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LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF COVENTRY

Notice is hereby given that the Coventry Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Annex to consider the addition of an Article III titled “Discharge of Firearms and Air Guns” to Chapter 66 of the Town Code entitled: “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions”

The proposed added Ordinance seeks to establish a set of rules for the discharge of firearms and air guns within the Town of Coventry. Section 66-75 establishes the purpose of the Ordinance to establish regulations and provide for the safety and well-being of Coventry residents. Section 66-76 outlines a series of definitions. Section 66-77 outlines a series of requirements for discharging firearms, such as needing a backstop and being at a minimum distance from occupied structures. Section 66-78 provides for limits surrounding the time of day and duration of discharging firearms. Section 66-79 explicitly outlines exemptions to the above sections such as self-defense, hunting, private gun clubs, airsoft and paintball, as well as ceremonies and reenactments.

The foregoing summary has been provided in lieu of publishing the proposed amended Ordinance in full. This document is prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This document does not represent the intent of the Town Council or the Town of Coventry for any purpose. A Copy of the complete proposed amended Ordinance is available for inspection in the Town Clerk’s Office and on the Town’s website, www.coventry-ct.gov.

Dated at Coventry, Connecticut, this 18th day of February 2026.

Lori Tollmann, CMC MCTC
Coventry Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF COVENTRY

Notice is hereby given that the Coventry Town Council will hold a public hearing on Monday, March 2, 2026, at 7:00 P.M. in the Town Hall Annex to consider the addition of a Section 94-39 titled “Retention of Excess Payments” and a Section 94-40 titled “Waiver of Property Taxes” to Chapter 94 of the Town Code entitled: “Taxation”

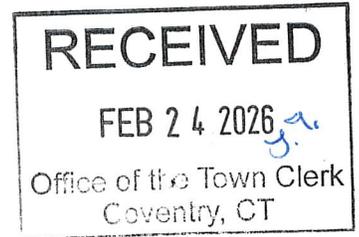
The proposed added Ordinance seeks to establish rules for the retention or waiver of tax payments below five dollars (\$5). Section 94-39 authorizes the Coventry Tax Collector to retain payments in excess of the amount due provided that amount is less than five dollars (\$5). Section 94-40 authorizes the Tax Collector to waive payment of property taxes provided the amount due is less than five dollars (\$5).

The foregoing summary has been provided in lieu of publishing the proposed amended Ordinance in full. This document is prepared for the benefit of the public, solely for the purposes of information, summarization and explanation. This document does not represent the intent of the Town Council or the Town of Coventry for any purpose. A Copy of the complete proposed amended Ordinance is available for inspection in the Town Clerk’s Office and on the Town’s website, www.coventry-ct.gov.

Dated at Coventry, Connecticut, this 18th day of February 2026.

Lori Tollmann, CMC MCTC
Coventry Town Clerk

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
Town Council Finance Committee Meeting
February 17, 2025, 6:00 pm
Town Hall Annex



1. Call To Order, Roll Call:

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Robyn Gallagher at 6:00 PM.

Members Present: Robyn Gallagher-Chairperson, Julie Blanchard, Peter Larson, and Lisa Thomas, Council Chairwoman & Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: None

Also Present: James Drumm-Town Manager, Cherie Trahan-Finance Director, Alex Taylor-Special Projects Coordinator, and Eric Peterson-Chief of Police.

2.B. Acceptance Of Minutes: January 12, 2026:

Motion: I move to accept the January 12, 2026, Finance Committee Minutes.

By: Blanchard

Second: Larson

Discussion/Edits: None

Voting: Unanimously in favor

Motion: I move to move up Agenda Item 4 up on the agenda as the next item of business.

By: Larson

Second: Blanchard

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

4. Discussion/possible action: review of health insurance plans and recommended course of action

Gallagher shared that the Town Council received an update from the BOE that they have decided to go with the Cigna Direct Plan as recommended by Dr. Petrone, Jim Drumm, Cherie Trahan, and Charmaine Bradshaw-Hill. However, there are still some unanswered questions that Gallagher would like addressed.

Drumm distributed a comparison sheet between the state plan, and the current plan the town has. The benefits would remain the same, but the only change would be the plan would be directly through Cigna, not ECHIP. Drumm noted that there was a significant increase in Cigna claims, which may cause their costs to increase.

Gallagher has questioned what will be left in the reserve after ECHIP ends. Trahan estimated the reserves to be around \$1M combined between the town and the BOE. Thomas shared that the BOE voted to assume a certain

amount of the remainder to reduce the estimate of what they need to put into their budget. Reducing their increase from 5.22% to 4.9%.

Blanchard explained that the BOE has stated the Town Council is behind them in self-funding. She was curious where this statement came from as she does not remember the Council deciding not to fund the account. She requested a history of the funding or lack thereof. Drumm explained that it goes back years, as the town had some employees with severe or chronic illnesses that heavily ate into their claims. During this time, the BOE did not have employees dealing with these types of illnesses/situations. Through ECHIP, the reserves for both the town and BOE were considered as 1 reserve. However, when the claims were tracked separately, it was determined the town was falling into a deficit. If the town decided to fund all the claims, it would end up overfunding the reserves. Since the BOE had less claims, they believe they should be the ones receiving the benefit of the group. Gallagher explained this is contradictory to being a part of a large pool which spreads risk over a larger group which is beneficial for insurance. She continued that it seems they want to benefit from being a part of a pool but do not want to be treated as part of a pool. She added that during a difficult budget year, it would not be right to over budget on health insurance when there is a healthy combined pool in reserve to make up for a perceived inequity recognized by those managing the fund.

Gallagher reminded that when going over Finance/Town Council goals, Blanchard has stated that she would like everything to be viewed under 1 tent. Blanchard agreed and wanted an explanation on why the BOE is saying these things. Drumm explained that from their point of view, money put in by their employees was not taken out. Larson stated that this is luck on their end. The Finance Committee agreed and stated that paying in what you take out is not the principal of paying for insurance; that is just paying for their own medical bills.

Trahan explained the best way to look at it, is to review the rate adjustment from ECHIP, and whatever the percentage increase is, both sides would put that rate change in. However, during budget seasons, when the town was looking to reduce increases for the taxpayers, a lower percentage was put into health insurance as the reserves were healthy. However, the BOE has consistently contributed the percentage increase. She further explained that claims will always fluctuate, but the town has not been contributing their full calculated amount. She stated it's still the same pot, and the appropriate thing to do is to draw down the reserves by X amount (ex. \$200,000), which would reduce rates for everyone, town and BOE.

Gallagher discussed the difference in size between town and BOE staff. The town has just about 60, whereas the BOE has over 250. She questioned if that portion is equivalent to what the BOE and town pay into ECHIP. Trahan explained that the rates are typically determined by what the expected claims are going to be.

Gallagher suggested that this be part of budget discussions to review whether the total the town and BOE are contributing into ECHIP separately, corresponds to the respective populations within that pool. Thomas explained that during budget, they aren't working with ECHIP, so there needs to be an understanding moving forward. She continued that the BOE chair received an update there was \$2.8M in the reserve pool, and they are assuming there is \$800,000 available due to the perceived \$2M town deficit. She continued she is unsure how much of the \$800,000 they are planning to use to offset their budget. She explained the Drumm and Dr. Petrone need to have a conversation, as there is 1 budget for the town, so everyone should benefit from a decrease in the budget. Trahan explained that she understands they have discussed that their employees have a right to share in

the reduction as well, through lower rates. She stressed that this is not how this works; Drumm agreed. Trahan reminded that even if the budget is reduced by a certain amount, that reduction is not going back to the employees. They will still pay the same rate regardless.

Blanchard commented that after the meeting with the USI agent, it was requested to have a cost breakdown between employees paying for a direct plan with Cigna, and one with the state. Gallagher noted that this was on the comparison sheet attached to the agenda and discussed the benefits of the different accounts.

Thomas shared that it seems to make the most sense to stick with Cigna Direct for a year, while the Town Council and Unions can explore other options and get feedback. Gallagher agreed. It was reminded that employees will not see any changes in benefits. Larson also agreed this seems like the best plan given the lack of time, but encouraged other options be reviewed as soon as possible to prepare for a renewal or change come next year.

Motion: I move to recommend to the full Town Council to select the Cigna Direct health insurance plan.

By: Larson

Second: Gallagher

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

Motion: I move to move up Agenda Item 5 up on the agenda as the next item of business.

By: Larson

Second: Blanchard

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

5. Police Department Budget:

1. Software Upgrade:

Chief Peterson explained that the CAD system (AccuComm) the Police Department uses is the brains of their operation. It is used to log complaints, track everything, assign case numbers, write arrest reports, etc. He continued that over the last decade, police departments have been moving to a new software company, NextGen. Over 90% of the police departments in the state use them. He believes that AccuComm may not be around much longer, and the system the use is outdated leading to constant problems. He explained that the department has \$30,000 to keep it going. Drumm clarified that this amount was part of last year's capital and needed to be allocated to upgrade the system to meet state requirements. Chief Peterson also added that there is no guarantee that they won't need to put in additional funds next year, or even a few years down the road.

Chief Peterson explained that NextGen has lowered their price, and if the Coventry PD can switch to them soon, the cost will be \$60,000 less than doing it later down the road. He emphasized that this is a one-time deal. Chief

Peterson reminded that the PD pays \$21,000 in annual fees for AccuComm, and with NextGen, the annual fee will be \$18,000. The full cost of NextGen is \$200,000, but Chief Peterson was able to negotiate it down to \$125,000. The town's IT experts have advised against paying \$30,000 for an outdated program. Chief Peterson explained the cost would be paid over a period of 3 years, with a down payment of \$75,000 due at the time of purchase. The \$30,000 allocated for AccuComm could be used towards that expense. Additionally, the \$21,000 that would be due to AccuComm come July 1, could be used towards the 1st year cost of NextGen as well. This would require new funds of \$23,912 in order to purchase NextGen.

Gallagher discussed the best options for paying for NextGen with the 1.5% fund and CNREF and how to account for the costs within the budget. Thomas reminded that Chief Peterson also just saved the town over half a million dollars by securing another grant to replace other obsolete equipment, so she supports this purchase.

Larson questioned how long the current software would last. Chief Peterson explained that they are already at the end of the line with how much it costs to keep going. Additionally, they have had to reduce staff as their client base becomes smaller. Trahan added that AccuComm will need to put a lot of money into the business or they will eventually go out of business and the money Coventry spent on them will be lost. At that time, the deal on the table with NextGen will be gone.

Gallagher asked if there were any other companies in the business, and if this is something that should go out to bid. Chief Peterson explained there are few companies that offer this type of software, and none of them will be cheaper than NextGen. Trahan agreed that it is a specialized service. Chief Peterson didn't even know if there were 2 to 3 other companies that provide this software. He further clarified that NextGen services 226 police departments in the state, along with the state police. He continued that he has communicated with other departments who use NextGen, and they have nothing but good things to say.

Gallagher suggested that the best option would be to allocate \$45,000 from CNREF, which is the \$75,000 for the NextGen down payment, less the \$30,000 the PD already has to put towards the switch. The \$21,000 that would be due to AccuComm come July 1, could be put back into CNREF or allocated to another line, if the Police Department funding is passed at the budget referendum. Larson emphasized that switching to this system will save taxpayers money over time.

Motion: I move to recommend to the Town Council to allocate up to \$45,000 from CNREF to purchase the NextGen software program for the Coventry Police Department.

By: Blanchard

Second: Larson

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

2. Sergeant position

Chief Peterson explained when he first came on as Chief, there were only 2 sergeants, and now the department has 5. He continued that in this day and age, there needs to be a police supervisor on 24/7, which is too taxing

for 5 people. There are times when the department has to operate without a supervisor. He urged that the town should be protected from liabilities should there not be a supervisor working.

Chief Peterson informed that it has been busy for the department over the last year, and there have been times a supervisor should have been working, but one was not available. He shared some examples to show the benefits of having a supervisor and highlighted some scenarios where things could have gone wrong with the absence of one. Chief Peterson stressed that having 6 sergeants with the department could almost close the gap when a supervisor isn't working and is what he needs for 24/7 coverage.

The Finance Committee reviewed the pay difference between a patrol officer and a sergeant, which is good until July/August. Thomas clarified that this is not hiring a new person to the department but rather promoting an officer within the department. Chief Peterson explained that the person to be promoted would be the top step patrolman, and it would cost around \$1,300 for the 1st year, and by the 3rd year it will cost \$11,000 annually due to the 3 steps for a sergeant. Drumm reminded that this has been requested from Chief Peterson in the recent budget cycles and is not a new request. 2 years ago, 2 sergeants were requested, and the department was allowed 1. Last year, there were no sergeant promotions.

Thomas questioned the level of training a sergeant would have, especially in terms of de-escalating. Chief Peterson explained that all officers receive the same de-escalating training, but sergeants are required to undergo state-mandated training, which trains them in different strategies, and handling difficult situations like domestic disturbances, mentally ill individuals, etc. He also informed that every quarter, he holds a staff meeting with the sergeants, about his expectations and how he wants the department to run. He added that he holds them to a higher standard.

Gallagher questioned how often it occurs that there is not a sergeant working. Chief Peterson explained it's about 25% of the time, maybe a little less. He discussed that having 6 sergeants would allow him to have 2 sergeants per shift system, closing that gap and covering each other for vacation time and other things. Additionally, the 6 patrolmen would have the similar system, easily covering for each other with 2 per shift.

Gallagher also asked what type of liabilities would impact the town if something went wrong, and there was not a supervisor on. She was curious if there would be insurance savings, if the town could show there is always a supervisor on duty. Chief Peterson cautioned against going to the insurance companies with this information as they likely assume there is ample supervisory coverage.

Drumm added that when promoting an officer to sergeant, it is also harder for other departments to try and "steal" those officers away who have earned their sergeant stripes.

Gallagher shared that she is hesitant adding something into the budget mid-year that hasn't been run through the taxpayers and is different than allocating funds from CNREF. Chief Peterson stated that he would continue working with the Town Manager.

The Finance Committee had consensus to continue Agenda item 5, as well as Agenda items 3 and 6 to a future meeting.

3. Reports: Continued to a future agenda.

3.A. Committee Chair - Robyn Gallagher:

3.B. Committee Members:

3.C Monthly Financial Reports:

3.D. Board of Education Reports - December 2025:

3.E. Audit update:

3.F. Budget Process update:

3.G. General Fund accounting update:

3.H. HVAC Reimbursement

3.I. Status update on referendum information - bond counsel process:

3.J. Impact of Federal government funding cuts on State and Local Government:

6. Citizens Budget Guide: Continued to a future agenda.

7. Adjournment:

Blanchard motions to adjourn at 7:01 PM, Larson seconds. The meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:01 PM.

Submitted by,

Nicole Archambault

Nicole Archambault

Finance Committee Minutes Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Finance Committee at the next Finance Committee Meeting. Please see the next Finance Committee meeting minutes for approval or changes to these minutes.

**RE: H.B. No. 5033 AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EDUCATION.**

**Submitted by: Lisa Thomas, Chairwoman, Coventry Town Council; Chairwoman, Capitol
Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) Legislative Committee**

Chairs McCrory and Leeper; Vice Chairs Winfield and Brown; Ranking Members Berthel and Zupkus; Members of the Education Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding H.B. 5033, *An Act Implementing the Governor's Budget Recommendations for Education*. The Coventry Town Council supports Connecticut's students, teachers, and a strong public education system. However, due to Connecticut's local property tax-reliant education funding structure, we depend heavily on our state government for grant funding and policy predictability. Like many districts, Coventry has seen significant staffing and program cuts in our schools as residents are more resistant to voting yes to budgets that increase property taxes during these times of economic struggle. We would like to call your attention to the following impacts of HB5033:

- The additional cost shift to local budgets when districts become financially responsible for magnet school enrollments they did not plan for and did not agree to, will upend taxpayer approved budgets. If magnets can enroll "any interested student" into unused seats and the sending district must pay additional tuition and transportation, municipalities will face unbudgeted costs. Do we know the expected statewide and per-district fiscal impact of expanded direct enrollment and related transportation needs? These costs will exacerbate other unanticipated costs, such as for special education needs which can be incredibly high. Our Coventry Public Schools were in a spending freeze this year before we even got to December. This was due to unexpected special education costs, a common challenge in many school districts. Imagine how this will be compounded by unanticipated magnet school enrollments. How is it possible to consider flat funding ECS grants, while at the same time creating additional cost burdens on our schools? .
- Continued flat funding of ECS for the vast majority of towns, coupled with an outdated ECS foundation set over a decade ago, will continue to erode our education programs. Moreover, it continues a broken promise to towns to fully fund ECS grants. We and our neighboring towns have been forced to eliminate student lifelines such as social workers, music, sports, and arts programs, math and literacy interventionists, STEAM instruction, and library media materials. School districts don't *want* to make these cuts, but when taxpayers won't pass a budget that funds them there is nowhere else to turn.
- The Excess Cost grant continues to fall short in the face of startlingly increasing special education costs. While we appreciate that the budget enacted last session increases special education funding for FY27, this amount clearly is not sufficient. Coventry is not alone in not receiving reimbursement that fully covers its excess special education costs. The Special Education Task Force notes that "[c]urrent estimates indicate that most districts will be reimbursed less than 65% of their excess costs above the threshold of 4.5 times per pupil expenditure."

Adding another potential for significant unanticipated costs via unbudgeted magnet school enrollments while continuing to inadequately fund ECS and Excess Cost sharing, will further widen the equity gap from one district to the next. Even those districts regarded as “wealthy and well funded” faced significant budget reductions last fiscal year . We are experiencing ongoing declines in our great state’s ability to meet the CT Constitution’s mandate for an adequate education, much less the best education for our kids.

The Coventry Town Council joins its voice with the many others respectfully urging you to make the following modifications to Governor Lamont’s proposed budget prior to passage :

- Restore \$12 million dollars of funding for the RESCs to operate magnet schools.
- Adjust the ECS foundation amount to reflect cost inflation in the years since the 2013 foundation was set and don’t flat fund this grant to districts. Please consider indexing the foundation level to inflation to ensure adequate education funding for all school districts. The foundation is currently \$11,525. To keep up with inflation, the amount should be increased to \$16,000.
- Fully fund the special education Excess Cost grant and remove the cap that results in budget shortfalls and mid year reductions by districts.

We are grateful to you for reviewing our concerns and for considering proposed modifications to the Governor’s budget recommendations for education. As local legislators, we certainly understand the constraints you are under as you make decisions with statewide impacts.

Respectfully,

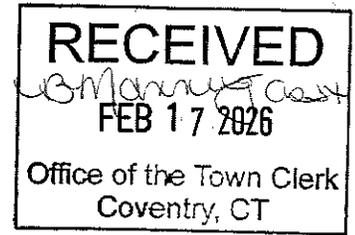
Lisa Thomas
Chair, Coventry Town Council
Chair, CRCOG Legislative Committee

2/18/2026

Wishes to be reappointed New term to expire 3/1/2029

Appointed

STATEMENT OF INTEREST
IN SERVING ON A
TOWN BOARD OR COMMISSION



Use this form to apply online to serve on a Town Board of Commission. This helps the Town Council get to know those being considered for an appointment. Candidates are reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Town Council Steering Committee and recommended for appointment at the following full Town Council meeting.

Date: 2/8/26

Julie Castillo
931 North River Road
Coventry, CT 06238

Telephone (Day) 860-230-7489 (Evening) 860-230-7489

Email address: juliecastillo0908@gmail.com

Energy Conservation/Alternative Energy Advisory Committee
New Term to Expire on March 1, 2029

Current member?

Yes No

Where did you hear of this opening?

Currently Serving Channel 191 Website Word of mouth Town e-blast
 Recruited by Committee Member or Town Council Other: (specify) _____

How long have you lived in Coventry? 6 years

Are you a registered voter of Coventry? (Must be a resident elector to serve) Yes No

What is your political party affiliation? Democratic Republican Unaffiliated Other (specify): _____

Briefly explain why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission and what you would like to accomplish.

I would like to help the town of Coventry reduce its energy use, and increase utilization of renewable energy sources. I would also like to promote and further adopt other sustainability measures.

Please outline other relevant education or experience which would be helpful to the Board or Commission you are requesting:

1. Masters degree in Energy and Environmental Management
2. Currently working in the renewable energy department at Eversource.

Conflict of Interest Statement

In order to promote impartiality of decisions and fairness in the treatment of those having business with the Town of Coventry through its Boards and Commissions, any conflict of interest must be eliminated. Members of any Board or Commission having direct or indirect financial or personal interest in any contract, transaction or decision of that board to commission, or any officer or agent of the Town of Coventry, shall disclose that interest to said Board or Commission and disqualify themselves from any awarding, assignment or discussion of any contract, transaction, or decision regarding their personal interests.

By signing below, I certify that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, that I desire appointment to a Board or Commission in Coventry, that I am willing to adhere to the conflict of interest policy stated above, and that I will abide by Council policies for volunteers as detailed in the Volunteer Handbook.

Date: 2/8/26 Signature: Julie Castillo

TOWN COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT: (optional)

The _____
recommends _____
for (re)appointment to _____
Official _____ Office _____

wishes to be re-appointed new term to expire 11/1/28

Appointed

STATEMENT OF INTEREST
IN SERVING ON A
TOWN BOARD OR COMMISSION

Use this form to apply online to serve on a Town Board of Commission. This helps the Town Council get to know those being considered for an appointment. Candidates are reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Town Council Steering Committee and recommended for appointment at the following full Town Council meeting.

Date: 2/2/26

First Name: McKenna Last Name: Considine

Address: 29 Gable Rd

Telephone (Day) 410-693-5475 (Evening) _____

Email address: mckconsidine@gmail.com

Board or Commission name: Parks & Rec

Current member?

Yes No

Where did you hear of this opening?

Currently Serving Channel 191 Website Word of mouth Town e-blast
 Recruited by Committee Member or Town Council Other: (specify) _____

How long have you lived in Coventry? 6 years

Are you a registered voter of Coventry? (Must be a resident elector to serve)
 Yes No

What is your political party affiliation? Democratic Republican Unaffiliated
 Other (specify): _____

Membership Level Desired:

Full member Alternate member Either Level (as available)

Briefly explain why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission and what you would like to accomplish.

I love the town of Coventry. There are always so many fun events going on in the community at all times of the year. I love having the opportunity to be a part of planning these events & meeting all my neighbors in the process.

Please outline other relevant education or experience which would be helpful to the Board or Commission you are requesting:

I have a bachelors in Zoology. I learned the importance of considering both humans & the local flora & fauna when it comes to building parks. As a mom I spend a lot of time finding new ways to bring all ages together to celebrate, create, or play games.

Conflict of Interest Statement

In order to promote impartiality of decisions and fairness in the treatment of those having business with the Town of Coventry through its Boards and Commissions, any conflict of interest must be eliminated. Members of any Board or Commission having direct or indirect financial or personal interest in any contract, transaction or decision of that board to commission, or any officer or agent of the Town of Coventry, shall disclose that interest to said Board or Commission and disqualify themselves from any awarding, assignment or discussion of any contract, transaction, or decision regarding their personal interests.

By signing below, I certify that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, that I desire appointment to a Board or Commission in Coventry, that I am willing to adhere to the conflict of interest policy stated above, and that I will abide by Council policies for volunteers as detailed in the Volunteer Handbook.

Date: _____ Signature: _____

TOWN COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT: (optional)

The _____
recommends _____
for (re)appointment to _____
Official _____ Office _____

No vacancies at this time

Lori Tollmann

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 10:58 AM
To: Lori Tollmann; Laura Stone; Jon Hand
Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Online Form Submittal: Statement of Interest In Serving on a Town Board or Commission

Statement of Interest In Serving on a Town Board or Commission

STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN SERVING ON A TOWN BOARD OR COMMISSION

Date 12/19/2025

Use this form to apply online to serve on a Town Board or Commission. This helps the Town Council get to know those being considered for appointment. Candidates are reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Town Council Steering Committee and recommended for appointment at the following full Town Council meeting.

First Name Dawne

Last Name Drumm

Address 331 Riley Mountain Road

City Coventry

State Connecticut

Zip 06238

Telephone (Day): 386-433-6050

Telephone (Evening): same

Email address: dawnedrumm@gmail.com

Board or Commission name: Parks and Recreation Commission

Current member? No

Where did you hear of this opening? Word of Mouth

If other please specify *Field not completed.*

How long have you lived in Coventry? 1.5 years

Are you a registered voter in Coventry? (Must be a resident elector to serve) Yes

What is your party affiliation? Unaffiliated

Other party (please specify) *Field not completed.*

Briefly explain why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission and what you would like to accomplish. I am interested in the development of the parks for people of all ages. I am aware of the master plans that are in place and that there is going to be further work, and even fund raising, needed to improve these parks. I would like to be a part of the planning of future master plans for the other parks. I am a mother of a teenage son at CHS and he is active in soccer, swimming and scouting. He is often at Creaser Park, Laidlaw Park, and Lisicke Beach using the facilities. I also understand the the Commission is the Art Commission and I have studied in art. I would like to see more public art displayed in the community.

Please outline other education or experience which would be helpful to the Board or Commission to which you are applying: I am a Registered Nurse, but I also have studied art at Flagler College, St. Augustine, Florida. I have been involved with my son's little league baseball teams in the past. I have served terms on municipal Boards: 1) City of High Springs, FL, Tree Board, Vice Chair and Chair. 2) City of Zephyrhills, Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. On my last Board appointment I along with the Board members planned recreation improvements to parks. Some of the more memorable projects were a renovation to a community pool complex and in a different park the addition of a new skate park.

Conflict of Interest Statement:

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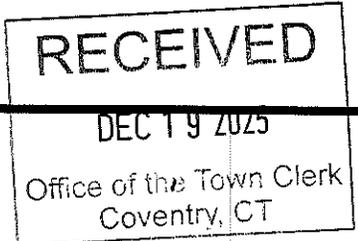
Electronic verification of accuracy and Verified

adherence to Conflict of
Interest Statement:

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



No vacancies at this time.



Lori Tollmann

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 6:31 AM
To: Lori Tollmann; Laura Stone; Jon Hand
Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE) Online Form Submittal: Statement of Interest In Serving on a Town Board or Commission

Statement of Interest In Serving on a Town Board or Commission

STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN SERVING ON A TOWN BOARD OR COMMISSION

Date 12/19/2025

Use this form to apply online to serve on a Town Board or Commission. This helps the Town Council get to know those being considered for appointment. Candidates are reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Town Council Steering Committee and recommended for appointment at the following full Town Council meeting.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|
| First Name | Nathan |
| Last Name | Garcia |
| Address | 386 Talcott Hill Road |
| City | Coventry |
| State | CT |
| Zip | 06238 |
| Telephone (Day): | 8609447746 |
| Telephone (Evening): | 8609447746 |
| Email address: | nategarcia42@yahoo.com |
| Board or Commission name: | Nathan Garcia |
| Current member? | No |
| Where did you hear of this opening? | Other: |
| If other please specify | Lesley Munshower |

How long have you lived in Coventry? 2 years but I have owned for 6 Months

Are you a registered voter in Coventry? (Must be a resident elector to serve) Yes

What is your party affiliation? Unaffiliated

Other party (please specify) *Field not completed.*

Briefly explain why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission and what you would like to accomplish. I work at the UConn Recreation department, and feel that I could contribute a fresh perspective on outdoors and recreation.

Please outline other education or experience which would be helpful to the Board or Commission to which you are applying: I am currently enrolled in UConn's Business School, and pursuing my MBA. I have also been a director in a number of industries including, Recreation, Corporate & Nonprofit Fitness, Outdoor Adventure, and Sales.

Conflict of Interest Statement:
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Electronic verification of accuracy and adherence to Conflict of Interest Statement: Verified

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



Possible Alternate position term to expire 1/1/2028

Statement of Interest In Serving on a Town Board or Commission

STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN SERVING ON A TOWN BOARD OR COMMISSION

Date 1/23/2026

Use this form to apply online to serve on a Town Board or Commission. This helps the Town Council get to know those being considered for appointment. Candidates are reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Town Council Steering Committee and recommended for appointment at the following full Town Council meeting.

First Name Simon

Last Name Hecht

Address 59 Frederick Dr

City Coventry

State CT

Zip 06238

Telephone (Day): 2039152714

Telephone (Evening): 2039152714

Email address: simonhecht77@gmail.com

Board or Commission name: Parks and Recreation

Current member? No

Where did you hear of this opening? Recruited by Committee Member or Town Council

If other please specify *Field not completed.*

How long have you lived in Coventry? 19 years

Are you a registered voter in Coventry? (Must be a resident elector to serve) Yes

What is your party affiliation? Democratic

Other party (please specify) *Field not completed.*

Briefly explain why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission and what you would like to accomplish.

I have been a resident of Coventry for the last 19 years, moving here with my wife after growing up and living in other parts of Connecticut. As she and I built our family, it was the town's parks that helped us gain a sense of community. Our kids used playgrounds in the parks or elementary schools, participated in youth soccer at Laidlaw Park, and developed their baseball skills at Miller Richardson Park. It was in these places that our kids and family have made life long friends, and seen how the residents in a small town come together.

When my kids were younger, I was part of the Coventry Soccer board, and was part of the Laidlaw park expansion and improvements. As they became older and more involved in baseball, I joined the Little League board and helped guide the Miller Richardson Park expansion.

I have seen first hand the impact that these improvements have had on the children and families in this town, and received many compliments from coaches visiting from other towns. As I have stepped down from directly supporting the Little League, I would like to continue to be involved in shaping the future of our town's parks, and continue to build a sense of pride for our residents.

Please outline other education or experience which would be helpful to the Board or Commission to which you are applying:

I have spent the last 15 years volunteering with the Coventry Little League organization, the last 5 of which as a board member. During this time I was involved in Miller Richardson Park's renovation design and the merger of Coventry's softball and baseball organizations into one combined little league.

Conflict of Interest Statement:

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Electronic verification of accuracy and adherence to Conflict of Interest Statement:

Verified

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)

No vacancies at this time

Lori Tollmann

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Thursday, December 18, 2025 7:07 PM
To: Lori Tollmann; Laura Stone; Jon Hand
Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Online Form Submittal: Statement of Interest In Serving on a Town Board or Commission

Statement of Interest In Serving on a Town Board or Commission

STATEMENT OF INTEREST IN SERVING ON A TOWN BOARD OR COMMISSION

Date 12/18/2025

Use this form to apply online to serve on a Town Board or Commission. This helps the Town Council get to know those being considered for appointment. Candidates are reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Town Council Steering Committee and recommended for appointment at the following full Town Council meeting.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| First Name | Jacob |
| Last Name | Orcutt |
| Address | 55 Tall Oak Dr |
| City | Coventry |
| State | CT |
| Zip | 06238 |
| Telephone (Day): | 8609186055 |
| Telephone (Evening): | 8609186055 |
| Email address: | jorcutt.history@gmail.com |
| Board or Commission name: | Parks and Recreation |
| Current member? | No |
| Where did you hear of this opening? | Other: |
| If other please specify | Referred by Parks and Rec Director |

How long have you lived in Coventry? 9 years

Are you a registered voter in Coventry? (Must be a resident elector to serve) Yes

What is your party affiliation? Democratic

Other party (please specify) *Field not completed.*

Briefly explain why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission and what you would like to accomplish. As a parent of two young children (8 and 6) who participate in Parks and Rec programming, I would be eager to share my perspective and my family's experience with Coventry's parks and P&R programming. There are no specific agendas or projects that I would like to see accomplished, but I would like to play a part in ensuring that the Parks and Recreation department continues to provide parks and recreation program offerings (as well as parks themselves) that are accessible, safe, and fun for Coventry residents and visitors.

Please outline other education or experience which would be helpful to the Board or Commission to which you are applying: I have worked for 11 years as a museum professional, most recently as Director of Operations at Connecticut's Old State House, a national historic landmark and our state's former state Capitol building. I have helped organize programming and field trips at that museum, in addition to coordinating to support the maintenance of the building and property. I have experience with non-profits, budgeting, and reporting to various stakeholders. I also currently serve as the secretary of the Booth and Dimock Library's Board of Directors and as a member of the town's America 250 | Coventry CT committee.

Conflict of Interest Statement:

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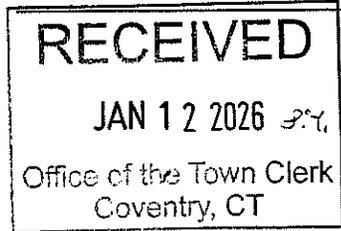
Electronic verification of accuracy and adherence to Conflict of Interest Statement: Verified

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



Wishes to be reappointed new term to expire on 1/1/2028

Appointed



STATEMENT OF INTEREST
IN SERVING ON A
TOWN BOARD OR COMMISSION

Use this form to apply online to serve on a Town Board of Commission. This helps the Town Council get to know those being considered for an appointment. Candidates are reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Town Council Steering Committee and recommended for appointment at the following full Town Council meeting.

Date: 1/1/26

Jennifer Rodgers
274 Hannah Lane
Coventry, CT 06238

Telephone (Day) 860 268 4673 (Evening) _____

Email address: jrodgers334@gmail.com

Park & Recreation Commission
New Term to Expire on January 1, 2028

Current member?

Yes No

Where did you hear of this opening?

Currently Serving Channel 191 Website Word of mouth Town e-blast
 Recruited by Committee Member or Town Council Other: (specify) _____

How long have you lived in Coventry? Since 2015

Are you a registered voter of Coventry? (Must be a resident elector to serve) Yes No

What is your political party affiliation? Democratic Republican Unaffiliated Other (specify): _____

Briefly explain why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission and what you would like to accomplish.

Been serving on commission for over 10 years

Please outline other relevant education or experience which would be helpful to the Board or Commission you are requesting:

Conflict of Interest Statement

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By signing below, I certify that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, that I desire appointment to a Board or Commission in Coventry, that I am willing to adhere to the conflict of interest policy stated above, and that I will abide by Council policies for volunteers as detailed in the Volunteer Handbook.

Date: 1/10/20 Signature: *Rodger*

TOWN COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT: (optional)

The _____
recommends _____
for (re)appointment to _____
Official _____ Office _____

Wishes to be appointed ~~term~~ term to expire on 1/1/2028

Appointed

**STATEMENT OF INTEREST
IN SERVING ON A
TOWN BOARD OR COMMISSION**

Use this form to apply online to serve on a Town Board of Commission. This helps the Town Council get to know those being considered for an appointment. Candidates are reviewed at the monthly meeting of the Town Council Steering Committee and recommended for appointment at the following full Town Council meeting.

Date: 4/21/2025

First Name: CARL Last Name: ZETTERSTROM

Address: 796 BARROCK HILL RD COVENTRY CT

Telephone (Day) 860 944 5770 (Evening) 860 944 5770

Email address: CANADARRIG1960@GMAIL.COM

Board or Commission name: VETERANS MEMORIAL COMMISSION

Current member?

Yes No

Where did you hear of this opening?

- Currently Serving
- Channel 191
- Website
- Word of mouth
- Town e-blast
- Recruited by Committee Member or Town Council
- Other: (specify) DEFEOLA

How long have you lived in Coventry? 30+ YEARS

Are you a registered voter of Coventry? (Must be a resident elector to serve)

Yes No

What is your political party affiliation? Democratic Republican Unaffiliated

Other (specify): _____

Briefly explain why you are interested in serving on this Board or Commission and what you would like to accomplish.

WANT TO HELP WITH VETERANS AFFAIRS

Please outline other relevant education or experience which would be helpful to the Board or Commission you are requesting:

POST COMMANDER POST 52 COVENTRY MANUSFIELD.

Conflict of Interest Statement

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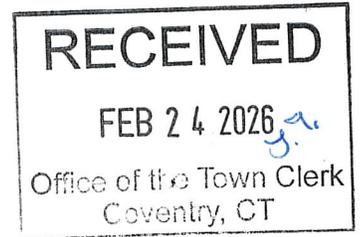
By signing below, I certify that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge, that I desire appointment to a Board or Commission in Coventry, that I am willing to adhere to the conflict of interest policy stated above, and that I will abide by Council policies for volunteers as detailed in the Volunteer Handbook.

Date: 1/21/2025 Signature: Cal Zettler

TOWN COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT: (optional)

The _____
recommends _____
for (re)appointment to _____
Official _____ Office _____

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
Town Council Finance Committee Meeting
February 17, 2025, 6:00 pm
Town Hall Annex



1. Call To Order, Roll Call:

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Robyn Gallagher at 6:00 PM.

Members Present: Robyn Gallagher-Chairperson, Julie Blanchard, Peter Larson, and Lisa Thomas, Council Chairwoman & Ex-Officio Member.

Absent: None

Also Present: James Drumm-Town Manager, Cherie Trahan-Finance Director, Alex Taylor-Special Projects Coordinator, and Eric Peterson-Chief of Police.

2.B. Acceptance Of Minutes: January 12, 2026:

Motion: I move to accept the January 12, 2026, Finance Committee Minutes.

By: Blanchard

Second: Larson

Discussion/Edits: None

Voting: Unanimously in favor

Motion: I move to move up Agenda Item 4 up on the agenda as the next item of business.

By: Larson

Second: Blanchard

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

4. Discussion/possible action: review of health insurance plans and recommended course of action

Gallagher shared that the Town Council received an update from the BOE that they have decided to go with the Cigna Direct Plan as recommended by Dr. Petrone, Jim Drumm, Cherie Trahan, and Charmaine Bradshaw-Hill. However, there are still some unanswered questions that Gallagher would like addressed.

Drumm distributed a comparison sheet between the state plan, and the current plan the town has. The benefits would remain the same, but the only change would be the plan would be directly through Cigna, not ECHIP. Drumm noted that there was a significant increase in Cigna claims, which may cause their costs to increase.

Gallagher has questioned what will be left in the reserve after ECHIP ends. Trahan estimated the reserves to be around \$1M combined between the town and the BOE. Thomas shared that the BOE voted to assume a certain

amount of the remainder to reduce the estimate of what they need to put into their budget. Reducing their increase from 5.22% to 4.9%.

Blanchard explained that the BOE has stated the Town Council is behind them in self-funding. She was curious where this statement came from as she does not remember the Council deciding not to fund the account. She requested a history of the funding or lack thereof. Drumm explained that it goes back years, as the town had some employees with severe or chronic illnesses that heavily ate into their claims. During this time, the BOE did not have employees dealing with these types of illnesses/situations. Through ECHIP, the reserves for both the town and BOE were considered as 1 reserve. However, when the claims were tracked separately, it was determined the town was falling into a deficit. If the town decided to fund all the claims, it would end up overfunding the reserves. Since the BOE had less claims, they believe they should be the ones receiving the benefit of the group. Gallagher explained this is contradictory to being a part of a large pool which spreads risk over a larger group which is beneficial for insurance. She continued that it seems they want to benefit from being a part of a pool but do not want to be treated as part of a pool. She added that during a difficult budget year, it would not be right to over budget on health insurance when there is a healthy combined pool in reserve to make up for a perceived inequity recognized by those managing the fund.

Gallagher reminded that when going over Finance/Town Council goals, Blanchard has stated that she would like everything to be viewed under 1 tent. Blanchard agreed and wanted an explanation on why the BOE is saying these things. Drumm explained that from their point of view, money put in by their employees was not taken out. Larson stated that this is luck on their end. The Finance Committee agreed and stated that paying in what you take out is not the principal of paying for insurance; that is just paying for their own medical bills.

Trahan explained the best way to look at it, is to review the rate adjustment from ECHIP, and whatever the percentage increase is, both sides would put that rate change in. However, during budget seasons, when the town was looking to reduce increases for the taxpayers, a lower percentage was put into health insurance as the reserves were healthy. However, the BOE has consistently contributed the percentage increase. She further explained that claims will always fluctuate, but the town has not been contributing their full calculated amount. She stated it's still the same pot, and the appropriate thing to do is to draw down the reserves by X amount (ex. \$200,000), which would reduce rates for everyone, town and BOE.

Gallagher discussed the difference in size between town and BOE staff. The town has just about 60, whereas the BOE has over 250. She questioned if that portion is equivalent to what the BOE and town pay into ECHIP. Trahan explained that the rates are typically determined by what the expected claims are going to be.

Gallagher suggested that this be part of budget discussions to review whether the total the town and BOE are contributing into ECHIP separately, corresponds to the respective populations within that pool. Thomas explained that during budget, they aren't working with ECHIP, so there needs to be an understanding moving forward. She continued that the BOE chair received an update there was \$2.8M in the reserve pool, and they are assuming there is \$800,000 available due to the perceived \$2M town deficit. She continued she is unsure how much of the \$800,000 they are planning to use to offset their budget. She explained the Drumm and Dr. Petrone need to have a conversation, as there is 1 budget for the town, so everyone should benefit from a decrease in the budget. Trahan explained that she understands they have discussed that their employees have a right to share in

the reduction as well, through lower rates. She stressed that this is not how this works; Drumm agreed. Trahan reminded that even if the budget is reduced by a certain amount, that reduction is not going back to the employees. They will still pay the same rate regardless.

Blanchard commented that after the meeting with the USI agent, it was requested to have a cost breakdown between employees paying for a direct plan with Cigna, and one with the state. Gallagher noted that this was on the comparison sheet attached to the agenda and discussed the benefits of the different accounts.

Thomas shared that it seems to make the most sense to stick with Cigna Direct for a year, while the Town Council and Unions can explore other options and get feedback. Gallagher agreed. It was reminded that employees will not see any changes in benefits. Larson also agreed this seems like the best plan given the lack of time, but encouraged other options be reviewed as soon as possible to prepare for a renewal or change come next year.

Motion: I move to recommend to the full Town Council to select the Cigna Direct health insurance plan.

By: Larson

Second: Gallagher

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

Motion: I move to move up Agenda Item 5 up on the agenda as the next item of business.

By: Larson

Second: Blanchard

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor

5. Police Department Budget:

1. Software Upgrade:

Chief Peterson explained that the CAD system (AccuComm) the Police Department uses is the brains of their operation. It is used to log complaints, track everything, assign case numbers, write arrest reports, etc. He continued that over the last decade, police departments have been moving to a new software company, NextGen. Over 90% of the police departments in the state use them. He believes that AccuComm may not be around much longer, and the system the use is outdated leading to constant problems. He explained that the department has \$30,000 to keep it going. Drumm clarified that this amount was part of last year's capital and needed to be allocated to upgrade the system to meet state requirements. Chief Peterson also added that there is no guarantee that they won't need to put in additional funds next year, or even a few years down the road.

Chief Peterson explained that NextGen has lowered their price, and if the Coventry PD can switch to them soon, the cost will be \$60,000 less than doing it later down the road. He emphasized that this is a one-time deal. Chief

Peterson reminded that the PD pays \$21,000 in annual fees for AccuComm, and with NextGen, the annual fee will be \$18,000. The full cost of NextGen is \$200,000, but Chief Peterson was able to negotiate it down to \$125,000. The town's IT experts have advised against paying \$30,000 for an outdated program. Chief Peterson explained the cost would be paid over a period of 3 years, with a down payment of \$75,000 due at the time of purchase. The \$30,000 allocated for AccuComm could be used towards that expense. Additionally, the \$21,000 that would be due to AccuComm come July 1, could be used towards the 1st year cost of NextGen as well. This would require new funds of \$23,912 in order to purchase NextGen.

Gallagher discussed the best options for paying for NextGen with the 1.5% fund and CNREF and how to account for the costs within the budget. Thomas reminded that Chief Peterson also just saved the town over half a million dollars by securing another grant to replace other obsolete equipment, so she supports this purchase.

Larson questioned how long the current software would last. Chief Peterson explained that they are already at the end of the line with how much it costs to keep going. Additionally, they have had to reduce staff as their client base becomes smaller. Trahan added that AccuComm will need to put a lot of money into the business or they will eventually go out of business and the money Coventry spent on them will be lost. At that time, the deal on the table with NextGen will be gone.

Gallagher asked if there were any other companies in the business, and if this is something that should go out to bid. Chief Peterson explained there are few companies that offer this type of software, and none of them will be cheaper than NextGen. Trahan agreed that it is a specialized service. Chief Peterson didn't even know if there were 2 to 3 other companies that provide this software. He further clarified that NextGen services 226 police departments in the state, along with the state police. He continued that he has communicated with other departments who use NextGen, and they have nothing but good things to say.

Gallagher suggested that the best option would be to allocate \$45,000 from CNREF, which is the \$75,000 for the NextGen down payment, less the \$30,000 the PD already has to put towards the switch. The \$21,000 that would be due to AccuComm come July 1, could be put back into CNREF or allocated to another line, if the Police Department funding is passed at the budget referendum. Larson emphasized that switching to this system will save taxpayers money over time.

Motion: I move to recommend to the Town Council to allocate up to \$45,000 from CNREF to purchase the NextGen software program for the Coventry Police Department.

By: Blanchard

Second: Larson

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimously in favor.

2. Sergeant position

Chief Peterson explained when he first came on as Chief, there were only 2 sergeants, and now the department has 5. He continued that in this day and age, there needs to be a police supervisor on 24/7, which is too taxing

for 5 people. There are times when the department has to operate without a supervisor. He urged that the town should be protected from liabilities should there not be a supervisor working.

Chief Peterson informed that it has been busy for the department over the last year, and there have been times a supervisor should have been working, but one was not available. He shared some examples to show the benefits of having a supervisor and highlighted some scenarios where things could have gone wrong with the absence of one. Chief Peterson stressed that having 6 sergeants with the department could almost close the gap when a supervisor isn't working and is what he needs for 24/7 coverage.

The Finance Committee reviewed the pay difference between a patrol officer and a sergeant, which is good until July/August. Thomas clarified that this is not hiring a new person to the department but rather promoting an officer within the department. Chief Peterson explained that the person to be promoted would be the top step patrolman, and it would cost around \$1,300 for the 1st year, and by the 3rd year it will cost \$11,000 annually due to the 3 steps for a sergeant. Drumm reminded that this has been requested from Chief Peterson in the recent budget cycles and is not a new request. 2 years ago, 2 sergeants were requested, and the department was allowed 1. Last year, there were no sergeant promotions.

Thomas questioned the level of training a sergeant would have, especially in terms of de-escalating. Chief Peterson explained that all officers receive the same de-escalating training, but sergeants are required to undergo state-mandated training, which trains them in different strategies, and handling difficult situations like domestic disturbances, mentally ill individuals, etc. He also informed that every quarter, he holds a staff meeting with the sergeants, about his expectations and how he wants the department to run. He added that he holds them to a higher standard.

Gallagher questioned how often it occurs that there is not a sergeant working. Chief Peterson explained it's about 25% of the time, maybe a little less. He discussed that having 6 sergeants would allow him to have 2 sergeants per shift system, closing that gap and covering each other for vacation time and other things. Additionally, the 6 patrolmen would have the similar system, easily covering for each other with 2 per shift.

Gallagher also asked what type of liabilities would impact the town if something went wrong, and there was not a supervisor on. She was curious if there would be insurance savings, if the town could show there is always a supervisor on duty. Chief Peterson cautioned against going to the insurance companies with this information as they likely assume there is ample supervisory coverage.

Drumm added that when promoting an officer to sergeant, it is also harder for other departments to try and "steal" those officers away who have earned their sergeant stripes.

Gallagher shared that she is hesitant adding something into the budget mid-year that hasn't been run through the taxpayers and is different than allocating funds from CNREF. Chief Peterson stated that he would continue working with the Town Manager.

The Finance Committee had consensus to continue Agenda item 5, as well as Agenda items 3 and 6 to a future meeting.

3. Reports: Continued to a future agenda.

3.A. Committee Chair - Robyn Gallagher:

3.B. Committee Members:

3.C Monthly Financial Reports:

3.D. Board of Education Reports - December 2025:

3.E. Audit update:

3.F. Budget Process update:

3.G. General Fund accounting update:

3.H. HVAC Reimbursement

3.I. Status update on referendum information - bond counsel process:

3.J. Impact of Federal government funding cuts on State and Local Government:

6. Citizens Budget Guide: Continued to a future agenda.

7. Adjournment:

Blanchard motions to adjourn at 7:01 PM, Larson seconds. The meeting adjourned by unanimous vote at 7:01 PM.

Submitted by,

Nicole Archambault

Nicole Archambault

Finance Committee Minutes Clerk

PLEASE NOTE: These minutes are not official until approved by the Finance Committee at the next Finance Committee Meeting. Please see the next Finance Committee meeting minutes for approval or changes to these minutes.



Town of Coventry

1712 Main Street • Coventry, CT 06238 • Fax (860) 742-8911

To: Town Council
From:  James Drumm, Town Manager
Date: February 12, 2026
Ref: Project/Issue Updates

There are a few minor updates on our projects. As usual, underlined sentences within this memo indicate more recent updates.

DEEP Climate Resiliency Fund (DCRF) Grant: The Town has applied today to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for grant funding for a project to locate and inventory our stormwater basins and outfalls. The Grant amount is \$650,000 and requires no Town financial match. CT PA-25-33 passed in June of 2025 requires that Connecticut municipalities send a geo spatial file listing each culvert and bridge within the control and boundaries of the municipality to the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) by May 1, 2028. The project, if funded, would create the database needed to fulfill the State requirement. This information is also needed for the Town to be ready for the National Pollutant Elimination Discharge System (NPDES) Permit once we are declared by the State to be a MS4 Town. The project will not only identify the location but will evaluate the condition of the system to allow the Town to consider projects for stormwater system improvements. These professional evaluations would also allow us to potentially seek grant funding for repairs/replacements.

Charter Revision Commission: The Town Council appointed the members of the Charter Revision Commission (CRC) on September 2, 2025. The Council appointed Michael Petro as the Chair on September 15th. The first meeting of the CRC was on Monday October 1st. They selected Justin Murphy as the Vice Chair and Monica Gallegos Ramirez as the Secretary. They set their meeting schedule as the first Wednesday and the third Thursday of the month, starting on November 20th. At their meeting on October 23rd, the CRC was briefed by Attorney Rich Roberts (Halloran and Sage: Town Attorney's Office) on the Charter Revision process as established within State Statutes. They were also briefed on State regulations related to public meetings, public records and the FOIA. The first part of the process, before they were able to review and deliberate on sections of the Charter, was to hold a Public Hearing to accept comments on the existing Charter and to accept suggestions for possible amendments. The Public Hearing was advertised and held on November 20, 2025 at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall Annex. The CRC has begun reviewing the Charter. Their last meeting on 19th was canceled. They will interview the Finance Director and the Collector of Revenue at their next meeting. Their next meeting is March 4th.

Committee/Commission and ad hoc Committee Review: Upon coming on board as Town Manager, I had the need to review some of the Ordinances and Charges of our various committees. In that limited review I found that some committees were not in compliance with their charge. The Town has numerous standing committees that cover many facets of municipal government and community interests and issues. The Town Council expressed that Committee charges and ordinances need to be

reviewed and updated. There may be committees with similar overlapping charges; there may be committees that are not in compliance with their charges; there may be committees that may need their charges updated; and there may be committees that need to be discharged as they are no longer active or required. I have planned to present my findings to the Town Council Steering Committee in groupings for review and possible recommendations. Staff is now reviewing the need to continue with the Softball Field Committee and the Human Services Advisory Committee, both which have not had a meeting since 2022.

Assessor Vacancy: Coventry's Assessor John Preisner has resigned effective Friday January 30th. John has been with the Town since May 2022. Paige Walton, the Town of Waterford Assessor, is currently serving part-time as our interim Assessor. The Town has advertised with CCM, the CT Assn. of Assessing Officers, on our Facebook page, and on our website to bring in as many qualified candidates as possible. We have also written an email to all Assessors in Connecticut to see if they know of anyone interested in our vacant Assessor position. The application deadline is March 4, 2026.

Materials Management Infrastructure (MMI) grant: the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection has awarded the MMI grant to the Town to construct a food waste/leaf composting facility at DPW. The Preliminary site planning is under review for permit by DEEP. Tree removal will begin in late winter. Construction will occur after permits are received in summer of 2026. This program will also include the purchase of counter-top collection containers, which will come in fall 2026 when the program is implemented with the public. The total amount of the grant is \$202, 895. The Town Council has pledged up to \$5,000 in NIPS funding for the containers.

Nip Money Recycling Projects: The State passed the "Nickel for Nips" bottle program in 2021 after having had many complaints about littering, especially nip bottles, along Connecticut roadways. The funds must be used for recycling, litter prevention and related activities. The Town currently has a balance of \$69,749.48. On November 3, 2025, the Town Council voted to allocate funds to several qualified initiatives:

1) A waste oil container that will provide a clean and environmentally safe way to collect waste oil. This initiative includes funding a pad and a shed to contain the tank, which is planned to be placed at the Transfer Station. Amount approved is up to \$22,000

2) The Town has seen an increase in the amount of waste oil and this expense is rising. This initiative will cover these disposal costs. Amount approved is up to \$3,000 per year. This will be reviewed annually.

3) A MetroSTOR container is planned to be placed at the Transfer Station and will limit odor and animal intrusion. This initiative will improve the voluntary public food waste collection that is planned to begin in 2026. Amount approved is up to up to \$3,500

4) Storm drain markers educate/warn the public on that dumping in the drain will impact lake water quality and the environment. These would only be placed on drains in the lake watershed. Amount approved is up to up to \$1,000. The storm drain markers have arrived and will be installed in the summer.



5) An antifreeze containment unit will cover any overflow or leakage from the two barrels used to store the liquid waste. Amount approved is up to \$2,000

6) Additional hours being allocated to part-time staff (Transfer Station Operators) would be used to monitor recycling in the field and to provide public education so to reduce recycling contamination. Amount approved is up to \$8,000 per year. Due to winter weather this has not been implemented yet.

The Public Works Department is currently planning the implementation of these initiatives. Updates on these initiatives will be reported as they progress.

CHS Roof Project: The Roofing contractor (Greenwood Industries) and the HVAC contractor (Pro-mech coordinated roof cuts over the fall of 2024 and winter 2024-25. All roof work has been satisfactorily completed. The portion of grant funding for the architectural services has been found to be in jeopardy, as it was determined that the Town did not follow State Statutes regarding the selection process in 2022. The Statutes called for not more than four vendors to be interviewed and evaluated. The Town/BOE at that time interviewed and evaluated five engineers. In July of 2024, this requirement which stifled competition was repealed. In fall of 2024, the Town made an official request to the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) to waive the Statue on the record in 2022, when this evaluation process occurred. Since we have not had any determination to our response after several months and inquiries, we have asked Rep. Ackert to sponsor special legislation to waive the application of the old requirement on our project, so that the Town could recoup the grant funding that was awarded. We believed that this was especially appropriate as the General Assembly found in 2024 that this policy restricting competition needed to be removed. A bill unfortunately was not filed in time for the 2025 session, and so we have asked for one in the 2026 session to recover the grant amount toward the engineering. It is estimated that the grant will be approximately \$10,000 for the GHR roof project and \$12,000 for the CHS roof project.

CHS HVAC Project: Our contractor Pro-Mech, Inc. of Bloomfield is still on the job. Construction of the overall system is now complete, but they are working on a punch list. The project passed final inspection in mid-October. They are working with Aramark, the commissioning agent, to test and to adjust the system. The Town received a State HVAC grant which covers over 50% of this project. The Town has requested a six-month extension on this grant, just in case a valid test of the Chiller cannot be done until warmer weather arrives. The total cost of the original construction contract is \$11,897,800. Additional change orders are being processed now due to Eversource changing the Transformer size which is increasing the total project cost. An additional \$46,000 has been added to the project cost for the commissioning agent. State grant funding will cover \$6,602,148 of the project, with the remaining amount being financed by bond funds. The BOE submitted Grant Reimbursement #2 to the State and we have received notice that the request has been approved. We expect payment within a few weeks. The total cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$12,642,000. Voters within the Town on November 4, 2025, approved the referendum question that will transfer previously approved unused bonding debt that was saved from recent school projects to cover the cost increases for this much-needed project. The project will be officially completed on June 30, 2026.

Town Hall Radio Tower-Telecommunications contract: Staff has been for two years negotiating with T-Mobile on a new contract replacing the outdated contract which was originally approved in 1996. There is no additional telecommunications equipment being placed on the tower by this firm at this time. The contract has thoroughly been reviewed by the attorneys representing T-Mobile and our Town Attorney. CIRMA, our insurance carrier has also been very involved in the negotiations. After multiple reviews and amendments, the final agreement has been approved and executed. The contract is for five year intervals with a 20 year maximum.

Coventry Village Water Tower Project: The Town was notified last year by Congressman Courtney that we have received a Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) grant of \$1 million toward the construction of an elevated water tower to strengthen and improve the village water system. The water tower would provide additional pressure and steady volume of water for the system. This is especially important for fire suppression systems that are needed for new commercial development and historic mill re-development in Coventry Village. This project could also improve the fire suppression systems at the high school, the middle school, and GHR. The total project was estimated to be \$2.5 million. The request made by the Town was for \$1.875 million dollars. The grant requires at least a 25% match. The grant will be administered starting in 2025-26 through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Program. The Town coordinated with Connecticut Water Company on possible locations. Connecticut Water conducted a review and made recommendations for the siting of the Tower. They presented the findings of the review to the Finance Committee on October 30th. Town Engineer Todd Penney presented their recommendations to Town Council on November 3rd. As the Water Tower Project was found to best be sited on the Stonehouse Road property, the Town Council approved the use of the unspent preliminary engineering funds to be used to evaluate that site. The Town staff have applied for State bonding funds to cover the full cost of the Project, which is now estimated to be \$3 million. Local businesses, including Teleflex, have shown interest in the extra fire protection the water tower would provide.

Plains Road/Salt Impacted Potable Wells: This water extension project involves much coordination with the Connecticut Water Company to complete. They have tentatively agreed to connect a newly constructed water line to their existing system in the Nathan Hale Drive area. The Town currently has State grant funding pledged for approval for 50%. However, to secure the funding, the project must be

ready with design and authorized by a public referendum. CT Department of Health (DPH) has informed us that we have secured a Small Disadvantaged Communities (SDC) grant from the U.S. EPA in the amount of \$787,000 to add on top of the approximate 50% subsidy. This will reduce the Town's expenses to less than 25% of the total project cost. The construction cost is estimated to be \$2.6 million. The survey work has been completed. Our contract engineer, GZA Geoenvironmental, Inc., has completed the engineering and is still providing services for permitting. The project was presented to the Town Council at the January 21, 2025 Town Council meeting. The Town Council determined at that meeting that this project should be placed on a future public referendum requesting authorization for debt to construct the improvements. At the February 18, 2025 meeting the Town Council authorized funding for permitting that would allow the installation of a water line along the South Street extension right of way. Application has been made for SRF grant/loan funds so that funding may be designated by the State. The Town has received a DPH notice of funding for the project. This would include additional funding for possible project contingency needs. The funds are now pledged but will be obligated by DPH after completion and execution of the loan documents. Town staff held a meeting with DPH staff and found that the loan documents will be prepared after the permitting is complete and the bids for construction have been received. DPH indicates the loan is a 10 year or a 20-year loan at 2% interest. Staff and our legal team have prepared our construction bid package. DEEP has finished its review of the permits. The Town is standing by for DPH approval of the proposed bid package documents. DPH has an additional 30 days to review the package. Upon approval we will send it out for bids. Due to the length of time taken by DEEP to review the project, construction is now expected to be in July.

Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) - Plant upgrade vs. Willimantic Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) connection: The engineers, Tighe & Bond, completed their review of the costs to connect our wastewater system to the Willimantic WWTP. The study shows that the connection to the treatment plant in Willimantic will be nearly the same cost as the upgrade to the existing Coventry WWTP. However, with that reported, it is likely that the Town would be eligible for more grant funding for the Coventry WWTP upgrade than a line extension to the Willimantic WWTP. The study was forwarded to the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for their review and comment. Town staff, our engineering consultants and the WPCA did meet with DEEP representatives in June 2024. DEEP indicated that the WPCA will need to conduct an environmental impact study regarding the preferred option of upgrading the wastewater treatment plant. The Town must take action one way or the other as the Coventry WWTP does not meet current State wastewater treatment standards. The WPCA is selecting an independent firm to conduct the evaluation of the upgrade of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project under the requirements of the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act (CEPA). Request for Qualifications (RFQs) were received December 19, 2024. Only one was received by SLR International Corporation of New Haven, CT. An interview was held in March 2025. The WPCA has contracted for services for the CEPA project. This study is expected to take one year to complete. The contractor was delayed in their project start time. It is expected to be completed by late summer 2026. DEEP will then review the study and provide comments by January of 2027. After taking the DEEP comments into consideration, the Town will be able to move towards engineering and design.

Bolton/Coventry Sewer Extension: The Town has planned for a sewer line extension project from the existing sewer service in the Town of Bolton eastward along US Route 44 into the town of Coventry. This was planned in the expectation that the Town may attract additional commercial growth along that corridor, which currently has some commercial development. Town staff are negotiating with the Bolton Lakes Water Pollution Control Authority on the connection fees to their utility system. The BLWPCA will soon be providing a new proposal for the Town's consideration. After approving the connection fees, a separate agreement will be required to address maintenance requirements, annual

use fees, billing, permitting, service area, flows, etc. The Town has also been working with the United States EPA to prepare the grant contract. The project is partially funded through the passage of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, Community Projects grants. Additional funding will be required possibly through bonding and sewer connection assessments. We will continue to explore our options for additional funding for this project. We have learned that this money, if not used for the Bolton project, could possibly be re-directed to another sewer project.

Coventry Lake/Lake Wangumbaug Hydrilla Control Project: The Town has received the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) for the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant for the 2025 fluoridone treatments. Matching funds and funds for monitoring the lake are held in capital reserves and also some have been budgeted in FY2025-26. Summer 2025 was the second year of the three-year Treatment Plan that has been recommended by our consultants. The work for 2025 is complete. The next AIS grant cycle opened in December, and the Town has applied for funding for treatments for summer 2026. Matching funds will be required and will be added to the Town Manager's Proposed FY2026-27 Capital Improvement Budget.

Booth and Dimock Library Historic Preservation Grant: The Town was selected to receive the \$6000 grant by the State Historic Preservation Office for repairs to the historic portion of the Booth and Dimock Library. The project specifically will make repairs to the framing and joists supporting the floors in the reading rooms under the bookshelves. As you may recall the project is a total of \$12,000 with the library providing the match from their endowment fund. The Town will be seeking proposals for construction in spring 2026 with construction likely to happen in summer 2026.

Patriots Park Improvement Project: A Small Town Economic Assistance Program (STEAP) grant has been awarded by the State to the Town in the amount of \$315,000 for Patriots Park improvements. The project totals \$350,000, including a \$5,000 donation from the Coventry Lions Club and the municipal match of \$30,000. The project involves improvements to the pavilion, playground replacement, fencing and geese deterrent measures. In late 2024 and early 2025, the Town conducted a master plan process for the park. The process is now complete. The grant has been amended, and construction plans are being developed. The Town Engineer has prepared a plan for the new playground area. Also, geese deterrent measures are being planned. These plans have been reviewed by the Inland Wetlands Agency. A separate permit is being requested for the geese remediation involving a water circulator near the swimming area. The project began construction in December with tree removal and earthwork preparing a level area for the new playground. The bid documents are complete for the playscape. Bids will be received in March. The project should be completed in Summer 2026. Now that the Town has actively begun construction, we are eligible to apply for future STEAP grant funding. The Town Council was briefed on this STEAP Grant project at their October 20, 2025 Town Council Meeting.



Patriots Park Playground earth work being done (adjacent to Senior Center/Lodge parking)

Main Street/South Street Pedestrian Crossing Project: The Town was awarded a Transportation Rural Improvement Program (TRIP), a newly created state grant program designed to support rural municipalities, which are often ineligible for many federal transportation programs. The grant is \$498,000. This is a 100% funded grant for construction, with engineering being the responsibility of the Town. This project will provide crosswalks and pedestrian safety features along Main Street in the Village and along South Street. Improvements will include signage, flashing lights and curb ramps (sidewalk bumps) that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Additional engineering is required. This project will go to bid at the completion of design. The project is planned for construction in summer 2026.

Main Street sidewalk project: This project is funded by a Community Connectivity grant. This project will begin at Hemlock Point Lane and go northeasterly to Winterberry. The design had been reviewed by CDOT for permitting and rejected. Construction plans have been amended to move retaining walls outside of the right of way at the request of CDOT. Work has involved acquiring additional easements for retaining walls. Upon completion of the easements, the Town will seek bids. Bid packets are being prepared. Construction is expected in summer 2026. Upon completion of this project the Town will be eligible to apply for another Community Connectivity grant to extend the sidewalk further on Main Street to Lisicke Park and additionally westward to Daly Road. This will eventually connect to planned (currently in design) future sidewalks along Daly Road. When all is complete within the next couple of years, there will be sidewalks in place that circle Coventry Lake.

Hale Trails Project: This is a Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) grant. The project budget is \$500,000 and is funded 50% State and 50% local. The Town's match is primarily in-kind services and in-house engineering. The project design is currently paused to evaluate

the wetland impact and possible alternative crossings on Bear Swamp Road at Rufus Creek. Staff had a meeting with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) to explain project difficulties in working with the wetland component of the project and have found that we can phase the project with the current award and apply for additional funding at a later cycle to address the wetland crossing or bypass. This project has been placed on hold as additional engineering is needed to reflect project changes.

Depot Road Bridge replacement: The Town has been awarded a \$7.4 million State/Federal grant for 100% funding for this project. The State has agreed to provide engineering with one of their consulting engineers. CHA Engineering of Rocky Hill, CT has been assigned the project by the Connecticut DOT. Scouring tests have been completed showing that replacement is warranted. In October the State notified the Town that they have funded design engineering so it can move forward.

Brigham Hill Bridge replacement: The Town has been awarded a \$5.2 million State/Federal grant for 100% funding for this project. The State has agreed to provide engineering with one of their consulting engineers. CHA Engineering of Rocky Hill, CT has been assigned the project by the Connecticut DOT. Scouring tests have been completed showing that replacement is warranted. In October, the State notified the Town that they will be designating funds soon for design engineering so it can then move forward.

Bunker Hill Bridge Replacement (Rufus Creek): Though this project is described as a bridge, it is described more accurately as a large culvert structure that is constructed under the roadway. The project is in design with Jacobson Engineering. The Town is coordinating with the Town of Andover, as they have a bridge project over the Hop River moving forward and we do not want to isolate the residents on this road with two construction projects active at the same time. As Andover's permitting and began construction in 2025, we had to delay construction of this project until summer 2026. CDOT has given the Town an extension on this grant award. The Town was awarded a \$700,000 grant for this project. This is a 50/50 State/Local funded project. The local match was budgeted with existing road bond funds. The Inland Wetlands Agency has issued a permit. Easements are currently being completed with adjacent landowners.

Parker Bridge Road-Bridge (Culvert) replacement grant: In 2023 the Town applied for Federal/State funding to replace the smaller bridge on Parker Bridge Road. It is actually a large culvert that the adjacent creek runs through. The grant was not funded that year. Staff has again applied for this funding for the 2024 grant cycle. The Town was awarded a \$714,000 grant for this project. The total project cost is \$1,428,000. This is a 50/50 State/Local funded project. The local match was budgeted with existing bond funds. The project is now in engineering and will require adjacent right of way at the crossing of an unnamed creek, so to re-align the crossing. A preliminary design plan is complete. Easements are being sought from adjacent property owners.

Flanders Rd/Cider Mill Bridge: The Town has been awarded a Federal bridge replacement grant. We have contracted and obligated these Federal grant funds. The State has changed the process and time frame of this project. They were hoping to complete multiple bridges with five towns with one design/contractor. That has changed. The State will directly contract engineering and then directly hire a separate contractor. The Towns of Mansfield and Coventry will be included in the design phase and will coordinate efforts. A project meeting was held with the project engineers and the Town of Mansfield on December 11, 2025. The project is now planned to begin with a public meeting in 2026; followed by design completion in 2028; and then construction to be completed by December 2030 (four

years later than first suggested by CDOT). The estimated cost of the project is \$7,070, 000. The State/Federal grant award is to be 100% funded.

South Street/Swamp Road Project: This is a major project that will improve safety on these roads and will raise the elevation of the intersection of South Street and Swamp Road. Preliminary plans are complete. This project was reviewed by the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) last fall. The comments caused minor adjustments to be made to the preliminary plans. The revised plans were presented at the public involvement meeting that was held on October 24, 2023. It was well attended by the residents of the area. Public involvement meetings are required by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) for funding from the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP). Good feedback from residents/property owners was received by staff and the project engineers. In late 2024, design plans were amended further to include a gap area along South Street and the State awarded an additional \$442,800 to cover this area. The design amendments did not significantly delay the project's engineering, however this addition required the need to acquire multiple new easements. The focus now is on easement acquisitions from property owners. The Town Council has approved additional funding to complete this process in a timely manner. Bidding for this project will be in spring of 2026. Construction is now planned for summer/fall of 2026.

Daly Road Construction Project: This is a road and sidewalk construction project from Rt. 31 to South Street. Two Local Option Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) grants have been approved and have been combined into one project. Funding for construction is 100%. The project will modify curves and increase pedestrian safety. Funding for design will be funded by the Town. Barton and Loguidice of Glastonbury is conducting engineering on this project. The preliminary design has been reviewed by CRCOG and CDOT. Now that all preliminary plans have been approved, design engineering is the next step. This funding is the match requirement from the Town. There is currently insufficient funds in CNREF. The Town will need to consider possible sources to fund this next step of this project. This could be funded in a future Road Bond that Town Council has discussed for later in 2026.

Road resurfacing/drainage Improvements: The Town is reviewing road conditions for next years summer paving and for a potential road bond project.

9.A. 25/26-30: Consideration/Possible Action: Adoption of Resolution 2026-04, Adopting Ordinance #267, establishing regulations for the discharge of Firearms as Recommended by the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee (E)

Town Council Action Requested: Town Council will review and consider, upon completion of a public hearing, Resolution 2026-04 adopting Ordinance #267 which enacts new firearms safety regulations which include safety regulations including the need for an appropriate backstop.

Purpose: Due to several shooting safety concerns and shooting noise complaints reported to the Coventry Police around our community, Town Council in 2024 created a Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee to study the concerns and to determine if there was a need for firearms safety regulations in Coventry. The Committee recommended the adoption of an ordinance to put local guidelines in place to improve the quality of life and safety in discharging a firearm within the Town for non-hunting purposes.

History: The Committee was appointed by Town Council to study the complaints that the Police Department was receiving in residential areas in north and south Coventry. The Committee's Charge indicated that they could recommend an ordinance if they believed one was warranted. In late fall of 2024, they determined that an ordinance should be developed. They reviewed the policies of other CT towns and held several meetings carefully crafting language that would ultimately be in the draft Ordinance. The Committee expressed that they wanted to be careful not to be over restrictive for those wishing to use firearms while also considering safety concerns that may occur in residential areas. They had an advertised public input meeting on September 18, 2025, so that the public could comment on their draft Ordinance. Upon hearing the comments, they made additional amendments taking into consideration most of the comments they received. The Steering Committee discussed the draft Ordinance with the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee leadership and made additional amendments to the draft Ordinance before it was submitted to the Town Council. At the January 2, 2026 Town Council meeting, the Town Council voted to call for a public hearing and consider passing the draft ordinance at the March 2, 2026 Town Council meeting.

Facts about the issue: the Town currently has no regulations related to the discharge of firearms. Some neighboring towns do have regulations, including the Town of Tolland.

Funding Information: There is no direct financial impact to the Town for adopting this Ordinance. The Police Department currently answers calls about noise or safety complaints regarding firearms and so this will not increase calls, but will give officers some policy guidelines in which they can use when these calls come in.

Steering Committee Recommendation: The Steering Committee, at their December 22, 2025, meeting voted to recommend to Town Council that the Town Council consider the draft Ordinance proposed by the Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee.

Town Manager Comments: none.

Town Manager's Recommendation: Motion to approve **Resolution 2026-04, Adopting Ordinance #267, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, AMENDING THE TOWN OF COVENTRY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 66 "OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS", ADOPTING ARTICLE III "DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AND AIR GUNS"; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Resolution 2026-04
Adopting Ordinance #267**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, AMENDING THE TOWN OF COVENTRY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 66 “OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS”, ADOPTING ARTICLE III “DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AND AIR GUNS”; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, the Town Council charged the “Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee” to review the use of home shooting ranges within the Town of Coventry; and

WHEREAS, The Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee chose to recommend to the Town Council an Ordinance establishing standards and procedures for the discharge of firearms; and

WHEREAS, it is today the desire of the Town Council to enact such an ordinance to promote safety and wellbeing among Coventry residents.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT THAT:

SECTION ONE – Ordinance #267 shall hereby amend the Coventry Code of Ordinances Chapter 66 “Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions” by adopting Article II to read as follows:

“Chapter 66 OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

ARTICLE III. DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AND AIR GUNS

Sec. 66-75. Purpose.

The purpose of this article is to establish regulations surrounding the discharge of firearms and air guns on private property to provide for the safety and well-being of the residents of the Town of Coventry

Sec. 66-76. Definitions.

Firearm

Any shotgun, pistol, rifle, revolver, muzzle-loading device or other such weapon which uses chemical propellant to expel a projectile

Air gun

Any device which uses springs, air, compressed gas, or other non-explosive force to expel a projectile

Backstop

A device, structure, or terrain designed to stop and contain projectiles fired on a range

Commercial Shooting Range/Private Gun Club

An organization of individuals which meets the following criteria:

- a) Maintains in good condition a shooting range in a fixed location with an adequate design to contain fired projectiles;
- b) Said shooting range is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws; and
- c) Has criteria for members or other range users to ensure the safe discharge of firearms.

Flammable Materials

For the purposes of this chapter, “flammable materials” is understood to not include wood, paper, leaves or other similar plant-based substances

Sec. 66-77. Safety Requirements.

The following restrictions apply within the Town of Coventry:

- a) Persons wishing to discharge Firearms or Air Guns must be the owner of the property on which the discharge is to occur and backstop is located, be the spouse or lineal descendant of the owner of the property, have on their person the written permission from the owner of the property, or be an invited guest with the owner of the property present.
- b) Persons wishing to discharge Firearms or Air Guns must do so only with an adequate backstop capable of stopping all projectiles intended to be used. The backstop must be of sufficient depth and strength to contain any projectiles fired or intended to be fired at a range and must be of a sufficient height or size to stop projectiles at any position the shooter intends to use.

- c) Persons wishing to discharge a Firearm must do so at a distance of greater than 250ft from any structure or enclosed outdoor space occupied by people or domestic animals, or used for the storage of flammable materials unless they are the owner of such property, the spouse or lineal descendant of the owner of the property, or have on their person the written permission from the owner of the property to discharge a Firearm at a lesser distance. A building is considered to be occupied for the purposes of this ordinance unless it appears from a reasonable inspection of the structure to be unoccupied.
- d) Minors under 18 years of age wishing to shoot Firearms must be properly supervised by a parent or legal guardian of such minor, or another adult with the approval of their parent or legal guardian.

Sec. 66-78. Time Requirements.

The following restrictions apply within the Town of Coventry:

- a) Persons wishing to discharge Firearms must do so between the hours of 9:00 AM to sunset as defined in the current Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide.
- b) Persons wishing to discharge Firearms shall select a four (4) hour window per calendar day in accordance with Sec. 66-78(a) in which to do so.

Sec. 66-79. Exceptions.

The restrictions within this Sec. 66 Article III shall not be construed to apply in the following circumstances:

- a) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun by a police officer or animal control officer acting within the scope of their official duties;
- b) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun for the purposes of hunting as defined by the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 26-1;
- c) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun for the purposes of defending oneself or other persons from physical force in accordance with all federal, state and local laws;
- d) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun for the purposes of shooting wildlife actively causing property damage or posing an active threat to public safety in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes;
- e) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun at a range on the property of The Manchester Sportsmen's Association, Manchester Coon and Fox Club, or a Commercial Shooting Range/Private Gun Club duly organized in accordance with Town zoning requirements;
- f) The use of a device designed and operated solely for the purposes of construction, such as a nail or staple gun, which by its design might otherwise fall under the definition of a Firearm or Air Gun;
- g) The use of a device designed and operated solely for the purposes of propelling paintballs, airsoft pellets, or other foam, rubber, or plastic projectiles, which by its design might otherwise fall under the definition of an Air Gun;
- h) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun as a part of a memorial ceremony or parade by police officers, active duty members in military service of the United States or Connecticut National Guard, or by a nationally recognized veteran's organization; and

- i) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun as a part of an authorized historical reenactment.

Sec. 66-80. Penalty for violation of article.

Any person who violates the regulations set out in this article shall be punishable by a fine for such a violation pursuant to Sec. 1-10 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances

Secs. 66-81—66-96. Reserved.”

SECTION TWO

Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance #267 are severable. If any word, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Resolution for any reason is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and portions of this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION THREE

Conflicts: All provisions of Chapter 66 inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION FOUR

Effective Date: Ordinance #267 shall become effective 21 days after publication of the legal notice of the adoption of this Ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Coventry, Connecticut on this 2nd day of March 2026.

TOWN OF COVENTRY

TOWN COUNCIL

Lisa Thomas, Chairperson

Attest:

Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk

ARTICLE III. – DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AND AIR GUNS

Sec. 66-75 Purpose

The purpose of this article is to establish regulations surrounding the discharge of firearms and air guns on private property to provide for the safety and well-being of the residents of the Town of Coventry

Sec. 66-76 Definitions

Firearm

Any shotgun, pistol, rifle, revolver, muzzle-loading device or other such weapon which uses chemical propellant to expel a projectile

Air gun

Any device which uses springs, air, compressed gas, or other non-explosive force to expel a projectile

Backstop

A device, structure, or terrain designed to stop and contain projectiles fired on a range

Commercial Shooting Range/Private Gun Club

An organization of individuals which meets the following criteria:

- a) Maintains in good condition a shooting range in a fixed location with an adequate design to contain fired projectiles;
- b) Said shooting range is in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws; and
- c) Has criteria for members or other range users to ensure the safe discharge of firearms.

Flammable Materials

For the purposes of this chapter, “flammable materials” is understood to not include wood, paper, leaves or other similar plant-based substances

Sec. 66-77 Safety Requirements

The following restrictions apply within the Town of Coventry:

- a) Persons wishing to discharge **Firearms** or **Air Guns** must be the owner of the property on which the discharge is to occur and backstop is located, be the spouse or lineal descendant of the owner of the property, have on their person the written permission from the owner of the property, or be an invited guest with the owner of the property present.
- b) Persons wishing to discharge **Firearms** or **Air Guns** must do so only with an adequate backstop capable of stopping all projectiles intended to be used. The backstop must be of sufficient depth and strength to contain any projectiles fired or intended to be fired at a

range and must be of a sufficient height or size to stop projectiles at any position the shooter intends to use.

- c) Persons wishing to discharge a **Firearm** must do so at a distance of greater than 250ft from any structure or enclosed outdoor space occupied by people or domestic animals, or used for the storage of flammable materials unless they are the owner of such property, the spouse or lineal descendant of the owner of the property, or have on their person the written permission from the owner of the property to discharge a **Firearm** at a lesser distance. A building is considered to be occupied for the purposes of this ordinance unless it appears from a reasonable inspection of the structure to be unoccupied.
- d) Minors under 18 years of age wishing to shoot **Firearms** must be properly supervised by a parent or legal guardian of such minor, or another adult with the approval of their parent or legal guardian.

Sec. 66-78 Time Requirements

The following restrictions apply within the Town of Coventry:

- a) Persons wishing to discharge **Firearms** must do so between the hours of 9:00 AM to sunset as defined in the current Connecticut Hunting and Trapping Guide.
- b) Persons wishing to discharge **Firearms** shall select a four (4) hour window per calendar day in accordance with Sec. 66-78(a) in which to do so.

Sec. 66-79 Exceptions

The restrictions within this Sec. 66 Article III shall not be construed to apply in the following circumstances:

- a) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** by a police officer or animal control officer acting within the scope of their official duties;
- b) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** for the purposes of hunting as defined by the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 26-1;
- c) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** for the purposes of defending oneself or other persons from physical force in accordance with all federal, state and local laws;
- d) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** for the purposes of shooting wildlife actively causing property damage or posing an active threat to public safety in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes;
- e) The use of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun** at a range on the property of The Manchester Sportsmen's Association, Manchester Coon and Fox Club, or a Commercial Shooting Range/Private Gun Club duly organized in accordance with Town zoning requirements;
- f) The use of a device designed and operated solely for the purposes of construction, such as a nail or staple gun, which by its design might otherwise fall under the definition of a **Firearm** or **Air Gun**;
- g) The use of a device designed and operated solely for the purposes of propelling paintballs, airsoft pellets, or other foam, rubber, or plastic projectiles, which by its design might otherwise fall under the definition of an **Air Gun**;

- h) The use of a *Firearm* or *Air Gun* as a part of a memorial ceremony or parade by police officers, active duty members in military service of the United States or Connecticut National Guard, or by a nationally recognized veteran’s organization; and
- i) The use of a *Firearm* or *Air Gun* as a part of an authorized historical reenactment.

Sec. 66-80 Penalty for violation of article

Any person who violates the regulations set out in this article shall be punishable by a fine for such a violation pursuant to Sec. 1-10 of the Coventry Code of Ordinances

Commented [AT2]: Sec. 1-10 indicates fines shall be at most \$100 if not otherwise specified. Each day a violation continues may be counted as a separate offense.

Secs. 66-81 – 66-96 Reserved

DRAFT

MEMORANDUM

To: Alex Taylor
From: Duncan J. Forsyth
Date: January 26, 2026
Re: Proposed Firearms Ordinance
Our File No. 17996.1

We have at your request reviewed the draft Firearms Ordinance and whether, as drafted, it posed any constitutional or statutory challenges. With regard to any Second Amendment issues, the United States Supreme Court has stated: “Like most rights, the right secured by the Second Amendment is not unlimited. [It is] not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose.” District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570,626 (2008). Furthermore, certain reasonable time, place and manner regulation will be deemed reasonable provided they do not “significantly impair the right to possess a firearm for self-defense” or might impose an “appreciable burden on Second Amendment rights.” See, U.S. v. Decastro, 682 F.3d 160, 165 (2nd Cir. 2012), citing District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008). Thus, the reasonable regulation of weapons for legitimate safety reasons, and which are narrowly crafted, would likely pass constitutional muster.

While 100% certainty in this area is never a guarantee, the attached draft ordinance appears to be defensible to any constitutional, or statutory, challenge.

We hope this addresses the issue at hand. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Proposed Agricultural Amendment:

The Town Council received an inquiry regarding adding more explicit exemptions to this ordinance for common firearm uses surrounding farming. The following has been drafted as one possible implementation:

“Sec. 66-79 Exceptions

The restrictions within this Sec. 66 Article III shall not be construed to apply in the following circumstances:

j) The use of a Firearm or Air Gun for the purposes of Agriculture as defined by the Connecticut General Statutes, Sec. 1-1 (q);”

C.G.S. 1-1(q) reads as follows:

“(q) Except as otherwise specifically defined, the words “agriculture” and “farming” include cultivation of the soil, dairying, forestry, raising or harvesting any agricultural or horticultural commodity, including the raising, shearing, feeding, caring for, training and management of livestock, including horses, bees, the production of honey, poultry, fur-bearing animals and wildlife, and the raising or harvesting of oysters, clams, mussels, other molluscan shellfish or fish; the operation, management, conservation, improvement or maintenance of a farm and its buildings, tools and equipment, or salvaging timber or cleared land of brush or other debris left by a storm, as an incident to such farming operations; the production or harvesting of maple syrup or maple sugar, or any agricultural commodity, including lumber, as an incident to ordinary farming operations or the harvesting of mushrooms, the hatching of poultry, or the construction, operation or maintenance of ditches, canals, reservoirs or waterways used exclusively for farming purposes; handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, grading, storing or delivering to storage or to market, or to a carrier for transportation to market, or for direct sale any agricultural or horticultural commodity as an incident to ordinary farming operations, or, in the case of fruits and vegetables, as an incident to the preparation of such fruits or vegetables for market or for direct sale. The term “farm” includes farm buildings, and accessory buildings thereto, nurseries, orchards, ranges, greenhouses, hoophouses and other temporary structures or other structures used primarily for the raising and, as an incident to ordinary farming operations, the sale of agricultural or horticultural commodities. The terms “agriculture” and “farming” do not include the cultivation of cannabis, as defined in section 21a-420. The term “aquaculture” means the farming of the waters of the state and tidal wetlands and the production of protein food, including fish, oysters, clams, mussels and other molluscan shellfish, on leased, franchised and public underwater farm lands. Nothing herein shall restrict the power of a local zoning authority under chapter 124.”

9.B. 25/26-35: Consideration/Possible Action: Adoption of Resolution 2026-05, Adopting Ordinance #268, establishing a Policy for Excess Tax Payments and incomplete Tax Payments (E)

Town Council Action Requested: Town Council will consider, upon completion of a public hearing, the adoption of Resolution 2026-05 adopting Ordinance #268 an ordinance that addresses the payment of Tax Bills with an excess payment of less than \$5.00 specifically allowing the Town to keep the funds due to the expense of processing a refund. Additionally, this ordinance allows the Revenue Collector to “write off” and not bill for a Tax Bill balance due to the Town of \$5.00 due to the expense of billing.

Purpose: Though this does not happen very often that bills are slightly overpaid or underpaid, it does happen. Some people, in order to keep an easily balanced checkbook, round up their check payments often leaving several cents on the books as an excess payment. This would alleviate the Town of having to keep record of these excess payments or to process refunds. Additionally, the expense for billing for a small amount that was omitted (\$5 or less) can be avoided.

History: This proposed Ordinance will ensure that department practices are in accordance with statute. C.G.S. Sec. 12-129 which specifically allows municipalities to authorize their tax collector to retain such payments by ordinance. Similarly, C.G.S. Sec. 12-144c allows municipalities to waive such taxes due to the action of its legislative body. The Town Council at the February 2nd Town Council meeting voted to call a for public hearing and consider passing the draft ordinance at the March 2, 2026 Town Council meeting..

Facts about the issue: This policy would not be applied to the recent round-up issue that occurred with Vision Government Solutions in their property revaluation study of Town properties. Those minor overbillings, if paid in excess due to our earlier billing would retain a balance even if it were a few cents as it was caused by a vendor of the Town.

Funding Information: There is no financial impact as this has been in practice in the Office of the Collector of Revenue for several years.

Steering Committee Recommendation: Voted to recommend to the full Town Council the approval of the Ordinance.

Town Manager Comments: The Collector of Revenue Collector, the Finance Director and I recommend this Ordinance for approval.

Town Manager’s Recommendation: Motion to approve **Resolution 2026-05, Adopting Ordinance #268, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, AMENDING THE TOWN OF COVENTRY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 94 “TAXATION”; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**Resolution 2026-05
Adopting Ordinance #268**

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, AMENDING THE TOWN OF COVENTRY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 94 “TAXATION”; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 12-129 enables Connecticut municipalities to authorize by ordinance the retention of tax payments in excess of the amount due so long as that amount is less than five dollars; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statutes Sec. 12-144c enables Connecticut municipalities to authorize by ordinance the waiver of property tax payments so long as that amount is less than one-hundred dollars; and

WHEREAS, Coventry’s Collector of Revenue has identified the implementation of such ordinances as best practices due to high procedural costs; and

WHEREAS, it is today the desire of the Town Council to enact such an ordinance to encourage efficient use of resources collected from Coventry taxpayers.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT THAT:

SECTION ONE – Ordinance #268 shall hereby amend the Coventry Code of Ordinances Chapter 94 “Taxation” by adopting Sections 94-39 and 94-40 to read as follows:

“Chapter 94 TAXATION

ARTICLE II. PROPERTY TAXES

DIVISION 1. GENERALLY

Sec. 94-39. Retention of Excess Payments.

Pursuant to Sec. 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Tax Collector for the Town of Coventry is authorized to retain on behalf of the Town any tax payment in excess of the amount due, provided the amount of the excess payment is less than Five Dollars (\$5.00). No refund shall be offered or authorized for an amount less than Five Dollars (\$5.00).

Sec. 94-40. Waiver of Property Taxes.

Pursuant to Sec. 12-144c of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Tax Collector for the Town of Coventry is authorized to waive the payment of any property tax or interest or fees thereon due, provided the amount due is less than Five Dollars (\$5.00).”

SECTION TWO

Severability: The provisions of this Ordinance #268 are severable. If any word, sentence, clause, phrase, or provision of this Resolution for any reason is declared by any court of competent jurisdiction to be void, unconstitutional, or unenforceable, then all remaining provisions and portions of this Resolution shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION THREE

Conflicts: All provisions of Chapter 94 inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION FOUR

Effective Date: Ordinance #268 shall become effective 21 days after publication of the legal notice of the adoption of this Ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Town Council of the Town of Coventry, Connecticut on this 2nd day of March 2026.

**TOWN OF COVENTRY
TOWN COUNCIL**

Lisa Thomas, Chairperson

Attest:

Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk

Chapter 94 – TAXATION

Commented [AT1]: Ver. 1 – Drafted for the 1/26/26 meeting of the Town Council Steering Committee

ARTICLE II. – PROPERTY TAXES

DIVISION 1. – GENERALLY

Sec. 94-39 Retention of Excess Payments

Pursuant to Sec. 12-129 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Tax Collector for the Town of Coventry is authorized to retain on behalf of the Town any tax payment in excess of the amount due, provided the amount of the excess payment is less than Five Dollars (\$5.00). No refund shall be offered or authorized for an amount less than Five Dollars (\$5.00).

Sec 94-40 Waiver of Property Taxes

Pursuant to Sec. 12-144c of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Tax Collector for the Town of Coventry is authorized to waive the payment of any property tax or interest or fees thereon due, provided the amount due is less than Five Dollars (\$5.00).

DRAFT

Date: January 22nd, 2026
To: James Drumm, Town Manager
From: Alexander Taylor, Coventry Special Projects Coordinator
Subject: Excess Payments Retention and Tax Waiver Ordinance

Overview

The Collector of Revenue and Finance Director recommend the adoption of an ordinance to allow for the retention of excess payments for property taxes and the waiving of payments due for property taxes where the amount is less than five dollars. These changes will ensure existing department practices are in compliance with statute. C.G.S. Sec. 12-129 specifically allows municipalities to authorize their tax collector to retain such payments by ordinance. Similarly, C.G.S. Sec. 12-144c allows municipalities to waive such taxes due by action of its legislative body.

Background

The Collector of Revenue and Finance Director became aware late last year that an ordinance was required to fully comply with statute. Historically, the policy within the Tax Office has been to retain excess payments and waive amounts due below five dollars to save costs. This practice has been in place for over a decade. The Collector of Revenue estimates that the cost for Coventry to issue a refund or collect on a balance is in excess of \$20, making these small payments or collections inefficient. The frequency of these small excesses or amounts due vary by year, ranging from under ten to dozens. The Collector of Revenue identified ordinances to establish these policies as being common among municipalities throughout the state. A brief review of Connecticut municipalities found multiple instances of ordinances to allow for retention of excess fees in towns such as Tolland, Bolton, Columbia, East Hartford, Bristol, Torrington, and others. Ordinances to waive fees were found in Granby, Columbia, Stonington, Windsor Locks, East Windsor, Bolton, and others.

Statutory Review

Public Act 95-283 revised C.G.S. Sec. 12-129 to state that “Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the legislative body of a municipality may, by ordinance, authorize the tax collector to retain payments in excess of the amount due provided the amount of the excess payment is less than five dollars.” Public Act 75-489 created Sec. 12-144c which currently reads “Any municipality may waive any property tax due in an amount less than one hundred dollars by action of its legislative body.” Ordinances pursuant to these sections in towns which have chosen to adopt them are usually brief, simply referencing the statute and establishing the authorized policy.

Conclusion

The adoption of an ordinance to allow for the retention of excess payments and waiving of amounts due below \$5 is recommended. Draft language for such an ordinance has been provided. If adopted it will bring the Town into compliance with state statute while avoiding high costs associated with reimbursements sometimes as low as several cents.

Fw: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)A Victory for Checks and Balances, the Local Impacts of Chaotic Tariffs on Small Businesses, and more from the week

From Lisa Thomas <lthomas@coventry-ct.gov>

Date Wed 2/25/2026 8:00 AM

To James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>; Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>

Please attach under correspondence on the March 2 Town Council agenda.

Lisa Thomas

Chairwoman, Coventry Town Council

Chair, Capitol Region Council Of Governments Legislative Committee

Member, CT State Comptroller's Healthcare Cabinet

Member, CT Education Mandates Review Advisory Council

860.930.7303

PLEASE NOTE: my new email is LThomas@coventry-ct.gov

From: Congressman Joe Courtney <CT02JC.Outreach@mail.house.gov>

Sent: Friday, February 20, 2026 5:03 PM

To: Lisa Thomas <lthomas@coventry-ct.gov>

Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)A Victory for Checks and Balances, the Local Impacts of Chaotic Tariffs on Small Businesses, and more from the week

[Click here](#) to view this email in your browser



Dear Lisa,

It's Joe Courtney. After a packed week in eastern Connecticut, I'm here with an update on urgently needed relief for small businesses, bringing federal funding home to support local projects, and lots more. As always, thanks for starting your weekend here with me.

**A Victory for Constitutional Checks & Balances:
Trump Tariffs Struck Down**

This morning, the Supreme Court struck down President Trump's illegal tariff policies in a 6-3 ruling. The landmark case is a victory for our constitutional system of checks and balances. As the Court clearly states, President Trump never had the authority to impose sweeping tariffs. Tariffs are a tax paid for by Americans, and under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress alone is vested with authority to impose taxes.

Supreme Court Strikes Down Trump's Sweeping Tariffs in 6-3 Decision



In October, I joined a bipartisan amicus brief with over 200 Members of the House and Senate in strong support of this Supreme Court lawsuit against Trump's so-called 'Liberation Day' tariffs, which have driven the cost of living higher.

With Congress' constitutional authority now affirmed by a conservative

Supreme Court, including two Trump-appointed judges, it is time for a bipartisan majority to step up to deliver urgently needed PRICE relief to Americans, on everything from housing and new cars and trucks to groceries.

The Local Impacts of Trump Tariffs on Small Businesses

For the past year, American consumers and businesses have been paying more because of President Trump's unconstitutional tariffs. On Wednesday, I visited small business bike shop Bicycles East in Glastonbury. Co-owner Deb Dauphinais shared that the President's chaotic tariff policies hit every part of the bike supply chain, leading to unpredictable cost hikes for her small business and increasing prices for consumers. Businesses eat as much of the cost hike as they can, but consumer prices on bikes have still increased by 10-20%.



Pictured: Bicycles East Co-Owner Deb Dauphinais

Exacerbating the affordability crisis for owning a small business, because President Trump blocked attempts to extend Affordable Care Act tax credits, at the start of 2026, Deb and her husband's health insurance premiums were set to increase from \$539.15/month to \$2,700/month. Due to this unaffordable increase in costs, Deb and her

husband no longer have health insurance.

It's past time for Congress to step up and deliver relief for small businesses. We must end the President's unconstitutional, destructive economic policies and lower health care costs by extending Affordable Care Act tax credits.



Eastern CT's Manufacturing Pipeline branches out to the "Quiet Corner" to Meet Demand for Skilled Workers

The Eastern CT Workforce Investment Board's (EWIB's) Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative (MPI) is expanding its classes across the Second District to meet all-time high demand for hiring at the Groton shipyard. On Thursday, I joined an MPI class taught by Bill McManus at Quinebaug Valley Community College's Danielson campus with EWIB President Mike Nogelo and Director of the Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center at CT State Community College Quinebaug Valley Stephen LaPointe.





I worked with EWIB to launch the MPI with a federal grant from the US Department of Labor back in 2016. The program recently surpassed a total of 5,000 graduates placed into jobs, and with the Groton Shipyard ramping up hiring to historic levels in 2026, the MPI is planning to graduate over 700 workers in the first half of 2026 alone. Opening up the pipeline north of the Groton Shipyard is an exciting new opportunity for that region.

Alongside the Youth Manufacturing Pipeline Initiative bringing manufacturing skills training opportunities to comprehensive high schools in addition to tech schools, our region is well positioned with the MPI to meet the call for a new generation of eastern Connecticut manufacturers.

Renovating Wheeler Library

Following Congressional passage of over \$13 million for 15 Community Projects in Connecticut's Second District, this week, I made visits to catch up with the towns who I worked alongside to secure the funding.

On Tuesday, I visited the historic Wheeler Library in North Stonington, a pillar of the community. As a Community Project, I worked with the

library's board of trustees to secure \$1,000,000 in federal funding to support long overdue renovations to the amazing historic building. These renovations will improve accessibility and resiliency so the people of North Stonington can take full advantage of all the resources the library has to offer.



Pictured: Diane Deedy, Library Director; Emily Noyes, Asst. Director and Children's Librarian; Kim Signor, Programming Director; Special Guests: Amy Kennedy, Former Library Director; Kat Edwards, Fundraising & Grant Writing; Bob Carlson, First Selectman of North Stonington; Board of Trustees: Kate Parenteau, President of the Board; Heath Dugas, Ellen Spring, Mike Westgate, Jon Edwards, Jen Strunk

Thanks to Library Director Diane Deedy, current and former library staff, the library Board of Trustees, and First Selectman Bob Carlson for hosting me to catch up on the project and for their commitment to maintaining a critical public resource for North Stonington.

New Career Training and Small Business Support in Thompson

On Thursday, I visited 65 Main Street in Thompson, a blighted property that is being redeveloped with the help of \$732,007 in new Community Project federal funding that we secured in the FY26 budget.

The space is being redeveloped into a high school culinary education career training center and a municipally-supported small business support center with a focus on the agriculture sector.



Pictured: Nick Donohue, First Selectman, Town of Thompson; Tyra Penn-Gesek, Director of Planning & Development, Town of Thompson; Brian Loffredo, Member of the Economic Development Commission, Town of Thompson; Carl Asikainen, Executive Director, TEEG; Jocelyn Weir, Executive Director and Environmental Programs Manager, CT RC&D; Elle-Jordyn Sherman, Executive Director, Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce; Michelle Miller, Project Manager, Silver Petrucelli + Associates; Kevin Grindle, Associate, Barton & Loguidice

Thanks to Thompson First Selectman Nick Donohue and Thompson Director of Planning and Development Tyra Penn Gesek for hosting a big crowd to mark this new round of funding for the project.

Enhancing the New Public Docks in Norwich

On Wednesday, we celebrated \$600,000 in new federal funding on its way to the City of Norwich to support enhancements to the public docks and Howard T. Brown Memorial Park.

Howard Brown Park's public docks recently surpassed their 30-year expected life span. The City of Norwich successfully obtained funding

from the Connecticut Port Authority for dock replacement, and this new federal Community Project funding will go toward enhanced pedestrian access and safety at the waterfront, in addition to enhanced kayak, canoe, and paddleboarding access.



Pictured: Norwich Mayor Swarnjit Singh; Kevin Brown, Executive Director of NCD; Michael O'Connor, Executive Director of CT Port Authority; Sheila Hayes; Jeffrey Brinning; Brian Long, Director of Public Works; Tucker Jr. H. Braddock, Norwich Harbor Commission; Robert Phoenix, Norwich Harbor Commission.

Thanks to Norwich Mayor Swarnjit Singh and President of the Norwich Community Development Corporation Kevin Brown for their continued work with the Connecticut Port Authority to see this project through.

Transforming Pawcatuck's "Circus Lot" into a Community Park

On Tuesday, I met with Stonington town officials to discuss new federal funding on its way to support the transformation of the unused Circus Lot in Pawcatuck into an accessible community park.

Over the last two years, I worked with the talented town hall staff to secure \$850,000 in federal Community Project funding for the Circus Lot

project. That funding was passed by Congress and signed into law earlier this month.



Pictured: First Selectman Bill Middleton; Grants Administrator for the Town of Stonington, Molly Evak; Stonington Public Works Foreman, Nate Miceli

The “Circus Lot” is an underused and overgrown property that sits on the federally designated Wild and Scenic Pawcatuck River.

As a part of the redevelopment project, this new federal funding will support providing accessible green open space and public water access. First Selectman Bill Middleton, Grants Administrator Molly Evak, and the public works crew are ready to make this exciting plan come to life.

Supporting Public Safety in Ledyard

On Wednesday, I met with the Ledyard Police Department & Emergency Services Department to catch up on \$229,000 in federal Community Project funding for the Town of Ledyard to upgrade the Ledyard PD’s dispatch and records management system.



John Rich, Ledyard Police Chief; Steve Holyfield, Administrator of Emergency Services;
Fred Allyn III, Mayor for the Town of Ledyard; Nate Miceli, Stonington Public Works
Foreman

Bringing home support for community safety is a top priority for my office and I. For the Ledyard PD, modernizing their computer aided dispatch and record management systems will boost their work to keep people safe.

A New Children's Reading Room at the Canterbury Public Library

Back in 2022, I worked with the Town of Canterbury to secure \$480,000 in FY23 Community Project funding for the Canterbury Public Library to create a new Children's Reading Room, which was completed in August of last year. Thanks to Library Director Beth Delaney, First Selectman Chris Lippke, and Town Administrator Jordan Lumpkins for their commitment to providing young children with a dedicated place of their own to learn.



Pictured: Director Beth Delaney, Canterbury Public Library; First Selectman Chris Lippke

Thank you for taking some time to read my update. If my office can be of any assistance, do not hesitate to call us at (860) 886-0139.

Sincerely,

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress



OFFICE LOCATIONS

Washington, DC
2449 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-2076
Fax: (202) 225-4977

Norwich Office
55 Main Street, Suite 250
Norwich, CT 06360
Phone: (860) 886-0139
Fax: (860) 886-2974

Enfield Office
77 Hazard Ave, Unit J
Enfield, CT 06082
Phone: (860) 741-6011
Fax: (860) 741-6036

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FW: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Senator Murphy's February Update

From James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>

Date Thu 2/26/2026 3:19 PM

To Alex Taylor <ataylor@coventry-ct.gov>

From: Lisa Thomas <lthomas@coventry-ct.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 2:35 PM

To: James Drumm <jdrumm@coventry-ct.gov>

Subject: Fw: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Senator Murphy's February Update

Please add under correspondence on the March 2 agenda.

Lisa Thomas
Chairwoman, Coventry Town Council
Chair, Capitol Region Council Of Governments Legislative Committee
Member, CT State Comptroller's Healthcare Cabinet
Member, CT Education Mandates Review Advisory Council
860.930.7303

PLEASE NOTE: my new email is LThomas@coventry-ct.gov

From: McBride, Erin (Murphy) <Erin_McBride@murphy.senate.gov>

Sent: Thursday, February 26, 2026 2:14 PM

Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Senator Murphy's February Update

CAUTION! This email originated from outside of the Coventry Public Schools email system. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe to open.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to provide an update on some of the work Senator Murphy has done in Connecticut and Washington over the last couple of weeks.

Connecticut Updates

Concierge Apartments Visit

Last week, Senator Murphy visited [Concierge apartments in Rocky Hill](#), which is owned by a large, out-of-state private equity firm. The firm badly mishandled a water main break and left some tenants without heat during the coldest month of the year, leading to the weeks-long displacement of over 2,000 residents. Senator Murphy heard directly from affected residents. Following his visit, Senator Murphy joined Senator Warren to introduce legislation to get private equity out of housing and bring costs down for families.

IRIS Roundtable

On Wednesday, Senator Murphy [participated in a roundtable with Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services \(IRIS\)](#) in New Haven, where he heard from IRIS employees, refugees, and immigrant communities about how the administration's immigration policies have left them in a state of fear.

Nursing Home Workers Press Conference

On February 6th, Senator Murphy held a press conference in Hartford alongside nursing home workers to call out the Trump Administration for reversing a Department of Health and Human Services rule that set safe minimum staffing level requirements in nursing homes. Senator Murphy discussed how nursing home executives donated \$5 million to Trump's campaign to get him to take this action. In Congress, Senator Murphy co-sponsored legislation to make adequate staffing in nursing homes the law.

Government Funding Update

Earlier this month, Congress passed and the president signed a five-bill appropriations package that included funding for the Department of Defense; Financial Services and General Government; Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education; State and Foreign Operations; and Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development appropriations bills. Municipalities and organizations with Congressionally Directed Spending projects included in those bills should have received a notice from our office or Senator Blumenthal's office about their award. Please reach out to us if you have any additional questions.

Funding for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) was not included in the package. As a result, DHS remains shut down as negotiations over Fiscal Year 2026 funding continue. Earlier this month, Senator Murphy [took to the Senate floor](#) to lay out why Democrats and Republicans must act now to rein in an out-of-control Department of Homeland Security engaging in daily, systematic violations of the law that have sown widespread chaos in our cities and left multiple American citizens dead. Senator Murphy also released a video discussing why we cannot fund DHS without serious, meaningful reform; you can watch the video [here](#).

Fiscal Year 2027 Appropriations

Our team is awaiting guidance from the Senate Appropriations Committee on deadlines for Fiscal Year 2027 Congressionally Directed Spending and programmatic funding requests. We anticipate the process will start in the next few weeks. We will communicate additional information and deadlines as soon as we have them. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any questions. Updates will also be [available here](#) on Senator Murphy's website.

Washington Updates

Amtrak Funding

Senator Murphy joined a coalition of his colleagues who represent states along the Northeast Corridor in sending a letter to Senate Commerce and Appropriations Committee leadership, urging them to include advance appropriations for Amtrak and passenger rail programs in the next surface transportation reauthorization expected later this year. You can read more about the letter [here](#).

Protecting Passport Services

In response to the Trump administration banning some local libraries as passport acceptance facilities, Senator Murphy joined his colleagues in a bipartisan, bicameral letter to Secretary of State Marco Rubio, urging the secretary to extend the existing program while Congress works to enact a permanent solution. Senator Murphy is also a cosponsor of the Community Passport Services Act, bipartisan legislation that would amend the Passport Act to authorize certain public libraries to collect and retain a fee for processing passport applications.

Munich Security Conference

Senator Murphy traveled to Germany to attend the Munich Security Conference, where he met with world leaders and spoke on a panel focused on the development of artificial intelligence (AI). Senator Murphy emphasized the emerging and quickly evolving risks AI poses to our economy, politics, and sense of purpose. Pointing to AI corporations' efforts to consolidate their power over our government and society - at the expense of working people - Senator Murphy argued that international cooperation on regulating AI is urgently necessary. You can read more about the panel [here](#).

Senator Murphy Questions Nominee on White Nationalist Views

In a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on February 12th, Senator Murphy questioned Jeremy Carl, the Trump administration's nominee to be the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations, about his white identity worldview and writings. Murphy demanded that Carl explain his long-held beliefs that white Americans face more discrimination than any other racial group in the United States, and called for his Senate colleagues to reject his nomination. You can read the full exchange [here](#).

Crypto Corruption Floor Speech

Earlier this month, Senator Murphy [spoke on the Senate floor](#) to demand accountability following new reporting that a firm controlled by the U.A.E.'s National Security Advisor secretly purchased a 49% stake in the Trump family's crypto venture, World Liberty Financial. The deal steered millions of dollars to Trump and his envoy to the Middle East, Steve Witkoff, right before the Trump White House greenlit an unprecedented deal to sell advanced AI chips to the U.A.E. last year, ignoring bipartisan national security warnings.

Trump's Attempts to Jail Democratic Lawmakers

Senator Murphy delivered a speech on the Senate floor calling on his Republican colleagues to recognize Donald Trump's unprecedented, attempted indictment of six Democratic lawmakers as a grave threat to our democracy. He urged his Republican colleagues to unite with Democrats and put a stop to Trump's relentless assault on free speech. You can watch the entire speech [here](#).

Congressional Review Act Resolution on CHAMPVA Beneficiaries

Senator Murphy joined Senator Blumenthal's Congressional Review Act (CRA) resolution to overturn the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) final rule rolling back access to abortion counseling and care for veterans and Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs (CHAMPVA) beneficiaries. The final rule returns VA to a near-total ban on abortion care and counseling, with only a minor carveout for life endangerment. If passed, the CRA resolution would block the rule's implementation.

Temporary Protected Status for Haiti

Senator Murphy joined his colleagues in a letter demanding that U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem reverse her directive to terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Haiti. The policy took effect on February 3, 2026, though it was temporarily blocked by a federal judge.

Best,

Erin

Erin E. McBride – *she/her/hers*
Senior Outreach Assistant
Office of U.S. Senator Chris Murphy
120 Huyslope Avenue, Suite 401
Hartford, CT 06106
Phone: [\(860\) 549-8463](tel:(860)549-8463)

From: [William Watkins](#)
To: [Lisa Thomas](#); [James Drumm](#); [Laura Stone](#)
Subject: FW: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Praise
Date: Friday, February 13, 2026 9:01:36 AM

Just wanted to pass along a nice email I received yesterday.

Bill

-----Original Message-----

From: Karen Kiehne <lunarkk@aol.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2026 10:19 AM
To: William Watkins <wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov>
Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)Praise

[You don't often get email from lunarkk@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Dear Bill,

My grandson, Darrow's 3rd birthday was celebrated down here in Maryland, in North Carolina, Florida and Pennsylvania all because of you and your department.

When my daughter McKenna called your office to see if it was possible for a big truck or two to pass by their driveway on his birthday, your office said that they would see what they could do. When she received a return call saying a couple of trucks could pass by, she was thrilled. She sent a video and a few pictures of what you and your team did for my grandson and it brought me to tears.

With so much negativity in the world around us right now, you're small gesture (which was huge in our eyes) showed us that there are kind, loving, giving, selfless people in this world too. I passed on the video to over 60 people in hopes of brightening their day. Family members and friends around the United States marveled at your kindness in their responses.

I watched the video again today just to start my day on a positive note and once again it choked me up. I'm not sure how much positive feedback you guys get, but I do know that you all work so hard to keep Coventry running smoothly and your efforts are so appreciated. We recently purchased a small cottage down the street from my daughter and your actions made us realize that this was the best decision that we've made in a long time.

Thank you so much for your efforts in making the day of not only my grandson, but so many people all over the country! The responses I received to the video showed me that the kindness you guys extended is very rare and it makes it that much more special.

In awe and appreciation,
Karen Kiehne
Darrow's "Gree"

(EXTERNAL MESSAGE) Sen. Gordon and Rep. Ackert Event Notice

From Sliter, Michael <Michael.Sliter@cga.ct.gov>

Date Thu 2/19/2026 4:01 PM

To Sliter, Michael <Michael.Sliter@cga.ct.gov>

 3 attachments (5 MB)

PostponedtoMarch2ndSenGordon&RepLegUpdateCoventry2026.pdf; Postponedto3-2SQSenGordon&RepLegUpdateCoventry2026.jpg; Postponedto3-2FB1200x628SenGordon&RepLegUpdateCoventry2026.jpg;

Some people who received this message don't often get email from michael.sliter@cga.ct.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hello,

My name is Michael Sliter, and I am the new Public Affairs and Outreach Coordinator for Senator Jeff Gordon. Senator Gordon and Representative Tim Ackert will be hosting a Legislative Update on **Monday March 2nd** from **6:30-8:00pm**. The meeting is free to attend and open to the public. The event will be held at **Lakeview Tavern (50 Lake St, Coventry, CT 06238)**.

Are you tired of sky-high energy costs for your home, healthcare problems, and the unaffordability of Connecticut. The Legislative Update will serve as an opportunity for residents and taxpayers to pose questions and learn the upcoming issues that the Senator and his fellow lawmakers will be addressing during this year's legislative session.

I have attached promotional materials (see .pdf and .jpg) in case you wanted to further extend our invitation to the community via social media, word of mouth, newsletters, bulletins, etc!

I look forward to working with you in the future.

We hope that you can attend! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Best
Michael Sliter



Michael Sliter

Outreach and Public Affairs Coordinator

Email: Michael.sliter@cga.ct.gov **Phone:** (860) 266-8410

Senate Republican Office

Legislative Office Building
300 Capitol Avenue, Room 3400
Hartford, Connecticut 06106





State Senator
Jeff Gordon



State Representative
Tim Ackert

invite you to
attend a

Legislative Update

POSTPONED
TO MONDAY, MARCH 2ND



Tuesday • February 24, 2026 • 6:30 pm

Lakeview Restaurant
50 Lake Street • Coventry, CT

Join me to discuss important state issues that matter most to you! Refreshments provided.



Event Is Open To The Public

For more information,

Please call Michael Sliter at (860) 240-8801
or e-mail at Michael.Sliter@cga.ct.gov





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THIRTY-FIFTH SENATE DISTRICT

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State of Connecticut
SENATE

REPUBLICAN WHIP

RANKING MEMBER
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

MEMBER
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY COMMITTEE

February 20th, 2026

Dear colleagues,

I am providing to you an update about legislation that would expand the scope and number of opioid prevention centers in Connecticut (Senate Bill 151). The Public Health Committee has taken up this issue. It has done so in prior years, but the legislation did not get passed during prior legislative sessions.

The expanded scope of opioid prevention centers that is proposed is to allow people to go to these locations and actively use illegal drugs on the premises under medical supervision. This raises serious legal and public safety concerns.

As a medical doctor and as a State Senator, I remain fully committed to confronting the opioid crisis through meaningful, legal, and safe prevention programs, expanded treatment access, and strong recovery support systems. No one item can solve this problem. And there is no magic fix. It takes a multi-disciplinary approach over time. Data has shown that these concerted, longitudinal efforts have helped decrease opioid deaths. More needs to be done.

But efforts to do so should be done within a legal framework and keeping in mind legitimate public safety concerns in our communities. This is common sense. During prior years' debates on this issue, it was discussed, and highlighted by the testimony of the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, that federal law does not allow opioid prevention centers to have people use illegal drugs at such facilities. This has been a position that spans several administrations. Although some people argue that federal law may not be crystal clear on the issue, courts have not uniformly stated it is allowed and the U.S. Supreme Court has not adjudicated the issue.

Furthermore, if Connecticut were to proceed any way, then it would jeopardize millions of dollars in federal funding.

Let me know your concerns and questions.

My best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey A. Gordon, MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a small "MD" at the end.

Jeff Gordon
State Senator, 35th District