

Town Council Meeting
December 8, 2014

EXECUTIVE SESSION 5:30 p.m.

- A. Review of qualifications for Boards and Commissions per RIGL 42-46-5 (a) (1)
1. Coventry Land Trust
 2. Library Board of Trustees
 3. Tax Assessment Board of Review
 4. Sewer Assessment Board of Review
 5. Juvenile Hearing Board

WORK SESSION – 6:15 PM

Brian Knowles, Eric Deitz and Jerry Veltri, students at Roger Williams University who are working on a Master's Degree in Historic Preservation, conducted a presentation offering recommendations and creating a rehabilitation plan for the Town owned "Old Anthony School" at 29 Mapledale Street. Research was done on behalf of a request by the Western Rhode Island Civic Historical Society

The students explained that Roger Williams has a community partnership center which allows governmental organizations to request assistance with projects that they may not be able to carry out on their own, and we try to figure out whether the building can be saved and if a plan can work, something that is feasible for the Western RI Civic Historical Society.

The building is assessed and we listen to the goals of the Society in determining what this building could be used for in the future. It is an academic undertaking and very exhaustive work. At the end of the project, all materials are turned over to the Society. Costs are estimated after tonight's presentation and along with any feedback.

The Project Team presented photographs and notes of the existing conditions of the site, exterior and interior. Plans were developed during site visits and these plans can be seen in the power point demonstration (on file), showing also how the building has evolved over time with additions to the building. They reported on the building location, existing conditions of the building, with an architectural description along with details on the significance of the building. A report was given on the scope of the rehabilitation work needed based on the existing conditions along with a written description of the plans with detailed floor plans.

As the building was a former school, the first floor had been utilized as classrooms. There could be an issue with lead paint, so there is a need for testing; there is also a need for gutters and downspouts; the doors need to be replaced and the ceiling is in poor condition. Outside, there are branches and trees that need to be trimmed or removed. The building is in a residential district but due to the size of the building there is no need for a sprinkler system.

Rehabilitation possibilities include a meeting or gathering place with a research work area, archival storage space, administrative offices including a coat and baggage area. The building is readily accessible to the bike path. Possible renderings were placed on easels as the team led the Town Council through various scenarios, interior and exterior.

The meeting room would have a 77-99 person occupancy, depending on the design. One proposal would be an archival storage space with a work area for 10-16 researchers, two administrative offices, coat and bag storage and bathrooms with handicapped accessibility.

Charles Vacca suggested maybe an alternate use such as an art center and asked whether the team had found the building structurally sound. A team member responded that they were not able to access the structural integrity of the building, and that it should be addressed by a structural engineer.

Further discussion took place on windows, height, location, elevation, floors, handicapped accessibility, location of ramps, and the possibility of environmental issues with lead paint, asbestos etc. Council thanked the team for their presentation.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING – 7:00 PM

Present: Vice-President Karen Carlson, Councilman McGee, President Shibley, Councilman Laboissonniere, Councilwoman Duxbury, Town Manager Thomas Hoover, Town Solicitor Nicholas Gorham.

Pledge of Allegiance
Invocation by Reverend Baker of Knotty Oak Baptist Church
Review of Emergency Evacuation Plan

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to come out of Executive Session. Roll call vote. All voted Aye.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilman McGee to seal minutes of Executive Session. Roll call vote. All voted Aye.

President's Comments

A moment of silence was held in memory of former Town Council President, School Committee member and former School Superintendent Ray Spear.

President Shibley thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the 25th annual tree lighting ceremony and for the first year of the festival of the trees, where twenty different organizations displayed trees. He also thanked the Department of Public Works for their efforts in picking up leaves, especially in dealing with equipment breakdowns and a shortage of manpower.

Approval of Town Council minutes November 24, 2014

President Shibley asked for a correction, noting that under New President's Comments, the word "unaffiliated" should be changed to "non-partisan".

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to approve minutes as amended. All voted aye.

Joint Discussion between Town Council and the Coventry School Committee to discuss the three year budget forecast as required by Ordinance 3-06-249

School Superintendent Almeida said it is very early yet; these are estimates and unknowns at this time. We have put together the traditional format, the budget and platform, basically to see where we are for FY 16, 17 and 18. Tonight we will basically talk about FY 16. He pointed out that on his estimated budget sheet, you will see that at this time we are not requesting an increase from the town, our total town request is -0-. We are pleased to inform you this evening that we will not seek an increase in FY 2016.

Dr. Almeida made the following points:

- ROTC is not included in this budget.
- The State aid increase has been \$650,000 annually. RIDE indicates an increase for FY 16, but the amount could go back to \$650,000 in FY 2017. Coventry is a very underfunded district.
- Early full day K projection is a \$1.4 million cost plus transportation annually, excluding start up costs of \$312,000.
- Potential SRP pension settlement costs are also not included in any estimates.

In the past we have talked about using Oak Haven for all day K. We remain only one of three districts in the state that does not have all day K. We are in the process of putting together a plan that would not include Oak Haven as it wasn't feasible between personnel costs and the costs of renovating the building. We are now looking at working within our schools and juggling things around. The final stages of that plan need to be submitted to the RI Dept. of Education by Dec 31. If the School Committee decides to implement full day K, that request would be added to FY 16 request. There will be some offset however with the Department of Education having some money available. Informally I have heard that FY 16 would be the year to ask for money; by waiting one more year, some of the bigger districts will be getting money and there will be less available. Unless these items become an issue, we could very well sit at 0%.

In regard to FY 17, we will be in a little trouble financially with contracts and could need

some support. What is not included is our FY 17 general science kits along with some other supplies. The schools are transitioning to Common Core and since a lot of our current resources and materials will be no good, we will have to revamp all of our science kits. FY 2018 is really an unknown at this point. The pension increase is included in the FY 16 budget and has been built into FY 17 and FY 18.

Councilwoman Duxbury asked for an update on enrollment. Dr. Almeida said that his guess is that we are down approximately 300 students or so. Ten years ago we were at 6,000 students. We are still declining but are balancing off. We had a study done last year by RGB, typically you pay a fee and they do enrollment projections for each year. They met with real estate agents, toured the schools, met with Director of Planning Paul Sprague and felt that our enrollment should basically stay flat. As far as all day K, they said that you are either looking at Oak Haven or modular classrooms for all day K. There are serious costs associated and we will be conservative in every way to make this happen, but it is going to require us to make some serious changes in our schools.

President Shibley asked about ROTC funding not being included in the budget and the costs to run the program. Dr. Almeida explained that the district had been funding \$180,000 with an offset of \$160,000 from the Air Force, equaling \$240,000. When people were talking about what the program costs, they were talking about \$180,000. However, without the Air Force it becomes \$240,000, but the \$180,000 number stuck with a lot of people. The costs are generally \$220,000 for salaries (and the Air Force does require two instructors, as we asked for a waiver for less than two and cannot get a waiver). Our ROTC enrollment here in Coventry has not met the minimum of 100 students. Right now there are approximately 80 students enrolled in the program. When the Air Force comes in and there is not 100, they will withdraw the program; it is out of our control in Coventry. As far as out of district funding, it would be a challenge to get that many students to attend.

Councilman McGee remarked that last year the Council was led to believe it wouldn't be a problem. Dr. Almeida said that although he supports the program, he always believed it would be a problem as it is difficult to get that many students to participate. You also need to be very cautious about how you sell that program. However, I do know that the cadets and parents are optimistic and are working hard to recruit, but it is going to be a challenge. Councilwoman Carlson questioned whether RIDE would give any funding. Dr. Almeida stated that you wouldn't be able to fund the whole program with that money.

With regard to a finance director, President Shibley believes it is important, given the size of the school budget, that a full time finance director is employed as opposed to the current .5 position. Dr. Almeida replied that they have posted for almost a year, most recently last month, and there were no new applicants. It's not just Coventry, there is a shortage of school finance directors in the state. We did conduct numerous interviews and someone was appointed to that position, but had to be terminated. The current .5 finance director has been working with us the entire time and guided us through negotiations and the budget process. I can say with confidence that he is very skilled and talented in what he does. President Shibley suggested readvertising, he has nothing against the individual in the .5 position, but would like to see a full time position filled.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Discussion and resulting action regarding tax abatements and additions for October 2014
2. Discussion and resulting action regarding waiving the permit fees for the construction of the new concession stand at the Walter Clark Sports Complex by the Coventry High School Career and Technical Center Student Carpentry Program
3. Discussion and resulting action regarding the calendar year 2015 Town Council meeting schedule

4. Discussion and resulting action regarding the FY 2016 Budget Calendar

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilman McGee to approve Consent Agenda. All voted aye.

LICENSES

1. Discussion and resulting action regarding an application for renewal of a Private Detective license by Robert Conover

A motion was made by Councilwoman Duxbury seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve license renewal. All voted aye.

2. Discussion and resulting action regarding the renewal of Annual Campground Licenses

- a. Hickory Ridge
- b. Bamford Lakeside Properties LLC dba Camp Ayoho
- c. Bamford Lakeside Properties LLC dba Water's Edge

Manager Hoover remarked that all campgrounds are in order as far as the statutes are concerned. The licenses expire December 31 and typically come before Town Council for approval in December.

Hickory Ridge

Campground managers Justin and Gary Pomfret were in attendance. Councilwoman Carlson raised the issue of year round camping. Justin Pomfret responded that he believes there are seven people in there now, there are no children attending school. At least half of the people staying there are from the south and Montana, on a job working on power lines in Smithfield. I do not know how long they will stay, it depends on how long the job lasts.

Mrs. Carlson asked if Hickory Ridge asks for their permanent addresses and Mr. Pomfret replied that they do. She then asked if the campground has certain criteria as to what campers can do with their sites and whether sometimes they add or build on a structure. Mr. Gary Pomfret indicated that no permanent structures have been added at Hickory Ridge. She showed a picture to Mr. Pomfret, who replied that that particular structure/building is still there, has been since 1964, but the camper at that location is no longer at the campground.

Councilwoman Carlson remarked that campers come in, camp for a week maybe, then leave. Where is the line that defines a resident from a camper. Mr. Justin Pomfret replied that the definition of camping is not just for a weekend or a week. You could go with a Boy Scout troop for a couple of weeks. They can stay there as long as they want, but nobody there is permanent. Mr. Gary Pomfret agreed that there are no permanent residents at Hickory Ridge. Mr. Justin Pomfret added that there a couple of firefighters from North Kingstown who just come on weekends and that people are allowed to keep their campers there for the season. Mrs. Carlson has seen campers that appear to have been at the campground for years, they appear to be well kept, but where is the line between camping and residence? She has also seen a school bus stop there for school children. Mr. Gary Pomfret advised that he lives there and those were his children that got on the bus and that was over 12 years ago. Before that, he doesn't know what the previous owners did.

Mrs. Carlson asked about campers that are sitting on blocks with no wheels; Mr. Gary Pomfret responded that every camper at Hickory Ridge is movable and invited Council to come in and look; there are only recreational campers there. Some people have been there 5-10 years, we allow people to leave their trailers there in storage.

Councilwoman Duxbury stated that the campground license is for a recreational activity. She understands seasonal camping, they are not there year round. It is not their residence. But where is the line between permanent and seasonal? With seasonal camping people will typically camp during the season, not year round. You are licensed as a campground, a recreational activity, not a place for people to live year round such as Ramblewood and Westwood Estates.

Mr. Justin Pomfret stated that the people from Montana came in September and their contract for the power lines was extended, I don't know how long they will be here. When asked if people in the campground receive their mail there, Mr. Pomfret said that the campground has a mailbox and they do receive mail, as some of them leave their families for months at a time and they need to get their mail.

Another concern raised by Councilwoman Duxbury with regard to recreational camping vs year round is how this impacts not only zoning but taxation; we need a clearer definition. Solicitor Gorham asked if the campers in there are registered. Mr. Gary Pomfret indicated that not all are registered. They all have tires, can go on the road, but the campground does not own any, all are owned by the people who camp, even the worker from Montana towed a trailer to the campground. Solicitor Gorham asked if the 7 people who remain there are below the 20% permitted by ordinance and Mr. Pomfret replied that is way below the 20% allowed and the only reason they are there is their jobs.

Councilman Laboissonniere asked when someone rents a site, if the campground requires insurance. Mr. Pomfret stated that the campground has insurance, it is mostly a park for retired people, there isn't much for activities, just a swimming pool and fishing pond. It's a very quiet park.

Mrs. Duxbury indicated that she would like to take a look at the campground before voting. Solicitor Gorham advised that as long as we have a vote very quickly after January 1, he really doesn't see the harm. Mr. Gary Pomfret replied that they are not sneaking around, their gate is open for Council to visit. Ms. Duxbury said that as long as there is no problem with deferring the vote on the license, she would really like to take a look in order to make an educated vote. Councilwomen Duxbury and Carlson will make arrangements to visit.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to table license renewal to the January meeting. Vote taken: 4 Aye; 1 Nay (Mr. McGee) Motion passes.

- b. Bamford Lakeside Properties LLC dba Camp Ayoho
- c. Bamford Lakeside Properties LLC dba Water's Edge

Attorney Chris Anderson represented Brian Bamford on both license renewals. He pointed out that Water's Edge is probably the most well vetted campground the town of Coventry has ever seen and has been well inspected by the Department of Environmental Management, the Department of Health, Coventry Zoning Board, various state and town agencies and not one has an issue with the campground. Briefly the issue seems to be recreational vs. residential and alot of excellent questions have been asked, but perhaps should have been raised when the town initiated the 20% occupancy rule.

Applications for renewal were submitted early in November. If members of the Town Council wished to visit, that could have taken place before this evening and I question whether the ordinance does give the leeway for going past December 31 with these license renewals.

Councilman McGee really doesn't see a problem with granting the license now, as the Zoning Official says everything is in order. Councilwoman Duxbury commented that she is new on the Council and her approach is not to vote on something until she is comfortable with it. Since she knows that there have been issues in the past with Water's Edge, wants to see for herself if the complaints are valid. Although these complaints were in the past, I don't know whether they are true or false and would like to find out for myself, and if they are false, will be the first one to admit it.

Attorney Anderson asked whether at previous meetings these complaints were agenda items. Councilwoman Duxbury replied that there were items at public comment.

Discussion took place between Attorneys Gorham and Anderson on issues such as an appeal of a decision by the zoning inspector and an issue of campground expansion. Attorney Anderson noted that the Zoning Board ruled that the Zoning Officer's decision was correct. So you have your own office upholding that decision. Your Zoning Board has said that there are no issues with the campground. Attorney Gorham responded that it is on appeal and he is not bound by everything a previous solicitor did.

Further discussion took place between Attorneys Gorham and Anderson on whether the Town Council can rule against what zoning has determined with a 5-0 vote, that there are no zoning issues on the property.

Attorney Gorham asked Mr. Bamford how many people are there under the 20% year round rule? Mr. Bamford said that some people are there out of the normal campground season, but doesn't know whether that is considered year round. Within the last 30 days he has had five people leave. One couple was waiting for their house to finish being built, another was there due to a delayed closing on a short sale. I don't have any year round campers, but some

on extended stay.

Manager Hoover advised that the Zoning Officer inspected the campground on November 4 and at that point he estimated that 15 campers were in use for the winter. Atty. Anderson replied that would be on a campground with 102 sites, referring to the 20% rule. Mr. Bamford indicated that he is not trying to go outside the scope of what is allowed, however, the fire officials have found no violations, I have had three inspections by your zoning official within the last 30 days which is unusual; I have numerous complaints on this campground and those complaints are from the people I bought it from. In the beginning I gave them a chance to buy it back from me and they did not want to buy it back. Yet I have continued to have one agency there after the other. The rules say that we have to meet certain requirement and criteria. Your staff went out, did their job, and went back and told you that there was nothing wrong. So, I respectfully ask, where are you going with this?

Councilwoman Duxbury responded that in the past we have heard during public comment, claims that there are children getting on the bus and attending schools from Waters Edge. People that use the campground are not there to reside and use town services to send their kids to school on the dime of the taxpayers. Mr. Bamford stated that he had one family there, and when it was brought to his attention that this was going on, he remedied the situation.

Mr. Bamford advised that he also has to report all of the campers that are there to the Tax Assessor, and they send out supplementary tax bills. Four cabins are owned by individuals who rent the land, and those are taxed as structures. Minus those structures, the rest are taxed as motor vehicles, and that is the difference between mobile homes and campers. Johnson's Pond is a resource for the community, but not everyone can afford million dollar houses on the pond. We offer space for community functions and am not sure why campgrounds in this town have a black eye.

Councilwoman Carlson asked if the 100 foot buffer issue as required by ordinance has been addressed, where he stands on the soil erosion issue, the septic system and the road that was found too close to the public well. Mr. Bamford stated that the required 100 foot buffer is for new campgrounds. He voluntarily agreed to a 50 foot buffer and in the last three weeks has added another \$4,000 worth of vegetation, spruce, hemlock, and in the spring probably another layer to tighten up a little better for screening. With regard to soil erosion, two silt fences have been erected in the area that goes along the border of Lori Lane and that will stay in place until we put loam and seed. As far as the road near the well, we loamed and seeded that back in April then put in a series of rocks. There is no road at all now, it is all grass. There were no installation issues with the septic. We put it in, have a certificate of conformance and a contract with a company to come out, inspect and maintain it. Again, there are no regulations that you have to have a self contained system, but I voluntarily did that and it cost me \$85,000 to install. His sites are numbered and he does not have mailboxes for the campers.

Councilwomen Duxbury and Carlson will make arrangements with Mr. Bamford to visit and inspect the campground.

Councilman McGee stated that the Council has the right to ask questions, but he has faith in the Planning and Zoning Departments. You are putting these people through a lot, you knew these licenses were coming up and we have all kinds of reports that these issues have been corrected. With regard to the ordinance, Attorney Anderson said that permit is renewed annually by the Town Council subject to requirements, and they have all been met.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to grant Camp Ayolo license. All voted Aye.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to table Water's Edge license to the January meeting. Vote taken: 4 Aye; 1 Nay (Councilman McGee votes no). Motion passes.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Application for renewal of Class B liquor license for Chen & Chen Restaurant, 856 Tiogue Avenue

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to open public hearing. All voted Aye.

Attorney Seth Perlmutter was present representing Chen & Chen. He stated that the restaurant has been closed for quite some time, however, they have paid their town taxes and

this afternoon paid up with the state Division of Taxation. They are in the process of getting Board of Health approval, their good standing certificate from the state along with a food manager's certificate. We are asking the town to grant this license conditionally. The major items have been taken care of.

Manager Hoover advised that the fire district has told us that they cannot do an inspection since there is no electricity in the building. Atty. Perlmutter said that they do intend to have electricity and have the fire district inspect.

Councilman Laboissonniere asked if the restaurant is for sale and Atty. Perlmutter replied that it is the intention of Ming Chen to absorb the shares of his partner. However, some of the information that needs to be submitted to the state is in the hands of the Mr. Chen who is in China and taking longer than expected. I think a conditional grant is better than tabling this, as I am afraid that if it is not granted conditionally that he may lose the license after December 31 and it would be "up for grabs". Solicitor Gorham disagreed, there is no moratorium on B licenses, the council can increase or decrease them as they please.

Councilwoman Duxbury asked for an explanation as to why there are so many cars in the parking lot daily if the restaurant is closed and also asked what happened to the Mai Tai. Atty. Perlmutter does not know why the cars are there in the parking lot, but there is no activity at the restaurant. As far as the Mai Tai, they had financial difficulty, closed the restaurant, then Chen Chen made arrangements to purchase and take over the operation. This is a different corporation.

Chief Volpe is not opposed to granting the license, however, he remarked that it is an eyesore with all the leftover political signs on the property. He also does not know why cars are using the parking lot, but did state there is no activity in the restaurant. Ms. Duxbury questions whether this location should be used as a parking lot if it is not open.

Ken Jackson, 2799 Harkney Hill Road, stated that he feels there may be an underlying problem with this restaurant, there may be something that you need to look at further, and it also bothers him to see all of those cars in the parking lot.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to table this license renewal until the January 12 Town Council meeting. All voted aye.

RESOLUTIONS

1. Discussion and resulting action authorizing the Town of Coventry to execute the performance of energy improvements in Town and Public School Buildings, as previously approved by the issuance of not more than \$5,000,000 of bonds, notes and/or other evidences of indebtedness and as authorized by referendum vote at the November 6, 2012 General Election, by awarding a contract to National Grid

DPW Director McGee provided a breakdown of how the \$5 million is expected to be spent based on what needs to be done. The bonds were approved previously, we are here to approve a contract.

Mr. McGee discussed more detailed information, stating that extensive inventories and assessments have been performed on buildings. It has been found, after 8 months working on this program, the final numbers are the school department at \$1,792,569 (the school hired RISE to do their evaluation) and the balance will be utilized for the municipal buildings \$3,207,431. He introduced Mr. Jerry Drummond of National Grid who explained that the payment of all this debt will be provided by the energy savings of the town and school depts. Mr. Drummond stated that Coventry will be a leader in this with a more than 20% energy reduction, improvements will be paid for from savings. This is the first community to pass energy bonds to do this. Mr. McGee feels that we will still have money left to do roofs and windows also. Finance Director Thibeault advised that this is a 20 year bond, paid for with energy savings.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

2. Discussion and resulting action authorizing the Town of Coventry to finance the improvement of streets, sidewalks and bridges by the issuance of not more than \$10,710,000 of bonds,

notes and/or other evidences of indebtedness as approved by referendum vote at the November 4, 2014 General Election

DPW Director McGee reported that the issuance of debt will be proportionate to the work done each year. The initial portion of the bond will be for engineering, requests for proposals and equipment. Work will begin this spring with the Arnold Road construction scheduled for 2016. In 2015 an expected \$6,585,000 of work will be accomplished and the rest in 2016, such as everything from bridges, culverts, paving, sidewalks, road maintenance, drainage, sealing and markings.

Councilman Laboissonniere asked what the impact on the budget will be and Finance Director Thibeault replied \$6.58 million will be issued the first year and \$4.125 million the second year. Debt service for FY 16 would be just over \$450,000, which is about a .7% increase on the levy.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve resolution. All voted aye.

3. Discussion and resulting action regarding the postponement of the December 11, 2014 adoption of the "economic development plan" known as RhodeMap RI

Councilwoman Carlson stated that this is a HUD sponsored issue, is pretty new and she believes that there are too many unanswered questions remaining. There is a possibility this could take away single family residential and mandate that you have two family and low income housing, could also result in hurting our tax base or could make a difference as to how the town develops. She would like to see us support the other towns and cities in the state as there are a lot of pros and cons, a lot of issues, and uncertainty that it would bring economical development into the towns and cities.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Carlson seconded by Councilwoman Duxbury to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

4. Discussion and resulting action regarding the awarding of a contract to Pat's Towing Service of Coventry, RI for towing services to the Coventry Department of Public Works at a cost of \$73 per light tow to \$112 per heavy tow

DPW Director McGee explained that the town has been using Pat's because they are the only heavy duty towing company in town. RFP's were sent out to six establishments in the area, only Pat's responded. They do a good job and it is recommended that we award this bid to Pat's Towing. Not everyone has the ability to tow the large vehicles and our vehicles are towed here to the Department of Public Works.

Councilman Laboissonniere understands that there were some problems with Pat's regarding registrations in the past and asked if these problems have been resolved. Chief Volpe responded that Pat's may have been off the towing list at one point, however, issues have been dealt with, the police department uses Pat's as a towing service and it has proven to be a good service for us.

A motion was made by Councilman McGee seconded by Councilman Laboissonniere to approve resolution. All voted Aye.

5. Discussion and resulting action regarding the awarding of a contract for recycling and refuse bins for the new Town-wide Automated Recycling and Refuse Program

6. Discussion and resulting action regarding the awarding of a contract for recycling and refuse vehicles for the new Town-wide Automated Recycling and Refuse Program

Council addressed both resolutions together. DPW Director McGee explained that the program has already been approved by the voters. We sent out three bids for containers and

received one from Cesco (Todor is manufacturer). Todor is also providing equipment for our pilot program. They have done and provided everything we asked for. As of January 1, 2015, the container prices will increase. If we are able to contract before the end of the year, we will save \$58,000 with a \$25,000 incentive. We will also get \$26,000 back from our pilot program to put toward this. If we don't choose Todor, we will have to pay back the difference. We will be offering four different size containers.

With regard to a timeline, Mr. McGee said containers will be received as soon as January or February and will be put in storage until the trucks are ready. Todor will pay for the storage. The trucks, cab and chassis will take four to six months for delivery. If we place the order in January, it will take 4-6 months for delivery then 45-60 days for the body, taking us to about August. We sent out 13 bids for vehicles, from Maine all the way to Florida, and received one bid. Mr. McGee believes the reason for one bid is that this is a territorial business and Ballard Mack has this territory. It seems other companies won't tread on their territory. You have to remember that this is specialized, specific equipment, we are required to get a certified 20 year truck and mack trucks have a 20 year life cycle, so we had to stay with them. There are 13 Mack dealerships throughout the northeast. We do not pay until the product comes in.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to approve Items 5 and 6. All voted Aye.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Senator Raptakis remarked that at the legislator's meeting this year there are issues that concern Coventry, especially the future of the fire district. The General Assembly hopefully will form a study commission to look at what the future should be. It needs to be put on the table and discussed between the General Assembly, fire chiefs, Town Council and the public focusing on how to move forward and find some type of common ground that will be beneficial to the members of the community.

President Shibley asked where a study commission would be held and Senator Raptakis suggested that the first couple of organizational meetings be held at the State House with the bulk of the meetings in town so that we can hear from the taxpayers of the fire district.

Councilman McGee reminded and encouraged voters to attend and vote at the Coventry Fire District meeting tomorrow at Feinstein Middle School.

Tom Forcier, 30 Lori Lane, asked to be heard by the Council regarding Water's Edge Campground. He can't understand why, when a license is being renewed, people can't voice their opinion. He asked for a work session before the Council grants a license renewal as he would like to give information about what is going on there. Solicitor Gorham advised that there will be another Council meeting on January 12 and if Mr. Forcier wishes to speak at that time, to come forward and let us know that you want to be heard.

Manager Hoover suggested that Mr. Forcier send him a memo asking to be heard on this issue at the next meeting. It is the prerogative of the Council President to hear from the public.

Ken Jackson, 2799 Harkney Hill Road asked for an update on CCFD and Manager Hoover stated that they are on the bankruptcy road with the state declaring Chapter 9.

Ron Gizzarelli, 50 Harrington Road, commented on several issues:

1. That the public be allowed to speak on all issues and the Council should consider how many people want to talk. If a lot of people wish to speak, one minute each, otherwise three minutes.
2. That a questionnaire is sent out to citizens to find out how many people in Coventry do not have computers, mainly because he feels that meeting dates and times in the Kent

County times are inaccurate.

Stacy O’Gorman, Elton Street, would like to see Planning and Zoning Board minutes posted on the website.

A motion was made by Councilman Laboissonniere seconded by Councilwoman Carlson to adjourn meeting. All voted Aye.

Town Clerk