

Minutes

Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry

Monday November 21, 2022

This meeting was recorded on Zoom and then posted to YouTube. The link to the Town's YouTube channel is at www.coventryvt.org.

Board Members Present

Scott Briere, Chair
David Gallup
Phil Marquette

Town Officials Present

David Barlow, Treasurer
Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator
Kerry Keement, Justice of the Peace
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk

Public Present

Doreen Hill
Dean Hill
Guest #1
Guest #2
Chris Roy, Newport Daily
Joe Gay, Casella
Jeremy Labbie, Casella
Henry Coe
Beth Barnes

1. Order

Matt called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Treasurer's Report was added after agenda item #6

3. Allow for public comment

None

4. Joe Gay - Casella

Joe Gay from Casella was in attendance to give the board an update on initiatives and developments at the landfill. Joe stated that the landfill is operating cell 1 of phase 6 and they anticipate to take in approximately 500,000 tons of waste for the year. Casella is constructing an underdrain system and containment unit for next year's cell, which requires a substantial amount of excavation. Over the summer Casella also replaced an underground leachate storage tank. Joe stated that the open house held in the fall was a big success with about 300 people in attendance. After testing the water runoff discharge from one of the old cells in the landfill, cell # 3, it was determined that the level of polyfluorinated substances, or PFA's, was above the drinking water standard. The standard being 20 parts per trillion and the levels in the runoff were between 30 and 80 parts per trillion. With guidance from the State of Vermont Casella will install a system to remove or reduce the PFA's from the water runoff before it can reach the surrounding water systems. Casella collects between 12 and 16 million gallons of waste water each year. The goal for Casella is to treat this on site and deliver to waste water treatment facilities PFA free. Casella is currently in the permit process of this endeavor with ANR and ACT 250. Casella hopes to receive approval over the winter so that construction can begin in the spring of 2023. Dave G asked Joe if there was going to be two treatments systems. Joe replied in the affirmative, one system for the waste water and one to treat the leachate. Joe then explained that the waste water from phase 3, 4, and 6 currently being collected. The water from phases 1 and 2 is not. Phil asked which cell tested for elevated PFA's and Joe replied that phase 4 did and that is where the treatment system will be placed. Scott asked Joe what the size of the collection tanks were. Joe stated that they have 2 above ground storage tanks that hold 450,000 and 500,000 gallons respectively and a below ground tank that holds 200,000 gallons. The tanks are kept below 67% capacity and are usually below 50% based on the availability of waste water plants. Scott asked if the tanks could ever overflow. Joe said that they would not as the pumps would shut off at a certain point and other preventative measures would be taken to ensure there is not an overflow. Scott asked where the 32,000 to 50,000 gallons of waste water being produced every day is currently being treated. Joe said that it is currently being sent to a facility in Plattsburgh, NY. Scott asked if there was a risk with only having one facility in which to ship to. Joe said that there are a couple of other plants he hopes are back to taking waste water in the near future. Scott asked what was Casella's back up plan should there be no place available to ship leachate. Joe said that Casella would confer with the State of Vermont should that situation ever arise as waste water collected at Casella must go to a waste water treatment facility. There is no other option. Joe stated that the under-drain system at Casella is sampled monthly and that the PFA's issue is a relatively new one. Scott then asked how the cap on a completed cell works and what can happen if cracks occur in the cap. Joe explained that cracks in the cap allow gas to get out, but there is no water getting in due to the cracks. Coventry resident Doreen Hill asked Joe about dead fish in South Bay and along Coventry Station Road. Joe responded that Casella does a yearly river inspection and that Casella is not polluting the area streams, rivers, and lakes. Scott asked Joe for an explanation of the dirt pile on the left side of the Airport Road. Joe said that excavation on the right side of the road necessitated moving

dirt to the left side as a space issue. Dave asked if the dirt storage would be temporary and Joe replied that it would be permanent. Coventry resident and Newport Daily reporter Chris Roy asked for and received an explanation of the liner system at the landfill from Joe. Doreen asked where the water goes from the landfill and Phil explained the waste water process as it currently stands at the landfill.

5. Paving – Prices and Schedule

The board had a discussion about paving prices and upcoming paving schedule for the town. Scott stated that prices were high this year and since the town had a locked in price would it make sense to use up our reserves. Dave G suggested a base coat for the Airport Road and top coat in other places. Dave stated that it might be best to wait on Alderbrook Road.

6. Budgets and Appropriations

Matt reminded all departments to get their budget numbers in and stated that the town has currently received \$9332 in appropriations requests. Dave G asked about an RFP for the town assessor office.

7. Treasurer's Report

Dave B gave the treasurer's report. It was a big month for revenue, mostly due to tax money and a large tipping fee payment from Casella. An education fund payment to the school took care of most of the revenue. Dave B will get the grant money for the sidewalk scoping study flowing in the other direction. Dave B stated that the town investment accounts had a sub-par October, but that interest rates were up for the month. There will be a meeting with the town investment advisor on December 12. All ARPA funds have arrived and are in the general fund. Phil would like a line item showing what has been spent for ARPA funds. Dave B will set up line from the general fund to the reserve fund showing that status of the ARPA funds. Chris Roy asked what was the total amount the town received in ARPA money. Dave responded that it was \$315,068.02. \$35,000 of this money has been obligated to the Coventry Fire District for the purpose of purchasing water meters for the members of the district. Dave B then explained a signature card for Community National Bank for a town account set up to hold the proceeds from the town tax sale.

8. Other Business

Matt M gave an explanation of the increase in the Newport Ambulance Service contract for the town. Phil stated the increase is largely due to the way that dispatching is being handled now. Matt then explained that the contract the town has with the Orleans Fire Department will also be increasing. Kerry Kement asked what the cost was for the town and Phil explained it is calculated through three year rolling average of hours spent on calls in Coventry. Chris Roy asked what parts of Coventry are covered by Orleans Fire and Phil described the territory within Coventry that Orleans

responds to. Matt stated that the snow guards for the church roof should be installed within the next two weeks.

9. Approval of Minutes 11-7-22

Scott made the motion to accept the minutes as written. Phil M made the second and the vote was unanimous.

10. Warrants

Phil made the motion to accept the warrants. Dave made the second and the vote was unanimous

11. Executive Session

Scott made the motion to enter executive session for a legal discussion. Dave made the second and the vote was unanimous. The board, minus Phil who recused himself for a conflict of interest, along with Dave Barlow and Matt Maxwell entered executive session at 6:59 pm. The board exited executive session at 7:29 pm. No action taken

12. Adjourn

Scott made the motion to adjourn at 7:29 pm. Dave made the second and the vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:30pm.

DRAFT