

**Minutes**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Town of Coventry**  
**Monday April 1, 2024**

*This meeting was recorded on Zoom and then posted to YouTube. The link to the Town's YouTube channel is at [www.coventryvt.org](http://www.coventryvt.org).*

**Board Members Present**

Scott Morley  
Dan Webster

**Town Officials Present**

Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk  
John Buchanan, Road Crew  
Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator  
Israel Sanville, Planning Commission  
David Barlow, Treasurer  
Nathan Standish, Road Foreman

**Public Present**

Kerry Keement  
Scott Briere  
Vickie Mead

**1. Order**

Matt called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

**2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

None

**3. Allow for public comment**

#### **4. Town Newspaper of Record**

Matt M spoke to the board about the rates for advertising in both the Newport Daily Express and the Caledonia Record. The rates were essentially the same for both papers. The board briefly discussed how the town typically advertises and for how long. Scott M made the motion to adjust the town's Newspaper of Record to the Newport Daily Express. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **5. Community Center Furnace – Upgrade/Replacement**

Scott M explained that this was a failed article from Town Meeting that the residents would like to have put back in front of them with more information and details. Matt M explained that the Community Center and both town garages are undergoing an energy audit through MERP, and that there may be some potential funding for upgrades to all town heating systems. Scott M asked the Town Administrator to move forward with the process of upgrading and to use resources available within the town.

#### **6. NEK Broadband – Town Representative**

The current reps for the town of Coventry are David Barlow as the primary and Phil Marquette as the alternate. Dave B explained to the board that NEK Broadband is looking to bring high speed fiber optic internet service to the rural areas of the NEK. Dave B said that Coventry is not super high on the priority list for the broadband, but that it will get here within the next couple years. Dave remarked that the service is affordable and very fast. Dave told the board that this is a volunteer position and he is willing to do the job for the town. Scott M said the select board will decide on an appointment in the next couple of months.

#### **7. FY 2023 Audit – Road Budget Deficit**

Dave B explained to the board that a deficit in the highway fund occurred mainly because of a 2022 Town Meeting vote to transfer \$70,000 from the Highway Fund to the Roads Infrastructure Fund. Scott M made the motion to move \$72,036 of general fund surplus to reduce the highway fund deficit to zero. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **8. Other Business**

The next meeting of the Coventry Select Board will be held on Wednesday April 17, 2024 at 5pm.

#### **9. Approval of Minutes – 3/18/2024**

Scott M made the motion to approve the minutes of 3/18/2024. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **10. Warrants**

Scott M made the motion to accept the Warrants. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **11. Executive Session**

Scott M made the motion to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous. The Select Board, Town Administrator, and John Buchanan entered executive session at 5:24pm. The board came out of Executive Session at 5:51. No action taken.

Scott M made the motion to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous. The Select Board, Town Administrator, and Nathan Standish entered into Executive Session at 5:54pm. The board came out of Executive Session at 6:27pm. Scott M stated that Board has decided to place Road Crew Member John Buchanan on paid Administrative Leave, pending further review.

#### **12. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:30pm