

## Coventry Voters: Important Message from the Coventry Town Council: May 18, 2020

The Town of Coventry will not be holding an Annual Town Meeting and Referendum to approve our FY 2021 budget, as outlined in our Town Charter. Due to the Covid-19 public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency in the State of CT, and the Town of Coventry, Governor Lamont has issued a series of Executive Orders. Executive Orders 7B, 7C and 7I detail all of the Governor's changes, which supersede our Town Charter and our typical municipal budget approval process. The Town Meeting and vote is prohibited. These Executive Orders can be viewed online at [Portal.CT.GOV](https://portal.ct.gov/governor) Governor's office.

The Town Council has set forth a timeline and a process to approve the FY 2021 municipal budget and set the mil rate. The Town Council will vote on a proposed budget on May 18<sup>th</sup> and the Town Manager and Superintendent will record a virtual budget presentation available for viewing on Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> by 5:00 PM. The presentation will be available for viewing at <https://coventryct.viebit.com/>.

To solicit input on the proposed budget the Town Council is providing the opportunity for persons eligible to vote at Town Meetings to share your feedback prior to their final budget decision. Written public comments may be sent via email to [Budgetcomments@CoventryCT.org](mailto:Budgetcomments@CoventryCT.org) no later than May 29<sup>th</sup>. Written comments may also be sent by regular mail to the Office of Town Manager, 1712 Main Street, Coventry, CT 06238. You must include your name and address with these comments. In order for them to be considered they must be received no later than May 29<sup>th</sup>. The Town Council will review your comments and may adjust the final budget based on your input. The Council will adopt the final FY 2021 Annual Budget on or about June 1<sup>st</sup> and then set the mil rate. The final budget will be available for public inspection on the Town's website no later than June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Please understand that the Town Council is seeking your input to help them make a final determination on our FY 2021 budget. Because of the changes made by the Governor's orders, this is completely advisory and is not binding on the Council's decisions and the Council's vote will be final.

### Low Interest Rate Program

To assist our taxpayers, the Town Council has adopted the "Low Interest Rate Program" that the Governor proposed that will cover any real estate, motor vehicle or personal property tax, and any sewer use charge or assessment payments due on July 1, 2020. You will have a grace period from July 1<sup>st</sup> to August 3<sup>rd</sup>, as you have had in the past. However, rather than the normal 1.5% interest rate per month charges, beginning on August 4<sup>th</sup> and until October 1<sup>st</sup> you will be charged .25% interest per month on any unpaid balances. You must make some payment(s) towards the outstanding balance during this period to qualify for this reduced rate. As of **October 2<sup>nd</sup>**, the interest rate, on any remaining balance, will go back to the normal 1.5% rate, unless the Governor extends this program.

### Tax Calculator

Coventry completed our mandated property revaluation this year. Some property values have increased, while others may have gone down, and some have not changed. The assessed value of your property directly affects how much property tax you will be assessed. In order for you to determine the projected impact on your taxes, based on the proposed mil rate, please visit the Town website [www.coventryct.org](http://www.coventryct.org) and go to "News and Announcements" to find our Tax Calculator. Inputting your own specific information will enable you to determine what your tax bill will be, based on the proposed budget and projected mil rate.

We know this is a difficult time and we hope you and your family are safe and well. Thank you for your understanding and your input.