

Minutes

Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry

Monday May 1, 2023

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
Scott Morley
Daniel Webster

Town Officials Present

Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator
Carver Maxwell, Planning Commission
David Barlow, Treasurer
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk
Kerry Kement, JOP

Public Present

Ernest Punt
Phil Marquette
Norm Patenaude

1. Order

Matt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None

3. Allow for public comment

None

4. Road Crew Vacancy

Matt M explained to the board that of the two road crew applicants interviewed by the town, Jeff Young, has accepted a position and is currently working full time. The second candidate chose to return to his current position. Scott M stated that he feels the town needs three full time employees to adequately cover the needs of the road department. Scott B expressed his desire to hire the current part time road employee, Zach Patridge, for the open full time position. Scott M stated that he was not comfortable speaking on personnel issues outside of executive session and that the job should be posted and interviews held. Matt informed the board that two people have already expressed an interest in the position by coming into the town offices last week. Dan W does not know Zach and would need some time to form an opinion. There was some discussion on the cost of advertising through various local sources and then the board decided to repost the position and hire the best candidate that applies.

5. Summer Paving Projects

The town received budgetary paving quotes from Hutchins and Pike. There are several roads in town that require a top coat and base coat would be put on Airport Road. The select board reviewed the quotes and it was stated that summer paving would be paid for out of the Road and Infrastructure Fund. Norm Patenaude from Pike was present and he stated that all grant funded paving would have to be done or at least billed after the 1st of July and that there are a couple spots on Airport Road that need to be thoroughly dried out before any work can begin. Scott M and Norm discussed the types of mixes that might be used for the tar. Norm said that the weather in Northern Vermont beats up any kind of tar mix pretty well. Scott B inquired as to when Pike might be able to begin paving and Norm thought within a couple weeks. Scott M wanted in writing that Pike would complete all paving projects for the town by September 15, 2023. Norm agreed to that date. Scott B made the motion to accept the budgetary quote from Pike. Scott M made the second and the vote was unanimous.

6. Town of Coventry Speed Limit Ordinance

Matt M informed the board that the OCSD had distributed a uniform speed limit ordinance to the town's that they provide services to in Orleans County. The purpose was to have one policy for speeding that the OCSD could then use in court to help with speed limit violations that are contested. Scott M said that he understands where OCSD is coming from and why they would like this approved by the town, but it is not really Coventry's issue and he sees no reason to amend our current speed ordinance. Resident Phil Marquette stated that the town has gone through 4 different speed policies since 2001 and that the current policy needed to be updated to reflect the roads that

have been paved over the last couple years. Scott M said that Coventry will supply OCSD with whatever information they may require from the town, but at this time Coventry will decline to take action on the OCSD speed ordinance.

7. ARPA

Matt informed the board that there was a request to use ARPA funds to purchase new tables for the town's emergency shelter in the amount of \$9,206.40. Scott M made the motion to approve the purchase of the tables with ARPA funds. Scott B made the second and the vote was unanimous. Scott M stated that the board wishes to obligate the rest of the town ARPA funds to ongoing projects or invoices that we have in the pipeline. The town had previously created an ARPA Committee to bring ideas for ARPA money use to the select board. The Committee members Matt Maxwell, David Barlow, Praneet Menon and Christina Fletcher were thanked by the board members for their efforts over the past several months and that their services would no longer be required. Scott B made the motion to disband the ARPA Committee. Scott M made the second and the vote was unanimous. Based on information provided by Matt M the select board decided to obligate ARPA funds to towards the purchase of a new plow truck with an extended warranty and towards the concrete work on a new salt shed at the town garage. Resident Phil Marquette questioned whether the board should obligate ARPA funds towards capital expenses. Scott M said that the board is looking to do a better job on budgeting and special fund use in the future and that this is a step towards accomplishing that goal. Scott M made the motion to obligate \$193,174.00 for the purchase of the new plow truck. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous. Scott M made the motion to obligate \$16,000 in ARPA funds for the concrete work on a new salt shed at the town garage. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous. Scott M made the motion to obligate \$8,190 in ARPA funds for the purchase of an extended warranty for the new plow truck. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

8. Treasurer's Report

Dave B presented the March Treasurer's report with a glimpse ahead to the April report which will be made at the next select board meeting. Dave B made the fund moves that were approved at town meeting and put \$250,000 into a CD in order to earn more interest. March was normal month for expenses. Looking ahead to April Dave B received a \$50,000 grant for work done on the Cleveland Meeting House. This money was placed in the buildings and maintenance fund. The town also received state reappraisal grant money that went into the Reappraisal Fund.

9. Other Business

The Select Board signed a renewal permit for a salvage yard

located on Webster Road in Coventry. Scott M made the motion to approve the salvage permit. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous. Scott B signed the NEK Broadband appointment which designated David Barlow and Phil Marquette to represent Coventry in dealing with CUD and NEK Broadband. Resident Ernest Punt had an issue with a neighbor burning trash and the smoke and fumes that came onto his property as a result. Ernest was unable to reach Pedro Grondin, the town fire warden, and asked the board what procedure residents should follow if the fire warden is unavailable. The Board discussed with Ernest and themselves what possible actions could be taken from calling the assistant fire warden to calling the fire department. Matt will contact Pedro and get his take on the situation. Scott M attended a meeting of the Coventry Town Foundation. The meeting was productive as Scott spoke with them about funding the foundation in the future so it will not be a surprise to the town budget that the select board creates. Scott M has volunteered to attend future CTF meetings with no authority from the board.

10. Approval of Minutes

Scott M made the motion to approve the minutes from 4-10-2023. Scott B made the second and the vote was unanimous. Scott M made the motion to approve the minutes from 4-14-2023. Scott B made the second and the vote was unanimous

11. Warrants

There was a discussion over the tank monitoring charge from Fred's Plumbing and Heating. Scott B made the motion to accept the warrants. Scott M made the second and the vote was unanimous.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:28pm

DRAFT