

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
December 2, 2010

Present: President Gary Cote, Vice-President Kerry McGee, Ted Jendzejec, Raymond Spear

Absent: Laura Flanagan

Town Manager Thomas Hoover
Town Solicitor Frederick Tobin

Resolution approving Coventry Hazard Mitigation Plan 2010 Update

Planning Director Paul Sprague gave synopsis of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, explaining that federal law provides hazard mitigation funding to promote measures that reduce future loss of life and property and to help with building disaster resistant communities. Hazard mitigation plans are valid for five years, then must be updated. A special meeting was called tonight because there is a deadline tomorrow for the Town Council to adopt our plan, and the plan must be approved by the Town Council prior to submission of a grant application. We have a plan in place, but it is time for the five year update.

Since the flooding event last spring, federal funds have been appropriated for Rhode Island which include financial assistance for the acquisition and demolition of structures, replacement and upgrade of drainage structures, repairs to roads, bridges, sewer systems, building and other structures.

The town is seeking federal money from the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program to upgrade the drainage system west of Arnold Road, install several additional culverts, and expand the channel in the vicinity of Johnson's Blvd, York Drive, West Lake Drive and King Street, areas which are historically flooded during storm events.

The Hazard Mitigation grant program will be coming up soon with large amounts of money and more assistance will be available to the public for damages. Approval of the updated plan triggers the town's eligibility for grants from the federal government. Also, additional money has been allocated to Rhode Island with regard to CDBG disaster relief.

Town Manager Hoover remarked that Coventry has experienced a lot of bureaucracy from FEMA, by their own admission. He has asked Senators Reed and Whitehouse for assistance in obtaining approval. Thus far Coventry has been reimbursed 90% of what we put forth in the public works department, police department, human services department and planning department during the flooding emergency this past March/April. The Hazard Mitigation grant is millions of dollars. We are looking forward to a very sizeable chunk of CDBG money as Coventry actually had the 3rd worst damage problem in the entire state.

Manager Hoover urged the Town Council to adopt the plan this evening.

Council members commended Mr. Sprague for his work on the plan update and were supportive of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update.

Motion made by Ray Spear seconded by Kerry McGee to approve resolution adopting the Hazard Mitigation Plan 2010 Update. All voted Aye.

No public comment.

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

Town Clerk

