

To: Town Council
From: James Drumm, Town Manager
Date: August 31, 2023
Ref: Project/Issue Updates

CHS HVAC Project: In Early August four vendors toured Coventry High School for HVAC improvements. The bids were initially set with a due date of August 31st. Upon receiving questions and requests for clarification from the vendors, we have sent out Addendum #2 and #3. One concern was that the time to prepare bids was too short and so a time extension was requested. The new bid due date is September 13th.

EV chargers: A Memo of Understanding (MOU) is being considered by the Board of Education on August 31st, which will memorialize the agreement on this grant project covering the Town and the BOE. There is a total of 9 dual EV Chargers. Once approved by the BOE, it will be considered by the Town Council on September 5th.

Police Officer recruitment: We currently have two vacancies, and we are lucky to currently have a few excellent applicants. During Budget preparation, the Town funded only enough money for one of these positions for a six month period. The plan of the former Town Manager was to fill that position around January 1, 2024, assuming there was adequate funding in the Budget. Finance Director Julie Chapman has reviewed the budgeted funding remaining for salaries for police officers and has found that the recent vacancies have produced savings in the line item to allow for hiring earlier than January. In researching the Budget process, I found that neither the Town Council nor Town Manager took any formal action in freezing the hiring of a police officer position. As ample funding is now available within the salary budget line item to hire two police officer candidates this fall, I have authorized the Chief of Police to process the hiring of two individuals from the current recruitment process. It is expected that they both will attend the police academy starting in November.

Planning and Development Director recruitment: Applications were due on August 31st. Interviews are expected to be scheduled within the next few weeks. Robyn Newton, of Tyche Planning and Policy Group (Vernon, CT), is serving as the interim Director, until what time the position is filled.

Building Official recruitment: Applications are due on September 21st. Former Coventry Building Official Joe Callahan has agreed to come back out of retirement to serve as the interim Building Official, until what time we fill the position.

Connecticut Countryside-Video: This promotional video, resulting from the four town partnership, is in production and is expected to be completed in September.

Booth Dimock Library: The contractor has worked on finishing the project punch list. We are close to getting the CO. The ribbon-cutting ceremony scheduled for Friday Sept. 8 at 5:30 PM.

Softball field #2: This project is back into construction with re-seeding anticipated in September. This is the final issue remaining with the project. The earlier

Miller Richardson Park priorities: The engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice will work with Recreation Commission on project priorities for park development.

Curve Signage Grant: Received letter of approval from the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT). This grant funds curve warning signs on locally owned roads. A public information meeting will be scheduled this fall.

Main Street sidewalk project: this is a Community Connectivity grant. This project will begin at Hemlock Point Lane and go eastward to Winterberry. Construction plans are in the final stages and will be completed by late September.

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 project design is currently paused to evaluate the wetland impact and possible alternative crossings on Bear Swamp Road at Rufus Creek.

HOP River Bridge Project: contract has been signed. Prep work and parts ordering only this summer. Bridge closure likely April 2024 through the summer. Grant is 100% funded at \$3.6 million.

Depot Road Bridge replacement: the Town has been awarded a \$7.4 million grant for %100 funding for this project.

Brigham Hill Bridge replacement: The Town has been awarded a \$5.2 million grant for %100 funding for this project.

Bunker Hill Road Replacement: In design with Jacobson Engineering. Construction tentatively summer 2024.

South/Swamp Road Project: Preliminary plans are complete. This project will be reviewed by the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG). The public involvement meeting, that is required by the Connecticut Department of Transportation (DOT) for funding from the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) had been tentatively scheduled for September 18th, but has been rescheduled for October 2, 2023 at 6:30 pm, prior to the regular Town Council meeting. Bids will be received in spring 2024 with construction planned for summer 2024.

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 will be combined into one project. Funding for construction is 100%. Design will be done by one of the Capitol Region Council of Governments (CRCOG) pre-selected engineering consultants. The Town will request proposals from the list. Funding for design will be by the Town.

Road resurfacing/drainage Improvements: Public Works staff continues to replace drainage catch basins throughout Town. The 2023 resurfacing program has progressed through the summer and still continues.

If there is a project or issue not on the Update that you wish to lean more about, please do not hesitate to contact me.

