



# Town of Coventry

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**To:** Town Council  
**From:**  James Drumm, Town Manager  
**Date:** October 11, 2023  
**Ref:** Project/Issue Updates

**CHS HVAC Project:** The low bid by Pro-Mech, Inc. of Bloomfield at \$11,897,800 has been approved. ICDS, our project engineer, had examined the bids and has found that the low bid is a qualified bid. The contractor has good references. The Contractor is preparing documents for the Connecticut Human Relations Office (CHRO) and we are currently preparing contract documents. The low bid price is over the earlier estimated amount of the project, however with the voter approved funding and the State grant, this project will be funded sufficiently and in compliance with Section 8-8 of the Town Charter.

**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 prepared bid specifications for the Town of Coventry. Four bids were received on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Bids have been reviewed and will be presented to Town Council for consideration and to authorize additional funding to the project. The Town has authorized \$65,000 for work completed in this fiscal year for this project. The Town will need approximately \$86,400 more to fund the low bid price. This project will be funded partially in this fiscal year and partially in the next.

**Police Officer recruitment:** Last month I authorized the Chief of Police to process the hiring of two individuals from the current recruitment process. Since then, an additional Officer resigned to take a law enforcement position elsewhere in-State closer to family. He is now completing the background process for three applicants. Applicants without any prior law enforcement experience, will attend the police academy starting in November.

**Planning and Development Director Recruitment:** Applications were due on August 31<sup>st</sup>. A panel was set up for the interviews on September 15<sup>th</sup>. The panel included Robin Newton, Coventry interim Director of Planning and Development; Patrice Carson, Bolton Community Development Director; Todd Penney, Coventry Town Engineer; and me. The panel determined that the few applications received may have been due to inadequate advertising. Adding additional advertising sites, both in-State and nationally, the recruitment period was re-advertised with an extended due date of October 13<sup>th</sup>. 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 being reviewed and interviews are expected to occur within the next ten days. 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.

**Plains Road/Salt Impacted potable Wells:** A preliminary report has been received by the Town Engineer and it indicates that the best option to correct the salt contamination of the wells is to consider extending a water main to the area. The Town Engineer has forwarded the report to the CT Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) and the Department of Health for their review, evaluation and comment. The Town Engineer, engineering consultants, DEEP representatives and I did meet to discuss possible next steps. This project will take negotiation and much coordination with the Connecticut Water Company to set up and to complete. We currently have State grant funding approved for 25% of the construction of this water main. Staff is currently exploring other sources of funding that may be available. It is our goal to present the final report, how the project could be structured and possible funding options to Town Council and the impacted residents later in October.

**Connecticut Countryside-Video:** This promotional video, resulting from the four town partnership, is in production and was expected to be completed in late September. Since filming has been delayed, it will likely be completed later in October.

**Booth & Dimock Library:** The contractor has worked successfully on finishing the project punch list. All work within the contract has been completed. The Library Renovation and Improvement Committee has successfully completed it's charge and is ready for discharge. The Town, in accordance with the planned project, is still preparing to add the eight parking spaces at the rear of the current parking lot. We are reducing our expenses by using Town crews to prepare the sub-surface in preparation of paving. The project calls for a pervious type of paving, which is a difficult product to prepare and apply, so we have sought out proposals from a qualified contractor to apply the final surface. Work is expected to be completed by early November.

**Softball field #2:** This project construction is now complete with re-seeding having recently been done. The grass has successfully taken. With the completion of the project at hand, we have planned a ribbon cutting on this new addition to Miller Richardson Park. The Ribbon cutting Ceremony will be October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 PM.

**Miller Richardson Park priorities:** The engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice discussed possible park improvements with key stakeholders at the September 14<sup>th</sup> Parks and Recreation (P&R) Commission Meeting. There was much discussion about how best to use the \$500,000 grant to improve the park for better compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA). Potential park amenities were discussed and a rough draft park plan was reviewed. The P&R Commission will conduct a public information meeting at their October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting looking for citizen input into the future development plans for the Park.

**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 northeasterly to Winterberry. Construction plans are in the final stages and will be completed by October.

**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 has been done and parts have been ordered. 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 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 week. The comments will cause minor adjustments to be made to preliminary plans. 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 for October 2, 2023 at 7:00 pm, but has now been scheduled for Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. This has allowed the engineers to make changes as recommended by CRCOG. 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. Seagraves Road is scheduled to begin paving today. 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.