

MINUTES
ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
APRIL 26, 2025

The Annual Town Meeting of the Town of Coventry was held on Saturday, April 26, 2025, in the Veteran's Auditorium, Coventry High School, Ripley Hill Road, Coventry. The Meeting was called to order by Lisa Thomas, Chairperson of the Town Council at 10:05 a.m. with 150 eligible voters in attendance. Also present were non-voting staff, members of the community, also present.

Lisa Thomas, Council Chairperson called for nominations for Moderator of the meeting. Carolyn Arabolas, 132 North Farms Road was nominated by Jillian Wood-Reviczky, 110 Wall Street seconded by Nan Kyer, 4 Wall Street. Also, Gregg Kiss, 1370 North River Road was nominated by Richard Williams 508 Wrights Mill Road, and seconded by Daniel Pace, 179 Windswept Way. A hand vote was taken, Carolyn Arabolus had 37 votes and Greg Kiss had 26 votes 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 14, 2025, and a copy thereof was published in 'The Chronicle', a newspaper of general circulation in its issue of April 14, 2025.

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 April 26, 2025.

Item #1: To hear the Town Council's estimate of expenditures for the fiscal year July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026

James Drumm, Town Manager, and David Petrone, Superintendent of the Coventry Board of Education, presented a brief review of their respective budgets, attached at the end of these minutes.

Item #2: To consider and take action on the Town Council's recommendation for the 2025-2026 fiscal year appropriation, pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter, the final vote shall be adjourned by the Moderator to May 6, 2025.

General Government	\$12,407,208
Board of Education	31,520,374
Debt Service	3,314,306
Capital Expenditures	803,314
<u>Ambulance fund Transfer</u>	<u>288,146</u>

TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$48,333,348

Motion: Jillian Wood-Reviiczky, 110 Wall Street moved, seconded by John Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street that the Town Council's recommendation for the 2025-2026 fiscal year appropriation be approved as follows:

General Government	\$12,407,208
Board of Education	31,520,374
Debt Service	3,314,306
Capital Expenditures	803,314
<u>Ambulance fund Transfer</u>	<u>288,146</u>

TOTAL APPROPRIATION \$48,333,348

Moderator explained that pursuant to Section 9-1 of the Town Charter the final vote on Item #2 will be adjourned to May 6, 2025. 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 – 19 years here in Coventry. Commented on the bipartisan participation in town. We have high-end homes being built which bring in money. Schools have high test scores. In favor of budget.

Caroline Davis, 302 Pine Lake Drive – Appreciation to the boards for a difficult time. Excited to live in a Town with a great school district within reasonable cost. Supports budget.

Gregg Gordon, 193 Twins Hill Road – Questioned about fire truck purchase. James Drumm answered that it would be a future purchase.

Debra Richards, 45 Birch Bend – She is a special education teacher and commends Dr. Petrone and the Board of Education for their programs for those students.

Denise Ryan- 330 Geraldine Drive – talked about the positive experience her family had with our ambulance team. Keep our ambulance service in town. Jame Drumm responded with the comparison between paid staff and having our on employees to fill those positions.

Dorothy Grady, 42 Cornwall Drive – 52 years in Coventry, and three sons through Coventry Public Schools. During those years my taxes never covered those boys' schooling. Voting yes, for other families children. Years ago, there were severe cuts to the budget, and it's taken a long time to get to these high standards. Thanks to the Board of Education and Town Council. Voting yes, lucky to live in Coventry.

Cindy Pelletier, 106 North River Road – Asked Board of Education if they participated in Medicare for special education services. Dr. Petrone answered yes, the Board of Education did.

Suzanne Haviland, 155 Standish Road – Thanked those who worked on the budget. Wants to support the budget because more cuts will make it more difficult. Love the accomplishments and to keep this Town amazing.

John Topping, 300 Mark Drive – Thanks the Town and the Board of Education. Had questions about anticipation of back taxes, commercial property, new construction, pension funding level, nonresident students, also asked about the future referendum of a fire truck. James Drum responded that it would probably be later this year. Dr. Petrone responded that there isn't a problem with nonresidents.

Tom Shea, 102 Hickory Drive -asked about property owners and voting. Lori Tollmann, Town Clerk, answered along with Registrar of Voter Marilyn Powers that they are eligible to vote. Talked about their HOA/lake association taxing 2 mils. How do we support our lower income homeowners with these taxes.

Daniel Pace, 179 Windswept Way – Asked about why the Town is not phasing in our taxes. Maybe they should reconsider it. The Board of Education is necessary. Also questioned why the Economic Development Commission (EDC) doesn't have a plan to bring in businesses. James Drumm, responded about the phasing in.

Richard Williams, 508 Wrights Mill Road – Appreciates the work on the budget. Also, questioned why his FOIA request was never completed, and no one ever contacted him. His request was for salaries of employees. Also, questioned how many students are sent out of district, and how many special education students are there, why doesn't the Town share services with the Board of Education. James Drum responded that the FOIA was not completed because the Finance Department is in transition, and they were relayed to him. Jennifer Beausoleil, chairman of the Board of Education, responded about the special education numbers and the FOIA.

Daniel Pace 179 Windswept Way – Questioned on whether the Town had information on other Towns phasing and did it work for them. James Drumm responded.

Christina Williams, 436 Ripley Hill Road – Schools are important, Budget cuts does not maintain our high standards. The Board of Education is taking a massive cut. The Town and Board of Education should work together with shared services. We need to save programs.

Joe Malon, 777 Pucker Street – Talked about the new assessments with the Assessor, the turnover in the Town Hall, people leaving for more money and benefits. It's a shame to lose these employees. Also talked about the fire truck. Lisa Thomas responded that the fire truck is not in this budget.

Peter Larsen, 33 Cooper Lane – Thank you to everyone, graduated from Coventry. The Town has grown and wants his family to go through the Coventry School System . The Town is doing a good job.

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: Jillian Wood-Reviczky, 110 Wall Street moved, John Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street, seconded by that this Annual Town Meeting authorizes 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 _____ 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)

Capital & Nonrecurring	\$70,000
Lake Management Projects	119,200
Computer Replacement & UPG	145,000
SCA Fire Paks	24,000
Fire Equipment/gear	13,000
Fire Hose/Equipment	12,000
Summer Road Program	285,000
Educational Computers BOE	35,000
<u>Network Refresh</u>	<u>100,114</u>
TOTAL	\$803,314

Motion: Jillian Wood-Reviczky, 110 Wall Street, moved, seconded by John Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street, that this Annual Town Meeting approve the Town Council's recommendation for the FY 2026 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

Capital & Nonrecurring	\$70,000
Lake Management Projects	119,200
Computer Replacement & UPG	145,000
SCA Fire Paks	24,000
Fire Equipment/gear	13,000
Fire Hose/Equipment	12,000
Summer Road Program	285,000
Educational Computers BOE	35,000

Network Refresh	100,114
TOTAL	\$803,314

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: Jillian Wood-Reviczky, 110 Wall Street moved, seconded by John Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street, that this Annual Town Meeting authorizes 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 APPROPRIATING NOT TO EXCEED \$2,722,500 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A WATER LINE ON SOUTH STREET EXTENSION AND PLAINS ROAD, AUTHORIZING THE TOWN TO ENTER INTO A PROJECT FUNDING AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS AND NOTES TO FINANCE THE APPROPRIATION

RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, the Town of Coventry has made application to the State of Connecticut for project grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$2,722,500 to provide payment for the water line extension on South Street Extension and Plains Road (the “Project”); WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut has indicated its likely approval of the application and proposes to enter into a Project Funding Agreement between the State of Connecticut acting by the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health (the “DPH”) and the Town of Coventry under the Drinking Water State Revolving (DWSRF) Fund Program (the “Agreement”) NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Town Council of Town of Coventry, Connecticut, as follows:

1. That the Town appropriate Two Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,722,500) for the Project. The Project appropriation may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, materials, land and easement acquisition, site improvements, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the Project or its financing. The Town Council is authorized to determine the scope and particulars of the Project and may reduce or modify the scope of the Project, and the entire appropriation may be spent on the Project as so reduced or modified.

2. That the Town issue bonds or notes or obligations in an amount not to exceed Two Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,722,500) to finance the appropriation for the project. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-369, Section 7-235, or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-483 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended, and any other enabling acts. The bonds or notes or obligations shall be general obligations of the Town secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town.

3. That the Town issue and renew temporary notes or interim funding obligations from time to time in anticipation of the receipt of the proceeds from the sale of the bonds or notes or obligations for the project or the receipt of grants for the project. The amount of the notes or obligations outstanding at any time shall not exceed Two Million Seven Hundred Twenty-Two Thousand and Five Hundred Dollars (\$2,722,500). The notes or obligations shall be issued pursuant to Section 7-244a, Section 7-378 or Sections 22a-475 to 22a-83 of the General Statutes of Connecticut, Revision of 1958, as amended. The notes or obligations shall be general obligations of the Town and shall be secured by the irrevocable pledge of the full faith and credit of the Town. The Town shall comply with the provisions of Sections 7-378a and 7-378b of the General Statutes with respect to any notes or obligations that do not mature within the time permitted by Section 7-378 and the Town shall comply with the provisions of Section 22a-479(c) with respect to any interim funding obligations.

4. That the Town Manager and the Treasurer of the Town shall sign any bonds or notes or obligations by their manual or facsimile signatures. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to determine the amounts, dates, interest rates, maturities, redemption provisions, form and other details of the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate one or more banks or trust companies to be certifying bank, registrar, transfer agent and paying agent for the bonds or notes or obligations; to provide for the keeping of a record of the bonds or notes or obligations; to designate a financial advisor to the Town in connection with the sale of the bonds or notes or obligations; to sell the bonds or notes or obligations at public or private sale; to deliver the bonds or notes or obligations; and to perform all other acts which are necessary or appropriate to issue the bonds or notes or obligations.

5. That the Town hereby declares its official intent under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that except to the extent reimbursed from grant moneys the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing authorized above for the project. The Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to amend such declaration of official intent as they deem necessary or advisable and to bind the Town pursuant to such representations and covenants as they deem necessary or advisable in order to maintain the continued exemption from federal income taxation of interest on the bonds or notes or obligations authorized by this resolution, if issued on a tax-exempt basis, including covenants to pay rebates of investment earnings to the United States in future years.

6. That the Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to make representations and enter into written agreements for the benefit of holders of the bonds or notes or obligations to provide secondary market disclosure information, which agreements may include such terms

as they deem advisable or appropriate in order to comply with applicable laws or rules pertaining to the sale or purchase of such bonds or notes or obligations.

7. That the Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to apply for and accept federal and state grants to finance the project and federal and state loans to finance the project, and to enter into any grant or loan agreement prescribed by a federal agency or by the State, and that the Town Manager and the Treasurer are authorized to take any other actions necessary to obtain such grants or loans pursuant to Section 22a-479 of the Connecticut General Statutes, Revision of 1958, as amended, or to any other present or future legislation, or to implement such grant or loan agreements. Any grant proceeds may be used to pay project costs or principal and interest on bonds, notes, or temporary notes or obligations.

8. That the Town Manager and the Treasurer and other proper officers of the Town are authorized to take all other action which is necessary or desirable to complete the project and to issue bonds, notes or other obligations to finance the aforesaid appropriation.

9. The Town Council hereby approves the Project Funding Agreement with the State in substantially in the form attached to this Resolution, which additions, deletions or amendments as may be approved by the Town Manager, such officer's signature thereon being conclusive evidence of his approval thereof.

10. The Town Council further authorizes the Town Manager or his designee to enter into such Agreement and all Obligations (as defined in the Agreement), agreements or certifications of the Town described therein and further authorizes the Town Clerk to impress the seal of the Town of Coventry on such Agreement.

11. This Resolution shall be placed on the agenda of the Town Meeting to be held on April 26, 2025, and become effective upon an affirmative vote on Question No.2 at the referendum to be held on May 6, 2025.

Motion: Jillian Wood-Reviczky, 110 Wall St, Moved the motion and Matthew O'Brien, 98 Timber Trail, seconded.

Discussion:

Jillian Wood-Reviczky, 110 Wall Street – spoke on the health consequences of this not being addressed. Town is not fully funding this project, and our neighbors deserve clean water.

Mark Wheaton, 1066 Grant Hill Road – Asked if the Town know how this happened. James Drumm responded about possible sources in the area.

John Twerdy, 605 Pucker Street – Stated he was on a board when the dump was present, there was stored barrels on the property.

Virginia Streppa, 534 Carpenter Road – Unclear on the properties location. Son is located on South Street Ext. James Drumm responded.

Discussion Closed

Voted – motion passed

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 \$100,000 or more, after approval by 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

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 tabulator on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 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, 2025, as amended, may vote at the Registrar of Voters Office. Absentee Ballots will be available at the office of the Town Clerk as provided by law.

The 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 & 5 to May 6, 2025, and further adjourned this meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Lori Tollmann

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Tollmann, CTCA, CMC, MCTC
Town Clerk

Brooke R. Manning Assit
Received for filing
May 1, 2025

Brooke R. Manning
Assistant Town Clerk

