

AGENDA
Coventry Town Council Meeting
March 16, 2026
7:00 PM
Town Hall Annex

In-person attendance is permitted for the Audience of Citizens Portion of the meeting.
If you would prefer to submit comments for inclusion
under correspondence at the next meeting, email them to audience@coventry-ct.gov
no later than 4 PM on the Tuesday prior to the day of the meeting.

Contact information for general correspondence to the Town Council
is available on the Town website at <https://www.coventryct.org/225/Town-Council>

A recording of the meeting is available on the Town's video-on-demand system
for those who wish to watch the meeting at this link: [https://coventryct.viebit.com/?
folder=ALL](https://coventryct.viebit.com/?folder=ALL)

Please allow approximately 48 business hours
after the meeting for the video to be published.

1. Call To Order, Roll Call
2. Pledge Of Allegiance
3. Audience Of Citizens:
(30 Minutes - 5 minutes maximum per citizen)
4. Acceptance Of Minutes, February 17, 2026 (E):
Documents:

[TOWN COUNCIL UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES, FEBRUARY 17, 2026.PDF](#)

5. Acceptance Of Minutes, March 2, 2026 (E):
Documents:

[TOWN COUNCIL UNOFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES, MARCH 2, 2026.PDF](#)

6. Consent Agenda:
All items listed with an asterisk (*) will be acted on by one motion. There will be no
separate discussion on this items unless a Council member so requests, in which case,
the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence
on the agenda.

7. Reports:

7.A. Council Chairwoman: Lisa Thomas

7.A.1. National Vietnam War Veterans Day Announcement

Documents:

[VIETNAM WAR VETERANS DAY 2026.PDF](#)

7.A.2. Legislative Testimony Update

Documents:

[TESTIMONY RAISED BILL 5501.PDF](#)
[TESTIMONY RAISED BILL SB429.PDF](#)

7.B. Council Members:

7.C. Finance Committee: Robyn Gallagher, Chairperson

7.C.1. * Monthly Financial Report (E)

7.D. * Steering Committee: Jonathan Hand, Chairperson

7.E. *COVRRRA:

7.F. Town Manager: James D. Drumm

7.F.1. Projects/Issues Update (E):

Documents:

[3-13-26 PROJECT ISSUE MEMO.PDF](#)

7.F.2. Neighborhood Assistance Act 2026 Notice

Documents:

[2026 NAA-CVR SAMPLE.PDF](#)

8. Unfinished Business:

8.A. 25/26-39: FY 2026/27 Budget

Budget presentations:

- Fire/EMS Department
- Police Department

9. New Business:

9.A. 25/26-42: Consideration/Possible Action: 2026 World Autism Awareness Day Proclamation (E) (7:15 PM)

Documents:

[2026 WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY PROCLAMATION-TOWN COUNCIL.PDF](#)
[25-26 - 42 SUMMARY SHEET.PDF](#)

9.B. 25/26-43: Consideration/Possible Action: Combined Capital Projects Referendum Resolution (E)

Documents:

[COVENTRY - COMBINED CAPITAL PROJECTS RESOLUTION \(2026\).PDF](#)
[25-26 - 43 SUMMARY SHEET.PDF](#)

9.C. 25/26-44: Consideration/Possible Action: Citizen's Budget Guide (E)

Documents:

[COVENTRY BUDGET INFO ALTERNATE FORMAT V2.PDF](#)

10. Miscellaneous/Correspondence:

10.A. *DRIP Program Update (E)

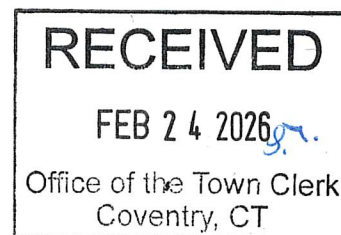
Documents:

[CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING DRIP PROGRAM UPDATE.PDF](#)

11. Adjournment

(E) denotes enclosure

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
Coventry Town Council Meeting
February 17, 2026 7:00 PM
Town Hall Annex



1. Call To Order, Roll Call:

The Meeting was called to order by Council Chairwoman Lisa Thomas at 7:05 PM

Members Present: Lisa Thomas-Chairwoman, Peter Larson-Vice Chairman, Matthew Kyer-Secretary, Jon Hand, Robyn Gallagher, Mark Wheaton, and Julie Blanchard (remote).

Members Absent: None

Also Present: James Drumm-Town Manager, Alex Taylor-Special Projects Coordinator.

2. Pledge Of Allegiance:

Town Council members stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Audience Of Citizens: (30 Minutes - 5 minutes maximum per citizen):

John French, 392 Pucker Street:

French spoke on the following matters:

- A statement made by Town Councilwoman Thomas, where she stated individuals were murdered by ICE agents. French continued that there are ongoing investigations and didn't understand how she thought that was the case.
- A news article was published about this month's COST meeting, where municipal leaders and lawmakers were gathered to discuss rising costs, budget pressures and other challenges facing CT's small towns. The article stated that one of the local politicians used this as a platform to discuss her fears of exercising her 1st amendment rights, issuing a public safety alarm designed to grab attention first and ask questions later. Additionally, it was mentioned that Coventry's Town Council Chair described heightened anxieties among residents following recent immigration enforcement options. French stated that Coventry is not an immigration enforcement hotspot, with the town's demographics consisting of only a small percentage of foreign-born individuals. He continued that modern politics are not about accuracy, but more so about grabbing attention and spreading panic.
- French shared his position on Thomas's use of the phrase "murdered by Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agents". He stated that this is an unfortunate event that resulted in the loss of 2 lives. He continued that without the Governor of Minnesota and local Mayor encouraging public and dangerous demonstrations, these individuals would be alive today. French stated that our town leader wants to cause anxiety that ICE is coming into our community and snatching people up, which he expressed sounds a lot like political fear. He continued that when a Town Council Chair is elected, they serve all people. He felt that the only things important to Thomas is the Democrat Party and making Hartford happy, which shows a lack of leadership. He concluded that Coventry deserves better.

3.A. Public Comment session regarding Town of Coventry membership in the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority:

No citizens were present for the Public Comment.

4. Public Hearing: Amendment and Update of Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance:

No citizens were present for the Public Hearing. Thomas closed the Public Hearing.

5. Acceptance Of Minutes, February 2, 2026:

Motion: I move to accept the February 2, 2026, Town Council Meeting Minutes, with Thomas's suggested edits.

By: Kyer

Second: Wheaton

Discussion/Edits:

- Pg. 3, 1st full bullet starting with "James Drumm", 2nd line, change "Wiliam Tong" to "William Tong".
- Pg. 1, Under Agenda Item 1, indicate that Kelly Lawer-Collector of Revenue was remote and change her title from "Tax Collector" to "Collector of Revenue".
- Pg. 7, 1st bullet, "Cross St./South St.", 1st line, change "Atlantic Water" to "Connecticut Water".
- Pg. 7, Under Questions and Comments for "Cross St./South St.", 3rd sentence, change "Thomas asked if residential properties along Cross St. And South St. Could connect, if allowed." to "Thomas asked if residential properties along Cross Street and South Street could connect, if allowed."
- Pg. 9, Under Agenda Item 8.B., 1st sentence under "Discussion" change "Tax Collector" to "Collector of Revenue".

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard.

Against:

Abstain:

6. Consent Agenda:

All items listed with an asterisk (*) will be acted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member so requests, in which case, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

Motion: I move to accept the consent agenda.

By: Kyer

Second: Hand

Discussion: None

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard.

Against:

Abstain:

7. Reports:

7.A. Council Chairwoman: Lisa Thomas:

Thomas read the following report:

- First, I want to extend our gratitude to all of the Coventry first responders who assisted with the train derailment along the Willimantic River. Special thanks to Alex Bohr, our Emergency Management Director, for his leadership. We are fortunate that there were no serious impacts from the event. Today the road closure on Rt. 32 was lifted. We appreciate our community for your patience accommodating the inconvenience of detouring around that important thoroughfare.

- Speaking of emergency management, I am very excited by the partnership between Coventry Public Schools and our emergency response teams to create Coventry's first ever First Responder Academy. This is an excellent way to help students explore policing, firefighting, emergency medical training, and other careers. And perhaps encourage some to join one of our own departments.
- Please note that the Town of Coventry web site has a new feature. The page opens with a pop-up you can click on for information about budget development and meetings for fiscal year 2026/27. Please visit it frequently. The first important date is the public hearing on March 5, when the Town Manager and the Superintendent of Schools will present their budget recommendations. The hearing is also the first opportunity for residents to ask questions and make suggestions. It starts at 7:00 p.m. in the high school lecture hall. It will stream live on public access channel 194 and on the schools' YouTube channel. Lots more details are at the link in the pop-up, including a video Alex Taylor created to explain the budget process. My thanks to Laura Stone for developing the pop-up window.
- This month my conversations hours are on Thursday, February 26. 10:00-11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. And 6:30 p.m. at the Booth and Dimock library.
- On Thursday, March 5, our CROG Legislative Committee will host a legislative breakfast at the Legislative Office Building from 9-11 a.m. to share with state elected leaders our legislative agenda. As Chair of the Committee, I will be there and invite each Councilor to attend if schedules allow. Our state rep and senator will receive an invite.
- Council Vice Chair Peter Larson and I will have our monthly update meeting with the Town Manager on February 26. If any Councilors have questions or suggestions, they would like us to raise, please email them to me before the 26th.

7.A.1. Healthcare Policy Recs: [HealthcareCabinet2026](#)

7.A.2. First Responder Student Academy: [First Responder Student Academy Flyer](#)

7.B. Council Members:

Gallagher reported:

- Congrats to the CNHMS Girls Basketball Team on an undefeated season.
- Students from CNHMS and CHS participated in the UConn Jazz Festival and performed at the Valentine's Swing Concert. The performances were great at both events.
- The schools will be putting on a production of 'Annie', March 5-7th at 7PM in the CHS Veteran's Auditorium.

7.C. Finance Committee: Robyn Gallagher, Chairperson:

Gallagher shared that the Finance Committee met just prior to the Town Council meeting and had discussions primarily on 2 important issues:

- Town Health Insurance- The Finance Committee put forth a unanimous recommendation to the Town Council to go with Cigna Direct. The BOE has voted to go with Cigna Direct as well.
- Police Department Requests:
 - Chief Peterson requested updated software for their CAD (computer aided dispatch) system. The current system is becoming obsolete and requires large amounts of money to be operational. Chief Peterson would like to switch to a competitor, NextGen, which is used by 90% of CT Police Departments, as well as the CT State Police. It typically costs \$200,000, but Chief Peterson was able to negotiate a price of \$125,000 for a limited time, with an annual subscription fee of \$18,000. However,

the \$125,000 could be paid in 3 installments, with a down payment of \$75,000 due at the time of purchase, \$30,000 due July 1, 2027, and a final payment of \$20,000 in 2028. Gallagher explained the \$75,000 would need to be paid out of the current fiscal year, and the recommendation for the Town Council is to use \$30,000 currently in capital, along with 'up to' \$45,000 from CNREF (which currently has a balance of \$70,000). She further explained that the town's IT staff have advised against continuously throwing money at our current software. She noted that it is not on tonight's agenda as it was recently discussed but expects it to be on the next Town Council Agenda.

- Chief Peterson has also requested an additional sergeant for the department. This does not include hiring another body to fill this position, but rather promoting one of the highest standing officers currently employed. He requested that this be done in the current fiscal year, rather than waiting for a passed budget, as he has concerns with not always having a supervisor on duty. Currently there are 5 sergeant positions within the department, which is not enough to cover 24/7, along with vacations and days off. 6 sergeants within the department would allow for 2 supervisors per shift. Discussions were paused, and no recommendations were made, as this was continued to future agenda.

Gallagher explained that the remaining agenda items (including financial reports) were continued as well, in order to adjourn for the scheduled Town Council meeting.

7.D. *Steering Committee: Jonathan Hand, Chairperson

7.D.1. * Steering Committee Minutes: 1/27/2026

7.E. * COVRA

7.F. Town Manager: James Drumm:

7.F.1 Projects/Issues Update:

Drumm highlighted the following updates:

- Charter Revision Commission- Commission work is still very active, and they plan to meet with the Finance Director and Collector of Revenue at their next meeting, February 19th.
- Assessor- The position is still vacant, and there is a deadline of March 4th for applications to be received. To date, no applications have been received, so efforts are being made to get the word out in many locations.
- Plains Rd. Waterline Project- Still in the waiting period with DPH to review the bid documents. Once their review is complete, the town will move forward with the bidding process.
- Sewer Water Plant Project- The \$30M project originally expected to receive a 20% grant, may have increased grant funding after working further with DEEP. Expected grant funding is now in the range of 23%-25%.
- Most other town projects have to wait until the snow melts.

Questions/Comments:

Plains Rd. Waterline: Kyer asked if there is any information that can be given to the residents about a possible timeline. Drumm explained there is a 90-day waiting period, and the town is less than 60-days in. If the DPH takes every day they are allowed, this will put the Town out to bid in early April, with a deadline of 30-days to receive bids, and the contract would be awarded in May. Drumm expected the project to span the Spring, and into Summer. He noted that once awarded it is a quick project, depending on the contractor's timeline and ability to mobilize. He explained that some things will take time, like tree removal, but other than that, it consists of digging a trench and putting the pipe together. Communications will be shared once more is known

from the contractor. Thomas reminded that there has been consistent and ongoing communication between town staff and the Plains Road residents.

7.F.2. * Legal Notice, Manager's Budget Hearing, 3/5/2026:

8. Unfinished Business:

8.A. 25/26-29: Consideration/Possible Action: Adoption of Resolution - Amendment and Update of Parks and Recreation Commission Ordinance:

Motion: I move to approve Resolution 2026-02, Adopting Ordinance #266, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, AMENDING THE TOWN OF COVENTRY CODE OF ORDINANCES CHAPTER 70 "PARKS AND RECREATION"; PROVIDING SEVERABILITY; REPEALING ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT; AND PROVIDING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

By: Larson

Second: Hand

Discussion: Thomas noted there is a memo attached to the agenda regarding the attorney's recommendation around a 'public gathering', including decreasing the number allowed in the ordinance under Section 70-88. Currently, 70-88 states that "Any public gathering should be in accordance with Section 66-37." However, Section 66-37, allows for public gatherings that attract "300 or more persons". The attorney stated they did not believe that the intention of Section 70-88 'Public Gatherings' would only be triggered by 300 or more people. The attorney's recommendation is to amend Section 66-37, which is outside of the Parks and Recreation ordinance, but would apply per the reference in Section 70-88 of the ordinance.

Drumm requested that staff review Section 66-37 first, before it goes to Steering for further review. Lesley Munshower shared that the special event number applies to both gatherings on town property and private property. However, it is for public events, not for private parties. Thomas clarified that Section 66-37 does not prohibit this amount of people but requires a permit so that the town is prepared for a public event of this size.

Wheaton explained the Farmer's Market is over 300 people any given weekend and was curious if this applied. Thomas clarified that since it is a town-run program, it's not considered a 'special event'. Drumm added that it would not apply to churches either if they are large enough to accommodate such a crowd.

It was reiterated that Drumm will bring this to Steering once staff completes their review.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard.

Against:

Abstain:

9. New Business:

9.A. 25/26-40: Consideration/possible action: Resolution: Town of Coventry to Join the Connecticut Municipal Development Authority as a member municipality:

Motion: I move to adopt Resolution 2026-03, A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF COVENTRY, CONNECTICUT, JOINING THE CONNECTICUT MUNICIPAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AS A MEMBER MUNICIPALITY, AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

By: Gallagher

Second: Hand

Discussion: Blanchard commented that there was never any information about the cost. Thomas and Drumm shared that there is no cost to join, and Coventry does not get charged a fee to use their services. It was clarified that they are state funded to be free advisors to CT towns to promote development and housing.

Thomas also reminded that there is an “exit ramp” at every step of the process, and the information they receive during the process is invaluable. If a project is recommended, that comes with a cost, the town can look into available grants.

Hand stated that he is strongly in favor of joining the CMDA to take advantage of the free resources available to municipalities. Especially since they provide information whether Coventry decides to use them or not.

Gallagher shared that one of her concerns as a Town Councilor is how the town is going to handle infrastructure challenges, especially those in the village and those that include the sewer plant upgrade/development. She emphasized that she is all for things that provide the town and Council with resources, and potentially some money, for needed infrastructure improvements. Larson agreed, as everyone pays state taxes, that the Council should do what they can to get state dollars back into Coventry.

Thomas reminded that anything learned through the processes helps with the development of the town’s strategic plan, which is community driven.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard.

Against:

Abstain:

9.B. 25/26-41: Consideration/possible action: Selection of health insurance program FY 27:

Motion: I move that the Town Council select the Cigna Direct option as the next health insurance program, following the collapse of ECHIP.

By: Gallagher

Second: Kyer

Discussion: Wheaton followed up on 2 questions that were pending following the meeting with USI:

1. Are there reserves?

Drumm explained that there is a reserve, estimated to be about \$2.8M. However, it has to remain for any claims that come into the new year. The final amount remaining will be unknown until all claims have been submitted. Trahan commented that she believes the net amount to be \$1M.

Wheaton discussed that since the motion is to go to a self-funded Cigna Direct plan, we may need that \$1M if there are overages with claims. Gallagher stated that there is a pool, but she believes that in funding, they try to

cover all the anticipated health insurance costs for the following year. However, there have been times where they have allowed the reserves to dip.

Wheaton commented that the plans in general were around \$8.5M, except for the state plan that was \$10.2M. Wheaton continued bringing up points from the joint discussion with USI where Gallagher compared the plans based on cost, including HSA contributions and \$1.3M in state runoff. This ultimately puts the total cost for the state plan in line with the costs of the self-funded plans. Gallagher agreed and reminded that the state plan would end up being slightly cheaper. Wheaton also shared that even though the plan would be cheaper, there were concerns that the state's premiums would rise over time.

2. What are the penalties for leaving the state program?

Wheaton was curious if the town selected a 3-year duration with the state insurance program, and after 1 ½ years, the premium is increased 25% for the next year. Drumm explained that the penalty is 5%. Wheaton was curious if it was 5% of \$8.5M. He stressed that if the penalty is low, then the risk of massive rate increases is also low.

Gallagher explained that the risk of leaving the state program is more than the 5% fee, as the town will lose the buildup of reserves as well, should they decide to leave. She emphasized that there needs to be money in the bank to pay the claims.

Gallagher informed that the Board of Ed has voted to go with Cigna Direct, so the reserves are being held. If the town opted to go with the state plan, and needed to decide to jump out, would there need to be additional reserves built up. Wheaton agreed that the town would need to create a reserve if the town bailed out of the state plan since it is not self-funded.

Thomas also shared that there is a time crunch in making a decision. She explained that they cannot shift plans at this time, without negotiating with the unions, which there is not enough time to do so. She commented that the discussion at the finance meeting regarding this concluded with the suggestion to take this year and stick with Cigna Direct, in the meanwhile use the time to better investigate all the questions and talk with the employees/unions to get feedback.

Gallagher commented that she wrongly assumed that with selecting the state plan, the town would see the benefit of not paying all the HSA payments. She explained that this should be kept in mind when negotiating with the unions are employees may insist on the benefit be provided elsewhere. Hand added that there may be more things covered under the state plan, that are not covered by self-funded plans, reducing out-of-pocket costs. He noted this may be helpful during negotiations as well.

Hand continued that the time crunch is unfortunate but added that a benefit is that the employees are already used to it, and coverage will remain the same. However, he strongly agrees with looking into this further for the future. Larson agreed with looking into this further for cost purposes to the town, but also how it affects the families that are on this plan.

Wheaton suggested that insurance be looked into earlier next year. Thomas agreed and suggested it be put onto the Finance Committee agenda as a standing item.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard.

Against:

Abstain:

10. Miscellaneous/Correspondence:

10.A. * Board of Education: Minutes, 1/22/26 & 1/29/26; Agenda: Joint Finance/Fiscal Committee meeting: 2/10/26; Agenda: Board of Education, 2/12/26:

10.B. * Fire/EMS and Police Department monthly statistics:

10.C. * Public Hearing, Town of Bolton, March 11, 2026: Amendments to Zoning Regulations Article XVIII Signage:

11. Executive Session:

- Cell Tower Contract

Motion: I move that the Town Council enter into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-200(6)(E)-discussion of any matter which would result in the disclosure of public records or the information therein contained described in sub-section (b) of Section 1-210 with the following people in attendance all members of the Town Council (Lisa Thomas, Peter Larson, Matthew Kyer, Jon Hand, Robyn Gallagher, Julie Blanchard, and Mark Wheaton), Town Manager James Drumm, and Special Projects Coordinator Alex Taylor.

By: Blanchard

Second: Wheaton

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard.

Against:

Abstain:

The Town Council entered Executive Session at 8:05 PM.

The Town Council exited Executive Session at 8:23 PM.

12. Adjournment

Motion: I move that the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 8:24 PM.

By: Kyer

Second: Wheaton

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous vote 8:24 PM.

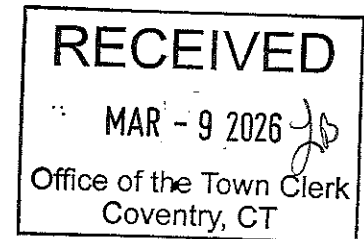
Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Archambault

Nicole Archambault, Minutes Clerk

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

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
Coventry Town Council Meeting
March 2, 2026 7:00 PM
Town Hall Annex**



1. Call To Order, Roll Call:

The Meeting was called to order by Council Chairwoman Lisa Thomas at 7:02 PM

Members Present: Lisa Thomas-Chairwoman, Peter Larson-Vice Chairman, Matthew Kyer-Secretary, Jon Hand, Robyn Gallagher, Mark Wheaton, and Julie Blanchard.

Also Present: James Drumm-Town Manager, Alex Taylor-Special Project Coordinator, and Cherie Trahan-Finance Director.

2. Pledge of Allegiance:

Town Council members stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Audience Of Citizens: (30 Minutes - 5 minutes maximum per citizen): None.

4. Public Hearing: Adoption Of Firearms Safety Ordinance Recommended By Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee:

Thomas opened the Public Hearing at 7:03 PM, and Hand read the legal notice that was published ahead of the hearing. Thomas reminded those in attendance that the comments made during the public hearing must address the ordinance warned for public comment, as this is not a forum to express personal grievances.

Cheryl Kuhn, 70 Riley Mountain Road:

Kuhn spoke in opposition of the draft ordinance citing the following reasons:

- Inadequate citizen representation throughout the process.
- Restrictions indicating existing, previously inspected berms are unsafe (including her own).
- Even with a 250 ft restriction, noise will still be an issue.
- Lack of 'Grandfather Clause'.
- Ordinance has no clear indication of the responsible party to determine the adequacy of a backstop. She recommends that an RSO (Range Safety Office) be the responsible party, not the police department.
- Time restrictions and limits are unfair, when there are no restrictions for gun clubs, who shoot all day, and during nighttime for special events. As well as hunting, which is allowed to start at 7AM.
- Feels that the ordinance is simply rewriting CT State Laws that are already on the books for hunting and applying them to home ranges.

Chris Kuhn, 70 Riley Mountain Road:

Kuhn spoke in opposition of the draft ordinance for the following reasons:

- Lack of consistency, honesty, accountability, and reliability from the Town Council throughout the process.
- Lack of concern for citizens' rights
- Ordinance consists of hunting bylaws being applied to a home target range.
- Flaws in the structure of the committee and in the draft ordinance have been ignored.
- Lack of 'Grandfather Clause'.
- Draft Ordinance is open to vague interpretation.

- No clear indication of the responsible party to inspect private ranges.

Jennifer Beausoleil, 1040 Cedar Swamp Road:

Beausoleil spoke in support of the ordinance for the following reasons:

- The committee was made up of a good combination of experts in the field and those interested in recreational firearms use.
- The committee focused on a solution to balance community safety and the right to bear arms and conducted research from various sources.
- An accidental fatal shooting occurred in town in 1998, in her residential neighborhood.
- State laws only apply to hunting. There is nothing to regulate the discharge of firearms for non-hunting use.
- There are very few laws regarding target shooting or recreational, non-hunting, use of a firearm.
- Supports the right to own guns and bear arms. The ordinance does not take away the right to own a gun, or the right to protect themselves.
- Ordinance outlines common sense safety guidelines.

Tim Kollars, 24 Beaver Trail:

Kollars spoke in opposition of the ordinance for the following reasons:

- CT statutes do not allow the discharge of a firearm within 500 ft from occupied buildings.
- A noise complaint has turned into a gun control ordinance proposal.
- Felt sections of the ordinance were vague, including determining what qualifies as an occupied structure.
- Felt that neighbors could put sheds, garages, and other structures on the edge of their property to prohibit neighbors from shooting on their own property.
- Felt that the 4-hour window requirement would result in costly admin fees in order to keep track of start and end times, and verifying compliance.
- Felt definitions were unclear, determining “sunset” and an “adequate backstop”.
- Felt air guns should not be included, as this is limiting for teaching children gun safety.
- Concerns with police officer discretion, especially surrounding property owner permission notes.
- Concerns with the cost of ordinance enforcement and home range evaluations.
- Concerns with the ordinance being challenged, resulting in costly legal fees.

John French, 392 Pucker Street:

French spoke in opposition of the ordinance for the following reasons:

- Definition of “sufficient backstop” is vague, and the ordinance does not list a responsible party to verify whether a backstop is sufficient or not.
- Concerns that homeowners who oppose the use of recreational firearms have the ability to build on their property line in order to make it more difficult or in violation of the ordinance for their neighbors to shoot.
- Concerns with who is responsible for enforcing the 4-hour time window.
- Concerns with fraudulent reports from disgruntled neighbors.
- The fine amount is not clearly defined.
- Shared plans to start a petition to force the Town Council to call a special town meeting where Coventry voters could decide to have this ordinance revoked.

Tracy Underhill, 112 Gardner Tavern Road:

Underhill spoke in opposition of the ordinance for the following reasons:

- Wished that the ordinance was more widely publicized, as she was not made aware until the last minute. She believes a majority of town residents are not even aware of this proposed ordinance.
- Concerned that the ordinance is vague and should at least be redrafted.
- Believes having immeasurable items on an ordinance gives too much power to an individual.
- Feels this is a tax on police department time, on town resources, and town finances.
- Feels that the ordinance is an infringement on the 2nd Amendment Right.
- Feels that the ordinance was created under the guise of town safety and well-being, when it is a deeper-rooted desire for a noise ordinance.
- Believes the ordinance does nothing to address safety.
- Concerns with the party responsible for determining whether a backstop is sufficient.
- Feel that neighbors have different opinions, but that should not affect constitutional rights.
- Feels that these situations could be avoided by simply being a good neighbor, which seems to have gone out the window.

Frank Masse, 320 Swamp Road:

Masse spoke in opposition of the ordinance for the following reasons:

- He is in agreement with many of the statements already made.
- Feels the ordinance is mainly to address noise.
- Town demographics have changed over time.
- Feels having quiet hours in regard to gun control is a better solution
- Feels there should be more clarity in the ordinance, specifically around the time of day when shooting is allowed.
- Commented he is in favor of safety and noise control.

John Westlake, 507 Pucker Street:

Westlake spoke in opposition of the ordinance for the following reasons:

- Feels the 'word' surrounding the ordinance has not gotten out very well.
- Stated there is a large difference between hunting and target shooting.
- Feels that there is no difference in noise with the distance requirements listed in the ordinance.
- Explained that he has made it a practice to call the police department to notify of his recreational shooting. Now, is concerned that if he calls to notify of his shooting activities, that police will come out to inspect the range, distance, backstop, and the possession of written permission.
- Feels the more access an individual has to a safe firing range, the better one would be with self-defense, limiting accidents, and becoming a more responsible gun-owner.
- Feels the town is already over-regulated.

John Burchard, 2883 Main Street:

Burchard spoke in opposition of the ordinance for the following reasons:

- Neighbor disagreements should not dictate the passing of laws that restrict the 2nd Amendment of freedoms granted by the US Constitution.
- The 2nd Amendment is not a privilege; it is a right.

Bill Glenney, 664 Silver Street:

Glenney was unable to attend the public hearing but submitted a written statement in opposition of the ordinance for Town Council consideration, and to be entered into public record. *His written statement can be found attached at the conclusion of these minutes.*

5. Public Hearing: Excess Tax Payment Ordinance:

Thomas opened the Excess Tax Payment Ordinance Public Hearing at 7:50 PM. Larson read the legal notice that was published ahead of the hearing. No speakers were present, and the hearing was closed.

6. Acceptance Of Minutes, February 17, 2026:

Motion: I move to accept the February 17, 2026, Town Council Meeting Minutes with Thomas's suggested edits:

By: Larson

Second: Kyer

Discussion/Edits: Continued to the next Town Council meeting.

7. Consent Agenda:

All items listed with an asterisk (*) will be acted on by one motion. There will be no separate discussion on these items unless a Council member so requests, in which case, the item will be removed from the consent agenda and considered in its normal sequence on the agenda.

Motion: I move to accept the consent agenda.

By: Hand

Second: Gallagher

Discussion: Thomas requested to move Agenda Item 11.C.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard

Against:

Abstain:

8. Reports:

8.A. Council Chairwoman: Lisa Thomas:

Thomas read the following report:

- I had the pleasure of attending the Coventry Historical Society's presentation by Dan Gorka titled "The Search for Coventry's Enslaved: After Freedom". It was a fascinating and eye-opening presentation. Big thanks to Dan for the many hours of research he has put into this topic. Understanding our history is critical to understanding our present and future. I encourage everyone to attend the Historical Society's programs.
- My office hours were well attended this month. Topics residents wanted to discuss included:
 - A request for a Town resolution for autism awareness month 2026
 - Concerns about land use issues
 - Discussion of funding towards the annual Arts on Main event organized by the Coventry Arts Guild
 - Discussion of adding hours that the Booth and Dimock Library is open

- Questions about the staging of equipment for the planned Swamp Rd and South St reconstruction project
- Progress update on the Veterans Commission's fundraising efforts to add additional monuments on the Veterans Green and a reminder that Coventry will host an event at the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial monument on March 29 in recognition of National Viet Nam War Veterans Day.
- Please remember that Thursday is the public hearing on the Town Manager's proposed budget. The meeting starts at 7 in the high school lecture hall. This is a critical time for residents to share their thoughts and questions. Also mark your calendars for next Monday, March 9 at 7 pm. The Town Council will meet with the Board of Education to discuss its proposed budget.

8.A.1. Testimony to Education Committee on H.B. 5033:

8.B. Council Members:

Gallagher reported:

- Congrats to the CHS Girls Basketball team, who is playing for the championship tonight.
- CHS's production of Annie is coming up, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday at 7PM.
- A non-profit has been created for individuals to donate to Veterans memorial efforts, tax free. More information will be shared and posted to the Veterans Memorial and Events Facebook page.

Blanchard reported:

- Thomas's testimony to the Education Committee on H.B. 5033 was on behalf of the whole Town Council, but she does not remember the entire Town Council discussing it. Thomas responded that the whole Council approved the CRCOG legislative priorities, one of which is to advocate for increased school funding. Blanchard wished more information was shared prior.

8.C. Steering Committee: Jonathan Hand, Chairperson:

Hand reported that the meeting was shortened due to it being before the scheduled Town Council meeting. However, there were good discussions on the creation of a School Building Committee. This item was continued to a future steering meeting, as was the rest of the agenda, due to time.

8.C.1. Steering Committee Recommended Appointments:

8.C.1.a. Energy Conservation/Alternate Energy Committee: Castillo:

Motion: I move to appoint Julie Castillo to the Energy Conservation/Alternate Energy Committee for a term to expire 3/1/2029, as recommended by Steering.

By: Hand

Second: Kyer

Discussion: Gallagher shared that Castillo's background is ideal for this committee; Hand agreed and commented that was mentioned during the Steering meeting.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard

Against:

Abstain:

8.C.1.b. Parks and Recreation Commission:

- Considine (Currently Serving)
- Drumm
- Garcia
- Hecht
- Orcutt
- Rodgers (Currently Serving)

Hand explained that there were 2 vacant positions on the Parks and Recreation Commission, that Steering made recommended appointments for. Due to the recommended appointments, a vacancy became available for an alternate position on this Commission. The following motions reflect this.

Motion: I move to appoint Jennifer Rodgers to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a term to expire 1/12/2028 as recommended by Steering.

By: Hand

Second: Kyer

Discussion: Hand commented that Rodgers served as chair, and during the last term, there was a lot of extra work she had to put in. Hand thanked her for her service and efforts.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard

Against:

Abstain:

Motion: I move to appoint McKenna Considine to the Parks and Recreation Commission as a full member for a term to expire 1/1/2028, as recommended by Steering.

By: Hand

Second: Kyer

Discussion: Hand noted that Considine has been serving on the Parks and Recreation Commission as an alternate and is very familiar with the workings of the commission.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard

Against:

Abstain:

Motion: I move to appoint Simon Hecht to the Parks and Recreation Commission as an alternate for a term to expire 1/1/2028 as recommended by Steering.

By: Hand

Second: Kyer

Discussion: Hand explained that Hecht brings a lot of experience working with Coventry Little League. With the things happening at Miller Richardson Park, it would be good to have this experience on the Commission.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard

Against:

Abstain:

Larson was curious about the names listed who did not get appointed. Thomas explained that with only a few seats available, not everyone could be appointed, but it was discussed at Steering for the Chair to reach out and notify them of this and explain other opportunities available for their knowledge and skill sets.

8.C.1.c.: Veterans Memorial and Events Commission: Zetterstrom:

Motion: I move to appoint Carl Zetterstrom to the Veterans Memorial and Events Commission for a term to expire 1/1/2028, as recommended by Steering.

By: Hand

Second: Kyer

Discussion: Hand commented that Zetterstrom is the Post Commander of American Legion Post-52, bringing a knowledgeable skill set to this Commission. Gallagher added that after speaking with him recently, he seems very interested in helping in veteran related events, making this a perfect position for him and appreciates him stepping up to serve. Thomas stated that he is taking on the courageous task of filling the shoes of previous Post 52 Commander, Manny Rodrigues.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Wheaton, and Blanchard

Against:

Abstain:

8.D. *Finance Committee: Robyn Gallagher, Chairperson:

8.D.1. *Finance Committee Minutes: 2/9/2026

8.E. *COVRRRA

8.F. Town Manager: James D. Drumm:

8.F.1. Projects/Issues Update:

Town Manager Drumm shared the following highlights:

- Charter Revision Commission- Their next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 4th. During the meeting they are expected to interview the Finance Director and Collector of Revenue.
- Committee/Commission Review-Town Staff continues to work on this project. The Parks and Recreation Commission review was completed last meeting. The next committees being looked into are the Softball Field Committee and the Human Services Advisory Committee. Both committees have not met since 2022. Findings and recommendations will be brought to Steering.

- Assessor Vacancy- The position has been advertised in CCM, the CT Association of Assessing Officers, and on the Town Manager's Facebook page. No applications have been received. Extra measures have been taken to reach out to every Assessor in the State of CT via email with a link to the job advertisement. The deadline is March 4th, which will likely need to be extended.
- Human Services Administrator Anne Marie Sundgren has given her resignation. Her last day is March 24th. The position is being posted to the union members, with a deadline of March 9th. If no applications are received, it will be advertised to the public.
- Mechanic 1 position is being advertised as well.
- CHS Roof Project-With the project completed, the town is working on getting state reimbursements. An old state law did not allow the town to request reimbursement, as too many bidders were interviewed. Coventry interviewed 5, when the limit was 4. The state realized the law was bad and has since amended it. Coventry requested Rep. Ackert to put up a special law that would waive the requirement, in order for Coventry to get reimbursed.
- CHS HVAC-2nd reimbursement has been submitted and approved. Payment of \$2.9M has been received by the Finance Office.
- Radio Tower Contract-Staff has worked to negotiate a contract with T-Mobile. This was initially expected to be a short 3-month project, but turned into 2 years of back-and-forth communications between attorneys. At the last Town Council meeting the contract was renewed, which is good for a maximum of 20 years.
- Plains Road Water Line Project- Still waiting for the DPH to approve the town's bid package. However, they have reached out with proposed amendments. Town Engineer Todd Penney is working on those amendments. Once amendments are made, the DPH will have the remaining 30 days to complete their review. The hope is to go out to bid in March, with construction starting in July. Construction is anticipated to take 2 months.
- Patriots Park Improvements- Construction began in December with tree removal. Town Staff is looking at bid documents to be completed, and for construction of the playground to begin in March with a summer completion.

Questions/Comments:

Patriots Park- Kyer questioned if his previous suggestion of removing trees across from the boat ramp to redirect geese has been looked into, as it might eliminate the need for some water circulators. Drumm was unsure and will speak with Penney.

9. Unfinished Business:

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:

Motion: I move to approve Resolution 2026-04, adopting ordinance Number 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 3, "discharge of firearms and air guns", providing severability, repealing ordinances in conflict, and providing an effective date.

By: Hand

Second: Gallagher

Discussion: Thomas shared that comments were received during the public hearing for Council consideration, many of which were heard prior to the hearing. The Firearms Safety and Home Shooting Range Study Committee had heard these comments as well and took them into consideration during their work.

Thomas reminded that the ordinance was the result of a committee charged by the Town Council to look at multiple situations in Coventry.

A proposed amendment was added to the draft in order to exempt firearms use for agricultural purposes and functions. Taylor read the proposed language included in the draft, under Section 66-79 Exemptions, Sub-section J and references CT General Statutes Section 1-1Q.

Thomas read a constitutional analysis and legal opinion of the ordinance provided by town attorneys, which determined the ordinance to be defensible under any constitutional or statutory challenge.

Hand commented that the charge of the committee was never to simply create an ordinance; it was to study the issues and provided remedies could be put forward. After their research and study of what other towns do, they ended up recommending an ordinance.

Wheaton commented that the majority of people who spoke during the public hearing were not in favor of the Town Council passing the ordinance. Blanchard agreed and reiterated similar sentiments. She added that with the addition proposed to include an exemption for agricultural purposes, there should be more time allowed for review.

Gallagher questioned if the addition led to compliance issues with legal notice. Drumm responded that it is his understanding it does not, as the addition was an exemption not further limitations or regulations.

Hand and Gallagher shared thanks to both the citizens who came to speak tonight, as well as for the committee.

Blanchard expressed that she is not in support of this and feels that the community should vote on it along with the budget referendum in May. She reminded that they had the opportunity to speak on it but not vote.

Blanchard also reminded the Council of the email from Bill Glenney, which Thomas read into record.

Thomas clarified the following key points:

- The charging of the Firearms Safety Home Shooting Range Study Committee was not based off any 1 complaint or concern. Several complaints were received from various parts of town.
- There are no state statutes that address recreational shooting on personal property. Other towns have ordinances in place for this reason.
- Range practice in your own backyard is not the same as hunting and comes with different safety needs and sensitivities.
- She does not believe that the Town Council has wasted time, as listening to the community and forming committees are part of the Town Council's responsibilities.
- The committee was filled with Coventry residents with Planning and Zoning background and firearms shooting and instruction knowledge. They did not waste their time and made the choice to serve on this committee and give their time.

Hand added that there was a very good response from the community to fill seats on this committee, and the town ended up having very qualified individuals with extensive experience, one of whom is a Chief Range Safety Officer. All members on the committee were individuals who support the 2nd Amendment Right and partake in the hobby of hunting or recreational shooting.

Larson spoke in favor of the ordinance stating that many of the exemptions are reasonable, and there is a good balance from his view of being a gun owner/recreational shooter, and as a responsible neighbor. He shared concerns with comments made during the public hearing about language being vague and that tightening the language. He stressed that in doing so, personal responsibility would be taken away from citizens. The end goal is to be a good neighbor and having the personal responsibilities that come along with that.

Blanchard agreed with being a good neighbor. However, she feels this ordinance takes away from citizens enjoying their personal property in a manner that they want to, which bothers her more than anything.

Thomas explained that there are many ordinances on the books that dictate what can and can't be done on personal property in terms of building, wetlands, etc. Many of which are for safety purposes. She explained that there needs to be balance between everyone's rights and competing needs. She continued that she views the ordinance as a tool to remind neighbors of safety and neighbors co-existing. However, many calls come to the Police Department and Zoning Enforcement Office, where neighbors are not communicating or getting along. Often, these departments do not have a tool to help resolve the issue. This ordinance can provide guidelines to help resolve issues. She reminded that there were other incidents besides noise that this ordinance addresses.

Hand added that in Glenney's email he mentioned that Tolland has not used their ordinance. Hand reminded that this is a good thing, and likely because the creation of the ordinance created balance and 'drew a line' on violations.

Gallagher spoke to Blanchard's point about enjoying one's own personal property. She agrees to a certain extent but reminded that in situations of a drought, you can't have a bon fire. She reminded that there are things that don't respect property boundaries, like sparks from a bon fire or stray bullets. In certain instances, this becomes a safety risk, which becomes an infringement upon someone else's enjoyment of their property. Gallagher also shared hopes that this ordinance is educating people on safe boundaries and encouraging conversations between neighbors that should already be happening. She added that the analysis from the attorneys indicates that this ordinance is not an infringement on anyone's rights at constitutional levels.

Kyer shared his experience shooting as a boy scout and boy scout counselor. He explained that firearms safety was instilled in him from early on and focused on it even more being a counselor responsible for those boy scouts learning to shoot. He respects everyone's opinion and understands the difference between shooting a gun and having a bon fire, as the 2nd Amendment is a Constitutional right. However, he is in support of this ordinance due to the safety aspects it addresses.

Thomas also shared that there is no intent to be punitive with the ordinance. There will be no one proactively inspecting properties and recording how long someone is shooting. It would be put in place to have safety provisions and allow staff to address concerns should they arise. She anticipates a visit from the police department for a concern about recreational firearms shooting on personal property would be conversational and educational.

Hand amended his motion to include the proposed amendment, Section 66-79 Exemptions, Subsection J, adding agricultural purposes and functions.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, and Larson.

Against: Blanchard and Wheaton.

Abstain:

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:

Motion: I move to approve Resolution 2026-05, adopting ordinance Number 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, fulfilling ordinances in conflict, and providing an effective date.

By: Hand

Second: Larson

Discussion: Wheaton commented that this is a commonsense item, that is balanced both ways. Hand agreed and added that this has been past practice for several years. Gallagher reminded that the memo states that this does not apply to the Vision Government overpayment/underpayment scenario.

Voting:

For: Kyer, Hand, Gallagher, Thomas, Larson, Blanchard, and Wheaton.

Against:

Abstain:

10. New Business:

10.A. 25/26-39: FY 2026/7 Budget

- Presentation of Proposed Budget by Town Manager

Drumm passed out budget books, which included the BOE's proposed budget. Drumm read the following letter: Town Manager's Letter. Drumm then reviewed the budget by section.

Drumm discussed key budget drivers and challenges as described in the abbreviated budget:

- EMS Department savings has allowed the general fund transfer supplementing this fund to be decreased to under \$75,000. The EMS department continuously puts forth efforts to recruit volunteers for further cost savings.
- Trash/recycling crisis the state is in with the trash treatment plant closing over 3 years ago. While the Governor pushes for a new plant to open, even if the process was initiated today, completion would be years away. Currently, the town's solid waste contract calls for a 3% increase annually, with recycling charges constantly changing. However, recycling disposal costs have exceeded trash disposal. During COVID, the COVRRRA fund dropped into the negative, and the town has been working on financial recovery for that account without raising fees for fiscal year 2027/27.
- Wastewater treatment plant upgrade is necessary as the facility has been operating without a permit for over a decade. The WPCA has been researching solutions for over 5 years, and any solution will require heavy

funding, with the anticipation of state and federal aid. The WPCA has not raised fees in the past several years but will need to do so this year to cover increased operating costs. Increases are expected to be \$2.92/month or \$35/yr for connected households.

- A switch will be made with the Recreation Department, as a General Fund Transfer will help cover administration fees, and the Parks and Rec fund covering general park maintenance expenses.
- Workload on town staff has increased, which has led to requests for additional staffing or for additional hours. The Town Manager's proposed budget does not include an additional full-time town staff.
- The Police Chief has requested the promotion of one of his officers to a supervisory sergeant position. This would allow for better coverage for the Police Department and more hours when a supervisor is available.
- The town will need to negotiate 4 collective bargaining agreements that expire on July 1, 2026. Negotiations are underway, but salary information will be unknown prior to budget adoption. Funding for these salaries will come from a contingency account.
- The Booth and Dimock Library is managed independently but funded annually by the town. The Library's Director and Board of Trustees have requested that funding be increased in order to expand operating hours until Monday. This request was not included in the Town Manager's budget due to increased cost, but it is proposed that the Booth and Dimock Library receive a 4% spending increase.
- The 2026/27 Budget accounts for over \$28M to be received in grant funds to be used for things like design and construction of new bridges, traffic improvements, and facility and infrastructure improvements.
- Grant funding does not cover all municipal projects, and the general fund will need to be used to cover capital improvement needs

Drumm commented that he understands that many in the community cannot easily absorb tax and fee increases. He explained that they try to balance the level of service the residents want versus the level of service residents can afford. Town staff and the Town Council are well aware of economic conditions. Fortunately, the Grand List for Coventry has grown this year. The median house in town would see taxes at \$6,299.

The 2026-2027 budget calls for an increase in spending of \$2,247,047, which is an .76% increase over the previous year. This puts the new mil rate at 25.17, which is an increase of 1.41 mils or a 5.95% increase over the current mil rate.

Charts were reviewed that showed the total increase by budget, a budget breakdown for the median house, and comparisons of FY 2025/26 to FY 2026/27. Drumm feels the Town and BOE have put forward responsible budgets with a goal of better, more cost-effective services.

Questions:

Wheaton was curious as to why the spending increase is going up 5%, with the Grand List growing by 1%. However, the mil rate is going up 6%. He asked for clarification on how that makes sense. Gallagher explained there are revenue decreases in other areas that equate for the differences. Trahan also commented that there is no recommended use of fund balance this fiscal year as well.

Thomas encouraged Wheaton and Larson to really go through the budget book and take some time to understand how it is laid out.

Gallagher asked for a memorandum of items within the budget that are increasing over a certain threshold, whether it be percentage wise or dollar amount. Trahan commented that there are a few items with over a 5% increase or over a \$10,000 increase that can be easily explained.

Gallagher questioned why the EMS general fund transfer line item, that has been separate since COVID, has now been included in General Government. Trahan explained that the transfer falls under the general fund as an operating expense. She felt that it distorts the operating budget by pulling it out separately. However, she noted it can still be tracked separately. Additionally, the reduced amount of the transfer this year shows a reduction in operating expenses. Keeping the transfer as its own separate line item, would require the budget to be cut another \$75,000 in order to get the same percentage budget increase. Trahan agreed with tracking it separately but felt it needs to be included with operating expenses since that is what it is. She believes doing it this way will be clearer. Gallagher explained that she wants it to be as clear as possible so that residents can see the Fire/EMS savings that Fire Chief Bud Meyers has been able to produce. Drumm agreed and explained that this shows dependence on the general fund going down with cost recovery from increased fees in the same trend. He added that he will highlight this during the budget presentation.

Drumm reminded that the amount in Capital Improvement has increased significantly (double), as last year the Town Council reduced Capital by \$400,000. However, debt service has dropped significantly, balancing out the increase. Gallagher requested a chart of Capital history over the past 10 years, which Trahan explained is already included. The Council was concerned to see that Capital spending is in the same place it was 10 years ago.

11. Miscellaneous/Correspondence:

11.A. * Office Of Rep. Courtney Re: Legislative Update:

11.B. * Office Of Sen. Murphy Re: February Update:

11.C. * Praise For Department Of Public Works:

Thomas read a letter from a resident praising a kind gesture of the DPW crew, having large trucks drive by a house in town for a child's birthday. The gesture was well received, and the resident spoke to the kindness and selflessness of DPW staff, in such a negative world.

The resident also spoke on the hard efforts of the DPW in keeping the town of Coventry running smoothly.

11.D. * Sen. Gordon And Rep. Ackert Re: Legislative Update:

11.E. *Sen. Jeff Gordon Re: Senate Bill 151:

12. Adjournment:

Motion: I move that the Town Council adjourn the meeting at 10:05 PM.

By: Kyer

Second: Wheaton

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 PM by unanimous vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nicole Archambault

Nicole Archambault, Minutes Clerk

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

Bill Glenney-Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Ordinance Opposition:

Coventry Town Council,

As you know, on Monday, 02 March 2026, the Coventry Town Council will hold a public hearing seeking approval of an ordinance that will tell legal gun owners when, where, and the duration that they can discharge their firearms. This ordinance is intended to ensure safe use of firearms and for the well-being of residents of Coventry. This ordinance is a solution for a non-existent problem and represents a waste of precious time and attention of Town Councilors and Town Staff.

What started off as a disagreement between neighbors on Riley Mountain Road in 2023-2024, the Town Council turned into a demand for action. A Firearms Safety/Home Shooting Range Study Committee was formed and within a few months, the Committee determined that an ordinance constraining discharge of firearms was needed. This determination was based on anecdotal information that over a period of about 3 years, the Coventry Police Department (CPD) received 30-40 calls related to discharge of firearms. According to the CPD, "a high percentage of the . . . complaints are due to noise." The Committee reviewed existing Connecticut State statutes and ordinances from at least four towns, including Tolland. When the Committee asked Tolland how many times they had to use their ordinance in response to any complaints, the answer was none since the ordinance was approved, some 4 years or more in the past. There is no good reason to have an ordinance when one isn't needed.

To reach this point and to generate this solution for a non-existent problem has consumed 13 months of time and energy of the five committee members, Town staff, and the CPD Chief. Furthermore, nearly 24 months of time and attention by the Town Council and Council Steering Committee have been distracted from more urgent matters facing our Town, including taxes, budget, and quality of education, all certainly more important than infrequent complaints of noise from lawful discharge of firearms.

Please stop wasting your limited time and energy. Stop any further efforts to pass this unnecessary ordinance.

Bill Glenney
Coventry, CT.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Join us as we honor and remember our
Vietnam War veterans at a
Wreath-Laying Ceremony



Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 2 p.m.

CT Vietnam War Veterans Memorial

Veterans Memorial Green, 234 Lake Street, Coventry, CT



Town of Coventry

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

**Re: Raised Bill 5501, An Act Expanding Permissible Uses for Town Aid Roads Grants
Testimony of Lisa Thomas
Chair, Coventry Town Council
Chair, Capitol Region Council of Government Legislative Committee
March 9, 2026**

Chairs Kavros-DeGraw and Rahman, Ranking Memebers Gordon and Haines, Vice Chairs Needleman and Chaffee, Members of the Planning and Development Committee:

I write in strong support of Raised Bill 5501 and appreciate this opportunity to provide comment on this critical support for municipalities. Additionally, the bill is consistent with CRCOG's legislative agenda.

This bill expands the permissible uses of Town Aid Road (TAR) grant funds to include the purchase and maintenance of equipment used for highway construction and maintenance. Our municipalities have derived great benefit from bringing TAR funds to our communities for critical transportation infrastructure. In our small town of Coventry, it has allowed us to complete road maintenance and safety projects in a more timely manner **with less burden on local residential property taxes.**

Raised Bill 5501 is a wise measure to ensure that once municipalities undertake TAR supported projects, those improvements are maintained for long lasting benefit.

Equipment such as street sweepers, snow plows, and roadside mowers for vegetation management are costly and often pushed far beyond their lifetimes because we can't afford to replace them. Expanding the use of TAR funds will support upgrades to functioning, more updated equipment. Such equipment will make it possible for our limited DPW staff to more efficiently do their work, and to increase preventative maintenance. Looking at this through a legislative lens, **this also represents a step by the State to protect its own investment of grant dollars in our communities.** This is good policy.

I respectfully urge the Committee to support bill 5501 and the many benefits it will provide.

Respectfully,



Town of Coventry

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

**RE: SB429, An Act Regarding Medicaid
Testimony of Lisa Thomas
Chair, Coventry Town Council
Chair, Capitol Region Council of Government Legislative Committee
March 9, 2026**

Co-Chairs Gilchrest and Lesser, Ranking Members Case and Perillo, Vice-Chairs Comey and Maher, and Distinguished Members of the Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to express support for SB429, which will increase Medicaid reimbursement for ambulance services by adjusting the out-of-district mileage calculation for such services. This legislation would support the ongoing attempts by municipalities to resuscitate their emergency medical services. Additionally, it is consistent with CRCOG's legislative agenda.

Many of you have heard from me in recent years regarding the crisis our towns face while trying to provide timely, life saving ambulance responses to our residents. We have seen a huge decline in volunteer EMS providers, skyrocketing costs for ambulances, and bidding wars for paid EMTs. **Additionally, ICU, Labor and Delivery, and other critical need services have been terminated in several northeastern CT hospitals, resulting in transports to hospitals further away, and in double transports.** When a patient has to be transported twice because the initial receiving hospital doesn't have the infrastructure to provide required care, their care is delayed and there is greater cost for their transport. This is a lose-lose situation.

SB249 will help address the contribution of low Medicaid reimbursement rates to Connecticut's ambulance staffing, maintenance, and response crisis. Adjusting how out-of-district mileage is calculated is a modest but important change that will assist municipalities with providing timely and effective emergency medical care services to our residents. As we continue to problem solve our overall healthcare challenges, **the State has a vested interest in taking all possible steps to address residents' well being before their medical needs escalate to crisis levels.**

I respectfully urge the Committee to support SB249 and the many benefits it will provide.

Respectfully,



Town of Coventry

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

To: Town Council
From: *JD* James Drumm, Town Manager
Date: March 13, 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 been actively reviewing the Charter and is preparing proposed changes and updates. Their next meeting is Thursday March 19th.

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 of which have not had a meeting since 2022.

Assessor Vacancy: 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. The Town has received four qualified applicants and has scheduled interviews for the end of next week.

Human Services Administrator Vacancy: Human Services Administrator Annemarie Sundgren has given her resignation as she plans to relocate out of state. Her last day in March 24th. The Town is currently advertising for the position. The deadline for applications has been set for March 30th.

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. Towns awarded this grant are finding that there is extensive permitting being required before they can move forward. The DEEP is currently reviewing the Town's permit application. Tree removal will begin upon approval of the permit. Construction is estimated to occur in summer/fall of 2026. This program will also include the purchase of counter-top collection containers, which will likely 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. This will be reviewed annually. 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 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.

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 provided suggested amendments to the package. They have an **additional 15 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 2026 fluoridone treatments. Matching funds and funds for monitoring the lake have been proposed in the FY2026-27 Budget. Summer 2026 will be the third year of the three-year Treatment Plan that has been recommended by our consultants. The Treatments for 2026 will start in July.

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. Construction is expected 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 documents are currently being reviewed by the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) prior to being advertised. Request for Bids expected go out for advertisement soon. 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. Town Engineer Todd Penney expressed the need for additional funding for consulting engineers to complete this project at the March 12th Budget meeting. This project will go to bid at the completion of design. The project is planned for construction in summer 2026, but may be delayed.

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 2025 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 2025, 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 finalized 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.



STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE SERVICES

450 COLUMBUS BOULEVARD, SUITE 1 • HARTFORD, CT 06103-1837



March 2, 2026

The **Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act** (NAA) Tax Credit Program is designed to provide funding for municipal and tax-exempt organizations by providing a corporation business tax credit for businesses which make cash contributions to these entities.

Enclosed is the 2026 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposal application for distribution to interested organizations in your municipality. The application must be completed in full, approved locally, and submitted to the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) no later than **July 1, 2026**. Note this deadline is set by statute.

A fillable **Form NAA-01**, *2026 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program Proposal*, is available on the DRS website at **portal.ct.gov/DRS**. Using the fillable Form NAA-01 enables you and your community organization to input information directly onto the form via computer.

Prior to your submission to DRS, your municipality must hold a public hearing on all programs, and the governing body of your municipality must vote to approve these programs. Copies of the public hearing notice and minutes of the meeting approving the programs must be submitted electronically with your applications. Contact DRS by email at **NAAProgram@ct.gov** to receive instructions on how to process your submission through our MOVEit Secure File Transfer System. NAA submissions will not be accepted on paper.

Please designate a liaison to handle all Neighborhood Assistance Act matters. You must enter the name, address, email address, telephone number, and fax number of your liaison in Part IV of the application. **DRS will directly notify your liaison by email of the programs that have been approved.** You must notify your participating organizations accordingly as DRS will not contact them directly.

Lastly, be reminded that any program receiving \$25,000 or more in NAA funding is required to have a post-project audit prepared by a certified public accounting firm and submitted for certification, to the municipality overseeing the program, no later than three months after the program completion date. All audits received by the municipality should be forwarded to DRS, again through our MOVEit system. For further information on the post-project audit requirements, please refer to Conn. Gen. Stat. §12-637a.

E-mail any questions to **NAAProgram@ct.gov** or call 860-297-5687, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for more information.

Mark D. Boughton

Commissioner, Department of Revenue Services

NAA-CVR (Rev. 02/26)

Enclosures

Municipality: _____

Form NAA-01
2026 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA)
Program Proposal

This form **must** be completed and submitted to your municipality for approval. All items **must** be completed with as much detail as possible. If additional space is needed, attach additional sheets. Please type or print clearly. See attached instructions before completing. **Do not submit this form directly to the Department of Revenue Services.**

Part I — General Information

Name of tax-exempt organization/municipal agency: _____

Address: _____

Federal Employer Identification Number: _____

Program title: _____

Name of contact person: _____

Telephone number: _____

Email address: _____

Total NAA funding requested (\$250 minimum, \$150,000 maximum): \$ _____

Is your organization required to file federal Form 990 or 990EZ, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If **Yes**, attach a copy of the **first page** of your most recent return.

If **No**, attach a copy of your determination letter from the U.S. Treasury Department, Internal Revenue Service.

Part II — Program Information

Check the appropriate description of your program:

100% credit percentage

- ☐ Energy conservation; **or**
☐ Comprehensive college access loan forgiveness (see Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-635(3)).

60% credit percentage

- ☐ Job training/education for unemployed persons aged 50 or over;
☐ Job training/education for persons with physical disabilities;
☐ Program serving low-income persons;
☐ Child care services;
☐ Establishment of a child day care facility;
☐ Open space acquisition fund; **or**
☐ Other (specify): _____

Description of program: _____

Need for program: _____

Neighborhood area to be served: _____

Plan to implement the program: _____

Timetable:

Program start date: _____
MM - DD - YYYY

Program completion date: _____
MM - DD - YYYY

Post-project audit due date: _____
MM - DD - YYYY

The program start date must not be more than two years prior to the program completion date. Additionally, the program completion date must not extend beyond **December 31, 2028**.

Any program receiving \$25,000 or more in NAA funding is required to provide a post-project audit, prepared by a certified public accounting firm, to the municipality overseeing the program, no later than three months after the program completion date.

Part III — Financial Information**Program Budget:**

Complete in full. Expenditures must equal or exceed total funding.

Sources of Revenue:

NAA funds requested _____

Other funding sources - itemized sources:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

Total Funding: _____

Proposed Program Expenditures:

Direct operating expenses - itemized description:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

Administrative expenses - itemized description:

a) _____

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

Total Proposed Expenditures: _____

Part IV — Municipal Information

To be completed by the municipal agency overseeing implementation of the program

Name of municipal agency overseeing implementation of the program:	_____

Mailing address:	_____

Name of municipal liaison:	_____
Telephone number:	____ _ - ____ _ - ____ _
Fax number:	____ _ - ____ _ - ____ _
Email address:	_____

Post-Project Audit Is a post-project audit required for this proposal? ☐ Yes ☐ No If Yes, date post-project audit due: _____ Date
--

2026 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program Proposal Instructions

Complete all items on **Form NAA-01**, *2026 Connecticut Neighborhood Assistance Act (NAA) Program Proposal*. Incomplete applications will **not** be accepted. For where to direct inquiries, see *Additional Information* below.

Part I — General Information

Enter the name of the tax-exempt organization or municipal agency, address, Federal Employer Identification Number, name, telephone number, and email address of the contact person.

Program Title: Assign a unique program title to each program for which your organization is making an application.

Federal Form 990: Attach a copy of the first page of your organization's most recent federal Form 990 or Form 990EZ. If your organization is not required to file either Form 990 or Form 990EZ, attach a copy of the determination letter from the Internal Revenue Service.

Part II — Program Information

Description of Program: Describe the program, including information about how the program will operate, its benefit to the community, how recipients will be selected, and any measures used to determine the program's impact on the community.

Need for Program: Demonstrate a need for this program. For example, provide relevant statistics.

Neighborhood Area to Be Served: Describe the neighborhood or municipality this program will serve.

Plan to Implement the Program: Describe how the program will operate. Identify other persons or organizations involved in the administration of the program.

Timetable: Indicate the starting and completion dates of the program. The program completion date must not be more than two years from the program start date.

Part III — Financial Information

Each program proposal must include a program budget that includes all sources of funding and all anticipated expenditures. The information provided in the budget may be used during a post-project audit.

Sources of Revenue: The budget must include the requested NAA funding and any other anticipated revenue sources.

NAA Funding Requested: Indicate the total amount your organization is requesting for its program. This amount may not exceed the total proposed expenditures.

Please note that the minimum NAA funding is \$250, with a maximum funding of \$150,000 per organization or agency per year.

Other Funding Sources: Provide a detailed description(s) and the amount(s) of all funding sources.

Proposed Program Expenditures: The budget must include a detailed description and the amount of all direct operating and administrative expenditures.

Expenditures must equal or exceed total funding.

Direct Operating Expenses: Expenses include materials, equipment, wages, salaries, tuition fees, sub-contracting services, and any other expenses needed to administer the program.

Part IV — Municipal Information

This part is to be completed by the municipal agency overseeing implementation of the program.

Municipal Liaison: The municipality must designate an individual to serve as a liaison with the Department of Revenue Services (DRS) for all NAA matters.

Post-Project Audit: Any program receiving \$25,000 or more in NAA funding is required to have a post-project audit prepared by a certified public accounting firm and submitted for certification, to the municipality overseeing the program, no later than three months after the program completion date. For further information on the post-project audit requirements, please refer to Conn. Gen. Stat. § 12-637a.

Additional Information

See the *Guide to Connecticut Business Tax Credits* available on the DRS website at portal.ct.gov/DRS. E-mail any questions to NAAProgram@ct.gov or call **860-297-5687**, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. for more information.

**2026 World Autism Awareness Day &
World Autism Month Proclamation**

WHEREAS autism spectrum disorder affects an estimated 1 in 31 U.S. children and 1 in 45 U.S. adults and is a complex condition that affects each person differently, resulting in unique strengths and challenges; and

WHEREAS autism can cause challenges with verbal and nonverbal communication, social interaction, and repetitive behaviors, and can affect anyone, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or socioeconomic background; and

WHEREAS autism is often accompanied by medical conditions that impact quality of life; and

WHEREAS a comprehensive, collaborative approach will help to advance research, providing a better understanding of the many forms of autism, strengthen advocacy efforts and ensure access to services and resources throughout the life span and across the spectrum; and

WHEREAS early diagnosis and intervention tailored to individual needs can have lifelong benefits, easing the transition to adulthood and fostering greater independence; and,

WHEREAS each person and family affected by autism should have access to reliable information and supports; and

WHEREAS autistic people should have opportunities to reach their full potential and the whole of society stands to benefit from this; and,

WHEREAS The Town of Coventry Connecticut is honored to take part in the annual observance of World Autism Month and World Autism Awareness Day to address the diverse needs of individuals with autism and their families;

*NOW, THEREFORE, the Coventry Town Council do hereby proclaim April 2026 as **WORLD AUTISM MONTH** and April 2, 2026 as **WORLD AUTISM AWARENESS DAY** in Coventry, Connecticut to create a kinder, more inclusive world for people with autism spectrum disorder.*

Lisa Thomas, Chairwoman
On behalf of the Coventry Town Council

9.A. 25/26-42: Consideration/possible action: 2026 World Autism Awareness Month and Day Proclamation

Town Council Action Requested: Town Council will consider approving a proclamation declaring April World Autism Awareness Month and specifically April 2nd as World Autism Awareness Day.

Purpose: The Proclamation brings greater public awareness of autism, the challenges faced by those with autism spectrum disorder and encouragement for support services for those with autism and their families.

History: NA

Facts about the issue: Autism affects an estimated 1 in 31 U.S. Children and 1 in 45 U.S. adults. It is a complex condition that affects each person differently, resulting in unique strengths and challenges.

Funding Information: NA

Town Manager Comments: none.

Town Manager's Recommendation: Motion to approve the Proclamation declaring April 2026 as Autism Awareness Month and April 2, 2026 as Autism Awareness Day in the Town of Coventry.

Resolution No. 2026-06

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$3,520,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION, REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT, AND/OR PURCHASE OF CERTAIN CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND/OR FURNISHINGS FOR VARIOUS TOWN DEPARTMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,520,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The sum of \$3,520,000 is hereby appropriated by the Town of Coventry, Connecticut (the "Town") for the (a) acquisition, repair and replacement, and/or purchase of certain capital equipment, vehicles, and/or furnishings for the Town's Board of Education and Departments of Public Works and Public Safety; including but not limited to: (i) upgrades to, and replacement of, fire alarm and paging/intercom systems at Coventry Grammar School, George Hersey Robertson School, Captain Nathan Hale Middle School, and Coventry High School; (ii) acquisition of a Quint Fire Engine/Tanker/Ladder Truck, to bring equipment into compliance with National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) fire codes and standards; (iii) replacement of an outdated Street Sweeper for the Department of Public Works; and (iv) acquisition of an ambulance cab/chassis on failing vehicles for the Public Safety Department, respectively, in the amounts set forth and listed below (and as more fully set forth in the Town's FY '26 thru FY '30 Capital Improvement Plan, dated May 27, 2025); and for (b) administrative, financing, legal, advertising, printing, governmental fees and expenses and costs of issuance related thereto, said appropriation being inclusive of any and all State and Federal grants-in-aid and/or reimbursements-in-aid thereof (collectively, the "Projects").

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Board of Education</u>	
Fire Alarm Replacements	\$ 310,000.00
Paging/ Intercom Upgrades	380,000.00
<u>Department of Public Safety</u>	
Quint Fire Engine/Tanker/Ladder Truck	2,245,000.00
Ambulance Replacement	260,000.00
<u>Department of Public Works</u>	
Street Sweeper	<u>325,000.00</u>
Total	\$ <u>3,520,000.00</u>

Section 2. To meet said appropriation, \$3,520,000 bonds of the Town or so much thereof as shall be necessary for such purpose, shall be issued, maturing not later than the maximum maturity permitted by the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended from time to time (the "Connecticut General Statutes"). The bonds may be issued in one or more series as determined by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, and the amount of bonds of each series to be issued shall be fixed by the Town Manager and Town Treasurer, in the amount necessary to meet the Town's share of the cost of the Projects

determined after considering the estimated amount of State and Federal grants-in-aid of the Projects, or the actual amount thereof if this be ascertainable, and the anticipated times of the receipt of the proceeds thereof, provided that the total amount of bonds to be issued shall not be less than an amount which will provide funds sufficient with other funds available for such purpose to pay the principal of and the interest on all temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the bonds outstanding at the time of the issuance thereof, and to pay for the administrative, printing and legal and financing costs of issuance of such bonds. The bonds shall be in the denomination of \$1,000 or a whole multiple thereof, be issued in fully registered form, be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the facsimile or manual signatures of the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, bear the Town seal or a facsimile thereof, be certified by a bank or trust company, which bank or trust company may be designated the registrar and transfer agent, be payable at a bank or trust company, and be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, of Hartford, Connecticut. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon. The aggregate principal amount of the bonds of each series to be issued, the annual installments of principal, redemption provisions, if any, the certifying, registrar and transfer agent and the paying agent, the date, time of issue and sale and other terms, details and particulars of such bonds, including the approval of the rate or rates of interest, shall be determined by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, or their designees, in the best interest of the Town, in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes. The Town may issue taxable bonds or notes upon the determination, by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, that the issuance of such taxable bonds or notes is in the public interest.

Section 3. Said bonds shall be sold by the Town Manager in a competitive offering or by negotiation, in his discretion. If sold in a competitive offering, the bonds shall be sold at not less than par and accrued interest on the basis of the lowest net or true interest cost to the Town. A notice of sale or a summary thereof describing the bonds and setting forth the terms and conditions of the sale shall be published at least five days in advance of the sale in a recognized publication carrying municipal bond notices and devoted primarily to financial news and the subject of state and municipal bonds. If the bonds are sold by negotiation, provisions of the purchase agreement shall be approved by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer.

Section 4. The Town Manager and the Town Treasurer are authorized to make temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, have the seal of the Town affixed, be payable at a bank or trust company designated by the Town Manager, be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, of Hartford, Connecticut, and be certified by a bank or trust company designated by the Town Manager pursuant to Section 7-373 of the Connecticut General Statutes. The notes shall be issued with maturity dates which comply with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes governing the issuance of such notes, as the same may be amended from time to time. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the notes shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such note is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The net interest cost on such notes, including renewals thereof, and the expense of preparing, issuing and marketing them, to the extent paid from the proceeds of such renewals or said bonds, shall be included as a cost of the Projects. Upon the sale of the bonds, the proceeds thereof, to the extent required, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal of and the interest on any such notes then outstanding or shall be deposited with a bank or trust company in trust for such purpose.

Section 5. Town Manager is authorized in the name and on behalf of the Town to apply for and accept any and all Federal and State loans and/or any other grants-in-aid of the Projects and is further

authorized to expend said funds in accordance with the terms hereof and in connection therewith, to contract in the name of the Town with engineers, contractors and others.

Section 6. The balance of any appropriation or the proceeds of any bonds not required to meet the actual cost of the Projects authorized hereby may be transferred by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, upon approval of the Town Council, to meet the actual cost of any other capital project of the Town (including capital projects authorized by prior or future bond resolutions), for which a valid appropriation and bond authorization has been adopted; provided that the aggregate amount of bonds authorized pursuant to such transfer shall not be increased.

Section 7. The Town hereby expresses its official intent pursuant to §1.150-2 of the Federal Income Tax Regulations, Title 26 (the "Regulations"), to reimburse expenditures paid sixty days prior to and any time after the date of passage of this resolution in the maximum amount and for the Projects with the proceeds of bonds, or bond anticipation notes, or other obligations ("Tax-Exempt Obligations") authorized to be issued by the Town. The Tax-Exempt Obligations shall be issued to reimburse such expenditures not later than 18 months after the later of the date of the expenditure or the substantial completion of the Projects, or such later date the Regulations may authorize. The Town hereby certifies that the intention to reimburse as expressed herein is based upon its reasonable expectations as of this date. The Town Manager or his designee is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of Tax-Exempt Obligations, and to amend this declaration.

Section 8. The Town Manager and the Town Treasurer are hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to enter into agreements or otherwise covenant for the benefit of bondholders to provide information on an annual or other periodic basis to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB") and to provide notices to the MSRB of material events as enumerated in Securities and Exchange Commission Exchange Act Rule 15c2-12, as amended, as may be necessary, appropriate or desirable to effect the sale of the bonds and notes authorized by this resolution. Any agreements or representations to provide information to the MSRB made prior hereto are hereby confirmed, ratified and approved.

Section 9. The Town Manager is hereby authorized on behalf of the Town, to enter into any other agreements, instruments, documents and certificates, including tax and investment agreements, for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution.

Section 10. This resolution shall become effective upon its approval by the Town electors and persons qualified to vote in Town Meeting at the Annual Town Meeting and Adjourned Town Meeting and Referendum to be held pursuant to Section 9-1 and Section 9-3(e) of the Town Charter.

- 9.B. **25/26-43: Consideration/possible action, Resolution 2026-06 authorizing the Bonding and Acquisition/Replacement of certain Capital Equipment and/or Vehicles; and to place this Resolution on the Agenda for the Annual Town Meeting on April 25, 2026 for consideration of approval through an Adjourned Town Meeting and Referendum on May 5, 2026.**

Town Council Action Requested: Town Council will consider passing Resolution 2026-06 authorizing the acquisition and bonding of capital items to include: GHR and CGS Fire Alarms; CHS, CNH, GHR, and CGS Intercoms; Quint Fire Engine/Tanker/Ladder Truck; DPW Streetsweeper; and an Ambulance. The amount of the acquisition proposed is \$3,520,000. Town Council will also consider authorizing placing this Resolution on the agenda at the Annual Town Meeting on April 25, 2026 for consideration of approval by voters through an adjourned Town Meeting and referendum, which in compliance with the Town Charter is to be held on May 5, 2026.

Purpose: The Town has a number of capital projects and capital items in the Capital Improvement Plan that are in need of funding. These projects are projects that are too large for being funded in the annual Capital Budget, and there are pieces of capital equipment that have been needed, but the purchase has been delayed in past years. The Council will be proposing the acquisition of these capital items to the voters at the Annual Town Meeting for their consideration and potential approval through the adjourned Town Meeting and Referendum.

History: The projects and capital items being considered are all within the Town of Coventry's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Some are fairly new to the Plan and others have been pushed out year after year. The Finance Committee and The Town Council reviewed proposed capital projects for bonding in January 2025 and again in December 2025 and approved the listed projects to move ahead for a future referendum for voter consideration of authorization of purchasing and bonding.

Facts about the issue: Each project has its own background, which is explained within the Bonding Project Descriptions (attached).

Funding Information: The Town's debt service will significantly decrease in FY2027 and again in FY2028 making new debt easier to accommodate. The payment schedule of the Quint Fire Truck will allow for the delay of borrowing \$2,245,000 of the \$3,250,000 until FY2029 or later, keeping the debt service from escalating.

Finance Committee's Recommendation: 1) At the December 15th Finance Committee meeting it was recommended by the Finance Committee to recommend to Town Council that they include in a future referendum to authorize debt the following items: GHR and CGS Fire Alarms; CHS, CNH, GHR, and CGS Intercoms; Quint Fire Engine/Tanker/Ladder Truck; DPW Streetsweeper; and an Ambulance. 2) At the March 9th Finance Committee meeting it was recommended that the Resolution be forwarded to Town Council for their consideration and that the Resolution be added to the Annual Town Meeting on April 25th so to save on the expense of a separate Special Town Meeting and separate referendum election in April.

Town Manager Comments: The Town would save approximately \$5,000 by including this referendum question at the Annual Town Meeting and referendum instead of a separate Town Meeting and referendum.

Town Manager's Recommendation: Two Motions

1. **Motion** to adopt Resolution 2026-06,

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$3,520,000 FOR THE ACQUISITION, REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT, AND/OR PURCHASE OF CERTAIN CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES, AND/OR FURNISHINGS FOR VARIOUS TOWN DEPARTMENTS; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,520,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE

2. **Motion** that the Town Manager and Town Clerk be authorized and directed to place on the agenda for consideration Resolution 2026-06 at the Annual Town Meeting to be held in the Coventry High School Veterans Auditorium (78 Ripley Hill Road, Coventry, Connecticut 06238) on Saturday, May 5, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. (DST.), for the following purpose:

1. To consider a resolution entitled "Resolution Appropriating \$3,520,000 For The Acquisition, Repair And Replacement, And/Or Purchase Of Certain Capital Equipment, Vehicles, And/Or Furnishings For Various Town Departments; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$3,520,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose."

And, further, that the vote on the ballot question below be adjourned to a vote at the Adjourned Annual Town Meeting and Referendum, to be held on May 5, 2026:

1. "Shall the resolution entitled 'Resolution Appropriating \$3,520,000 For The Acquisition, Repair And Replacement, And/Or Purchase Of Certain Capital Equipment, Vehicles, And/Or Furnishings For Various Town Departments; And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$3,520,000 Bonds Of The Town To Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Thereof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose', as introduced and read at the Annual Town Meeting held April 25, 2026 be approved?"

The ballot label for said question shall read as follows:

"Shall the resolution making an appropriation of \$3,520,000 for various capital equipment vehicles, furnishings and other capital projects, be approved?

YES_____ NO_____"

The vote will be by optical scan voting machine. Those in favor of the resolution referred to in the question shall fill in the oval under the word "YES" under such question. Those not in favor of the resolution referred to in the question shall fill in the oval under the word "NO" under such question.

The polls will be open during the hours between 6:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M. (D.S.T.). Electors will vote at the polling places established for voting districts #1 and #2. The voters who are entitled to vote by reason of Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, as amended, may vote at Coventry Town Hall, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. The polling places are as follows:

District 1 and District 2 will vote at Coventry Fire/EMS Station #118, 1755 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238.

Absentee ballots shall be available as provided by law at the Office of the Town Clerk, as provided by law.

TOWN OF COVENTRY

Budget Primer



BUDGET OVERVIEW/INTRODUCTION:

Every year, the Town of Coventry prepares an operating and capital budget in order to balance expenses and revenues. Budget expenditures include critical resources such as public education, roads and infrastructure, police, fire and EMS services, and snow plowing. The budget runs from July 1st, to June 30th of the following year. Town residents can participate in this process by attending budget presentations, providing public comment, and voting in the annual budget referendum.

BUDGET PROCESS:

In the fall of the year before the upcoming budget year, the Town Manager and Finance Director send out guidance to all departments, agencies, boards, and commissions based on the Council's goals. Department heads submit their budgets to and meet with the Town Manager to review and evaluate proposed changes. The Board of Education also submits their budget, which cannot be modified by the Town Manager, but is included in their budget. In the spring, the Town Manager presents a recommended budget to the Council, who conducts public hearings to collect input from Town staff and residents, making changes to the budget as they do so. With this feedback, they finalize the proposed budget which is then presented at the Town Meeting, and voted on at referendum. If it passes, the budget is formally adopted. Otherwise, it returns to the Council for modifications before being sent back out for another referendum. Coventry residents are encouraged to participate by attending and providing public comment at meetings where the budget is presented and the Town Meeting, and voting in the referendum to ensure their input is considered.

TAXES AND REVENUES:

The largest source of revenue within the Town of Coventry is property taxes. The rate of property taxes paid by a resident of Coventry is determined by the mill rate. When the Council proposes a budget, they also propose a corresponding mill rate to raise sufficient revenue to cover expenses. The mill rate is derived from the amount of taxes levied in dollars for every thousand dollars of property value. For example, with a mill rate of 5 and a property worth \$100,000, an individual would pay \$500 in property taxes. In Connecticut, property taxes are calculated based on 70% of a property's assessed value.

Motor vehicles taxes are similar to property taxes, where in a mill rate is set based on revenue needs and state limits. The value of a vehicle for tax purposes is determined based on a depreciation scale from the manufacturer's suggested retail price, also multiplied by 70%. For an

estimate of the change in property and motor vehicle taxes a resident can expect, the Town of Coventry has a Tax Calculator on its website at <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/675/Tax-Calculator>.

Though taxes are the main source of revenue for the Town, they are not the only one. Coventry also receives revenue in the form of intergovernmental transfers from the State and Federal level to support things like education and infrastructure. Other revenue sources also include administrative fees, as well as state or federal grants which may support a variety of projects ranging from recreation to waste management.

OPERATING BUDGET/GENERAL FUND:

The General Fund is used for general operating expenses throughout the Town. This includes education, infrastructure maintenance, fire services, police services, Human Services, and administration. Most recurring government services that residents interact with are paid out of the general fund. The Town maintains a balance in the general fund to maintain cash flow, prepare for unexpected or emergency expenses, and to maintain a good credit rating for bonding.

General Fund Expenditures by Service Area FY 2026/2027 Proposed Operating Budget

General Administration	\$ 2,380,068
Public Safety	\$ 3,338,389
Public Works	\$ 2,904,987
Human Services	\$ 365,690
Civic and Cultural	\$ 800,142
Sundry	\$ 3,031,690
Board of Education	\$ 33,000,696
Debt Service	\$ 2,912,837
Capital	\$ 999,190
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 50,103,318

SPECIAL FUNDS:

In addition to the general fund the Town has several special funds which have specific sources of revenue and provide specific services. The Coventry Resource Recovery Authority (COVRRRA) provides trash and recycling collection and collects fees to support it. Similarly, the Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) oversees sewage treatment and assesses fees to both support current sewer usage and prepare for future infrastructure improvements. The Recreation Fund is primarily funded through program fees which it uses to run programs, pay seasonal and part-time staff, and may also serve as a match for recreation focused grants. The Ambulance Fund is largely funded by bills to insurance providers, but also receives support from the General Fund to ensure 24/7 ambulance coverage for Coventry residents.

CAPITAL BUDGET:

The capital expenditures budget covers projects exceeding \$10,000 in cost with a life expectancy of five years. This may include major infrastructure projects, large renovations to town facilities, new constructions, and large equipment purchases such as vehicles. The Town makes a Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) which sets out not just current capital expenditures, but projects which are expected to be needed in the coming five years. This en-

sures that the Town is well prepared for large expenses that may come in the future, and can begin allocating funds accordingly.

DEBT MANAGEMENT

While the Town presents a balanced budget as a part of each fiscal year, it is sometimes necessary to borrow funds for large or unexpected purchases. To do so, the Town issues bonds, the interest rates of which are dependent on the Town's bond rating, a measurement of how reliable the Town is as an investment. The Town is consistently rated as high quality and low risk, lowering interest and saving money for Coventry residents. To pay for this debt, the Town spends a percentage of its budget on debt service, a value that may be higher or lower in any given fiscal year based on the amount of debt which has been taken out.

IMPORTANT DATES AND RESOURCES:

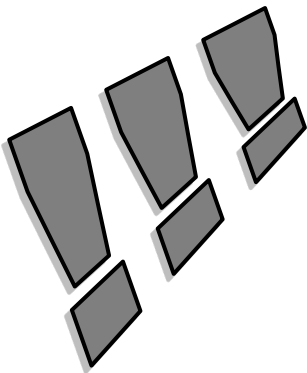
In the Fall of the previous year, the head of each department files their budget estimate with the Town Manager. Per the charter the Town Manager is required to present a budget to the council before *March 22nd*, but this usually happens in *Early March*.

Important Dates for the 2026/27 Fiscal Year

Critical dates for the 2026-2027 Fiscal Year:

- *Department head budgets to Town Manager: December - January, 2025*
- *School Board budget to Town Manager: February, 2026*
- *Town Manager's Proposed budget to Council: March 2nd, 2026*
- ◇ *Council Public Hearings on the Budget:*
- ◇ *Public Hearing on budget as presented by Town Manager and Superintendent of Schools - March 5th, 2026*
- ◇ *Meeting with Board of Education and Library - March 9th, 2026*
- ◇ *Meeting with Public Works and Parks and Recreation with audience of citizens - March 12th, 2026*
- ◇ *Meeting with Fire/EMS and Police Department - March 16th, 2026*
- ◇ *Meeting for budget deliberations - March 23rd, 2026*
- ◇ *Meeting for budget deliberations with audience of citizens - March 30th, 2026*
- *Council's final budget adoption: April 6th, 2026*
- *Annual Town Meeting: April 25th, 2026*

How to get involved?



- Attend the meetings listed above at 7:00 PM at the Coventry Town Hall at 1712 Main Street to hear budget presentations and give feedback at the indicated audience of citizen sections.
- Submit feedback on the budget to budgetcomments@coventry-ct.gov
- Vote in the Ajournd Town Meeting/Budget Referendum at the start of May

For more information about the budget process generally and this Fiscal Year's specifics, go to www.coventry-ct.gov, or call the Town of Coventry at 860-742-6324. Information about upcoming meetings and events will be posted both online and in person at the Coventry Town Hall located at 1712 Main Street in Coventry, CT.

DRIP Program Update, Legislature Passes Omnibus K-12 Bill

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

Date Thu 3/12/2026 11:57 AM

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

Please attach under correspondence on March 16 agenda.

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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

Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 11:56:10

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

Cc: Jennifer Beausoleil <jebeausoleil@coventryct.org>

Subject: Fw: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)DRIP Program Update, Legislature Passes Omnibus K-12 Bill

I am showing this in case it has not come directly to your inbox. This is great news and I wonder if we can take advantage of it.

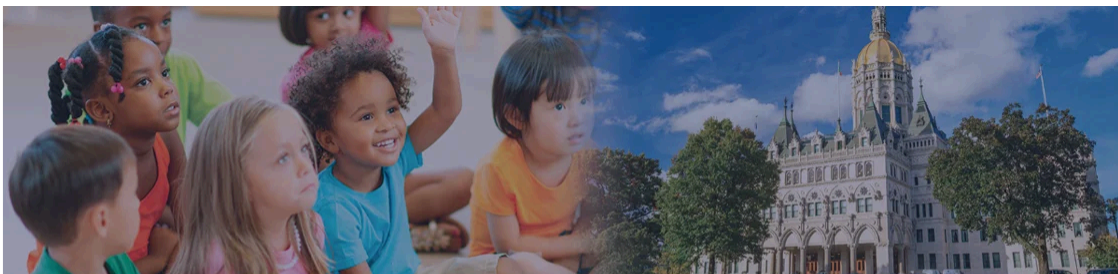
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: Lisa Hammersley <info@schoolstatefinance.org>

Sent: Thursday, 12 March 2026 10:23:24

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

Subject: (EXTERNAL MESSAGE)DRIP Program Update, Legislature Passes Omnibus K-12 Bill



News & Updates

School + State Finance Project

**DRIP Program Gets Up and Running,
Education Bill Passes General Assembly**



Last year, we worked with legislators, superintendents, board of education members, and other town and school district leaders to pass legislation establishing the [District Repair and Improvement Project \(DRIP\) program](#).

Our team is delighted to share the DRIP program is up and running and districts can expect to **receive their first DRIP program funds in the coming months!**

The DRIP program provides a **dedicated, annual stream of state funding to support minor capital repair and renovation projects** that have historically been paid entirely by local taxpayers — projects such as repairing a leaky roof, replacing a gym floor, or retrofitting classrooms to better serve students.

Last June, the **General Assembly authorized \$60 million** in state general obligation bonds — \$30 million in both fiscal years 2026 and 2027 — for the DRIP program to support Connecticut's school districts.

At the beginning of March, the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) released the [DRIP program grant amounts for each school district](#) for FY 2026 (2025-26 school year). The OPM also published the [calculation for each district's DRIP grant](#) as well as a [best practices guide](#).

Additionally, the OPM released a [presentation on the DRIP program](#) with information and next steps for school district leadership.

We're excited for DRIP program funds to get to schools and **can't wait to see the improvements districts make with these funds** and the benefits students and educators will experience as a result!



Legislature Passes Omnibus Education Bill

On March 3, 2026, Governor Ned Lamont signed and line-item vetoed [Public Act 26-1](#) — formerly Senate Bill (S.B.) 298 — *An Act Concerning the Reallocation of Certain State Funds and Various Provisions Relating to Education, Public Safety, General Government, Elections, Intermediate Care Facilities and Warehouse Distribution Centers*.

While Gov. Lamont did execute his line-item veto authority and strike six specific earmarks from the legislation, he left intact a [collection of education policy provisions](#) that address — among other issues — student data transparency, school climate and safety, and school district budget protocols.

Many of the education-related provisions in Public Act 26-1 were first introduced during the 2025 regular legislative session as part of [H.B. 7009](#), which was passed by the House of Representatives but failed to advance in the Senate.

While Public Act 26-1 may be 123 pages, we've put together a [much shorter overview](#) that dives into the legislation's key education policy changes. Click the button below to access our analysis and see how the legislation impacts students, schools, and communities across Connecticut.

[Public Act 26-1 Analysis](#)

Some of Our Recent Reports & Publications

To view each report or publication, click its associated button or image

Impacts of Rising Costs on Students & Teachers

As school districts work to meet increasing student needs and maintain high-quality educational programs, the purchasing power of state and local dollars has eroded under the cumulative effects of persistent inflation.

To understand how rising costs are impacting the classroom, we conducted interviews with district superintendents and CFOs across the state.

This report highlights themes as well as a solution to addressing the direct impacts of inflation that districts are experiencing.

[View the Impacts](#)



Property Revaluation & the ECS Grant

Surging home prices have created large year-over-year swings in property values. These fluctuations have affected the property wealth component of the ECS formula's Base Aid Ratio.

While, historically, small fluctuations in property values did not significantly impact ECS grants, recent property value increases have contributed to volatility in town ECS grant amounts.

This FAQ dives into this complex issue, the property revaluation process, and its relationship to the ECS formula.

[View the FAQs](#)



Implications of ECS Grant "Full Funding"

Over the course of the phase-in of the ECS formula, many districts experienced annual increases to their ECS grants.

While the "full funding" of the ECS formula represents a milestone for the State, it also represents a different environment for state funding for some school districts.

This report identifies how reaching "full" ECS funding will alter what education funding school districts can expect from the State each year.

[View the Implications](#)





Looking for data? Visit EdExplorer

Our FREE app with all the latest Connecticut education data and information

About the School and State Finance Project

The School and State Finance Project is a nonpartisan, nonprofit policy organization that works collaboratively with policymakers, communities, and other key stakeholders to develop data-driven solutions that ensure all public school students receive equitable education funding that supports their learning needs.

The School and State Finance Project is a fiscally sponsored organization of Third Sector New England, Inc. (TSNE).

Learn more about our organization at www.schoolstatefinance.org.



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School and State Finance Project, 316 North Main Street, Suite 3, Southington, CT 06489

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