed Budget, stating that if \$99,999 is added into Section 1, it will not increase the bottom line of the budget. On Page 16, the \$56,292,003 figure can be increased by \$99,999, but the second figure on that line of \$56,429,270 cannot increase.

Town Council Meeting

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

Town Manager Richard Kerbel
Town Solicitor Patrick Sullivan

Absent: Bruce Thompson

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Pomfret.
Invocation by Anthony Colaluca

President Pomfret reviewed evacuation plan.

Swearing In Ceremony

Manager Kerbel swore in three new recruits to the Coventry Police Department:
Alexander DeMollis, Graham McCoy and Erica Novak

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve Town Council minutes from June 25, 2007. All voted Aye. So voted.

- PUBLIC COMMENT

Ron Ghizzarelli
50 Harrington Road

Mr. Ghizzarelli – Would like to see an ad hoc committee to study the priorities of the School Department, should be compromises.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to remove Item #6 for discussion. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to remove Item #5 for discussion. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve Items 1,2,3,4 and #7. All voted Aye. So voted.

Regarding Item #5, Manager Kerbel explained that Cridco dissolved and wants to be removed from the contract; we will replace with Ken Owens.

Regarding Item #6, Manager Kerbel explained that a 457B works similarly to a 401k in the private sector, but in order to implement the plan it has to be adopted by the Town Council. This does not change the pension plan, only allows employees to defer income. Doesn't change anything with the town's commitment. It will be available to all employees.

1. New Sewer Contractor's license for Affordable Septic and Excavating, LLC, 440 Shore Acres Ave., North Kingstown, RI
2. Resolution #73-07-2780 accepting grant for purchase of marine patrol unit for Police Department
3. Resolution #74-07-2781 awarding contract to Weston & Sampson for design services at Rice Field
4. Resolution #75-07-2782 authorizing Town Manager to send letter of support to RI Board of Regents for housing aid
5. Resolution #76-07-2783 awarding contract with Ken Owens for outreach services relative to the town's sewer construction program
6. Resolution #77-07-2784 adopting Pension Plan and Trust Agreement
7. Resolution #78-07-2785 reducing bond for Dodd Street

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to approve Items 5 and 6 on Consent Agenda. All voted Aye. So voted.

- LICENSES

New application for victualling license by Branislav Veskovc, 4 Wolfe Court for "Little Italy Pizza and More", 1032 Tiogue Avenue

Present: Branislav Veskovc, 4 Wolfe Court

Mr. Veskovc informed Council that location is currently Ronzio's Pizza. He will operate the same hours and is doing nothing differently other than changing the name of the business.

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to grant license. All voted Aye. So voted.

- RESOLUTION

Resolution #79-07-2786 in support of wetlands crossing for Center of New England Blvd.

Manager Kerbel explained that this resolution is in support of the wetlands crossing, which will connect both sides of Center of New England Blvd.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Anthony Colaluca to adopt resolution. All voted Aye. So voted.

Clerk instructed to send copy of resolution to be sent to Dept. of Environmental Management.

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

Litigation regarding Centre of New England

- DEM v. Town of Coventry, et als C.A. 05-346T-LDA
- Interstate Options v. A. Cardi Realty, et als C.A. No. KC 02-303
- Commerce Park Realty v. Town of Coventry C.A. No. KC 03-34

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to go into Executive Session. Roll call vote. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by Anthony Colaluca seconded by Kenneth Cloutier to come out of Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. All voted Aye. So voted.

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

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Town Clerk