



Town of Coventry

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To: Town Council
From:  James Drumm, Town Manager
Date: November 16, 2023
Ref: Project/Issue Updates

CHS Roof Project: Though the project is mostly completed, the contractor is still working on a punch list of work to be complete/corrected. Some improvements are delayed as there are asbestos pipes that need to be removed before work can be done. The contractor will schedule this work when school is not in session during one of the upcoming holiday breaks.

CHS HVAC Project: The low bid by Pro-Mech, Inc. of Bloomfield at \$11,897,800 has been approved. The Contractor and the Town are working with Connecticut Human Relations Office (CHRO) and we are currently preparing contract documents for signature. The low bid price of the project 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: The contract was awarded to the low bidder, Vision Government Solutions, at the October 16th Town Council meeting. The contract has been executed and the firm engaged. Vision is widely used by local governments in Connecticut and throughout New England. They were used the last two times the Town conducted property revaluation. 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.

Town Hall Radio Tower-Telecommunications contract: Staff is currently negotiating with T-Mobile on a new contract replacing the outdated contract which was approved in 1996. There is no additional telecommunications equipment being placed on the tower.

Police Officer recruitment: Two new recruits have been hired and were sworn in by Town Clerk Lori Tollmann at a ceremony on October 26th. They will be attending the police academy starting next month. The Police academy starting date was delayed 30 days as several municipalities were not finished with the hiring process for their proposed cadets. After the academy they will be in field training, riding with another experienced officer until next September. CPD is at full staff.

Planning and Development Director-on Board: I am pleased to announce that Jana Roberson, AICP, Director of Planning and Development began work on Monday of this week. She has already attended meetings with the Planning and Zoning Commission, Senior Housing and

Affordable Housing Alternatives Study Committee, and the Connecticut Countryside Steering Committee. She is meeting new people and re-connecting with others she knew from her years working with the Town of Columbia and the Windham Council of Governments.

Building Official recruitment: The Town has hired Bolton Building Official Randy Heckman as the new Coventry Building Official. Former Coventry Building Official Joe Callahan has been serving as the interim Building Official, since the departure of Tim Brennan. Mr. Heckman is scheduled to start on Monday November 20th.

Certified Connecticut Municipal Collector certification: Congratulations to Elizabeth Pannhavong, Revenue Clerk, Coventry Tax Collector's Office on achieving the CCMC certification.

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, 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. We are exploring if we can increase our grant funding to 50% of the project cost. A meeting with the impacted residents is scheduled for November 16th (tonight) to discuss the issue and the possible resolution to the problem. Staff is also continuing to explore other sources of funding that may be available. After meeting with residents and having survey data collected and reported, it is our goal to present the final report, and possible funding sources to the Town Council in January.

Connecticut Countryside-Video: This promotional video, resulting from the four town partnership has been presented to the CT. Countryside steering group as well as the Coventry Economic Development Commission (EDC). Edits are being made and a final product is expected by December.

Christmas in the Village: The Town is working to support the Lions Club and our Village merchants in their annual event "Christmas in the Village". It will be held on Sunday December 3rd on Main Street in Coventry Village from 12 noon to 4pm. There will be a Fire Truck Torch Light Parade on Main Street followed by the Annual Tree Lighting at 4:30pm at First Congregational Church.

Booth & Dimock Library: The Town, in accordance with the planned improvement project, is in the process of adding the eight parking spaces at the rear of the current parking lot. The extended parking lot area has been paved and will be striped soon. We will also install guide rails along this area for safety as there is a stone retaining wall and a significant drop just beyond the paved area.

Water Pollution Control Authority (WPCA) Sewer Pipe Lining Project: Bids are due on December 5th for the project of lining 12-inch gravity sewer lines. This has been a planned project for the WPCA. The lining will extend the life of the current sewer lines and will address the problems of inflow and infiltration within the wastewater system. Like many wastewater systems we have surface and ground water entering our system. This impacts our wastewater treatment plant by having unexpectedly higher levels of flow, especially during rain events and when the ground is saturated. These improvements, once completed, will improve our lines, lessen operation impacts at the plant, increase storage capacity at the plant, and reduce treatment costs.

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 to \$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 band shell, a playground replacement, fencing and also geese deterrent measures. Due to this and other proposed improvements to Patriots Park, the Town will embark on a master planning process for the park, inviting all stakeholders and residents to participate in sharing ideas and concepts. This process will begin in early 2024, after the selection of a professional consultant has been selected. Staff is currently preparing the documents for the bidding process for the master plan project. The master plan will be developed prior to any permanent improvements being constructed in the park.

Miller Richardson Park priorities: The engineering firm of Barton & Loguidice discussed possible park improvements with key stakeholders at the September 14th and October 12th 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 review the latest draft plan at their November 16th (tonight) meeting.

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, once the State informs the Town of the portions of the grant that were approved.

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 January.

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: The contract has been signed with Rotha Contracting Company, of Avon, CT. Prep work has been done and steel bridge parts have been ordered. Utilities have been moved, with the exception of Frontier cable. Depending on the weather, the contractor is considering an early bridge demolition in March of 2024. The closure will last through summer as the new bridge is constructed. 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. The Town is awaiting the assignment of the engineering firm to the project.

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. The Town is awaiting the assignment of the engineering firm to the project.

Bunker Hill Bridge Replacement (Rufus Creek): 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 month. The comments caused minor adjustments to be made to preliminary plans. The revised plans were presented at the public involvement meeting that was held on October 24th. 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. Design plans will now be amended further. Bids will be received in spring 2024 with construction planned for summer 2024 and summer of 2025. A pledge was made by Town staff that no road surfaces on South Street and Swamp Road would remain gravel during the 2024-25 winter season.

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. There has been much work in the last month in the neighborhoods along the south side of Coventry Lake. The streets most recently completed are Washburn and Miller Farm Road. The 2023 resurfacing program has progressed through the summer and early fall. The cooler weather may soon end our efforts for 2023.

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.