

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Town of Coventry
Wednesday December 6 ,
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

Kate Fletcher, DTC
Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk
Israel Sanville, Planning Commission
David Barlow, Town Treasurer

Public Present

Kevin LaCoss, Newport Fire
Phil Marquette
Andrew Touchette, Newport Fire
Chris Roy, Newport Daily

1. Order

Matt called the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None

3. Allow for public comment

None

4. Fire Service Contracts

Kevin LaCoss from Newport Fire was present at the meeting. Kevin spoke with the board about the history of past fire service contracts between Newport and Coventry. Kevin and the board talked about the meetings that took place prior to the current meeting and how Coventry had arrived at its decision to have the fire response area mirror the new ambulance response area. Kevin L and the board then talked through how the billing of fire services is currently set up between Newport and Coventry and that Coventry pays ahead for service based on a three-year rolling average. Andrew T, from Newport Fire informed the board that less mileage does not always equal a faster response time and that there are other factors that can come in to play regarding the speed of response to a fire. Kevin L stated that he did not attend the previous Coventry board meeting because there was not a contract to go over at the time. Kevin told the select board he did not understand why he was not invited to the meeting that Coventry had with the Mayor of Newport, discussing fire services. Phil M asked the board when the decision was made to change the response area boundary within the town. Kevin L stated that a lower call volume from Coventry would affect the Fire Department budget. Kevin L wants Coventry to have the best fire protection it can get and that Orleans and Newport are both great departments. Scott M will be seeking a meeting with Newport and Orleans officials to discuss the 911 map for Coventry. Scott M made the motion to approve the fire contract with Newport Fire. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous. Scott M made the motion to approve the fire contract with Orleans Fire. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous. The board thanked Kevin and Andrew for attending and the discussion.

5. Town Report Dedication

Matt M asked the select board if they had any ideas for the Town Report Dedication. The board will consider and email Matt with their ideas.

6. Paving Projects – Summer 2024

Matt gave a summary of where the town is on planning for potential paving projects for the summer of 2024. Pike has provided the town three separate bids for Glen Road and Cleveland Farm Road, Lane Road, and a top coat for Airport Road. Hutchins would like to see the bid process made public before they provide the town with bids. Scott B stated that the town needs to get two bids otherwise we end up overpaying. Scott M would like to set up a meeting with representatives from Pike and Hutchins, to discuss paving in Coventry for summer 2024 and the future.

7. Town and Road Budget FY2025

The board would like the town administrator and the treasurer to go through the budget and highlight items that are potentially going to see changes in for the FY 2025 budget. The board will review these items and make recommendations.

8. Other Business

Emergency Management Coordinator, Phil Marquette, encouraged the board to look into FEMA funding for other areas besides Coventry Station Road, that were affected by the July flooding. Scott M thanked Phil for his excellent response and sharing of information regarding the propane spill that occurred earlier in the week.

9. Approval of Minutes – 11/20

Scott M made the motion to approve the minutes from the 11/20 meeting. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

10. Warrants

Scott M asked about the invoice for Lane Road. He was told that it is something the town will be reimbursed for through the Better Roads Grant program. Scott M made the motion to accept the warrants. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:47pm

DRAFT