

Minutes

Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry Monday October 7, 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 I Webster

Town Officials Present

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

Public Present

Alyssa Johnson, VRCD
Heather Bournival, Resident
Tyler Billingsley, East Engineering
Renee Falconer, ACO Coventry
Jeff Johansen, Newport Ambulance
Chris Whiting, Resident

1. Order

Matt called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None

3. Allow for public comment

Kerry K mentioned that the school is looking for projects that the students can volunteer to help with.

4. Community Visit Program

Alyssa Johnson, from VCRD, was present and gave the Select Board an overview of the Community Visit Program. Alyssa explained that to get started VCRD would need a letter of interest from the town

and that they could then start organizing a community event to get peoples thoughts on potential projects. Alyssa said it would probably be 2026 before any of the potential projects received any funding, as the program is currently full. The Select Board all agreed that this seems like a good fit for Coventry. They discussed with Alyssa some projects that neighboring towns have completed with VCRD assistance. The board thanked Alyssa for being at the meeting and instructed the Town Administrator to send a letter of interest.

5. Coventry Station Road

Tyler, from East Engineering, gave the select board an update on the Coventry Station Road project. Goodhue has some touch up work remaining and then will allow the road to settle over the winter. In the spring of 2025, the road will be paved and striped and the shoulders done. Tyler is confident that the project is tracking on budget. Tyler has checked all of Goodhue's work and feels they have done a good job. Goodhue will top dress the current gravel to smooth it out.

6. Draft Domestic Animal Ordinance

Renee Falconer, the town animal control officer, was present to speak to the select board about the need for an ordinance for domestic animals like cows, goats, and pigs. Renee had a draft ordinance that has been passed by some other towns nearby, allowing her to hold the animal owners responsible. The main problem in Coventry is animals getting loose and destroying neighbors' property. The Select Board reviewed the Draft Ordinance and discussed some of the enforcement options with Renee. Heather Bourn from the Airport Road spoke to the board about her experiences with the cows that are continually on her property causing damage and harm. After some discussion the select board felt that this is an issue for town meeting, that way the entire town can weigh in. Deb T asked Renee to write a letter for the town report about the need for a domestic animal ordinance.

7. Newport Ambulance Service

Jeff Johansen, from Newport Ambulance, spoke to the select board about the current contract with Coventry and how things were operating after the first year of splitting services with Orleans. Jeff J spoke with Scott M about how the Newport Ambulance Board of Directors operates and how Deb Tanguay came to be a member of the Newport Ambulance Board. Jeff explained that Newport Ambulance has a five-person board and anyone from the 19 towns that they serve may apply for a spot on the board. Scott M feels that the towns paying the contracts should have some say on who represent the town. Deb T explained that she felt the town representative part was out of context and that she is representing herself and not the Town of Coventry. Overall, the select board is happy with the

service from Newport Ambulance. Jeff will attend the next Coventry meeting to present budget numbers. The board thanked Jeff for attending.

8. Town Investment Portfolio

The select board would like to look at some other options for the town's long term investment portfolio. Similar to audit services, the board feels, exploring new options every few years is beneficial. Dave B said that the current investment advisor for the town is in the process of merging with a larger firm and will access to more services soon. The select board would like to look into 4 or 5 Vermont based investment firms to see how they match up with town investment needs.

9. Barton River Erosion, Webster Road Bridge

The property located near the Webster Road bridge has experienced some erosion over the last few years and is seeking town and state assistance to stop it. The town has been authorized to add some material to the river bank, but the addition of culverts in the flood plain would need state approval and a scoping study. Dan W will speak to the property owners on behalf of the town.

10. Gravel Pit Parcel – Hancock Hill

The select board discussed the town land on Hancock Hill and access to the gravel piece. Dan W spoke with a property owner adjacent to the town land. The board feels that the former owners of the property are acting outside the terms of the deed and the town cannot allow that to continue. This may become an issue for Town Meeting Day, allowing the voters to have a say. Dan W will speak with the former property owners on behalf of the town.

11. Other Business

Scott M, Deb T, and Dave B discussed the Coventry Fire District using the town's zoom account to record their meetings until they have their own account. Deb detailed how the CFD should proceed and Dave B mentioned they can upgrade their free account after its first use. Deb T mentioned she will hold mock elections with the students at the school and will have an election safety report for the community center.

12. Approval of Minutes

Kerry K made the motion to accept the minutes of 9/23/2024. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

13. Warrants

Kerry K made the motion to approve the warrants, except for the voided Goodhue payment. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:58pm.

DRAFT