



## Memorandum

09/16/2016

**To:** Town Council  
Department Heads  
Town Citizens

**From:** Graham Waters, Town Manager

**Re:** TM Report – Week of September 11 – September 17, 2016

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The following is a report of events and projects that have taken place over the past week. Some of them involved town staff collaboration; other items listed are updates to the Council on ongoing Town matters. **Should Councilmembers or the citizens of Coventry have follow up inquiries regarding matters listed in this report, they may contact the Town Manager directly at [gwaters@coventryri.org](mailto:gwaters@coventryri.org) or by phone at (401) 821-6400.**

- The Town Manager met with School Superintendent Levis for their monthly coordination meeting. Meeting topics included current school facility needs, the Superintendent's three goals for the system and his plans to implement them and how they will be used to improve the system, discussion also continued about future budgeting needs for capital improvements of the schools and how the Town can support the schools in this endeavor.
- On Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>, the Town Manager met with the Parks and Rec Director to discuss matters of the department. The conversation revolved around personnel needs of the department and future planning for Parks and Rec programming. Discussion also took place about capitalizing on the Greenway and making Coventry more of a biking destination.
- The Town Manager, Town Solicitor, and Chief of Police met with Town residents to listen to their concerns regarding the asphalt plants located on Airport Rd. A productive meeting, the group recounted the legal status of the asphalt plants and permissible operating hours. The Town formulated a strategy of enforcement for the operations of the businesses.
- The Town Manager, Director of Finance and Public Works Director attended the Rhode Island Public Works Association show on Wednesday, September 14<sup>th</sup>. The show featured several pieces of equipment the Town is considering purchasing and it gave the TM and Finance Director an opportunity to meet vendors in person.
- The Town Manager attended the Grand Re-opening of the West Greenwich Residence Inn by Marriott. While just outside the Town's boarder, the function was sponsored by the Central Rhode Island Chamber of Commerce.

### **Police Department**

From the desk of the Chief:

I wanted to take a moment to express my thanks to each officer involved in supporting the capture of the individual wanted for the murder of Shelby Police Officer Brackeen. Several of our officers including **CPT Skorski, Sgt DeSisto, Officer Benton, Officer Huston, and Officer Brodeur** all jumped into action that evening and seamlessly provided support to the FBI, RI State Police and US Marshal Task Force which rolled into town late Tuesday evening and into the early morning hours of Wednesday morning. In particular, **Detective Mike Pacheco** spent all day Tuesday fulfilling his role as

a Deputy US Marshal and he was actively participating in the manhunt with the Violent Fugitive Task Force in Providence all that day and into the that evening leading to Coventry.

Earlier that evening, the Chief of Police in Shelby, NC gathered the officers working the fugitive portion of case and introduced them to the wife of the fallen officer. While she was understandably very emotional, she wanted to convey her deep appreciation for the hard work that all of the law enforcement officers were putting in to find Fenner and bring him to justice.

Irving Fenner was taken into custody without incident early that morning at approximately 3:00 am near the 300 block of Tiogue Avenue in Coventry following and an intensive investigative effort to locate him that began the morning he shot Shelby Police Officer Brackeen in North Carolina.

Coventry Police played host to the final event of the fugitive portion of this tragedy and helped bring that small measure of peace to Officer Brackeen's family. As I have witnessed many times in my career, our talented officers seamlessly integrate into these joint Federal, State and Local Task Force Operations. We are very proud to have been a part of helping bring some closure to the Brackeen Family and to our Brother and Sister Officers at Shelby PD and the surrounding North Carolina law enforcement community.

### **Department of Human Services (DHS)**

- We have successfully completed the necessary forms for the Legislative Grant from the general Assembly. The Departments understanding is that it has been awarded to us in the amount of \$10,439 so, the department will be able to increase the Volunteer Coordinator Assistant's hours, Continue to employ the person who manages the transportation portion of the department with the State Department of elderly Affairs and compensate the facilitator of the monthly Caregiver support group.
- Letters have gone out to 2015 recipients of the 'tis the season program. If they are in need this year the form with the required documentation will be returned and processed for 2016 season. Hard to believe we are talking about the holidays already.
- The department has done some minor construction to provide private office space for the Project Friends Program coordinator. **Thank goodness for Al Jordan our very talented Maintenance Employee.**
- Please ask everyone to mark their calendars for **9-22-2016 at 6:00 PM** to attend the first unveiling of the building plans for our Police/Human Services complex. We want all who have questions to attend so at least the participants receive accurate information. We know we have an uphill battle ahead but we are ready for the trek.

### **Department of Public Works**

- The storm drainage project on Prospect Street is continuing.
- The crew has been working on cleaning drainage swales and detention basins.
- The street sweeping, brush cutting and road grading programs are continuing.
- Crews have been filling potholes and repairing asphalt berms.
- Members of the Public Works Department attended the Rhode Island Public Works Association trade show on Wednesday 9/14.

## **Department of Parks and Recreation**

### *Fall 2016 Programs*

The Town of Coventry's Parks and Recreation Department's Web site homepage has been updated. Printing of promotional flyers and an ad in The Reminder have been finalized.

### **PARK PROPERTIES**

#### *Miscellaneous*

A couple of Coventry Parks & Recreation maintenance staff led a backhoe contest for the Rhode Island Public Works Association Equipment Show.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

#### *Library Tot Lot*

Paul Brouillette, Loss Prevention Specialist at Rhode Island Interlocal Risk Management Trust, recommended that the Governor's Commission on Disabilities review the library playground design before proceeding. Raena Blumenthal (Parks & Recreation) will coordinate this process.

## **Town Library**

- The annual report to the Office of Library & Information Services was submitted on September 7th.
- We are presently interviewing candidates for the branch librarian position at Greene.
- The Ocean State Libraries Steering Committee has hired Susan Moreland Straub as their new Executive Director.