

## TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

November 28, 2011

Present: President Gary Cote, Ted Jendzejec, Kerry McGee, Raymond Spear, Carl Mattson, Jr.

Town Manager Thomas Hoover  
Town Solicitor Frederick Tobin

Pledge of Allegiance led by Town Sergeant  
Invocation by Councilman Spear  
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

### President's Comments

President Cote called attention to the recent Thanksgiving holiday and hoped that everyone enjoyed time with their families.

### Proclamation honoring the Coventry High School Girls Volleyball Team in winning the State Championship

On behalf of the Town of Coventry, President Cote congratulated the Volleyball Team and presented a proclamation of congratulations to Coach Leo Bush.

### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Renewal of campground licenses
  - a. Ayoho Campground, McManus Road
  - b. Colwell's Campground, 119 Peckham Lane
  - c. Hickory Ridge Campground, 584 Victory Highway
2. Resolutions allowing sewer tie-ins at:
  - a. 2500 New London Tpke, East Greenwich
  - b. 1112 Main Street, Coventry
  - c. 9-11 Anthony Street, Coventry

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

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Application for mechanical device license for Black Stallion LLC, 17 Sandy Bottom Rd.

Motion made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Spear to open public hearing. All voted aye.

Proprietor Barbara Giroux, 99 Ginger Street, Warwick, RI was sworn by Solicitor Tobin. She stated that she is applying for a license for a mechanical bull.

No further questions at public hearing. Motion was made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilman Spear to close public hearing. All voted aye.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman McGee to approve application for mechanical device license. All voted aye.

### RESOLUTIONS

1. Approval of a Power and Services Agreement and a Site Access Agreement with Solect Energy Development, LLC for the installation, operation and maintenance of a solar energy system at the Town Hall Annex, 1675 Flat River Road

Manager Hoover gave brief summary of the presentation by Solect Energy at the last Town Council meeting. He indicated that this is a 15 year agreement and after five years carries an option to buy out. One third of the power to operate the Town Hall Annex will be provided at a reduced rate. Manager Hoover recommended approval.

President Cote agreed and further stated that there is no cost to the taxpayers; the first year alone will save about \$8,400 and supply approximately 30% of the energy to the annex. It is a win/win situation for both sides. Councilman Spear remarked that it also carries the

potential to expand the project to other buildings in town and Councilman McGee feels this is exactly the kind of thing we need to look into with the future in mind.

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

2. Affirming the award of a contract to James J. Geremia & Associates, Inc. for consulting Engineering Services for the design, permitting and construction of the Flat River Road/Industrial Drive sewer project under the EDA Disaster Relief Opportunity Grant at a total cost not to exceed \$33,359.00.

Manager Hoover announced that this is a \$2.15 million dollar grant from the United States government to extend the sewer line from Route 117 at Parks and Recreation up to and including Industrial Drive. The town has a \$550,000 match and will get that money through a loan at the State level from Clean Water Financing. There are several important industrial complexes that this will cover, including Boston Scientific located on Industrial Drive. We are hopeful that anyone who abuts this sewer line will also be able to tap into it in the future. Geremia & Associates was the low bidder and is a very reputable company. .

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to approval award of contract to James J. Geremia & Associates. All voted aye.

3. Affirming the award of a contract to Atlantic Broom for the purchase of snow plow blades at a total cost of \$9,302.40.

Manager Hoover explained that every winter DPW has to provide snow and ice control, part of which is plowing and it is necessary to keep blades sharp. These blades are attachments to snow plows. Atlantic Broom is a very reputable company; the cost is \$9,302.40 and approval of this resolution is recommended.

Councilman Spear asked about the number (70) of plow blades being purchased and President Cote responded that it is actually a blade which is attached to the bottom of the snow plow and we are purchasing ten 10-footers and sixty 11-footers.

Councilman McGee asked if it would be possible to split up the bid between two companies to save money; Manager Hoover replied that pricing came as a package deal and would have affected prices if it were split up.

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

4. Affirming the award of a contract to East Coast Auto Sales for the purchase of (3) three 2011 Chevrolet Impalas for the Coventry Police Department

Chief Volpe is very satisfied with the deal received on the cars from East Coast Auto. They are much more competitive than Flood Ford. There is \$30,000 funding in the Police budget and will secure additional funding of \$6,900 from the Federal Asset Forfeiture account to make up the difference.

Motion made by Councilman Spear seconded by Councilman Jendzejec to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

5. Approval of documents necessary to complete the purchase of the "Beaudoin Property", Assessor's Plat 317, Lots 71 and 84.

Paul Sprague, Planning Director, advised that an open space grant was received from DEM in the amount of \$325,000.00. This is for a purchase of 175 acres at a cost of \$650,000. We are requesting that the town manager be authorized to sign a conservation easement and execute documents to effectuate the transfer. We estimate a January 2012 closing date. The Land Trust will pay for half, the other half from the grant.

Solicitor Tobin asked about access to the property other than Ledge Road. Mr. Sprague replied that you can also access through Williams Crossing Road. There will be parking for the site, for about ten vehicles.

Councilman McGee thanked Mr. Sprague for his diligence in obtaining the grant and questioned how the property will be maintained without a lot of cost to the town.

Mr. Sprague replied that they have contacted the Boy Scouts of America, but in addition Mr. Lefebvre will allow his people to work overtime on Saturdays to maintain the trail; the overtime will be paid with Land Trust money.

President Cote commented there would be no cost to the taxpayers; it's a great idea and a great acquisition.

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

6. Affirming the Award of a (1) one year contract to Direct Energy for the purchase of electricity under the League of Cities and Towns' Rhode Island Energy Aggregation Program REAP Program at a cost of 6.95 cents per kWh

Manager Hoover advised that the town purchases its' electricity through the Rhode Island Energy Aggregation Program (REAP) administered through the RI League of Cities and Towns.

Our current contract will expire next month. The League performs an extensive process in looking at proposals, and the successful proposal was with Direct Energy. This is a good deal for the town and I recommend staying with the REAP program with a one year contract. One year is preferred because energy prices have been dropping and committing to more than a one year contract could cost the town more money, as over the last three years we were locked into a contract.

Councilman Spear inquired with regard to the potential cost increases of renewing the contract at the end of one year. The manager indicated that this should not be a problem as prices not likely to increase.

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

## ORDINANCES

Amending Section 217-5 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances, Chapter 217, Article III (Tabled from Town Council meeting on November 14, 2011) Exemptions for Elderly or Disabled Persons

Councilman Jendzejec explained that this ordinance has been on our agenda for the past two council sessions. After discussion with the council, I believe we concur that it would be a good idea to include a sunset clause, in order that we can see exactly the financial impact that this may or may not have on the town. If it is a financial burden then it will just cease to exist at a certain time.

Motion made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilman McGee to amend ordinance and institute a sunset clause with a date of June 30, 2013 in order to give this a fiscal year of time to see what the financial burden will be. The ordinance will expire June 30, 2013 unless extended by official vote of the Town Council.

Councilman McGee agrees that this is a good idea, but wants to make sure it doesn't have a financial impact on the town, and that is something we really won't know until people start applying for the exemption. There is a very generous tax exemption program in the Town of Coventry, if it is used correctly. This way, within a year's time, we can look back and see the impact.

Councilman Spear asked if there had been any further information with regard to getting a preliminary indication as to what the potential costs would be.

Manager Hoover indicated that he has no idea how many more people might come on the list, but guesses it would be minimal. After discussion with Finance Director Przybyla and Tax Assessor Pat Picard, it seems much more palatable to us and a better idea to have a chance to look at this in another year as it will give us a better idea on which to base our projections. With no data, we would really be guessing right now.

President Cote agrees that we need the pilot program with the sunset clause so that we can see actual numbers, and there won't be a lot of answers until we institute the program.

Councilman Spear wants it noted that the manager and administration will assume the responsibility of evaluating this situation so that we have other information available in making

an intelligent decision.

Manager Hoover added that we are also going to revisit the 157 people who are presently on the list receiving an exemption.

Councilman Mattson stated that he would still like to see determination made by a means test.

Solicitor Tobin suggested that the manager submit a report in January of 2013.

All voted aye on motion to amend ordinance.

Motion made by Councilman Jendzejec seconded by Councilman McGee to adopt ordinance as amended.

Councilman Mattson - Abstain  
Councilman Spear – Aye, with reservations  
Councilman Jendzejec - Aye  
Councilman McGee - Aye  
President Cote - Aye

No public comment

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

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Town Clerk