

**MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 28, 2018**

The Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Coventry was held on Saturday, April 28, 2018 in the Veteran's Auditorium, Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road, Coventry. The Meeting was called to order by Joan Lewis, Chair of the Town Council at 10:00 a.m. with 73 eligible voters in attendance. Also present were non-voting staff, members of the community and press.

Joan Lewis called for nominations for Moderator of the meeting. Marty Milcovic, 856 Dunn Road, was nominated by Thomas Woolf, 10 Flanders Woods Lane, seconded by John Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street. Being no further nominations, Mr. Marty Milcovic was declared Moderator.

At the request of the Town Clerk, Mr. Marty Milcovic, read the notice of this meeting and stated that said notice, signed by the Town Manager and the Town Clerk was posted on the Town Signpost on April 3, 2018 and a copy thereof was published in 'The Chronicle', a newspaper of general circulation in its issue of April 3, 2018.

The Moderator explained that in accordance with Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, as amended, only an elector of the town or a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years or more who, jointly or severally, was liable to the town for taxes assessed against him, based on an assessment of not less than \$1,000 on the last completed grand list of the town or who would have been so liable if not entitled to an exemption as a blind person or as a veteran or as a parent or surviving spouse of a veteran would be entitled to vote at this meeting and the Adjourned Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 8, 2018.

Item #1: To hear the Town Council's estimate of expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

John Elsesser, Town Manager, and David Petrone, Superintendent, of Coventry Schools, presented a brief review of their respective budgets.

Item #2: To consider and take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the 2018-2019 fiscal year appropriation, pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 8, 2018.

General Government	\$9,693,156
Board of Education	27,282,347
Debt Service	2,904,983
Capital Expenditures	<u>932,000</u>

TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$40,812,486

Motion: William Zenko, 18 Maryann Drive, moved, seconded by John Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street, that the Town Council's recommendation for the 2018-2019

fiscal year appropriation be approved as follows:

General Government	\$ 9,693,156
Board of Education	27,282,347
Debt Service	2,904,983
Capital Expenditures	<u>932,000</u>

TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$40,812,486

Moderator explained that pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter the final vote on Item #2 will be adjourned to May 8, 2018. The meeting continued for the purpose of discussion and possible amendments. The Moderator encouraged all those who wished to speak to remain on topic and keep their comments brief. Discussion followed:

Christine Pattee, 98 Brookline Road, asked questions of Superintendent, David Petrone. States that she resolves to always support the school budget. She feels Coventry educational system pushes the grand list up. She is an avid user of the Library and Senior Center and is in support of upgrades.

William Zenko, 18 Maryann Drive, stated that he is in support of the budget and feels it is a reasonable one. He commended the Board of Education and Superintendent of the schools for the results they have been showing in education. He also commended the Town Council for bringing the citizens of Coventry this budget in conformation with the Town Charter. He also referred to the debacle of the previous year's budget process being dragged out and the previous Town Councils interpretation of the Town Charter. He urged everyone to vote yes on the budget.

Holly Parker, 183 Standish Road, thanked John and the Town Council for their work on the budget. Also stated that it is absolutely critical to fund the Library.

Elizabeth Woolf, 10 Flanders Woods Lane, urges all citizens and registered voters to vote yes on May 8, 2018. Vote yes for needed infrastructure, reconstruction and improvements. She stated that voting yes will not impact our taxes until fiscal year 2019-2020. At this time of borrowing Coventry will have a decline in debt service. She thanked the Town Council and Board of Education for their hard work putting forth this budget. She applauds the current Town Council and Board of Ed for working together with a mutual respect for one another. She supports the Library as a community center and focal point for Coventry's revitalized village. She states the Library services a diverse group. Her message to the Library staff is "Hang in there, we have your backs and we support you. Your work is greatly appreciated."

John Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street, questioned if the Academy would be moving. David Petrone, Superintendent, responded that the Academy will stay on campus and this will be a savings to the district. John Twerdy stated he supports this and would like to educate these students rather than discard them to outsourcing.

Pamela S. Sewell, 1124 Flanders Road, had questions for Superintendent David Petrone. She asked if the Academy was strictly Special Ed. Petrone's response was no, there are also students that don't fit into traditional educational track. The Academy will be expanded next year down to 8th grade. How many students would be outsourced if we didn't have an Academy? Petrones response 90% of the students would have to be outsourced. Pamela also asked about the Preschool. She wanted to know how many non-special-ed students were enrolled. Superintendent Petrone responded.

Lisa Thomas, 255 Geraldine Drive, thanked the audience for coming out and being part of the budget process. She stated that last year the residents of Coventry were denied the democratic process of voting on the annual budget and a .8 mill rate was imposed on them by the previous Town Council. She then stated that this budget is one half the mill rate that was imposed on Coventry residents last year. She applauded the ethic of the new Town Council and stated she was in support of both budgets. She stated that she felt both the Town Council and the Board of Ed worked diligently to rein in spending with anticipation of reduction in state aid once again.

Kathleen Breitenwischer, 61 Barbara Drive, questioned her Republican representatives on why they were not sitting at the table with the rest of the Council. Matt O'Brien Sr. responded that it was because they were sitting where they could see the presentations. Kathleen stated it would be nice to see the council sitting together as a whole because that is who the audience is speaking to. She said she hopes that everyone listens to the facts of the budget and not the myths. Kathleen referenced what has currently been put on Facebook. Breitenwischer stated she is in support of the budget and in support of the preschool.

Suzanne Haviland, 155 Standish Road, stated she supports the budget and is very happy with having the Town Meeting this year. As a new mother she is excited about the educational system in Coventry and is very impressed with the statistics provided in today's presentation by the Board of Ed. She mentioned she is proud of new development in Coventry and brings guests around to view the progress. She is also a supporter of the Library.

Valdis Vinkels, 3160 South Street, stated he can't think of more capable people than the Superintendent and the Town Manager.

Roger Mike, 85 Appian Way, stated that he has lived in Coventry for approximately two years and likes it here. He expressed that he was very impressed with both presentations and it was obvious to him that there was a lot of work put into them. His concern was that unless there are major changes in Hartford, the Town will be in the same position in regards to the budget in the years to come. He said he was upset with Hartford for creating problems that everyone else has to bear the brunt of. He asked if the Town Council has expressed these concerns. Town Manager, John Elsesser responded. John stated that the Town Council and Board of Education have written many letters on behalf of Coventry to the State. He also stated that he himself along with Joan Lewis have spent countless hours at the legislative office building waiting to testify on certain issues. He expressed the importance of hearing everyone's voice from the community.

Tim Timberman (De Wilton Timberman) 1194 Main Street, Tim applauded the Town Council and the Board of Ed members for their work on the budget. Tim stated that he felt that Coventry has some of the best people in the state running the business of the Town. Tim also said the Library has rock star people there and it is a great community. He stated that all town departments are given a slim amount of money and still able to perform at the highest level. He specified that he felt the Town does need to improve on Capital Improvements.

Stephanie Dakin, 113 Armstrong Road, Thanked the Board of Education for all of their hard work. She stated she is very impressed with the quality of the education in Coventry. She also affirmed that she spends a lot of time at the Library and is in support of the budget.

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.

Motion: Claire Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street, moved, seconded by William Zenko, 18 Maryann Drive, that this Annual Town Meeting 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. Motion passed.

Item #4: To take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the FY 2018-2019 Capital Improvement Plan and to authorize the Town Manager to make application pursuant to Chapter 116b of the Connecticut General Statutes for funding for eligible projects under the Local Capital Improvement Program (LOCIP)

Motion: Sandra Astor Stave, 150 Grant Hill Road, moved, seconded by John Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street, that this Annual Town Meeting approve the Town Council's recommendation for the FY 2019-2019 Local Capital Improvement Plan and to authorize the Town Manager to make application pursuant to Chapter 116b of the Connecticut General Statutes for funding of Patriots Park improvements \$10,000, Laidlaw Park improvements \$15,000, Town Hall Renovations \$20,000 Large Drainage projects \$40,000, Guardrail \$15,000. Total \$100,000. Motion passed.

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.

Motion: Claire Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street, moved, seconded by Thomas Woolf, 10 Flanders Woods Lane, that this Annual Town Meeting authorize the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of tax collections to meet current expenditures. No discussion. Motion passed.

Item #6: To consider and take action on the Town Council's resolution entitled

RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING \$3,700,000 FOR THE PLANNING, DESIGN, ENGINEERING, RENOVATION, CONSTRUCTION, AND RECONSTRUCTION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO VARIOUS BUILDINGS AND BRIDGES AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,700,000 BONDS OF THE TOWN TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE

THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS
FOR SUCH PURPOSE

**MODERATOR, CALL UPON WILLIAM ZENKO, 18 MARYANN DRIVE FOR
THE FOLLOWING MOTION**

“Shall the resolution entitled ‘Resolution Appropriating \$3,700,000 For The Planning, Design, Engineering, Renovation, Construction, And Reconstruction For Improvements To Various Buildings And Bridges And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$3,700,000 Bonds Of The Town Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Therof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose’, as introduced and read at a Special Town Meeting held April 28, 2018, be approved?”

RESOLVED:

Section 1. The sum of \$3,700,000 is appropriated by the Town of Coventry, Connecticut (the “Town”), for the planning, design, engineering, renovation, construction, and reconstruction for improvements to various buildings and bridges, including, but not limited to, (i) firewall, removal and replacement of oil tanks, removal of asbestos, flooring, preschool roof top unit conversion, HVAC, boiler removal and replacement, gymnasium upgrades, all as more fully described in the “Structural Evaluation Report, Coventry High School, Captain Nathan Hale Middle School Study” dated August 9, 2011, as amended from time to time; and (ii) bridge repair, including, but not limited to roadway, structure, environmental compliance and traffic safety, and for engineering, administrative, printing, legal and financing costs related thereto said appropriation to be inclusive of any and all State and federal grants-in-aid thereof (collectively, the “Project”).

Section 2. To meet said appropriation, \$3,700,000 bonds of the Town or so much thereof as shall be necessary for such purpose, shall be issued, maturing not later than the maximum maturity permitted by the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended from time to time (the “Connecticut General Statutes”). The bonds may be issued in one or more series as determined by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, and the amount of bonds of each series to be issued shall be fixed by the Town Manager and Town Treasurer, in the amount necessary to meet the Town’s share of the cost of the Project determined after considering the estimated amount of State and Federal grants-in-aid of the Project, or the actual amount thereof if this is to be ascertainable, and the anticipated times of the receipt of the proceeds thereof provided that the total amount of bonds to be issued shall not be less than an amount which will provide funds sufficient with other funds available for such purpose to pay the principal of and the interest on all temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of the bonds outstanding at the time of the issuance thereof, and to pay for the administrative, printing, and legal and financing costs of issuance of such bonds. The bonds shall be in the denomination of \$1,000 or a whole multiple thereof, be issued in fully registered form, be executed in the name and on behalf of the Town by the facsimile or manual signatures of the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, bear the Town seal or a facsimile thereof, be certified by a bank or trust company, which bank or trust company may be designated the registrar and transfer agent, be payable at a bank or trust company, and be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, of Hartford, Connecticut. The bonds shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the bonds shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such bond is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and interest thereon. The aggregate principal amount of the bonds of each series to be issued, the annual installments of principal, redemption provisions, if any, the certifying, registrar and transfer agent and the paying agent, the date, time of issue and sale and other terms, details and particulars of such bonds, including the approval of the rate or rates of interest, shall be determined by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, in accordance with the Connecticut General Statutes.

Section 3. Said bonds shall be sold by the Town Manager in a competitive offering or by negotiation, in his discretion. If sold in a competitive offering, the bonds shall be sold at not less than par and accrued interest on the basis of the lowest net or true interest cost to the Town. A notice of sale or a summary thereof describing the bonds and setting forth the terms and conditions of the sale shall be published at least five days in advance of the sale in a recognized publication carrying municipal bond notices and devoted primarily to financial news and the subject of state and municipal bonds. If the bonds are sold by negotiation, provisions of the purchase agreement shall be approved by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer.

Section 4. The Town Manager and the Town Treasurer are authorized to make temporary borrowings in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds of said bonds. Notes evidencing such borrowings shall be signed by the Town Manager and the Town Treasurer, have the seal of the Town affixed, be payable at a bank or trust company designated by the Town Manager, be approved as to their legality by Robinson & Cole LLP, Attorneys-at-Law, of Hartford, and be certified by a bank or trust company designated by the Town Manager pursuant to Section 7-373 of the Connecticut General Statutes. They shall be issued with maturity dates which comply with the provisions of the Connecticut General Statutes governing the issuance of such notes, as the same may be amended from time to time. The notes shall be general obligations of the Town and each of the notes shall recite that every requirement of law relating to its issue has been duly complied with, that such note is within every debt and other limit prescribed by law, and that the full faith and credit of the Town are pledged to the payment of the principal thereof and the interest thereon. The net interest cost on such notes, including renewals thereof, and the expense of preparing, issuing and marketing them, to the extent paid from the proceeds of such renewals or said bonds, shall be included as a cost of the Project. Upon the sale of the bonds, the proceeds thereof, to the extent required, shall be applied forthwith to the payment of the principal of and the interest on any such notes then outstanding or shall be deposited with a bank or trust company in trust for such purpose.

Section 5. The Town hereby expresses its official intent pursuant to §1.150-2 of the Federal Income Tax Regulations, Title 26 (the "Regulations"), to reimburse expenditures paid sixty days prior to and anytime after the date of passage of this resolution in the maximum amount and for the Project with the proceeds of bonds, notes, or other obligations ("Tax-Exempt Obligations") authorized to be issued by the Town. The Tax-Exempt Obligations shall be issued to reimburse such expenditures not later than 18 months after the later of the date of the expenditure or the substantial completion of the Project, or such later date the Regulations may authorize. The Town hereby certifies that the intention to reimburse as expressed herein is based upon its reasonable expectations as of this date. The Town Manager or his designee is authorized to pay Project expenses in accordance herewith pending the issuance of Tax-Exempt Obligations.

Section 6. The Town Manager and the Town Treasurer are hereby authorized, on behalf of the Town, to enter into agreements or otherwise covenant for the benefit of bondholders to provide information on an annual or other periodic basis to the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (the "MSRB") and to provide notices to the MSRB of material events as enumerated in Securities and Exchange Commission Exchange Act Rule 15c2-12, as amended, as may be necessary, appropriate or desirable to effect the sale of the bonds and notes authorized by this resolution. Any agreements or representations to provide information to the MSRB made prior hereto are hereby confirmed, ratified and approved.

Section 7. The Town Manager is hereby authorized on behalf of the Town, to enter into any other agreements, instruments, documents and certificates, including tax and investment agreements, for the consummation of the transactions contemplated by this resolution.

Section 8. This resolution shall become effective upon its approval by the Town electors and persons qualified to vote in Town Meeting at a duly warned Town Meeting and Adjourned Town Meeting and Referendum to be held pursuant to Section 9-1 and Section 9-3(e) of the Town Charter.

CALL FOR SECOND: Sandra Astor Stave, 150 Grant Hill Road.

MODERATOR: calls on John Elsesser, Town Manager to give presentation on what is covered under the Town Councils Resolution for the 2018-2019 Referendum.

MODERATOR EXPLAIN: Pursuant to Section 9-3(e) of the Town Charter any resolution of the Town authorizing the issuance of bonds or notes of \$100,00 or more, after approval of the Town Council, must be voted on at a referendum to be held at an Adjourned Town Meeting or to be held in conjunction with the next regular election, as determined by the Town Council. This meeting will continue for the purpose of discussion on the proposed resolution. Those wishing to speak must state their name and address for the record. **(Moderator, request that they state name and address slowly and clearly. Speakers must stay on topic. You may need to repeat your request throughout the meeting.)**

DISCUSSION:

Danielle Kloster, 947 Pucker Street, stated that she is a member of the School Building and Energy Efficiency Committee and supports the project. She stated the project meets the needs of the Town and does not place an undue burden on tax payers in the current challenging funding environment. She stated that the committee focused on work that is necessary to be done due to codes and regulations the Town is in violation of. Along with work that is necessary due to outdated equipment. She stated the committee's findings are that the work to be done will benefit the Town through energy cost savings and preventing emergency expenditures after equipment failures.

Tim Timberman (De Wilton Timberman) 1194 Main Street, stated that the four items included in the Resolution that pertain to the Booth and Dimock Library need to be taken care of now because they are failing constantly. He said the chiller, boiler, oil tank and elevator are over 30 years old and have been on the Capital Improvements for the past 10 years and have been kicked down the road. He also stated while fixing these items now they will still be compatible with a future expansion of the Library. He stated that he whole heartedly supports this question and hopes that the Town as a whole will support it.

MODERATOR EXPLAINS:

The moderator explains that the question to be voted on at the Adjourned Town Meeting and Referendum shall be as follows:

“Shall the resolution entitled ‘Resolution Appropriating \$3,700,000 For The Planning, Design, Engineering, Renovation, Construction, And Reconstruction For Improvements To Various Buildings And Bridges And Authorizing The Issuance Of \$3,700,000 Bonds Of The Town Meet Said Appropriation And Pending The Issuance Therof The Making Of Temporary Borrowings For Such Purpose’, as introduced and read at a Special Town Meeting held April 28, 2018, be approved?”

The Moderator further explains that the ballot label for said question should read as follows:

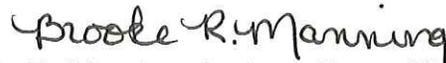
“Shall the resolution making an appropriation of 3,700,000 for the planning, design, engineering, renovation, construction, and reconstruction for improvements to various buildings and bridges, be approved? YES/NO”

Moderator explained that Item #2 and Item #6 on the call to this Annual Town Meeting will be submitted to the legal voters of the town for a vote by paper ballot on Tuesday, May 8, 2018, during the hours between 6:00 o'clock (a.m.) and 8:00 o'clock (p.m.) (EDT); that the voting take place in the polling places established in voting districts #1, & #2; and that the voters entitled to vote by reason of Section 7-6 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, revised to January 1, 2018 as amended, may vote at the Central Firehouse. Absentee Ballots will be available at the office of the Town Clerk as provided by law.

Moderator ordered the Town Manager and the Town Clerk to prepare, post and publish a proper notice with respect to voting at the Adjourned Annual Town Meeting to be held on May 8, 2018.

Moderator adjourned the vote on Item #2 and #6 to May 8, 2018 and further adjourned this meeting at 12:55 p.m.

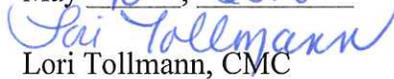
Respectfully submitted,



Brooke R. Manning, Assistant Town Clerk

Received for filing

May 10, 2018



Lori Tollmann, CMC
Town Clerk