

**MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 23, 2022**

The Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Coventry was held on Saturday, April 23, 2022 in the Veteran’s Auditorium, Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road, Coventry. The Meeting was called to order by Marty Mikovic, Vice Chair of the Town Council at 10:02 a.m. with 68 eligible voters in attendance. Also present were non-voting staff, members of the community and press.

Marty Milkovic called for nominations for Moderator of the meeting. Carolyn Arabolus, 132 North Farms Road was nominated by Jill Reviczky, 110 Wall Street seconded by John Twerdy, 605 Pucker St. Being no further nominations, Carolyn Arabolus was declared Moderator.

At the request of the Town Clerk, the Moderator 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 5, 2022 and a copy thereof was published in ‘The Chronicle’, a newspaper of general circulation in its issue of April 5, 2022.

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 that \$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 3, 2022.

Item #1: To hear the Town Council’s estimate of expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

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

Item #2: To consider and take action on the Town Council’s recommendation for the 2022-2023 fiscal year appropriation, pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 3, 2022.

General Government	\$11,134,642
Debt Service	2,983,337
Board of Education	28,927,461
Capital Expenditures	756,500
Ambulance Fund Transfer	<u>437,500</u>
Total Appropriation	\$44,239,440

Motion: William Zenko, 18 Maryanne Drive moved, seconded by William Glenney, 604 Silver Street that the Town Council's recommendation for the 2022-2023 fiscal year appropriation be approved as follows:

General Government	\$11,134,642
Debt Service	2,983,337
Board of Education	28,927,461
Capital Expenditures	756,500
Ambulance Fund Transfer	<u>437,500</u>
Total Appropriation	\$44,239,440

Moderator explained that pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter the final vote on Item #2 will be adjourned to May 3, 2022. 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:

Richard Williams, 108 Wrights Mill Road. Multiple questions. One question concerned the funds spent on Special Education. Why we can't keep our regular budget low and revamp and share resources between schools. Asked why the Town is not using the ARP money, there is left over funds. Also, question the Transfer in district account and why that isn't used in the budget. David Petrone and John Elsesser replied to Mr. Williams questions. He is not supporting this budget, continued his questioning on car taxes, American Rescue Fund, Library, School Roofs and the current funds for them. Moderator asked Mr. Williams to curtail his questions other people have their questions to ask.

Steve Revisky, 110 Wall St., Property Owner. Applauds the Council/Board of Education for the quality of services the Town of Coventry supplies to its citizens and students. Commented on commitment to the infrastructure with the Capital Budget. Supports the Ambulance Fund, important investment.

Christine Pattee, 98 Brookline Road. Supports both budgets, Town is doing well. Supports Library and our Town.

Frank Infante, 767 Merrow Road. Resident for 50 years, Assessments and taxes always going up. Against budget, too expensive.

Carroll Grant 160 Antrim Road. Seven years here in Coventry want to promote a balanced budget. Solar savings? Where is that money? Also questioned the roof situation, he thought the roofs were done two times. John replied to him it's the same project waiting for supplies.

Tony Rogers, 745 Merrow Road, Shared his good experience with the school system with his two kids. Appreciates the support given to the children. Supports money spent on the children.

Marie Gallo-Hall, 40 Old Tolland Tpke, spoke to previous remarks and questions. Coventry has made astonishing progress: from potholes, fire, police, education and more. Supports budget.

William Zenko, 18 Maryanne Drive, former Council member, in favor of motion. Thanks everyone for their jobs and the Town should appreciate them. Wishes Capital budget more and urges support.

Kathleen Breitenwischer, 61 Barbara Drive, question the 2 additional employees in the budget, asked about a balanced budget. Supports the Board of Ed budget. Community is not suffering and stated that a previous speaker's house has gone up in value and asking for a small increase is not bad.

John Twerdy, 605 Pucker St., Been here 100 years in Coventry and any doubting Thomas should move out.

Discussion closed

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: William Glenney, 604 Silver Street, moved, seconded by Nan Kyer, 4 Wall Street 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.

No Discussion.

Voted: Motion passed.

Item #4: To take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the FY 2023 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: Lisa Conant, 173 Pucker Street moved, seconded by Francis Lombard, 123 Pucker Street, that this Annual Town Meeting approve the Town Council's recommendation for FY 2023 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	\$20,000
Creaser Park Improvements	\$25,000
Fire Pond Maintenance	\$10,000
Guardrails	\$25,000
<u>Large Drainage Projects</u>	<u>\$20,000</u>
	\$100,000

No Discussion.

Voted: 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 Kathleen Breitenwischer, 61 Barbara Drive 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.

Voted: Motion passed.

Item #6: To consider and take action on the Town Council’s resolution entitled “Resolution Recommending the Purchase of ID 4593 South River Road, Coventry for Open Space and the calling of a Town Meeting to consider said purchase from Seth and Kristy Conway for \$69,000’.

RESOLVED, that the Coventry Town Council recommends to the Annual Town Meeting, convened pursuant to Section 9-3(a) of the Town Charter, the approval of the purchase of PID 4593 South River Road for open space from Seth and Kristy Conway for \$69,000.00. The purchase shall not be made until the same has been voted by the Town at a Town Meeting called for such purpose.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that unpaid and interest shall be credited against the purchase price and these encumbrances will be released.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the ANNUAL TOWN MEETING of the Electors and Citizens qualified to vote at Town Meetings of the Town of Coventry will be held at Coventry High School, 78 Ripley Hill Road, Coventry, Connecticut on April 23, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. for a vote on the following question:
Shall the Town of Coventry approve the purchase of PID 4593?

Motion: William Glenney, 604 Silver Street moved, seconded by William Zenko, 18 Maryanne Drive that the Town of Coventry approve the purchase of PID4593 South River Road for open space from Seth and Kristy Conway for \$69,000.00.

John Elsesser gave a presentation on the purchase.

Discussion:

William Glenney, 604 Silver Street. Against purchase

Richard Williams, 108 Wrights Mill Rd. stated he doesn't think American Rescue Funds should be used for this purchase.

Marie Gallo-Hall, 40 Old Tolland Tpke. This purchase is a bargain. People live here for the rural/open space.

Kathleen Breitenwischer, against the purchase for open space.

Closed Discussion

Call for vote by Hand Count: 42 in favor of purchase, 10 opposed.

Motion passed.

Moderator explained that Item #2 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 3, 2022 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, 2022, as amended, may vote at the Central Fire Station. 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 Town Meeting.

Moderator adjourned the vote on Item #2 to May 3, 2022 and further adjourned this meeting at 12:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Received for filing

Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk

Brooke R. Manning
Assistant Town Clerk