

Minutes

Select Board Meeting

Town of Coventry

Thursday November 9, 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 Morley
Scott Briere
Dan Webster

Town Officials Present

Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk
Israel Sanville, Planning Commission

Public Present

Charlie Pronto, NAS
Jeff Johansen, NAS
Chris Roy, NDE
Pat Sloan

1. Order

Matt called the meeting to order at 3:29 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None

3. Allow for public comment

None

4. Emergency Services – Ambulance

Scott M welcomed everyone to the meeting for the purpose of making a final decision on ambulance services for the Town of Coventry. Scott M explained that the discussion arose of response time and the fact that Coventry divided their fire service between Orleans and Newport. Scott stated that he left the November 6th select board meeting with some questions following the Newport Ambulance presentation. Scott's first question to Newport was how did they calculate the cost to the Town of Coventry. Jeff J explained to the board that the cost for Coventry with Newport covering the whole town was \$38.00 per person. With the proposed split, Jeff felt that Newport would still be responding to 2/3 of the town and he based the Newport cost off of 2/3 of the total town cost. Scott and Jeff had a discussion on what the total number of people in Coventry actually was. Town Clerk, Deb Tanguay, stated that the number was approximately 1200 people. Scott M said that Orleans was basing their per person price of \$34.00 on 1300 people in Coventry. Orleans will be asked to adjust to 1200 people. Jeff J explained the reason for Newport's pricing came about because they did not have an accurate number count for people on each side of the town. Scott M said that he would like a price from Newport using their \$38.00 per person for 600 total people, or half the town. Scott M and Jeff J then had a discussion about dispatching costs. Orleans was able to make dispatching inclusive in their \$34.00 per person price. Jeff J explained that all dispatching services come through Newport and he detailed how the billing is handled. Jeff assured the board that something could be worked out on the dispatching services. The Select Board and Jeff J then went into a discussion on how a paramedic is dispatched. Jeff said it is mostly done through listening to the call and deciding whether a paramedic is needed for that particular response. Chris Roy and Jeff J had a brief discussion on paramedic services and the differences in equipment between Orleans and Newport Ambulance. Scott B felt that response time is the most important aspect of the discussion and at this time Coventry does not have an accurate population count. Dan W also felt that response time was most critical to success. Coventry resident Pat Sloan asked where the split in services would be. Scott M explained that the boundary would be approximately Coventry Station Road. Pat said that because of his medical history he would prefer to remain with the Newport Ambulance service. Charlie P spoke to the board about how the budget figures affect the other towns that are serviced by Newport. Charlie and Jeff stated that Newport Ambulance would be able to do \$39.98 per person for 600 people plus 50% of the dispatching costs for calendar year 2024. The town could then come up with an accurate population chart for discussion on a contract for 2025. Scott M, Scott B, and Dan W all agreed that was a sensible figure for the 2024 contract. Scott M thanked Charlie P and Jeff J for coming today and helping clear things up and move forward. He expressed that Orleans and Newport are both excellent Ambulance Services and Coventry is lucky to be between the two. Scott M made the motion to approve Newport Ambulance Service to 600 people in

Coventry at the price of \$39.98 per person plus 50% of the dispatching costs for calendar year 2024. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous. Scott M made the motion to approve Orleans Ambulance Service to 600 people in Coventry at the price of \$33.69 per person for calendar year 2024. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

5. Other Business

None

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 4:24