

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
November 8, 2004

Present: Gregory Laboissonniere, Frank Hyde, Ronald S. Wood, William J. Hall,
James Spearman

Town Manager Francis A. Frobel
Town Solicitor Patrick Sullivan

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant, John Sullivan.

President Wood led moment of silence for former Town Councilman Edward Carley and former Planning Board member Dorothy Hutchinson. President Wood requested a page reserved in the council minute book for Mr. Carley and Mrs. Hutchinson.

Town Sergeant reviewed Emergency Evacuation Plan.

Motion made by William Hall seconded by James Spearman to accept Town Council minutes of October 25, 2004. All voted Aye. So voted.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Tax abatements for the month of October 2004 in the amount of \$ 55,017.82 with additions of \$16,806.48.
2. Resolution adopting budget calendar (tabled)
3. Resolution releasing bond in Highwood Estates, Section 5, Phases 2 & 3
4. Renewal of Private Detective license by Robert Conover, 2747 Flat River Road
5. Sewer Contractors' licenses for:
 - a. Lukowicz Bros. Inc., 1795 Flat River Road, Coventry
 - b. Charcal Excavating Inc., 21 Barbers Court, West Warwick
 - c. Polaris Plumbing & Heating, Inc., 5 Apple Blossom Drive, Johnston

Motion made by William Hall seconded by Frank Hyde to remove #2 Budget Calendar from table for discussion. All voted Aye. So voted.

Motion made by James Spearman seconded by Frank Hyde to approve items 1,3,4,5. All voted Aye. So voted.

Mr. Hall questioned Mr. Frobel regarding budget calendar, that all public hearings regarding the budget are outside of school vacation dates.

Mr. Frobel stated it is his understanding that dates are outside of vacation dates.

Motion made by William Hall seconded by Frank Hyde that resolution be adopted. All voted Aye. So voted.

Resolution # 104-04-2406 adopting budget calendar (tabled)

RESOLUTION
OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL
NO. 104-04-2406

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council hereby adopts the Budget Calendar for submission of the 2005/2006 fiscal year budget in accordance with the financial provisions of the Town Charter and State Law.

2004

October 25 Start of budget process with distribution of forms for both Capital and Operating Budgets.

November 12 Council submits 1-year revenue projection to School Committee (Rhode Island General Law 16-2-21 a) (optional).

November 12 School Committee submits 1-year major expenditure projection to Town Council (Rhode Island General Law 16-2-21 b) (optional).

2005

January 24 Council and School Committee joint meeting to discuss fiscal data.

CAPITAL BUDGET

2004

December 3 Capital Budget requests submitted to the Town Manager and Director of Planning and Development (Town Charter 8.11).

2005

January 7 Submit Capital Budget to Planning Commission for review and comment.

January 18 Planning Commission adopts final recommendations for Capital Improvement Program.

January 21 Capital Improvement Program and Annual Capital Budget forwarded to the Town Manager (Town Charter 8.12) by the Planning Commission

February 4 Advertisement for Capital Improvement Program (Town Charter 8.16).

February 4 Manager submits Capital Improvement Program, 5-year Capital Improvement Program, Annual Capital Budget, with recommendations to the Town Council (Town Charter 8.13).

February 7 Public Hearing on Capital Improvement Budget with presentation by Town Manager for projects recommended to be included in the Capital Improvement Program (Town Charter 8.16).

February 9 Town Council Work Session to discuss budget with Town Manager and Director of Planning and Development.

March 7 Capital Improvement Budget amendment and adoption by the Town Council (30 days prior to submission of operating budget).

OPERATING BUDGET

2005

- January 24 Pre-budget meeting between Town Council and School Committee to discuss anticipated expenditures, enrollment, staff, and facility needs for ensuing fiscal year.
- School Committee Annual Report relative to condition of schools and plans for improvement
- February 4 Operating Budget Requests for all departments submitted to the Town Manager.
- March 28 School Department budget to be submitted to Town Manager.
- March 1-31 Manager reviews budget requests with departments, including school department.
- April 1 Town Manager presents Budget Message and recommended Operating Budget to Town Council.
- April 11 Work Session with Town Manager and Finance Director/Town Treasurer to discuss overall impact of Proposed Budget (optional).
- April 11 Advertisement of Annual Operating Budget (Town Charter 8.16).
- April 13 Public Hearing on School Department Budget (Town Charter 8.16).
- April 14 Public Hearing on Municipal Budget (Town Charter 8.16).
- April 20 Town Council Work Session with Town Manager and Department Heads to review Proposed Municipal Budget (additional meeting may be scheduled).
- May 2 Town Council Work Session with School Committee to review School Department requests.
- May 9 Town Council Meeting to amend and adopt budget for 2004-2005 fiscal year.
- May 13 Advertisement of Budget Summary and Property Tax Disclosure Statement (RI General Law 44-34-6 & 7).
- June 7 Financial Town Meeting.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8TH day of November 2004.

APPROVED Ronald S. Wood
President

ATTEST: Cheryl A. George
Acting Town Clerk

Resolution # 105-04-2407 releasing bond in Highwood Estates, Section 5,
Phases 2 & 3

RESOLUTION
OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL
NO. 105-04-2407

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council of the Town of Coventry hereby releases in full the bond currently held for certain improvements in Highwood Subdivision Section 5 – Phases 2 & 3.

This action is taken upon the recommendation of the Town Engineer.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of November, 2004.

APPROVED: Ronald S. Wood
President

ATTEST: Cheryl A. George
Deputy Town Clerk

LICENSES

Application by Michael A. Dias for new victualling license for Harris Deli located at 656 Main Street

Attorney Milton Baxter, 51 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI was present representing Michael Dias.

Attorney Baxter – This is basically the same business, operating the same hours in the same location, mostly the same menu. Will forward menu to Town Clerk's office.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Gregory Laboissonniere that license be granted. All voted Aye. So voted.

Application by Nanette Gallagher for new Sunday Sales license located at Human Nature Gift Shop, 2260 Flat River Road

Nanette Gallagher, 20 Rosella Street was present. Ms. Gallagher stated that she is opening her shop the day after Thanksgiving. Will be selling herbs, books, jewelry, clothing, bath and body products, candles, blown glass.

Motion made by Gregory Laboissonniere seconded by Frank Hyde that license be approved. All voted aye. So voted.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution adopting affordable housing study (tabled)

Motion made by William Hall seconded by James Spearman to remove from table. All voted Aye. So voted.

Mr. Wood – At a previous meeting there was a concern about rezoning in the eastern end of town. This item has been removed in its entirety from the affordable housing study.

Mr. Frobel – Handed out revisions to plan. These are pages where you would delete the existing and add these. During discussion in the last meeting, there was concern expressed from neighbors about rezoning. I indicated then that rezoning was the last element, would be the last thing we would implement to bring about compliance with the law. There are a host of other strategies that we would try to employ before that. But in the interest of moving this forward, the consultant went back to the drawing board and eliminated that element. The urgency is to have this plan submitted to the state by the end of the year, and by eliminating that element from the plan, still reach the goal within a designated time.

Mr. Hyde – I am satisfied.

Mr. Hall questioned Ed Donnelly, Planner – Some (two) items on page 47 do not have a responsible party or time frame listed. Can you explain.

Mr. Wood – Number one would be to revise the zoning ordinance and if there were a responsible party there it would be the Town Council.

Mr. Donnelly – Number 4 would be the Planning Board, it would also be ongoing.

Mr. Hall – In setting a time frame, any kind of penalty if we don't meet our own self-imposed time frame.

Mr. Donnelly – If we set a goal and come close to it, then it's not an issue. If we set goals and haven't moved off square one in five or six years, then I would say someone could come in and challenge the plans and the town's intentions. The plan is only as good as the town's efforts.

Mr. Frobel – We will be monitored. Each year we will be required to respond to the plan, the state will review and look at our progress. As of now, I'm not aware of any penalties.

Motion made by Frank Hyde seconded by Gregory Laboissonniere that resolution be adopted. All voted Aye. So voted.

RESOLUTION
OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL
NO. 106-04-2408

RESOLVED, that the Town of Coventry recognizes the importance of providing a diverse range of housing so that Coventry residents of all income levels have access to safe, decent, and affordable housing. Attentive to the effects of Rhode Island's continued housing market boom on low-and moderate-income households, the Coventry Housing Authority, Coventry Housing Associates, and the Town of Coventry initiated an Affordable Housing Study to review the Town's housing policies, determine how the housing needs of the population have changed over the past decade, and identify and develop strategies for the Town to ensure that the diverse housing needs of residents are met.

To provide the Town of Coventry with the tools to promote housing affordability, the goals and objectives of this study endorse a mix of housing choices, including affordable housing, that will allow people living, working and raising families in Coventry to remain the Town without being priced out of the housing market.

NOW, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Town Council of the Town of Coventry that the attached Affordable Housing Plan as prepared by Barbara Sokoloff Associates, Inc. Is hereby affirmed.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of November 2004.

APPROVED Ronald S. Wood
Council President

ATTEST: Cheryl A. George
Deputy Town Clerk

Resolution No. 107-04-2409 awarding purchase of materials for construction of skate park

Mr. Laboissonniere – Questioned usage.

Mr. Lefebvre feels that he will get kids from all over town. It will be left open, with a curfew of dusk. We are not going with the low bidder. Staying away from concrete and wood. Staying away from using alot of bolts, composite materials. Looking for low maintenance. There is a 20 year warranty with this. It is all steel. Maybe would only need occasional touch-up paint. Brought sample of material.

Mr. Frobel – The others bidders did not meet Guy's specifications. The one before you is the one that qualified. He also brought some photographs of similar setups. Council is aware that this is funded through a grant that was received through the Dept of Environmental Management and a contribution through the capital improvement budget last year.

Motion made by Gregory Laboissonniere seconded by Frank Hyde that resolution be adopted. All voted Aye. So voted.

RESOLUTION
OF THE
TOWN COUNCIL
NO. 107-04-2409

RESOLVED:

That the Town Council hereby affirms the award of a contract by the Town Manager pursuant to Chapter 2, Section 2-191 of the Town Code of Ordinances to furnish and deliver materials for the construction of a skate park located at Herbert F. Paine Memorial Park.

NEW ENGLAND RECREATION GROUP, INC. **\$76,514.00**
203 Southwest Cutoff
Northboro, MA 01532

Funding for the skate park equipment is available from the RI DEM Recreation Area Development Program and 2004/2005 CIP Budget and Parks and Recreation Summertime Fund.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 8th day of November, 2004.

APPROVED Ronald S. Wood
President

ATTEST: Cheryl A. George
Deputy Town Clerk

Motion made by Gregory Laboissonniere seconded by James Spearman to seal executive session minutes from October 25, 2004.

Roll Call Vote –Gregory Laboissonniere – Aye
Frank Hyde – Aye
Ronald Wood – No
William Hall – No
James Spearman – Aye

Motion passes 3-2.

Motion made by William Hall seconded by James Spearman that council go into executive session at 8:35 p.m. All voted Aye. So voted.

Cheryl A. George
Deputy Town Clerk