



Town of Coventry

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To: Town Council
From:  James Drumm, Town Manager
Date: September 14, 2023
Ref: Project/Issue Updates

CHS HVAC Project: In Early August four vendors toured Coventry High School for HVAC improvements. The bids were due on September 13th. However, only two bids were submitted. The low bid was by Pro-Mech, Inc. of Bloomfield at \$11,897,800. It appears to be a qualified bid. The other bid was submitted by All State Construction from Farmington in the amount of \$12,484,000. ICDS, our project engineer, will do a formal bid review and check references. The report and bids will then go the School Building Energy Efficiency Committee on 9/28/23 for their recommendation for award. The bids will then come before the Town Council in October for consideration of award. The low bid price is over the earlier estimated amount of the project by approximately \$80,000, however with the voter approved funding and the State grant, this project will be funded sufficiently.

EV chargers: A Memo of Understanding (MOU) is being considered by the Board of Education (BOE) on September 14th, which will memorialize the agreement on this grant project covering the Town and the BOE. There is a total of 9 dual EV Chargers. The BOE continued this item at their August 31st meeting. Once approved by the BOE, it will be considered by the Town Council, potentially at the September 18th meeting.

Microgrid Project: The CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) has declared that the Microgrid grant agreement has expired. The Microgrid was a very innovative project. This proposed project was a public-private sector partnership. In the letter from DEEP, they explain that It has become apparent that Coventry Microgrid, LLC's project has become stalled, primarily due to lack of financing. It is my understanding that the project unfortunately never received full funding, and that the delay over the last few years greatly increased the cost of construction of the required infrastructure. Staff will review the grant to see if there is any action warranted to revisit the project or a similar one in the future.

Revaluation Project: As you are aware, the Town, in compliance with State law, will need to soon conduct a revaluation of all properties within our jurisdiction. The Town Assessor's Office has prepared bid specifications for the Town of Coventry. A bid due date has not yet been set, as of this date, but it is known that bids will be due before the end of September. We are then planning to review bids and consider awarding a contract to the successful bidder in October.

Police Officer recruitment: I have authorized the Chief of Police to process the hiring of two individuals from the current recruitment process. He is completing the background process for the applicants. As we do not have any candidates with prior law enforcement experience, 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 scheduled for September 15th (tomorrow). A panel interview will be held with the candidates. The panel includes Robin Newton, Coventry interim Director of Planning and Development; Patrice Carson, Bolton Community Development Director; Todd Penney, Coventry Town Engineer; and me. Robin 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. Former Building Official Tim Brennan will continue part-time employment as an Asst. Building Official so he can complete the Coventry High School (CHS) roof project inspections and a couple other larger projects that are near completion.

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

Booth & Dimock Library: The contractor has worked successfully on finishing the project punch list. There is now only one item which was delayed due to ordering a small piece of replacement floor cover on the stairs. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Friday Sept. 8 at 5:30 PM. There was a good sized crowd that attended the ceremony and toured the Library. The Planning and Zoning Commission has voted to recommend that the Town Council accept ownership of the Library with the concept that the Town's investment in the building may be protected. The Town Council will consider final acceptance of ownership at the September 18th Town Council meeting.

Softball field #2: This project is back into construction with re-seeding having recently been done. This is the final issue remaining with the project. The grass has been successful, so far. With the completion of the project at hand, we are now planning to schedule a ribbon cutting on this new addition to Miller Richardson Field.

Miller Richardson Field priorities: The engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice will work with the Recreation Commission on project priorities for development. The first meeting to accept input from key stakeholders is scheduled for September 14th. Further meetings and opportunities for public input will be announced in the weeks ahead.

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 northwesterly 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. The State has agreed to provide engineering with one of their consulting engineers.

Brigham Hill Bridge replacement: The Town has been awarded a \$5.2 million grant for %100 funding for this project. The State has agreed to provide engineering with one of their consulting engineers.

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 (CROG). 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 7:00 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 (CROG) 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 learn more about, please do not hesitate to contact me.