

Minutes

Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry Monday May 20, 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
Dan Webster

Town Officials Present

Renee Falconer, Animal Control Officer
Kate Fletcher, DTC
Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator
David Barlow, Treasurer
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk

Public Present

Gary Biron
Tyler Billingsley
Charlie Dion
Sherril Cote
Scott Smith
Rance Chilafoux
Helen Chilafoux
Kathy Griffin
Bobby walls-Thuma
Dawn walls-Thuma

1. Order

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

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None

3. Allow for public comment

None

4. East Engineering – Coventry Station Road

Tyler Billingsley from East Engineering was present to speak to the board about the permanent repairs project to Coventry Station Road. Tyler let the board know that the town received five bids for the project and that Goodhue Excavating was the low bidder. Tyler has worked with Goodhue before and he feels they are a good fit for this job. Tyler provided the board with a letter of recommendation for Goodhue and a contract, should the board accept his recommendation. The Select Board discussed the other bids and when the work will take place over the summer. Scott M made the motion to accept the Goodhue bid at \$846,141.00. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

5. Dog Ordinance and Impound Letters

Deb T and Renee F explained to the board that there are 55 unregistered dogs in Coventry and that the town's current ordinance needs updating to help with the enforcement of unregistered animals. Scott M thanked Deb and Renee for all their work on the dog licensing. Scott explained that for this year we will have to continue to operate under the guidance of the current ordinance. Select Board member Kerry K will work with Deb and Renee to update the ordinance. They will be looking to add some specificity and procedures to the enforcement section.

6. FY 2023 Audit

The Town of Coventry's fiscal year 2023 audit was completed by Sullivan and Powers. They found no major problems with the town's financial accounting system and recommended a few procedural adjustments. Dave B explained that they would like to see the town consolidate into a single bank account. Kerry K and Dave B had a discussion about the insurance aspect of the town money at Community National Bank. Dave B explained how we keep ourselves insured and ensure that we have access to the money should CNB fail. Scott M made the motion to accept the audit done by Sullivan and Powers for fiscal year 2023. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

7. Hancock Hill – Gravel pit and Grass field

Land owned by the Town of Coventry is currently being rented for farm use. Gary Biron, a resident on Hancock Hill, described to the board what is happening with the land adjacent to his property. Scott M thanked Gary for bringing this to the town's attention. Scott spoke with both Gary and the resident that the town bought the land from. Scott M mentioned that is a poorly drafted deed and that what is happening with the land right now was not in the original spirit of the agreement. Scott M will contact the town attorney to see what the legal options are. Dan and Kerry were both in agreement that the town land is being sub rented to others without the town's permission. Now that the Select Board has knowledge, they can act.

8. Village PO Boxes

Several residents from the Village were present to express their displeasure in having to erect mail boxes on their property in order to receive postal service. Previously, they had all been provided with a free PO box at the Village Post Office. However, the US Postal Service now has a rural carrier for a part of the Village and are asking that people either put up a mail box or pay for their PO box. Charlie Dion and Scott Smith spoke primarily on behalf of the village residents and would like to see an ordinance created that would not allow mail boxes in the Village. Kerry K mentioned that the Post Office may not be in Coventry much longer anyway, as they are looking to relocate. Scott M is against any ordinance that takes away people's property rights.

9. ARPA - CFD

Scott M asked that this item be place on the agenda as it deals with the remaining balance of ARPA funds that were obligated to the Coventry Fire District. Scott M would like to see more detail on the invoice that the town received before he authorizes the release of the money. Scott M also felt the work should be done first and then the town reimburse the Fire District upon completion. Kate F and Deb T had a discussion on the legal standing of the Fire District and the fact that they have not had an annual meeting or released a budget in over four years. Scott M asked what the plan was for filling the other spots on the Prudential Committee for the CFD. Scott M mentioned that the Select Board has the authority to appoint members to the committee. Dave B spoke with VLCT and they recommended to disperse the money to the CFD. Scott M will speak with the town attorney on next steps.

10. Dry Hydrant Upgrades

Phil Marquette had a grant agreement for upgrading the town dry hydrants and bringing them into compliance. Scott M signed the contract for the town. Scott M made the motion to accept. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous

11. Summer Paving – Rail Road Update

Matt M and Nathan Standish will meet with Vermont Railways officials and Hutchins paving on May 30. The meeting will be a site visit to River and Howse Roads to inspect the crossings and work out a paving plan.

12. Nebelski Road

Coventry residents that reside on Nebelski Road spoke to the Select Board about the constant issues they have been having with the property located at 218 Nebelski Road. The issues being lots of drug activity, noise, and aggressive dogs. It was also brought to the board's attention that there was a trailer that was burned

on the property and the burned material was not properly disposed of. The residents mentioned that when the Orleans County Sheriff's Office patrols the area the drug activity decreases. Scott M thanked the residents for coming and apologized for what they have had to deal with. The Board will have the TA contact Vermont ANR about the hazardous burn material and will provide the OCSD with more money for patrols. Scott M made the motion to authorize an additional \$1000 for Sheriffs' patrols around Nebelski road for the remainder of the month of May. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

13. Approval of Minutes – 4/16, 5/6

Dan W made the motion to approve the minutes of the Special Town Meeting held on 4/16. Matt M made the second and the vote was unanimous. Scott M made the motion to approve the minutes of the 5/6 Select Board meeting. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

14. Warrants

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

15. Adjourn

The Meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 7:00pm

DRAFT