

## Minutes

### Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry Monday June 17, 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  
Kerry Keement  
Dan Webster

#### **Town Officials Present**

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

#### **Public Present**

Martha Sylvester  
Gary Biron

#### **1. Order**

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

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

Budget Report under Other Business

#### **3. Allow for public comment**

None

#### **4. Prudential Committee Vacancies - CFD**

The Select Board has sent out a postcard seeking potential Prudential Committee members. The deadline to contact the town is June 30<sup>th</sup>. Scott M and Dan W discussed the vacancies and decided to keep the Prudential Committee as an agenda item until the vacancies have been filled. Martha Sylvester spoke to the Select Board and asked them to dissolve the Fire District and have the town take over the responsibility of clean water for the village.

#### **5.218 Nebelski Road**

Scott M spoke with the residents of 218 Nebelski and he believes that they will be leaving the property in the near future. The neighbors of 218 would like to see some increase patrols to try and dissuade the drug activity and the relocation of a generator that causes a noise disturbance. The Select Board would like Vermont ANR contacted again about the potential of there being hazardous waste on the property from a fire that occurred last year. Scott M made the motion to approve spending \$1,000 with the Orleans County Sheriff for patrols on River and Nebelski Road for the remainder of the month of June. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **6. Hancock Hill – Gravel Pit Parcel**

Matt M spoke with the Ofusryk family about their deed with the town for the land on Hancock Hill. The Ofsuryk's are still thinking about how they would like to proceed and will inform the town within the next couple of weeks. Dan W and Kerry K discussed how the deed could be changed in order to protect the town in the future. Scott M and resident Gary Biron spoke about how the land is currently being used and what he can expect in future years as he lives adjacent to the property. The board talked about the vague language in the deed as posing a hindrance to getting it changed. Kerry K would like to see the wording reflect that the Ofsuryk family can use the field for agriculture, but cannot rent it out to anyone else.

#### **7. Wage and Salary Sheet for FY2025**

The Wage and Salary Sheet was presented for Select Board for approval. The board went over the sheet and changed the assessing clerk pay from hourly to salary. Scott M made the motion to accept the Wage sheet with the assessing clerk change. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **8. Catamount Asset Management**

Dan W recapped the meeting that was held between John Henry Hubert of Catamount Asset and Dan, Matt, and Dave B representing Coventry. The town has a conservative long term investment plan that is averaging an 7-8% return over its lifetime. Scott M asked Dave B how long the town has had its money with Catamount and if perhaps it is time to look at other Investment Firms. Scott emphasized

that the long-term investments are the most important thing the Select Board does and he has never had the level of comfort he would like in dealing with Catamount. Dan and Kerry agreed there is no harm in looking at other Investors and they then discussed where the town would advertise for such services. Scott M mentioned that a big pro for Catamount is that they are very inexpensive. Dave B told the board that hiring an actuary would provide the town with investment predictions for the future that could be used to drive the investing strategy with whatever firm the town decides to work with. Scott M thanked Dave for bringing up an actuary and felt it would be very beneficial to the town.

#### **9. Road Crew – Summer Schedule**

The Coventry Road Crew has requested they be able to work four 10-hour days during the summer months. The Select Board discussed how this schedule would work for the Road Crew and what limitations could be involved. Dave B said that from a Treasurer standpoint he can make it work. Scott M made the motion to allow the Road Crew to work four 10-hour days during the summer months. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **10. Active Town Grants**

The Select Board reviewed that active town grants and what they are being used for. The FEMA grants are all reimbursable, meaning the town will pay for the work and then submit receipts for pay back. Scott M asked if a function on NEMRC could help with the grant reporting. Deb, Dave and Scott discussed reporting features of NEMRC and other accounting software.

#### **11. July Meeting Dates**

The Select Board decided to hold their July Meetings on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **12. Budget Report**

Dave B presented the monthly budget report and told the board of some excess money in the general fund. The highway fund was at a slight loss, but that was expected as changes were made to the number of employees. Dave B recommended moving the payment of the new town truck and summer paving to FY2025. Kerry K made the motion to move the new town truck and summer paving payments to FY2025. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous. The Select Board thanked Dave B for his report. Deb T asked the board how they would like to proceed with keeping updated state statutes on hand as the State is no longer providing the books for free. Dave B asked the board whether they would like to pay the new child care tax for all employees or have the employees pay a share of it. Kerry K made the motion that the town pay the child care tax. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **13. Approval of Minutes**

Kerry K made the motion to accept the minutes of 6/3/2024. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **14. Warrants**

Deb T and Scott M discussed the CFD invoices and the legal fees associated with the recent tax sale. Dan W made the motion to approve the warrants. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **15. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:54pm