

August 28, 2007 – 7:30 pm

Central Coventry Fire Station 4

Meeting of August 21, 2008 Reconvened at 7:31 pm.

Roll Call

President: Girard Bouchard

Robert Crowe - Anna Mae Lapinski - Richard Tellier – Joe Bonn

(late 8:03 pm)

Treasurer: Tom LaColle

Linda Bennett - Chief Seltzer - Asst. Chief Tucker

Capt. Tom Mulcahey

VP: Michael New, Tax Collector – Jeanne Graemiger – Not Present

Ms. Bennett provided a spreadsheet to show possible a range of tax rates depending on the collection rate and increase in property valuations. There was some discussion of collection rates from the four departments before the merger.

Chief Seltzer brought up the idea of moving the annual meeting for this year and future years to allow us to have more complete information. The date of the Annual Meeting is set in the charter to change future years we would need to pass a resolution at the Annual Meeting to change the charter. He suggests moving it to the first or second week in October. Changing the meeting this year would allow

the Tax Collector to close the books to give us an accurate figure on taxes collected and give her a chance to finish assessing to give us an accurate figure for valuations. She was delayed this year because the town delayed the financial town meeting. Chief Seltzer felt it would be unwise to go into our first annual meeting without all the information available. Also the Tax Sale has not happened and that would be additional monies that could be included in the revenue portion of the budget. There was some discussion about who is included in a tax sale and how it is done as there is a significant amount of money tied up in past due taxes.

Mr. Bouchard feels that changing future Annual Meetings to October is a very good idea. There was some discussion as to when in October it should be. Chief Seltzer had spoken to the Tax Collector and she felt that changing the Annual Meeting would not be a problem for her getting the tax bills out in a timely fashion. There was some discussion about the logistics of changing this year's Annual Meeting and how to do it legally. The consensus was to have the meeting and if taxpayers wished we can continue the meeting. Also we have an answer for the problems of this year by moving the annual meeting for future years. There was some discussion of what was uncertain about the budget. There are some minor changes but nothing major.

Chief Seltzer feels as though going up \$0.10 on the tax rate would be an average increase based on the four districts prior to the merger. Richard Tellier felt that we could not go much more than a \$.10 increase. Chief Seltzer felt as though that would be ok as it would be

a \$30 -\$40 increase in the average person's annual tax. There was some more discussion about changes that could be made to the budget. Mr. Bouchard felt that this was a good budget and that we may be splitting hairs trying to make more changes. Chief Seltzer and Mr. Tellier both brought up the back taxes owed and that the Tax Collector was in a better position this year to collect more back taxes.

Mr. Crowe asked if there was more we could do to push harder on collecting the back taxes. Mr. Bouchard asked if we should recommend the budget and have a full annual meeting. The suggestion was made to set the tax rate as a maximum or not to exceed amount. There was some discussion of where to set the tax rate between 1.60 & 1.63.

Mr. Bouchard made a motion to set the budget at not more than \$4,320,000 and a Tax Rate of not more than \$1.63 & \$3.26 per \$1,000.

Motion: Girard Bouchard Seconded: Robert Crowe

Ms. Bennett asked about setting a Tax Levy. Chief Seltzer read from the charter and there is not requirement to set a tax levy. It was also brought up that it would be redundant because the Tax Collector can only collect at the rate set by the taxpayers.

Mr. Bouchard restated his motion and the board voted. All voted Aye.

Mr. Bouchard had two Thank you letters, one from the LaColle family

and one from The Hope Valley Fire District. We had sent our command center for them to use at a stump dump fire.

Introduction of new business to be considered at the next Board Meeting

Mr. Bouchard brought up the Nomination Procedures and forms for Directors. There is one change from Chief Seltzer. Nomination papers are to be turned into the District Clerk not the clerk of the tax assessment board. Chief Seltzer also asked about advertising for Board Member elections. Mrs. Hall went over the deadlines for turning in signed nomination papers and posting of nominated candidates. Mr. Bouchard reviewed what was in the charter and does not feel we need to advertise for the positions. The usual method is word of mouth. There was some discussion about approving the procedures. The charter was reviewed and all the procedures are in the charter so do not need to be approved. A resolution should be made at the Annual Meeting to continue the expired terms until the special meeting.

Chief Seltzer had an update on the new office at the old Flat River Middle School. We have a secured space for the Tax Collector's office and the Fire Marshal's office as well. The locks will be changed tomorrow and then we can start work. Mr. Crowe asked about space in the new Brookside Center. Chief Seltzer is working on setting up a meeting also possibly including the Police Department. Also the Sewer Project has a ground breaking on Thursday for the portion that will be going by Station 3. So that's on schedule.

Motion to Adjourn – 8:50 pm

Motion: Anna Mae Lapinski Seconded: Robert Crowe

All Vote Aye