

Minutes

Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry Monday May 6, 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.

Board Members Present

Scott Morley
Kerry Keement

Town Officials Present

Phil Marquette, EMD
Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator
David Barlow, Treasurer
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk

Public Present

Charles Conn
Leo Piette

1. Order

Matt called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Special Town Meeting minutes will be approved at the May 20th meeting.

3. Allow for public comment

Deb T updated the Board on a recent Cemetery Commission Meeting

4. Town Business Practices

Scott M gave those present a brief synopsis of how things have been handled business wise in the town over the past several years and his desire to bring everything back under the purview of the Select Board. The main reason for this is to ensure full transparency to the residents of the town on all major decisions whether they be personnel and hiring or other types of town related business decisions. Scott M would like to see the town making assignments based on a positional basis approach, so that continuity can be maintained when new people take over for previous employees.

5. Tax Sale 2024

Scott M and Deb T discussed the upcoming tax sale, which will be held on May 14, 2024. Scott and Deb went over whether it would be beneficial to the town to bid on any of the properties. Dave B told the board that it is sometimes a good idea for the town to bid as it forces the owners to pay the back taxes and sometimes the properties have value for the town. Scott M made the motion to appoint Matt M to bid on behalf of the town. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

6. NEK Broadband

Dave B tendered his resignation from the NEK Broadband board for the Town of Coventry. Scott M thanked David for his service of several years at NEK Broadband. Charles Conn explained to the board his interest in being on the NEK Broadband board and how he hopes to bring fiber optic internet to Coventry sooner than scheduled. Scott M made the motion to appoint Charles Conn as the town representative to the NEK Broadband Board. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

7. Dry Hydrants

Phil M and Scott M discussed the town's dry hydrants and what needs to be done in order to bring them up to working order. Scott M would like to incorporate the upkeep and maintenance of the hydrants into the town fire contracts with Newport and Orleans. Phil explained to the board how there are some grants that can be used to help with the upgrades that the current hydrants need. Phil recommended that he and Pedro Grondin continue with the repairs that they have already begun and then see if the fire departments will take over the maintenance. Scott M made the motion for Phil M to spend \$3,000 to repair and upgrade the town's dry hydrants. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

8. Coventry Town Foundation

Scott M and Leo Piette discussed the relationship between the Town and the Foundation and went over some of the talking points that came out of the Town Meeting in March. Scott M feels that there is good communication between the two and hopes to continue to move forward to a point where everyone feels comfortable. Leo P

explained how the Foundation builds their budget and said he could come up with some three-year predictions on where the Foundation expects to be financially. Scott M would like to see an MOU between the Town and Foundation with full transparency on both sides. Leo asked the board if they thought the town wanted the Foundation to stay with what is has been doing for the past 20 years, which is scholarships and fuel assistance, or to branch out into other areas. There was brief discussion between the board and Leo and Deb about Kerry K remaining on the Foundation while she is on the select board.

9. Apparel Impact

Kerry K explained that Apparel Impact is a company from New Hampshire that recycles clothes and shoes. The Company does a lot of community outreach and Kerry felt it would be beneficial for Coventry. The collection boxes need to be placed on a major road way. Leo P said that the town had done something like this in the past and the collection bins mostly got filled with trash. Royer's and Casella were suggested as possible spots to locate the collection bins. Kerry will look into those places and report back to the board.

10. Chloride Tank and Sprayer

The board discussed buying a new tank and sprayer for the Road department. It was decided to keep the current sprayer for the time being. Scott M made the motion to authorize the Road Department to spend \$20,000 on chloride for town roads. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

11. Road Department Gravel

The Select Board had a contract from Sicard to screen gravel for the town as opposed to hauling it from the Gosselin pit. The new approach will save the town money and wear and tear on the trucks. Scott M signed the contract on behalf of the Select Board.

12. Center Line Painting

Scott M made the motion to accept the proposal from L and D Safety Marking for the center line striping of Pine Hill Road and Airport Road. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

13. MERP Grant

The Town received a state grant in the amount of \$4,000.00 to be used for municipal energy upgrades. Scott M would like it put on the next agenda and to begin with the Community Center.

14. Other Business

Deb T will speak about Dog Ordinance issues at the May 20th meeting.

15. Approval of Minutes

Scott M made the motion to approve the minutes of 4/17/2024 and to add Brian Monaghan as present under town officials. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

16. Warrants

Scott M made the motion to accept the Warrants. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous. Scott M mentioned that he would like to discuss greater cemetery projects at an upcoming meeting. Scott would like to have members of the Cemetery Commission present to talk about fences, walls, trees, and other bigger budget projects.

17. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:45pm