Minutes
Coventry Town Council Meeting
July 8, 2019
Town Hall Conference Room B

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM.
   Present: Julie Blanchard, Lisa Conant, Mike Sobol, Jonathan Hand, Joan Lewis, Carolyn Arabolos, Matthew O’Brien
   Also present: John Elsesser, Town Manager; Amanda Backhaus, Finance Director

2. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

3. Audience of Citizens:
   None.

4. Acceptance of Minutes:
   Motion #19/20-1: Matthew O’Brien moved to accept the minutes of the Town Council meeting on June 17, 2019, seconded by Lisa Conant. The following corrections were requested:
      1. Page 1, item 6, third line: add “at” before “two meetings.”
      2. Page 2, item G: Remove the statement by John Elsesser indicating that the Finance Committee decided to forward this matter to the whole Council for consideration rather than making a recommendation at the committee level. This statement belongs under item H and is repeated there.
      3. Page 3, item H, 9th line: change “256,000” to “back up to $260,000 after spending $200,000 already.” Amanda Backhaus clarified that transfers for the Board of Education total $515,000.
      4. Page 3, item H, last line: move “Carolyn Arabolos departed the meeting” to after item #5.
      5. Page 4, item E, 4th line: remove the second instance of the word “they.”
      6. Page 5, 3rd bullet, 2nd line: add the word “do” after “contractor to.”
   The motion to accept the minutes as corrected carried on unanimous vote.

5. Consent Agenda:
   Motion #19/20-2: Carolyn Arabolos moved to accept the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Mike Sobol and carried on unanimous vote.

6. Reports:
   A. Council Chairwoman – Joan Lewis: Joan heard that the CHS chorus won a first place award recently. She doesn’t have details but it looked like a large competition. She will try to bring that information because it appears to be of note.

   B. Council Members: No reports.

   C. Steering Committee – Jonathan Hand:
      1. Reappointments:
         A. Motion #19/20-3: Jonathan Hand moved to reappoint John Willnauer to the Building Code Board of Appeals, term to expire 6/1/2023. The motion was seconded by Mike Sobol and carried on unanimous vote.
2. Appointments:
A. Motion #19/20-4: Jonathan Hand moved to appoint Joshua Gemmell to the Building Code Board of Appeals to fill a vacancy, term to expire 6/2/2020. The motion was seconded by Matthew O’Brien and carried on unanimous vote.

8. New Business:
A. Motion #19/20-5: Matthew O’Brien made a motion to move up item #18/19-87: Consideration/Possible Action: Board of Education: Request to Move $60,000 of FY19 Unexpended Funds into the Board’s Reserve Fund for Capital Expenditures, as the next item of business. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Hand and carried on unanimous vote.

Carolyn Arabolos said we discussed this at the Finance Committee meeting and made one amendment to add the wording “up to” $60,000 to allow us to be in a position to close out the fiscal year. Motion #19/20-6: Carolyn Arabolos moved to authorize moving up to $60,000 of FY 19 unexpended funds into the Board of Education’s Reserve Fund for Capital Expenditures. The motion was seconded by Jonathan Hand and carried on unanimous vote.

Mike Sobol said it is important to note that the Board is letting $10,000 lapse due to State overpayment of special education costs due to a student leaving. John Elsesser thanked them for covering that, which they had no legal obligation to do.

6. Reports, Cont.
D. COVRA – John Elsesser:
- We have recruited three individuals and will hire one to put on the trash barrel stickers. Mark Kiefer will interview them and make a selection. Jonathan Hand asked if any thought has been given to hiring more than one worker to complete the project more rapidly. John replied we want to see how many they can do in a day. There are 10 routes. We also have to provide a vehicle. Jonathan said perhaps they could both be on the same route. John said it depends on where you are – that would work in some developments but not others.
- The scale at the transfer station broke and we have to have it evaluated for repair or replacement. We have had it since 1995. We are also evaluating whether there needs to be a weight restriction in the future. Some towns don’t have a scale - they make assumptions based on the volume. Joan Lewis asked if we have any idea of cost. John said it just happened and we made a call to the vendor today. We anticipate that a new scale could cost up to $65,000. Everything at the transfer station is starting to age which was one of the factors in relocating – to build new.
- Mattress recycling: We made an announcement that curbside pickup of mattresses will cease with the August pickup. The notice was included in the trash bill and monthly e-blast.

8. New Business:
B. 18/19-88: Consideration/Possible Action: Augmented Reality Advertising Agreement:
Adam Reiser from Nucleus Augmented Reality was present to discuss the emergency technology of augmented reality advertising. He is developing agreements to help municipalities manage content from augmented reality sites located on their properties. The agreements are designed to ensure that municipalities get a share of the advertising revenue from the future network organizations. The Town of Plainville has already committed to an agreement with Mr. Reiser’s company for these services.

Mr. Reiser said the augmented reality technology is advancing and you can see it in Google search results. He believes it is going to be a very big industry, and with that comes the world of advertising. The advent of 5G will allow for highly specific targeting from advertising at physical locations. Any number of locations including parks, athletic fields, or public buildings can be a potential augmented
reality site. Mr. Reiser said before that happens it is important to establish agreements for use of town property in ad networks. Matthew O’Brien asked if there are any requirements for the agreement. Mr. Reiser replied not right now. Nothing has been legislated, but if towns don’t do anything the networks will try to get away without sharing advertising revenue with the municipalities. Requirements can be put in place with zoning regulations. The idea is to be out in front of the industry rather than letting technology companies dictate how the revenue is distributed. Mr. Reiser said that property rights in augmented reality should be the same as they are in the real world.

The Council agreed to discuss this matter further and consider an agreement at a future time.

6. Reports, Cont.
F. – Town Manager’s Report – John Elsesser:

1. Projects update:
   - Treatment for Hydrilla in Coventry Lake will take place on July 18th. We had intended to treat in June but growth has been slow due to the cold spring. We await official notification materials and will release information to the community as soon as possible. We don’t have an answer on removal of the benthic barriers yet.
   - We are waiting to hear the start date for the Daly Road chip seal – it will be either this week or next. Rain has already delayed our schedule. We are finishing up one last catch basin. Milling and a new wear surface for Lewis Hill Road and lower Eastview Drive will be done the third week in August. Twenty-four catch basin tops will be replaced. The Town crew will try to do that work.
   - The Jones Crossing culvert has a production date of August 25th. We don’t want the bypass going in too soon so the project may be briefly idle.
   - A lot of tree work is being done. We are looking at various options for subcontracting.
   - We are all set for the $50,000 grant application for the dump truck. We are going to apply for a one-month extension just to be safe. We were the only town that applied.
   - Water Wizards will be starting irrigation at the baseball field here and then will move to Miller Richardson field at the end of July. The inside of the track field is a two-day job. We bought a used water tank for $50.
   - We got notification of another historic documents preservation grant award. The Town Clerk’s office is finished scanning a lot of the maps and deeds and now are doing older Town Council minutes and creating searchable land records.
   - The CHS Walls Committee came up with two vendors to do scanning of the high school walls. Their goal is to come before the Council on July 22nd with a funding request.
   - We are working with Kendall Wiggins from the State Library to see if we can modify our existing library grant rather than apply for a new one for the renovation. The Renovation Committee does still intend to apply for the other grant. Lisa Conant asked if a dollar amount was included. John replied that they did a range. Ken Best will have a second concept plan at the committee meeting this week. Ken is going to the State Library Board on the 22nd to request they modify the existing grant up to $850,000. The committee is taking the Council charge seriously. They intend to come to the Council in August and we should know the status of the grant application modification by then.
   - Drainage for softball is proving to be a challenge. The softball teams won’t get off the field. They have to step aside so we can do the work. Todd Penney gave a first concept of what two softball fields might look like on the existing football surface. The price for methane venting is $30,000. We will look at restoration compatible with potential future use of the field.
• Preliminary design is done for Folly Lane Bridge. We are still waiting for the State on the Pucker Street Bridge design issue. It appears that the top truss is ok for load restrictions. We have not heard anything recently on the Hop River Bridge.
• We are putting together a bid for replacement of 72 catch basins at Northridge.
• We have had contractors come out to look at both bathrooms at Town Hall, and both will be totally redone. Both will have changing tables. We will do one bathroom at a time downstairs and then come upstairs. The work should be done in a couple of months.
• We were notified that Eversource has approved the LED lighting project for the library. We can move those costs out of future budgets. We are still waiting to hear on the high school and middle school.
• Mike Sobol asked about the oil tank removal project. John replied that it is all lined up. We got the price down by $30,000. There was a disconnect between the engineer and the tank company, and the tanks weren’t ordered until a week ago. There is a 6-8 week lead time so school will probably in session when the work is done.
• We are still waiting for the Microgrid contract to be released from the State.
• Mike Sobol asked about the paving project at the grammar school. John replied that this project is just not happening this year. We were recently informed about a change of bus stacking. We don’t have time to redesign it, because we can’t divert our engineer from other projects now. It has to go through permits, etc. and Eversource, which is a three to four-month process. We just got the survey work in a week and a half ago. We have to look at it again. The Board of Education approved the previous plan and now it has to go back to them for review. They only meet once in August.
• There is a serious drainage problem on Broadway. We are bringing in a dam consultant to review water diversion. The damage was probably caused by beaver dams, which raised the water level and undermined the pipe. It will probably require an Army Corps of Engineers permit. The engineer’s initial estimate was $500,000 so we are looking at repair options.

2. Crumbling concrete foundations update: John Elsesser said you can see from the spreadsheet attached to tonight’s agenda that we are not as impacted by crumbling foundations as some other towns in the region. He also wanted to share the work that UConn and Trinity College are doing to set standards for pyrrhotite levels. They are looking at an analysis over time. There is an international consortium meeting coming up on crumbling foundations in September – more information to come.

10. Adjournment:
   Motion #19/20-6: Matthew O’Brien moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM. The motion was seconded by Lisa Conant and carried on unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Stone
Town Council Clerk

Note: These minutes are not official until acted upon by the Town Council at its next regular meeting. Those meeting minutes will reflect approval or changes to these minutes.