

SPRING 2024



TOWN NEWS



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HOLIDAY CLOSINGS:

**MEMORIAL DAY - MAY 27
INDEPENDENCE DAY - JULY 4
LABOR DAY - SEPTEMBER 2**

Message from Lisa Thomas, Town Council Chairwoman

Dear Neighbors,

The Town Council and I hope that you are enjoying Spring's arrival and the sense of renewal that it brings. We want to thank all of you for supporting our community in so many ways: shopping at our small businesses, walking our town trails, using our Parks and Rec Programs, socializing at the Senior Center, coaching youth sports, picking up trash along the roadside, and much more.

Much of town staff's time this past winter and spring is focused on wrapping up projects that are already underway. We are slowing the pace of taking on new projects so that we can best use our limited staff and their talents. Some of the bigger newly completed projects include: both youth softball fields - with opening day being held on one of the new fields; road improvements throughout town, including many of the lake association roads; and the high school roof - with the HVAC project soon to be underway. Ongoing projects include master planning for Patriots Park; studies and engineering for our wastewater treatment planning; treating Coventry Lake for hydrilla this summer; installing curve warning signs on 15 streets throughout town using 100% grant funding; pedestrian safety measures along Main and South Streets that are 100% grant funded and include signage, flashing lights and curb ramps (sidewalk bumps) that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); and 3 bridge replacements using 100% grant funding of over \$16,000,000. Shout out to all of our staff who are getting all of this done! You will find the Town Manager's full list of project updates attached to each Town Council meeting agenda. You will be impressed by how many federal and state dollars we continue to bring back to Coventry to help us repair infrastructure and improve our quality of life!

*Above: Spring in Coventry Village.
Photo by Laura Stone.*

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Town Manager Update

Over the winter, I have worked with our Town staff to develop our plans for programs, construction, and budgets. There are many great services the Town provides for our residents. We have professional staff in all of our Town offices that provide our residents a quality service. Town Police and a staffed 24-hour ambulance (EMS) are services residents in some of our neighboring Towns don't have available. We have a small, but active Public Works Department that maintains our parks and keeps our roads safe. We have excellent Recreation programs. Our Town is also known for our great schools. As the new Town Manager, I have learned that our challenge in recent years has been to do more with less. It is impressive to see how successful Coventry has been in working with little to no tax rate increases over the past five years. However, today's challenge in this post-COVID-19 world, is to maintain the level of service we have all come to expect from our Town with limited growth in our Grand List revenue and with the expiration of the Federal Government's grant funds (ARPA) that were distributed to help cover local government services during the pandemic.

An additional challenge to revenue shortages, is costs have risen to maintain our services. You may have read in my recent monthly e-blasts, we have been challenged by the declining numbers of volunteers to serve in the ambulance service (EMS). It remains an important issue for our town. This decline in volunteerism is a regional issue across the northeast. Our numbers are declining with the volunteers in the Fire Service as well. With less volunteers, we will need paid staff to supplement the great work that they do. Many of our volunteers are nearing retirement and they are letting us know they will be reducing their hours. In my proposed budget this year I have recommended developing a combination volunteer/paid Fire/EMS Department. Paid Emergency Medical Technicians are not a new concept to Coventry, as we have been using a paid contractor (Vintech) for several years to supplement the volunteers. Using in-house staff will save on rising contractor costs and will also let us cross train some of the EMTs to be firefighters as well. The Town's proposed budget includes funding for minimal staffing of two EMTs (one ambulance) on duty 24 hours a day. A portion of the proposed tax increase will fund this service. Other portions of the proposed tax increase are scheduled to fund current staffing in Police, Public Works and our schools. Though no one wants higher taxes, a portion of the increased taxes are also needed to fund the increased debt residents approved for road resurfacing two years ago.

We have been blessed to have received many grants for capital projects. This allows the Town to keep operation costs down and our tax rate much lower than our neighboring Towns. The majority of these projects are for our buildings, parks, roads and bridges. Many of these grants are 75-100% funded. The Town budgets \$765,748 using tax dollars for capital projects but has brought home over \$35 million in grant funds. We have worked this past winter on the design of many of these projects and we will be seeing some under construction this spring and summer. You can get more detailed information by seeing my bimonthly update report in the Archive section of the Town website at www.coventry-ct.gov. These projects, once completed, make a positive difference in the quality of life for our residents and our students.

I invite you all to join me and our Town Council for our Annual Town Meeting at CHS at 10:00 AM on April 27th. You will learn more about our proposed budget, our projects, and our plans for improving our town in Fiscal Year 2024-25. Winter and spring have been much about planning and much about budget. As the days get warmer and the Town budget is adopted, I hope to get outside more and enjoy the great weather ahead. I may see you at the Farmers' Market, the Library, or at Patriots Park. Perhaps on a Sunday along the Hop River Trail with my dog Galahad.

Sincerely,
James Drumm

Council Chairwoman's Message

Continued from Page 1

I always appreciate the questions and concerns you bring before the Town Council through emails, speaking during audience of citizens, and meeting with me during my office hours. This truly helps us to better meet your needs. As always, if you are interested in having a more direct voice through serving on one of our volunteer commissions please visit the Boards and Commissions link on the town web site. You can also contact Steering Committee Chair Jon Hand with questions about serving in this capacity. His email is jhand@coventry-ct.gov Please notice that all town emails are now FirstinitialLastname@coventry-ct.gov Using the ".gov" URL provides much greater security to town email.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for the Saturday, April 27, Town Meeting where our Superintendent of Schools and our Town Manager will present the Town Council's adopted budget. That meeting will be in the high school auditorium at 10:00 a.m. Also mark your calendar for the budget referendum on Tuesday, May 7. Voting will take place from 6:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. For an overview of the budget, you will find the "budget in brief" in this newsletter. You can find the full budget on the Town website: www.coventry-ct.gov. If you have questions about items in the budget, please don't hesitate to email the Council at towncouncil@coventry-ct.gov Voting on the budget will take place at the Coventry Fire Station (across from the high school).

I wish you a spring and summer filled with warm days and re-connecting with friends and family. I am especially looking forward to the Coventry Farmers Market's Opening Day on June 2!

Be well,
Lisa Thomas, Council Chairwoman

Town Clerk's Office

Lori Tollmann – Town Clerk
 Brooke R. Manning – Assistant Town Clerk
 860-742-7966 (#3 on menu)

Annual Town Meeting April 27, 2024
Budget Vote Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Absentee Ballots will be available in person starting Monday, April 29th during regular business hours.

PERMANENT ABSENTEE BALLOTING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES:

Pursuant to Public Act 11-173, individuals with permanent disabilities may apply for permanent absentee balloting status. This enables the elector to receive an absentee ballot application for each election, primary and referendum in the municipality.

To be eligible, an elector must file with the Town Clerk a doctor's statement certifying their inability to appear at the polls attached to an absentee ballot application. Some restrictions apply for local votes which are less than 3 weeks' notice. Contact the Town Clerk's Office or check the website for further instructions.

The elector will receive an annual notice to determine if they continue to reside at the listed address on their permanent absentee ballot application. Failure to return the notice will result in removal of the permanent absentee ballot status.



NOTARY SERVICES

Notary services are available in our office **EXCEPT** for the following documents:

- *Wills
- *Power of Attorneys
- *Health Directives
- *Documents being filed back into our Land Records

For other documents there is a fee of \$5, and you will need 2 forms of ID.



Your 2023 fishing licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office or online at www.ct.gov/deep.

All adults need to have a license to fish.

*Children under the age of 16 do not need a license to fish. *Parents, please note: If you will be handling your child's fishing pole or baiting the line, Connecticut Law requires that you carry a current fishing license.

Consult the *Connecticut Angler's Guides* each year for updates on CT DEEP regulations and other useful information at www.ct.gov/deep. Be advised the DEEP is no longer publishing the printed Angler's Guides that were in the Town Clerk's Offices.

JUNE DOG LICENSING:

MAIL OR USE DROP BOX.

Faster processing?? Enclose a self-addressed envelope.

- \$8.00 for spayed or neutered dogs
- \$19.00 for unaltered dogs.
- Any dog license issued after June 30th is subject to a \$1.00 per month late fee.
- Licenses will not be sold until June 1st.
- Check your dog's rabies expiration date. If that date has expired, **PROOF OF A CURRENT RABIES VACCINATION** will be required to renew your dog's license.
- Help us keep our records current- If there are any changes in your dog's registration status (spay/neuter, death, change of address) please update the clerk's office at 860-742-7966, or email ltollmann@coventry-ct.gov.
 ***Remember a license is your lost dog's ticket home. ***

COVENTRY'S TOP DOG!

Mail or drop off your license renewals along with the appropriate fee in the month of **May** and your dog's name will be entered into a drawing for the most desired #1 tag. **Coventry's Top Dog will also receive their license for FREE! Send your entry between May 1st- 31st and the winner will be notified June 1st.** All other license entries will be processed accordingly and mailed out in the beginning of June.

- Along with payment include **current rabies certificate, proof of spay/neuter and a self-addressed stamped envelope.** GOOD LUCK!!!

Land Use Office

Spring development and building projects are in full swing! Don't forget to check with the Land Use Office before starting a project. See the Building Department's article on the next page for details about the permitting process. Zoning and Wetlands Regulations can be found on our website at <https://www.coventry-ct.gov/189/Land-Use>.

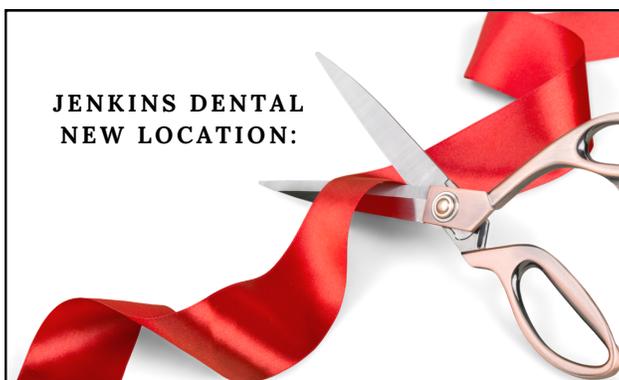
Staff is happy to assist you with your planning needs and answer any questions you might have. Call 860-742-4062 with questions.

Economic Development



COVENTRY FARMERS' MARKET: Planning is underway for the 2024 Coventry Farmers' Market season! Opening Day is June 2nd. The theme for opening day will be "Take Me Out to The Market" and will include lots of vintage fun!

Goals for the 21st season of the Farmers' Market include more farmers and more Coventry-based vendors.



Coventry dentist, Dr. Damon Jenkins, recently completed the construction of a beautiful new office location at 1572 Boston Turnpike. The 6,500 square foot, state of the art professional office building houses Dr. Jenkins' dental practice, formerly located on South Street. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held on March 22nd.

Inland Wetlands & Watercourses

One of Coventry's many valuable wetland habitats is vernal pools, also known as ephemeral wetlands. These depressions in the landscape were left behind as the result of glacial ice melt and collect water throughout autumn and winter due to rainfall and rising groundwater, changing in volume in response to varying weather patterns. These pools remain ponded during spring and are typically completely dry by the middle or end of summer each year. Occasional drying prevents fish from establishing permanent populations, which is critical to the reproductive success of many amphibian and invertebrate species that rely on breeding habitats free of fish predators.

It is our responsibility to be good stewards to this natural resource. Wetlands recharge our groundwater, reduce the risk of flooding, filter out pollutants, and create valuable habitat for our native flora and fauna. Wetlands may not always appear wet. If you aren't sure if you have wetlands on or near your property, there are resources at Town Hall that can serve as a jumping off point. It is extremely important to identify wetlands boundaries because it helps our community make informed decisions about development and minimize our impact. Please feel free to contact our Inland Wetlands Agent, [Lindsay Beutler](#), at 860-742-4062, if you have any questions or concerns.

Protected Spaces Stewardship Committee

There are currently 4 town-appointed members with a fifth member vacancy. The Committee coordinates with various town departments and the advisory Conservation Commission. The Committee meets quarterly to review recent access and trail projects and management needs, volunteer training, as well as planning for equipment, materials and town approvals necessary for open space/trail stewardship projects. Meeting agendas and minutes are posted on the town website.

Trails crew volunteers pitch in during scheduled work parties and sometimes on individual assignments. Actions include assisting with spreading town-supplied wood mulch along trail footpaths, maintaining cleared and safe passage trails, installing trail marker posts and blazes, updating seasonal Nature Notes at trailhead kiosks, pedestrian bog bridge construction and maintenance, invasive plant management, guiding public walks, trail map development, building up native plant and wildlife species listings, social media postings on the Coventry, CT Conservation Community Facebook account, and more.

Recent town properties benefitting from Committee stewardship work include trails within Creaser Park, Laidlaw Park and Mill Brook Park, along with Riverview, South River, Thornton Brook, Williams and Woodmont/Windy Hill Preserves. Other town fee-owned properties with public access potential are considered when volunteers and resources are available.

There are several Spring, 2024 season actions planned, with opportunities for current and interested community members to assist with these valuable community assets. The next scheduled work party will be on May 5th at the Williams Preserve. A new Town email address has been established to communicate with the Committee and to report observed trail issues: openspacestewardship@coventry-ct.gov.

For the Committee,
Eric Thomas, Chair

Building Department



Benefits of a Permit:

What is a Building Permit? A building permit gives you legal permission to start construction of a building project in accordance with approved drawings and specifications. **When Do You Need a Permit?** The best way to find out if you need a permit is to call us at 860-742-4064 and discuss your plans before beginning construction. **Permits are usually required for the following:**

- New Buildings (and any related mechanical permits related to the project)
- Additions (bedrooms, bathrooms, family rooms, etc. and any related mechanical permits related to the project)
- Residential Work (foundation replacement, decks, garages, fireplaces, pools, sheds, etc.)
- Renovations (basement or garage conversions, kitchen expansions, Roofing, Siding, Windows, Doors etc.)
- Electrical Systems
- Plumbing Systems (water heaters, etc.)
- HVAC (heating, ventilating and air-conditioning, oil tanks) systems
- Gas (setting/replacing tanks, piping, etc.)
- Commercial (remodels/renovations/repairs, tenant fit out for new ownership, etc. and any related mechanical permits related to the project)

Remember: Your home or business is an investment. If your construction project does not comply with the adopted codes, the value of your investment could be reduced. Property insurers may not cover work done without permits and inspections. If you decide to sell a home or building that has had modifications without a permit, you may be required to tear down the addition, leave it unoccupied or make costly repairs. Your permit also allows the code official to protect the public by reducing the potential hazards of unsafe construction and ensuring public health, safety and welfare. By following code guidelines, the completed project will meet minimum standards of safety and will be less likely cause injury to you, your family, your friends or future owners.

Permitting Online: We are rapidly entering our busiest time of year. Please contact our office to discuss your project and to get the materials you will need for your permitting submittal online. Typically, if there aren't any submittal issues or land placement issues, review and approvals from multiple departments take approximately 2-3 weeks. Any work and inspections need to have a fully issued permit to move forward. As always, we have the computer kiosk and scanner in our office to assist you with your application process. You just need to bring all the appropriate materials and submittals with you for us to assist (or in some cases, email us some of the PDF uploads before you come to the office for assistance). Please call our office at 860-742-4064 to discuss your upcoming project. To access the online permitting portal, go to: <https://coventryct.viewpointcloud.com>.

Do you need to access the Eastern Highland Health District for permitting? They too are online with the same type of system (use the same username and password). Their online address is: <https://easternhighlandshealthdistrict.viewpointcloud.com>.

Spring Notes from Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring Committee

Spring is here and soon all the fun summer activities will start. Spring also brings the Canadian geese back as well. Some things to keep in mind:

1. Do you have Canadian geese nesting on your property? If yes, you should apply for a permit to addle the eggs to help reduce the goose population on Coventry Lake. The permit is free and the application can be found at this link: <https://epermits.fws.gov/eRCGR/geSI.aspx>
2. Lawn work: The best way to keep our lake healthy is NOT to fertilize therefore avoiding nutrient runoff into the lake. If you do fertilize make sure to use a ZERO phosphate fertilizer.
3. Landscaping: If you plan to do some lakefront landscaping check out the great app from UConn on rain gardens – one of the best methods to avoid nutrient run-off into the lake. <https://nemo.uconn.edu/raingardens/>
4. Preparing boats (motor or paddle) and equipment for summer use: Remember DEEP recommends CLEAN DRAIN DRY. Instructions can be found at: <https://portal.ct.gov/DEEP/Fishing/General-Information/Aquatic-Invasive-Species>
5. Boating activity: Reminder that life jackets are required to be WORN from October 1 to May 31 in any manually powered vessel.
6. Spring means fun on the lake. Dispose of personal trash properly. Check boats and trailers for any foreign materials and dispose of those properly as well. Have FUN but leave nothing but ripples behind.

Coventry Lake will again need to be treated with fluridone in 2024 as a few very small colonies of hydrilla were found on the north shore in August 2023. Once the plan is finalized there will be detailed announcements.

Coventry Lake Advisory & Monitoring will also be working with Dr. Robert Kortmann and GZA to monitor water quality on Coventry Lake to determine the potential for concerns with cyanobacteria.

You can assist in keeping the lake healthy. If you see an algae bloom or changes in aquatic plant growth contact: coventrylakeadvisor@coventryct.org providing name, date, location of concern, and photo.

Veterans Corner

Honor Flight Connecticut

Veterans from WWII, Korea and Vietnam are invited to participate in the Honor Flight CT to Washington, D.C. on May 4, 2024 to visit the National Memorials and share the camaraderie with others. Limited space so apply now. An application is required and can be found at: <https://honorflightct.org/applications>.

Veterans Memorial Green Clean-Up Day

Looking for volunteers on May 4th at 9 to 10 a.m. to help with the annual clean-up of the monuments at Veterans Memorial Green and beautify them for Memorial Day. Cleaning supplies will be provided. Bring your own rake. This is a great student and community service project. Contact Peter at coventryvmec@gmail.com.

Armed Forces Day Luncheon

The 75th CT Armed Forces Day Luncheon will be held Thursday, May 23, 2024, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Aqua Turf Club, 556 Mulberry Street, Southington, CT. Each year, members of the CT military and civic leaders come together to honor the thousands of those who serve, or veterans who have served, our great state and nation. For tickets or more information, contact Peter at coventryVMec@gmail.com.

Memorial Day Parade

The American Legion Post 52 will be hosting the annual Coventry Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 27th at 10:00 a.m.

New Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 then press 1.

Other options are text direct to 838255 or chat live at www.veteranscrisisline.net. You do not need to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care to connect.



DAFFODIL BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

Since this project, sponsored by the Village Improvement Society, began in 1993, approximately 384,195 daffodil bulbs have been planted in Coventry! To order bulbs at \$6/dozen for fall planting, call Judy at 860-214-9567. Varieties include Dutch Master (all yellow) or a Giant Mixture.

COVENTRY VISITORS' CENTER

Located in historic Coventry Village, the Visitors' Center was built in 1876 to house the Town offices. It has served as a Visitors' Center since the early 1990's and has been operated by the Village Improvement Society since 2006.

The Center is stocked with local history books, Capriland's books and a variety of Coventry memorabilia as well as local and regional travel brochures.

The Center is open weekends, 10 AM to 2 PM from late April through October. Any questions, call Pat at 860-742-7847.

Assessor's Office

The Assessor's office is responsible for administering all exemption programs and the assessment of Real Estate, Motor Vehicles, and Personal Property, which includes business property, unregistered motor vehicles, and vehicles registered out of state.

REVALUATION 2024 PROJECT UPDATE:

Pursuant to C.G.S. Sec. 12-62(b) (4) the Assessor may accept a Data Mailer Questionnaire in lieu of inspecting the interior of the property and, as part of this 2024 revaluation project, Coventry has opted to send out Data Mailer Questionnaires rather than attempt to visit and ask all of our property owners to allow us inside their property.

Data Mailers were mailed the week of March 11, 2024, and we ask that if you have not yet returned the mailer, please do so immediately, or as soon as possible. If you did not receive a mailer for your residential property, please call the Assessor's Office, so that we may determine the best way to get the necessary information. **For each property owner that does not return the Data Mailer Questionnaire, and whose property has not been inspected in the last ten years, Connecticut law requires our vendor to send a Data Collector Employee out to the property and request to inspect the interior. Each physical inspection will add a cost of \$26 to the project. Returning the mailer will save tax dollars.**

There are five (5) phases of a revaluation. Data Collection, which includes the "full inspection" or "Data Mailer" process, is the first phase. The other four phases are: Market Analysis, Valuation, Field Review, and Informal Hearings.

The second phase, Market Analysis, began in March. As part of Market Analysis, the vendor will be looking at all the "Sale properties" (those which have sold between July 2023 – September 2024). These properties will be used to determine the fair market value of every other property in town as of October 1, 2024. Since many times a new owner will make changes to the property they recently purchased, an ideal situation is when we are able to get a snapshot of exactly what sold in close proximity to the sale date.

It is not uncommon for new homeowners to see someone taking a photo of their home in the six months after they purchase it and VGSI employees will be in the field inspecting sale properties. Many times, the Assessor's office will want to drive by and look at the home as well as real estate appraisers that try to use the most recent comparable sales when they are performing appraisals, and they will drive by and take their own photos. The Market Analysis phase will be ongoing through the majority of the project.

If anyone has any questions or concerns regarding any phase of the revaluation process, please feel free to contact Town Assessor John Preisner directly.

OTHER INFORMATION:

The Elderly and Totally Disabled Homeowner Program Application Period is Now Until May 15th! The application period began on February 1st, and letters were mailed in January to those already on the program and due to reapply. To qualify, applicants must be 65 years old (or older) as of December 31, 2023, or Totally Disabled, and meet income requirements. This program is income driven with the state of Connecticut setting the maximum limits for both single and married individuals. The limits have increased to \$53,400 if married, and \$43,800 if single. Your income includes all Social Security benefits and your adjusted gross income as filed on your 2023 Federal Income tax return. If you qualify for the State program you also qualify for the Town of Coventry tax credit or a tax deferral program as well. This benefit will be applied for the tax bills due July 1, 2024,

The Additional Veterans Program application period also began February 1, 2024, and applications are accepted until September 30, 2024. If not already filed, A DD214 must be filed with the Town Clerk prior to October 1, 2024, to be eligible for this additional exemption. Those already in the program and due to refile should have received a letter from our office in January. This program is also income driven with the same income requirements as the Elderly Homeowners program noted above.

If you are a 100% disabled veteran as determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs you may qualify for additional benefits with income based on adjusted gross income only (does not consider the full amount of your social security benefit): Unmarried \$18,000, married \$21,000 (joint income). You will be asked to provide proof of all income (tax return) regarding both of the above mentioned applications. Additional Veteran's and Homeowner applications are taken biennially.

Questions? Please call 860-742-4067 or visit us at: <https://www.coventry-ct.gov>.

Tax Collector's Office

860-742-4066

Delinquent notices were mailed within the last few months for overdue taxes, sewer and COVRRRA/Trash bills. Intent to Lien notices for overdue Real Estate taxes, COVRRRA/Trash and Sewer Use charges will be mailed in March/April. Liens will be filed in April/May against those properties, which are not paid current. Sewer Assessment bills will be mailed at the end of April with a due date of May 1.

Online Payments from the Tax Collector's page on the town's website www.coventry-ct.gov: There is a link on the Tax Collector's page to pay online. Point and Pay processes electronic check, debit & credit card payments. There is a convenience fee charged by Point and Pay. Electronic check is \$0.95, debit is charged a flat rate of \$3.95, credit card is charged 2.75% (minimum \$2.00) fee. Please feel free to call the Tax Office before making your online payments and we will be happy to assist.

Online Payments through your Bank/Financial Institution: We strongly discourage you from paying in this way. Your payment may not be mailed when you expect it to be & these payments come to us without a postmark. Please allow ample time for mail delivery to avoid interest charges or additional late fees.

Any individual needing an immediate **DMV clearance** in order to register any vehicle is reminded to pay by cash or a money order at the Tax Collector's office. Check payments may delay your DMV clearance up to ten (10) business days. Also, paying online by credit/debit card or bank account through the town's website can take up to seven (7) days to clear with DMV due to weekends and holidays. Please plan ahead & call us with any concerns or questions.

Most transactions can be conducted via the town's website, by phone, email and postal mail. This includes being able to print a paid receipt. We strongly encourage paying online at our website www.coventry-ct.gov, by mail or use the convenience of the drop box permanently installed inside the rear vestibule entrance to Town Hall. Please do not use the ballot box located outside for payments. Please bring your bill or statement when paying in person.

The current fiscal year will end June 30, 2024. In accordance with state statutes, liens will be filed before the end of the current fiscal year against properties with any outstanding balances on real estate taxes and sewer use charges and trash fees. Please contact this office if you have any questions concerning your accounts.

PAYMENT DUE CALENDAR: MAY – Sewer Assessment fee 1st installment. **JULY** – Real Estate 1st installment; Motor Vehicle, COVRRRA and Personal Property single payment. **SEPTEMBER**– Sewer Use Fee single payment. **NOVEMBER** – Sewer Assessment fee 2nd installment. **JANUARY** – Real Estate 2nd installment (we do not rebill) and Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax only if applicable.

More Town news

Comings and Goings: Welcome to **Jean Katan**, our new Building/Land Use Administrative Assistant, who joins us following the departure of **Brigit Tanganelli**. and to **Jessica Richardson**, Senior Center Assistant. Farewell to **Manual Medina**, Planning Technician/Zoning Enforcement Officer, **Evan Stone**, Transfer Station Operator, and **Mattea Whitford**, Assistant Town Clerk. We wish you all well in the next chapters of your careers.

Want to change your tipper barrel size?



We are offering the opportunity to exchange your tipper barrels at the reduced fee of \$25 (normally \$75). If you would like to swap, contact the Tax Office before May 15, 2024 at 860-742-4066. **The swap order must be requested through the Tax Office and paid to All American Waste by May 15, 2024 in order to receive this reduced price.** The swap will occur in late June in conjunction with the billing cycle for the new fiscal year. **A change in the size of your trash tipper barrel will result in a change to your annual fee.** Consider upsizing your recycle barrel. There is no increase in your annual bill for a larger recycle barrel.

Citizens are reminded that the tipper barrels are owned by All American Waste, the Town's contracted hauler. The barrels must stay with the property to which they have been assigned. Each barrel is identified with a serial number for a specific property address. If you sell your house and /or move, **please do not take the barrels with you.** Your annual payment pays for the disposal/recycle service only.

News from Parks & Recreation

Registration OPEN for Summer Camp!

Camp Wangumbaug (Camp W) is a traditional day camp held at Patriots Park for children in Grades K – 8 (Fall 2024). Children participate in group games, arts and crafts, swimming, sports, and more. Camp runs from 9am – 4pm with optional morning care and evening care hours available. Campers in Grades 2 and up have optional filed trips throughout the summer. Camp fills quickly so we encourage families to register early!

Resident Beach Stickers go on sale starting May 1st. Stickers can be purchase at the Parks and Rec Office during Town Hall business hours. Please bring your car registration to confirm Coventry residency.

New Staff Announcement: In October, Josh Anderson was hired as the Recreation Assistant. Josh is a recent graduate of Eastern Connecticut State University and has previously worked for the East Hampton Parks and Recreation Department. Josh's primary role is the Before & After School Site Director and Summer Camp Director. We are happy to welcome Josh to the team!

Save the Date - Arts on Main: The Town of Coventry and the Coventry Arts Guild are pleased to announce the date for the annual Arts on Main Event, Saturday September 14th from 11am – 3pm. This is a free family friendly event that celebrates artistic and creative expression.

COVENTRY CELEBRATES MAKE MUSIC DAY. FRIDAY JUNE 21

Booth and Dimock Library, 11 AM.
The Song-a-Day Music Center will feature student performances followed by an on the spot Kazoo and Rhythm Instrument Parade around the library grounds. Free and open to the public. For more info contact the Song-a-Day Music Center at 860 918 5957 or the library at 860-742-7606.

Later in the day from 3-8 P.M. the Coventry Arts Guild will host an Open Mike at Mill Brook Place. Performers of all ages and musical genres are invited to come and share their talents. For more info contact the CAG at timbermant@sbcglobal.net.

International Make Music Day takes place in over 800 cities worldwide on the first day of summer, encouraging free music for all. For more information visit makemusicday.org.

CT Historical Society Events

May 4 - Tag Sale, 9 AM, Strong-Porter House Museum, 2382 South Street.

June 16 - Sundae on a Sunday (Father's Day), 1-4 PM, Brick School Museum, 1019 Merrow Rd. Sundaes free for dads, \$5 for others.

July 20 - "Back in Time" 60's, 70's & 80's car/bike cruise event, noon, Strong-Porter House Museum, 2382 South Street. See cars and bikes from the period! Everyone with any vehicle (including farm tractors & trucks) from this period or before is invited to participate. Trophies for best in class, prizes awarded. Open to the public, traders and swappers are welcome. Period music provided. \$10 charge for participating vehicles, all proceeds to benefit CHS. Donations welcome. Period dress preferred but not required. For questions contact Jim Murphy at irishbrit0471@att.net (preferred) or 860-965-9663.

August 24 - 4th Annual Caprilands Luncheon. Original recipes, raffle items, readings and celebrating the mystique of Adelma and Caprilands by the herb garden at Strong-Porter. For details visit info@ctcoventryhistoricalsociety.dreamhosters.com, or Coventry Historical Society on Facebook.

Lions Club Events

May 27 - Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast, 7-10 AM, First Congregational Church, 1181 Main Street. \$8 or \$15 per family. Have breakfast while waiting for the parade. All proceeds benefit the Coventry Lions service projects

Mother's Day Roses Sale. Orders delivered Saturday May 11 between 9 AM - noon. Place orders by May 4. Details at lionsclubofcoventry.org. All proceeds support Lions Club scholarships & community service activities.

Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

The Booth & Dimock Library wants to hear from **you!** We are asking all residents - whether you visit the library every week or don't know where the library is - to complete our **2024 Survey**. Access the survey from the QR code below, on the library's website at www.coventrypl.org, or by visiting the library at 1134 Main Street.

The Library is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 10:00-8:00, Friday from 10:00-6:00, and Saturday from 10:00-3:00. The Library offers an extensive collection of reading materials, one-on-one technology assistance, printing, copying, and faxing services, public computers and free wi-fi, reference assistance, and more!

The Library accepts donations of used books and DVDs in good to excellent condition that are less than 10 years old. We ask that you please drop donations off in the library during the last week of the month. Items that don't meet our criteria can be accepted any time in our outdoor donation bin.

The Library is offering two special programs in June! **The Lionheart Puppet Company** will be at the library on June 14th at 11:00 for one of their amazing puppet shows: "Jack Tuesday: Fairy Tale Investigator." The next week, Miss Ruth and Mr. Jim from Song-A-Day music will be here to celebrate **Make Music Day** on June 21st at 11:00. (See details at left.) All ages are welcome!

Join us in the children's room for these regularly scheduled programs:

Play Group - Every Wednesday 10:30 am

Immerse your child in the enchantment of reading at our Play Group! Enjoy free-play and the chance to socialize with other kids, all while nurturing a lifelong love for books. Join us for a delightful adventure of imagination and fun!

Chapter Book Storytime - Every Friday at 4:30 through May

Join us on Friday afternoons to read chapter books together! Ms. Rachel will read aloud from books chosen as a group.

Sing, Stomp, and Story - May 9th at 11:00

Join us for a musical program with stories, instruments, and lots of dancing!

Messy Munchkins - May 24th at 11:00

Bring your little ones to enjoy some sensory play!

Saturday Crafts - May 18th all day

Use your imagination and explore new topics through hands on creativity. Drop by any time during operating hours!

Sweet Dreams Story Time - May 23rd, and June 27th at 6:30

All ages are welcome to join Miss Rachel for an evening story time!
Booth & Dimock Memorial Library

Be sure to check out these fun events for adults!

Inside the Royal Bedchamber - May 8th at 11:30

Treat yourself to an extended lunch break as we delve into some juicy stories, sorrows, and scandals of historical queens.

Genealogy Club - May 16th and June 20th at 11:30

Calling all genealogy lovers, from novices to experts! Join us to discuss research, commiserate over those stubborn brick walls, and just trade tips. No registration is required and drop ins are welcome. Bring any research or questions you'd like to share with the group!

Tea Explorers - May 8th and June 12th

Travel through the world with tea. Each month members pick up a curated tea selection to bring home and enjoy. Please call or visit the library to register.

Spice Life - May 22nd and June 26th

Explore different cultures through spice. Each month members pick up a kit containing information, a sample, and a recipe or 2 to bring home. Please call or visit the library to register.

1134 Main Street, Coventry, CT
860-742-7606
www.coventrypl.org
Facebook @BDLibrary

2024 Library Survey QR Code



Department of Public Works

Director/Tree Warden
Town Engineer
Admin. Secretary / COVRRRA
Engineering Technician

Bill Watkins
Todd Penney, P.E.
Donna Wrubel
Mark St. Germain, P.E.

wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov
tpenney@coventry-ct.gov
dwrubel@coventry-ct.gov
mstgermain@coventry-ct.gov

Notice:

EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024, THE DUMPSTERS AT THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT FOR EXTRA TRASH AND RECYCLING DISPOSAL WILL NO LONGER BE AVAILABLE.

YOU MAY USE THE COMPACTORS AT THE TRANSFER STATION AVAILABLE FOR TRASH AND RECYCLING. \$2 FEE PER BAG.
SUMMER HOURS OF OPERATION: THURSDAYS NOON UNTIL 6 PM OR SATURDAYS 9 AM UNTIL 3 PM.

A Note From the Tree Warden:

Planting, pruning or removal of trees within the Town Right of Ways (ROW) at roadside requires approval of the Tree Warden. State Statute requires a written request for permission to remove or plant trees in the ROW area. Unapproved work in the ROW is subject to fines and damages.

The Tree Warden's email address is wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov. Do not use email to contact the Tree Warden for emergencies – call Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or the Police Department at (860) 742-7331.

Spring Street Sweeping Schedule:



The Public Works Department has scheduled street sweeping to begin on or about 3/18/24 weather permitting. There are five sweeping districts in Town. The order in which the streets will be swept are by District, and are as follows: District 5, District 4, District 3, District 1, and District 2. Please see the Street Sweeping District Map on the town's website or contact DPW (860) 742-6588 or Director at wwatkins@coventry-ct.gov.

The Department requests that all property owners refrain from raking yard waste such as sticks, leaves and dead grass into the street. **DPW will not sweep up windrows of yard debris raked and swept to the gutter of the street.** The introduction of these materials can damage the equipment and hinder timely program completion. The intent of the program is to sweep up sediment and particulates that are detrimental to storm water quality. Raked up yard waste **excluding sticks** can be brought to the Transfer Station for composting year round during open hours of operation. Please avoid parking vehicles in the roadway during the sweeping program.

Household Chemical Waste Drop-Off Facility:

This regional facility located at 57 Hancock Road in Willington will be opening for the 2024 season on April 20. The facility is open once per month: 4/20, 5/18, 6/15, 7/20, 8/17, 9/21 and 10/19. **Stay in your vehicle** and have your license visible. As a Coventry resident you may bring residential quantities of hazardous waste to the facility at no cost but bring proof of residency. (The license must reflect a member town.) All waste **MUST** be in the trunk or rear compartment of the vehicle (NONE in passenger area). Your trunk, hatch or tailgate should be unlocked or open. All materials should be in their original containers or clearly marked.

Prepare the materials by:

- Packing carefully in original containers only, seal and label
- Do not mix materials
- Drive carefully to prevent tipping
- No smoking while handling and transporting materials
- Residential limits of 10 gallons liquid and 100 pounds dry materials

Other FAQ's:

- **Medication:** Do not flush down the toilet or drain. Many prescriptions may be disposed of at the Coventry Police Department (860) 742-7331.
- **Asbestos:** Double bag and seal this material. One cubic foot can be disposed with trash. For large quantities, contact an asbestos removal company.
- **Explosives, fireworks, ammunition:** Contact your state police barracks.
- **Water reactive materials:** For peroxides and metallic sodium, contact a licensed environmental contractor.
- **Biologically active materials:** Contact a licensed medical & infectious waste contractor.

Budget in Brief

**Proposed Fiscal Year 2024/25 Budget
Town Meeting: Saturday April 27, 2024
10:00 A.M. Veterans Auditorium,
Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road**



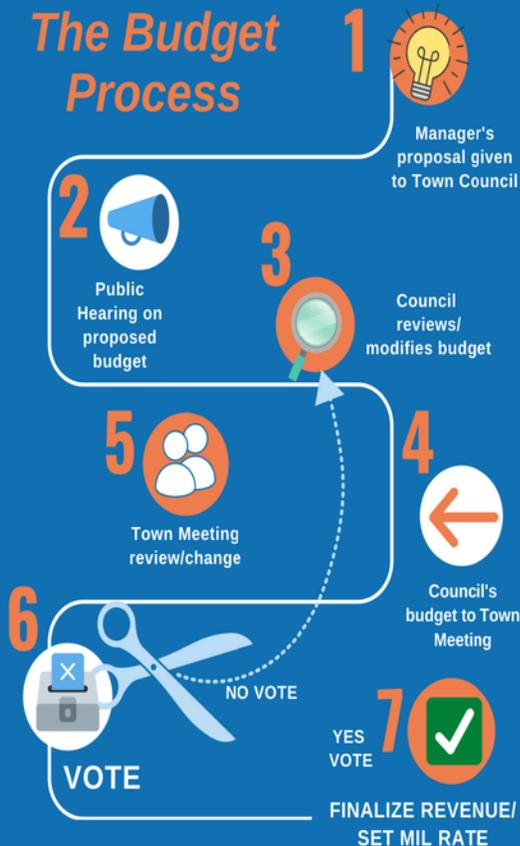
Overview

Responding to the expectations of Coventry residents for better and more efficient services, Town and Board staff reviewed programs and services and prepared budget proposals that address the stated goals of the Town Council and Board of Education. Existing services have been maintained and infrastructure repairs, services to students, seniors, and public safety have been given a priority. The Town Manager's recommended budget demonstrated that most agency budgets were submitted with only modest increases. Staff levels were evaluat-

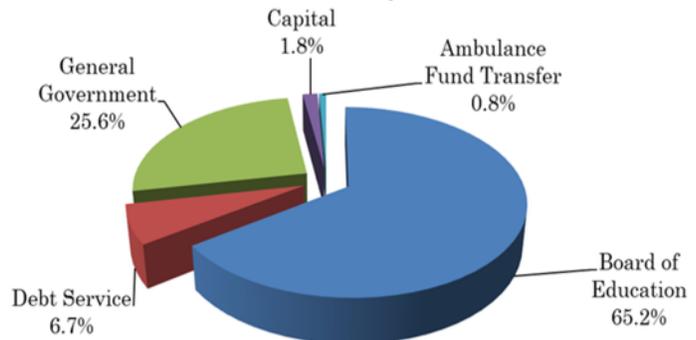
"The Town Council's budget proposals for the Town, Board, Capital and Debt Service call for a 4.71% spending increase."

ed and remain consistent with the current year. The full budget was reviewed and modified by the Town Council, resulting in a reduction from requests of \$770,317. The Town Council's budget proposals for the Town, Board, Capital, Debt Service, and EMS(Ambulance) Fund transfer call for a \$2,123,044 spending increase from the prior year adopted budget. The proposed budget will require an increase to the current mil rate of 2.23 mils or 7.17%, resulting in a rate of 33.97 mils. The proposed budget has been sent to the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Saturday, April 27, 2024, in the CHS Veterans Auditorium at 10:00 A.M. The adjourned Town Meeting vote is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

The Budget Process



Where Your Money Goes



Budget Summary

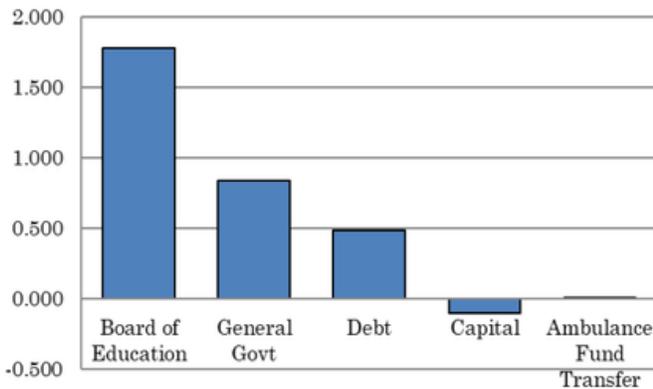
The expenditure part of the budget is broken down into the areas of General Government, Board of Education, Debt Service, Capital and the EMS(Ambulance)Fund Transfer totaling \$47,205,034, an increase of \$2,123,044 or 4.71% compared to the adopted FY23-24 budget. A breakdown of the budgets are illustrated below.

Budget Area	Adopted	Requested	\$ Change	% Change
	FY23/24	FY24/25		
General Government	\$ 11,491,730	\$ 12,143,160	\$ 651,430	5.67%
Board of Education	29,594,330	30,774,700	1,180,370	3.99%
Debt Service	2,909,930	3,157,506	247,576	8.51%
Capital	723,500	765,748	42,248	5.84%
EMS(Ambulance)Fund Trns	362,500	363,920	1,420	0.39%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 45,081,990	\$ 47,205,034	\$ 2,123,044	4.71%

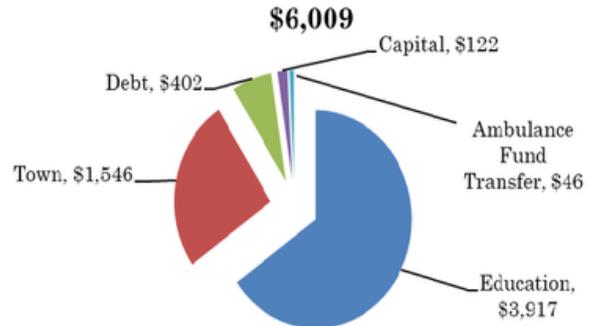
Town Operating Budget Summary

The Town operating budget recommended for FY25 is \$12,143,160; an increase of \$651,430. This is a reduction of \$238,912 or 1.93% from the Town Manager proposed budget. The largest driver to this increase is personnel services which increased \$379,134 or 4.31% and funding of \$363,920 to transfer to the EMS(ambulance) fund which was previously funded by ARPA funds. Health insurance increased 9% due to increased claim trends. The Town's required pension contribution, as calculated by our actuary, increased by \$40,610 or 8%. This budget maintains the current level of staffing. Other drivers behind the Operating Budget increase include general inflation increases, as well as increased technology needs, costs in gasoline and diesel fuel. This budget is a bare minimum budget in order to maintain the current level of services provided by the Town. Any additional reductions to the Town Operating Budget will likely result in staff layoffs and/or a reduction in services provided to Town residents.

Mil increase by budget area



Tax Breakdown For Median House



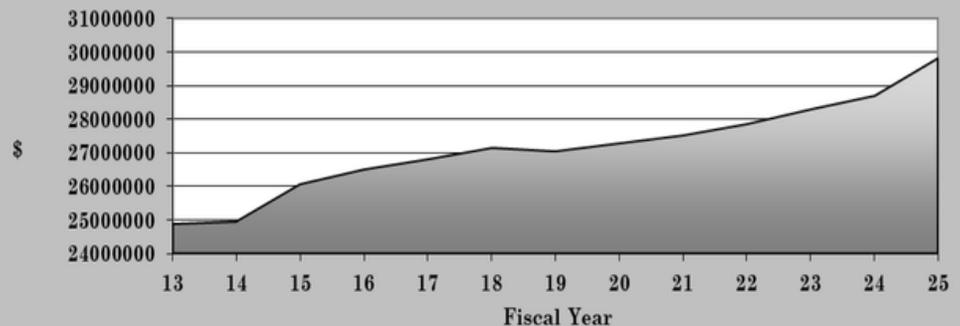
Board of Education Summary

The Board of Education budget was reduced \$200,000 by the Town Council and is proposed at \$30,774,700; an increase of \$1,180,370 or 3.99% from their originally adopted FY24 budget.

Details are available on the web at

coventrypublicschools.org

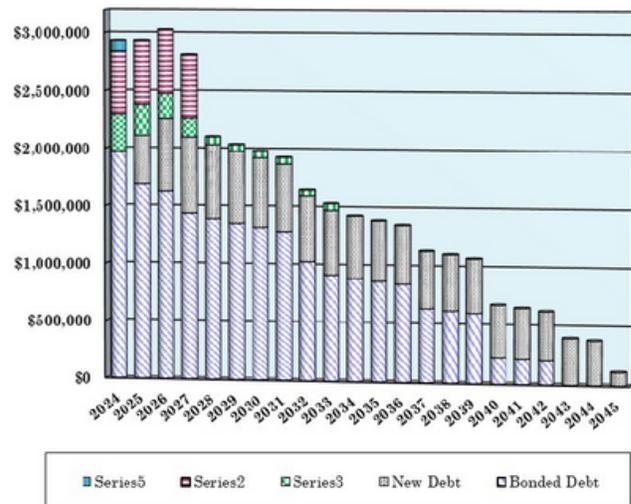
BD. OF EDUCATION BUDGET BY YEAR



Debt Service

Debt Service represents 6.7% of the Town budget. This is far below a common threshold of 10% for Towns. For FY25, there is a proposed increase of \$42,248 or 5.84% from the prior year. This increase is due to bonding for school HVAC, purchase of a fire truck, fire alarm replacement and high school weight room relocation. Also included in the FY25 budget is a capital lease for a small dump truck and in car police cameras. While this will lead to increased debt service budgets for FY25 and FY26, it is important to know that our projected debt service is anticipated to decline each year going forward, which will allow for additional debt issuance or savings to taxpayers.

Projected Debt Service by Year



Capital Projects

1. Summer Road Program (1/2-see Town Aid)	\$290,000
2. Network Refresh	50,000
3. Education Computer Upgrades	40,000
4. Town Hall Computer Upgrades	45,000
5. Window AC Units-CGS	25,000
6. Window AC Units-GHR	26,200
7. Window AC Units-CNH	25,800
8. Revaluation	35,000
9. Public Water Supply Design-Plains Rd.	19,000
10. SCBA (FD Air tanks)	24,000
11. Fire Personal Protective Turn Out Gear	25,000
12. Special Ops. FD gear	9,683
13. Fire Hose/Equipment	12,000
14. CNREF	61,565
15. Lake Management (water quality)	65,000
16. Sidewalk Extension/Repair	2,500
17. GIS Upgrades	10,000
TOTAL	\$765,748

The proposed capital projects budget for the General Fund for FY25 totals \$765,748, a 5.84% increase from the prior year. Of this budget, \$167,000 is related to capital projects for the Board of Education. This plan represents a reduction from the Town Manager's proposal of \$186,435.

In addition to the capital project budget outlined in the General Fund, several capital projects are proposed through grants, including Town Aid Road, (\$290,000), Local Capital Improvement Program (\$154,500). The Capital budget also includes \$3,000,000 bond proposal which will be used for a fire truck, fire alarms at GHR and CGS, and a new CHS weight room. Please refer to the Capital Budget section of the budget for additional details.

Transfer to EMS(Ambulance) Fund

The FY25 budget separates out the transfer to the EMS(Ambulance) Fund as a separate budgetary line. It is proposed to transfer \$363,920 to the EMS(Ambulance) fund to fund the ambulance coverage currently provided to residents on a 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis.

Based on review of current operations at the continued 24 hour a day, 7 day a week coverage through our third-party contractor Vintech, the amount they are charging for Fiscal Year 2025 is \$630,720. Contracting out services to a third-party company is no longer feasible and more costly than implementing paid EMS/Fire staff.

Under the staffing model proposed by the Fire Chief, Coventry would hire 4 full-time staff members and up to 9 part-time staff members. Part-time employee count is dependent on hours needed to be covered. The approximate cost of staffing would be \$559,530 compared to Vintech's contract is a savings of \$71,190. It is in the best interest of the Town to hire paid Town staff to invest in the community and eliminate the unpredictability of Vintech contract increases.

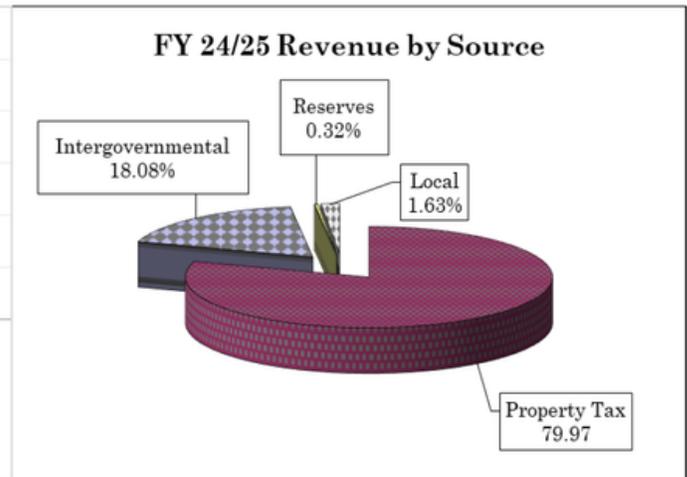
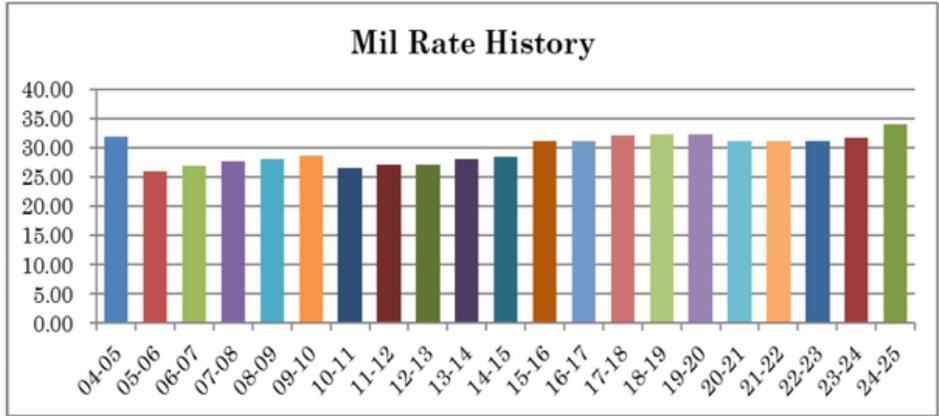
Revenues

The property tax is the major revenue source (79.97%) for Coventry. The proposed budget is an increase of 4.71% from the prior year. The proposed mil rate is 33.97 for real estate and personal property, a 2.23 mil or 7.17% change from the prior year. The motor vehicle mil rate will be capped at 32.46 per current State Law, a .72 mil increase or 2.27% increase. Coventry currently

has a much lower tax rate than most Towns in the area. This is especially true when you consider that we offer 24/7 Police and EMS(Ambulance) services. Even with the proposed tax rate increase, our Town will still have a tax mil rate lower than comparable Towns in our immediate area. See chart below for additional details.

Intergovernmental revenues, mostly State aid, are the second largest revenue source (18.08%) of revenues for Coventry. This is a decrease of 3.59% from the prior year adopted budget. These revenues are based on the assumed State budget which is not yet final. American Rescue Plan funds were removed from FY25 as the Town had to phase that grant out of the budget. This was a one time revenue source that is no longer available.

Other local revenues consist of a variety of fees for permits, services and interest earnings. This area, which represents 1.63% of the Town's budget. Increases are caused from increased activity in the building department as well as increased interest revenue based on current market conditions.



To learn more about the fiscal year 2024/25 proposed budget, you can view the full Town budget document online at www.coventry-ct.gov under Finance. Copies of the Town and Board of Education budgets are also available for viewing in the Coventry Town Clerk's office during regular office hours.

YOUR OPINION COUNTS!

If you have questions or concerns about the FY 24/25 proposed budget, please don't hesitate to call the Town Manager's Office at 860-742-6324 or email

budgetcomments@coventry-ct.gov



TAX RELIEF FOR SENIORS

Guidelines for additional tax relief for qualified Coventry seniors and disabled persons are available in the Town Assessor's Office. This includes a local tax credit program. Call 860-742-4067.

Application Deadline: May 15, 2024.

COVRRRA:

COVRRRA questions can be answered by calling Public Works at (860) 742-6588 or email dwrubel@coventry-ct.gov.

Pickup missed? Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 if your curbside trash or recycling is not picked up. This direct communication allows for pickup arrangements to be made. This same number should be called if you have monthly items out that don't get picked up or if your cart is broken.

PLEASE CALL DURING THE WEEK OF THE PICKUP TO RECTIFY THE SITUATION.

Tipper Cart broken? Call All American Waste at (860) 289-7850 for information. Plugs for lids are available at Department of Public Works. Push them in snugly and inspect them regularly so they stay tight. This will ensure your tipper cart lid stays on your cart.

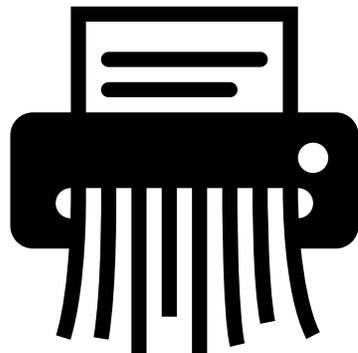
Homeowners are reminded that the tipper carts are owned by All American Waste and must remain at the property location that is billed for this service.

NEW - Excess trash and recycling? The Transfer Station has compactors for residents who occasionally have trash or recycling in excess of their carts. You must pay \$2 for each trash bag that you put in the compactor. No cost for single stream recycling. The Transfer Station is available Thursdays and Saturdays for this service. Effective July 1, 2024, the Public Works Facility will no longer have dumpsters available for this service.

Trash Holiday Schedule: All American Waste will observe the following legal holidays thereby altering curbside pickup accordingly:

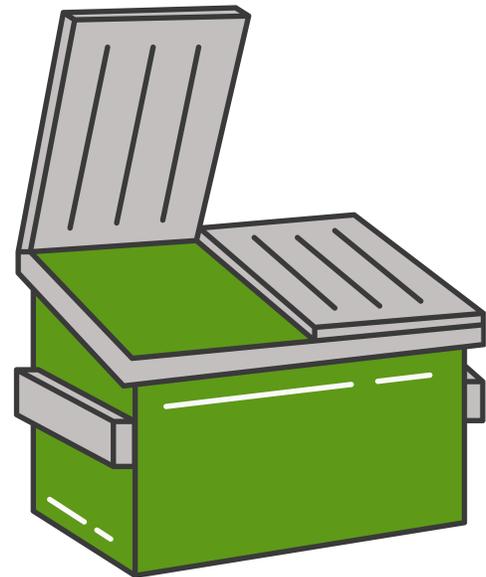
- Monday, May 27th – Memorial Day
- Thursday, July 4th – Independence Day
- Monday, September 2nd – Labor Day

A paper shredding event will be scheduled for the Fall of 2024. Check your COVRRRA calendar (included with your July bill) for the date.



Coventry's Best Kept Secret -- "In yard" trash/recycling service available:

Do you know someone who might benefit from having their trash or recycle cart picked up right at their back door? (A mutually agreed upon location somewhere along the driveway may be necessary for those extra long driveways.) No more struggling to wheel their carts to the curb!! The town has a few slots for those special needs people (no additional fees involved) who are elderly or handicapped and have no one living with them or visiting regularly who can assist them with this task. Call Human Services (860) 742-5324 to apply for this service.



Dumpsters: For major cleanup projects, the current COVRRRA contract with All American Waste also includes pricing for 6, 15 and 30 cubic yard dumpsters. Residents contract directly with All American Waste at (860) 289-7850. Be sure you specify you are a Coventry resident to get this special rate. Dumpsters are for up to 30 days. After 30 days a \$5/day rental fee applies. These containers are to be used by the residents for special projects complying with the COVRRRA regulations and are not to be used for disposal of normal municipal solid waste.

- 6 cubic yard dumpster - \$195 haul / \$120 ton of disposal
- 15 cubic yard dumpster - \$215 haul / \$120 ton of disposal
- 30 cubic yard dumpster - \$215 haul / \$120 ton of disposal

Payment is to be made by credit card only.

Transfer Station

100 Olsen Farm Road - Spring Ahead! Transfer Station hours of operation from April through September will be every Thursday from noon until 6 pm and every Saturday from 9 am until 3 pm. Check your COVRRRA calendar for more information. Proof of residency required.

Residents now have option to pay transfer station fees electronically.

Materials acceptable with cost:

- Construction and demolition debris. Free of cardboard, metal and garbage.
- Bulk waste such as furniture
- Land clearing debris; stumps & brush.
- Fire Extinguishers \$6 each
- Appliance with refrigerant \$10 each, no weigh-in necessary.
****PLEASE - DOORS MUST BE REMOVED FROM REFRIGERATORS****
- Tires - auto /\$5 each, truck \$12/each and construction \$100/each
- Propane tanks 1 lb. \$2 / 5 & 10 lb. \$4 / 20 lb. \$5 / 30 lb. \$6 / 40 lb. \$8
- Trash bags \$2 each

Materials acceptable no cost:

- Paint, deck coatings, primers, sealers, urethanes, waterproofing, stains and rust preventatives
- Single stream recyclables (for example bottles, cans, cardboard, paper)
- Leaves for composting
- Automobile batteries
- Mattress and box spring (dry only, if wet / mangled or futon \$20 fee applies)
- Electronics, fluorescent light bulbs, NiCad batteries
- Appliance without refrigerant (stove, washer, dryer)
- Metal materials (**metal tanks must be cut open and crushed**).

Materials NOT acceptable:

- Grass clippings
- Hazardous waste

Commercial Users Must Remember...

The Town of Coventry Transfer Station is not intended for commercial use although small repair/remodeling contractors doing work for Coventry residents may be allowed limited use to dispose of materials incidental to their work within the limits of the Town of Coventry. Proof of residency and building permits, as applicable, will be checked as part of normal facility operations to ensure the facility waste stream remains residential in nature.

Curbside Monthly Oversized Items Pickup: On the 2nd Monday of every month residents may place at curbside by 6:30 AM up to three oversized items to be picked up for free. **These items are now allowed at transfer station also!!** These large nonmetal items must be out on Monday regardless of your regular trash day. Examples are dresser, futon or recliner chair w/metal removed.

No electronics, metal or mattresses curbside: Electronics, metal and mattresses will not be picked up at curbside. Coventry residents must bring their electronics, metal and mattresses to the transfer station for recycling.

Used motor oil, transmission oil, #2 fuel oil, brake fluid, kerosene, diesel fuel and antifreeze should be brought to the Public Works Facility at 100 Olsen Farm Road. The facility is equipped with a used motor oil furnace. Please call (860) 742-6588 for more info.

Discover Books has placed a drop box at the public works driveway into the transfer station. Residents may bring books to put in the container. The books will then be recycled, redistributed or resold.

Textile Recycling: There is a bin located next to the Annex behind the Town Hall and at the Public Works driveway on Olsen Farm Road accessible anytime. Acceptable items include footwear, clothing, accessories, linens and stuffed animals. For instance, a stained t-shirt or torn bath towel becomes a wiping cloth, a lone sock becomes pillow stuffing, worn out denim jeans are used to produce household insulation, a teddy bear is used for car seat stuffing and so on. Everything will be accepted from gently used to ripped or with broken zippers. Textiles can be recycled in any condition but must be clean and dry. **Must be contained in bags.**

WPCA

Water Pollution Control Authority (Sewer Department)

Did You Know? The daily routine of a Wastewater Treatment Operator:

- Our workday officially starts at 7:00 AM but Charlie likes to get a jump on things and is usually at the treatment plant by 6:30.
- We start each day by checking the 8 hockey rink-sized infiltration basins and manually opening/ closing valves to send treated wastewater into the basins that are least likely to overflow. This has been nerve-racking lately due to an overflow last May and persistently high flows.
- Next we begin our daily laboratory routine. We need to test the wastewater coming into and leaving the plant every day to make sure the treatment process is working properly. We calibrate the meters, collect samples, and run the tests. Once a week we need to send water samples to a lab in Manchester for additional testing. All the test results are put into a monthly report to CT DEEP.
- While the lab tests are running we check the plant building, grounds, and equipment and look for any sign of problems. The plant was built in 1985 with lots of moving parts so things often need fixing. We repair many things ourselves, but anything requiring an electrical or mechanical permit is performed by a contractor.
- Other daily checks include taking readings from various meters and gauges, particularly the amperage on the pumps, because the amps tell us if a pump is starting to get clogged with wipes or if the motor needs replacement.
- On Monday, Wednesday, and Friday we also check the remote pump stations on Lakeview Drive and Avery Shores and look for anything out of the ordinary that requires attention.
- Once every week we exercise our generators to make sure they'll work properly. Without electricity for the pumps, sewage would overflow in about a half hour.
- Stay tuned next newsletter for "When things go wrong at the poo-plant!"

Low Interest Loans for Sewer Connections:

Low interest/deferred loans for new sewer connections may be available through HUD. Contact Mike Ruef for details.

Contact Us:

Mike Ruef, WWTP Operator 860-531-2913
mruef@coventry-ct.gov

www.coventry-ct.gov: the link to the WPCA page can be found by clicking on Your Government > Boards & Commissions > Water Pollution Control Authority

Human Services Office



860-742-5324

Annemarie Sundgren - Administrator
Dianna Grindle - Human Services Coordinator
Melissa Bordonaro - Youth Services Coordinator

FOOD BANK

The Coventry Food Bank is available to any Coventry individual or family experiencing difficult times and may need help with food.



We have a variety of staple foods in stock which include: cereal, pasta, soup, canned vegetable, peanut butter/jelly, rice, school snacks and toiletries.

If you are in need and wish to utilize the Food Bank, please call Coventry Human Services to set up an appointment.

We are solely a donor-funded program and appreciate the donations from many residents, churches, schools, civic organizations, and groups. This program would be unable to continue without your generous donations. If you are interested in donating to Coventry Food Bank, please contact our office for more information.

FOODSHARE

Mobile FoodShare is an outdoor food distribution for persons in need and is available every other Wednesday from 10-10:30 at the St. Mary's Church, 1600 Main Street, Coventry. Food choices vary from week to week but may include bread and several types of fresh produce. Other items may also be offered depending on availability. No appointment is necessary. Please remember to bring a bag or box with you to carry your food. If you have any questions, please call FoodShare at 860-286-9999 or www.foodshare.org.

Dates that FoodShare will be in Coventry this spring and summer:

- May 8, 22
- June 5, 19
- July 3, 17, 31
- August 14, 28
- September 11, 25

RENTER'S REBATE PROGRAM APRIL 1st - OCTOBER 1st, 2024 OFFERED FOR ELDERLY & DISABLED RENTERS

Connecticut's Elderly Renters' Rebate Program is an income-based program that provides a one-time payment to renters based on the rent and utilities paid in 2023. Recipient or spouse must be 65 years of age or older, or 18 years of age or older and receiving Social Security Disability benefits and must meet a one year state residency requirement. Proof of all income (SSA 1099) and rental expenses for 2023 must be provided. The program is open April 1st through October 1st and eligible residents should contact the Coventry Human Services Office to schedule an appointment.

CAMPERSHIP PROGRAM

Coventry Youth Services will begin taking applications for financial assistance for Camp Wangumbaug. As a reminder, the program is for Coventry residents only, and families will be awarded based off financial need. Families will need to provide income, bank statements, and proof of residency. Please contact Youth Services to schedule an appointment.

GEARING UP TO LEARN

Although the end of the school year is quickly approaching, it is never too early to begin preparing for the upcoming year. Youth Services will be offering Gearing up to Learn to Coventry residents who meet income guidelines. Backpacks and school supplies will be available. No walk-ins accepted, please contact Youth Services for an appointment.



DONATIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

You can support programs offered by Coventry Human Services at any time via an online donation through the Coventry Parks & Recreation page at the link below. Under the Program & Activities tab, scroll down to Sponsorships & Donations and click on the Human Services Donation link. <https://secure.rec1.com/CT/coventry-ct/catalog>



Coventry Human Services and Youth Services is on Facebook. Please follow for updates and events.

Coventry Senior Center

172 Lake Street, Patriots Park • 860-742-3525

The Coventry Senior Center is committed to providing adults 55+, a welcoming, inclusive and supportive environment to participate in recreational, educational and wellness programs. The Center is committed to these core principles, focusing on the integration of best practices in program development and continued community collaboration. We are here to meet the needs of our adult citizens in Coventry.

Websites: www.coventryct.org/SeniorCenter

“Friend” Us: www.facebook.com

Staff

Brenda Bennett, Coordinator; bbennett@coventry-ct.gov

Jessica Richardson, Senior Center Assistant, jrichardson@coventry-ct.gov

Hours of Operation

Monday–Thursday 9am–4pm and Friday 9am–1pm

Sign up for our digital Newsletter: The Senior Center is going paperless! Help us go green by signing up with your email. To update your information and/or receive the monthly newsletter, please call (860) 742-3525. No computer, no problem! Paper copies of the newsletter can be picked up at the Senior Center during our operation hours.

ACTIVITIES:

Bingo	Cornhole	Knitting/Crocheting a/k/a Fibers Group	Bookclub	Out to Lunch Bunch	Mahjongg	Sewing	Billiards
Tuesday 1pm	Wednesday 11:30am	4 th Wednesday at 11am	4 th Wednesday at 1:30pm	Wednesdays each month 11:30am	Thursday 9:30am	Thursday 1pm	Open to the public, call ahead!

WEEKLY FITNESS CLASS SCHEDULE:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday (1 st & 3 rd)	Friday (1 st & 3 rd)
Chair Yoga with Carol	HIIT Conditioning with Anna	TAI CHI with Joe	Strength & Balance with Anna	Chair Yoga with Carol	Cardio Drumming
10am \$5.00	9:30am \$5.00	9:30am \$5.00	9:30am \$5.00	9:30am \$5.00	11:00am \$3.00

CALL THE OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT PERSONAL CARE OFFERINGS INCLUDING HAIRCUT AND MASSAGE APPOINTMENTS, AND MORE!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT COVENTRY SENIOR CENTER!



AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE Friday, May 10, 2024 from 9am–1pm Senior Center Lodge

Offered by AARP Driver Safety, the nation’s 1st and largest refresher course designed specifically for older drivers. If you, your friends or family members may benefit from the course, we encourage you to take the opportunity to update your driving knowledge and skills. No written or road tests! You may qualify for a discount on your auto insurance. \$20 with AARP membership cards, \$25 non-members. *Pre-registration and payment is required.*



COVENTRY RIDES TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM

Staff: Sarah Leete, Transportation Coordinator; sleete@coventry-ct.gov

Driver: Howard Haberern

Telephone: 860-742-3525

The Coventry Rides Transportation Program provides free handicap-accessible service for Coventry Seniors and residents with disabilities to the towns of Bolton, Tolland, Vernon, and Manchester. The program has an all-volunteer team of drivers who are available Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 9–1pm. Rides can be requested no later than 48 hours prior (and by noon on Thursday for a Monday ride) and no more than two weeks in advance. Priority will be given to those with medical appointments; however rides can be scheduled for errands, shopping, the bank, employment etc. For more information or to schedule a ride please call 860-742-3525. *The Coventry Rides program is funded with grants from the CT Department of Transportation and the Town of Coventry.*

Coventry Public Schools

COVENTRY BOARD OF EDUCATION: The Board of Education members are Jennifer Beausoleil, Chairperson; Eugene Marchand, Vice-Chairperson; Mary Kortmann, Secretary; Joseph Cleary; Emma Eaton; Courtney Rossignol; and Christina Williams.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS: The Board of Education generally meets on the second and last Thursday of each month. The regularly scheduled meetings for the remainder of 2024 are as follows: April 25, May 9, May 30, June 13, June 27, July 25, August 29, September 12, September 26, October 10, Wednesday October 30, November 14, and December 12. Unless noted on the agenda, all meetings are held in the Administration Building Conference Room at 7:00 p.m. and can be viewed on Channel 194.



NEW KINDERGARTEN AGE REQUIREMENT:

During the 2023 Connecticut legislative session, the age to begin kindergarten was raised. Effective July 1, 2024, in order to enroll in kindergarten, children must turn five years old on or before September 1 of the school year.

The Board of Education met and reviewed the new guidelines and decided to grant a one-year waiver for all families who request early entrance to kindergarten for the 2024-2025 school year. With that, if your child turns five years of age after September 1, 2024 but before January 1, 2025, you may request early entrance into kindergarten by completing a waiver which can be found on the Coventry Grammar School webpage on the district's website at www.coventrypublicschools.org.

GRADUATION: Graduation is scheduled for Saturday, June 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Weather permitting, the ceremony will be held outside at Coventry High School.

2024-2025 SCHOOL CALENDAR: By the time this newsletter reaches homes, the Board of Education should have approved the 2024-2025 Coventry Public Schools calendar, which can be found on our website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org> under "Quicklinks."

BUDGET: Budget development for the next school year is well underway. To keep up to date with this work, follow this link to the budget information page on the website: <http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/boe/budget>.

WORKING PAPERS: All children under the age of 18, who have secured employment, are required to have "working papers." To acquire these papers, please have a form of identification and verification of employment in writing from your employer stating what your specific work duties will include and bring them to the office at Coventry High School. You do not need to be a student at Coventry High School, only a resident of Coventry, to get working papers from the high school office. Should there be no one available at the high school, you may bring your information to the Superintendent's Office. If there are any questions regarding working papers, please call the Coventry High School main office at 860-742-7346.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Flexible hours/days with a wide variety of experiences.

Teacher, Para-Educator, and School Nurse Substitutes: Please visit our website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/human-resources> for additional information.

Cafeteria Substitutes: Call Beth Pratt at 860-742-4535.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION: Interested in volunteering in any of the schools in district? To become a volunteer, please contact the building principals for more specific information. Their contact information can be found at <http://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/volunteer>.



**WE ARE
EXCITED TO
SHARE SOME
RECENT
DISTRICT
HEADLINES
WITH YOU:**

- Dr. David J. Petrone receives 2024 Outstanding School Superintendent Award
- Lillian Pascino, Capt. Nathan Hale School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest Winner
- Mary Levesque and Audrey Eakins, Coventry High School - CT Scholastic Arts & Writing Competition Awards
- Coventry Niche Ranking 2023 - #1 District in Tolland County!
- Mary Kortmann, Board of Education Secretary, recognized by CABA
- Coventry High School ranked #42 best public high school in Connecticut by U.S. News & World Report

You can find the press releases for these highlights and more on our website at <https://www.coventrypublicschools.org/district/news>.

Check it out today!



Coventry Scholarship
Foundation

**Dollars for
Scholars®**

Coventry Scholarship Foundation, Dollars for Scholars is collecting donations for their Annual Fundraising campaign. Donations are accepted throughout the year.

Visit <https://coventrydollarsforscholars.org> to make an online donation. Review the list of scholarships to designate your gift to a specific scholarship fund. Donations can also be made by mailing a check to Coventry Scholarship Foundation Dollars for Scholars, P.O. Box 3, Coventry CT 06238.

Email csfdollarsforscholars@gmail.com with any questions. We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

More than \$65,000 awarded annually to Coventry students seeking accredited post-secondary educational institutions.

Please help support our future generations.





*****ECRWSS*****
POSTAL PATRON
COVENTRY, CT 06238

COVENTRY TOWN NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2024

LEGAL NOTICE-TOWN OF COVENTRY
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING & NOTICE OF ADJOURNED TOWN MEETING
APRIL 27, 2024

The legal voters of the Town of Coventry and those property owners qualified to vote in Town Meetings pursuant to Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut are hereby notified and warned that the Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Coventry will be held Saturday, April 27, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. in the Veterans Auditorium of Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Rd, Coventry, CT to discuss and take action on the following items:

Item #1: To hear the Town Council's estimate of expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Item #2: To consider and take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the 2024-2025 fiscal year appropriation, pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 7, 2024.

Town of Coventry
Council Recommended Budget for FY 24-25

<u>Expenditures</u>	2023	2024	2024	2025	2025	2025
	Actual	Adopted Budget	Actual YTD	Agency Request	Town Manager	Council
General Government	\$ 1,912,556	\$ 2,009,240	\$ 1,441,975	\$ 2,190,485	\$ 2,184,035	\$ 2,179,360
Public Safety	2,645,386	2,794,360	2,032,716	3,189,885	3,165,560	2,973,060
Public Works	2,644,719	2,753,870	1,938,494	2,998,893	2,869,751	2,838,911
Human Services	317,290	351,975	263,514	365,101	364,721	364,772
Civic & Cultural	629,741	723,165	635,358	783,165	768,865	764,217
Sundry	2,684,038	2,859,120	2,253,714	3,029,140	3,029,140	3,022,840
General Government Total	\$ 10,833,730	\$ 11,491,730	\$ 8,565,771	\$ 12,556,669	\$ 12,382,072	\$ 12,143,160
Debt Service	2,932,164	2,909,930	2,425,254	3,100,406	3,157,506	3,157,506
Board of Education	28,712,084	29,594,330	18,055,494	30,974,700	30,974,700	30,774,700
Capital	1,037,300	723,500	723,500	723,500	952,183	765,748
Ambulance Fund Transfer	362,500	362,500	362,500	560,000	508,890	363,920
Expenditures Total	\$ 43,877,778	\$ 45,081,990	\$ 30,132,519	\$ 47,915,275	\$ 47,975,351	\$ 47,205,034
Revenues						
Property Tax	\$ 34,267,117	\$ 35,270,794	\$ 34,826,384	\$ 38,483,322	\$ 38,470,737	\$ 37,748,081
Intergovernmental	9,296,532	8,966,046	4,526,696	8,636,853	8,666,853	8,666,853
Local	739,174	670,150	500,584	620,100	640,100	640,100
Use of Fund Balance	-	175,000	-	175,000	197,661	150,000
Revenues Total	\$ 44,302,823	\$ 45,081,990	\$ 39,853,664	\$ 47,915,275	\$ 47,975,351	\$ 47,205,034

If revenues are calculated at a collection rate of 99.31%; a proposed mil rate of 33.97 will be required.

Item #3: To authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation for Town Aid Funds for roads available to the Town of Coventry under Chapter 240 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Item #4: To take action on the Town Council's recommendation on the FY 2025 Capital Improvement Plan and to authorize the Town Manager to make application pursuant to Title 7, Chapter 116b of the Connecticut General Statutes for funding for eligible projects under the Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP).

Item #5: To authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of tax collections to meet current expenditures.

Summary copies of the proposed budget are available in the Town Clerk's Office, 1712 Main St., Coventry, CT 06238 or can be viewed online at www.Coventry-ct.gov.

Dated at Coventry, CT this 8th day of April 2024.


James D. Drumm, Town Manager


Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk