

Minutes

Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry Monday November 4, 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
Israel Sanville, Planning Commission

Public Present

Rick Burke
Carleen Leonhart
Chris Whiting
Chris Roy, Newport Daily

1. Order

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

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

Move agenda items 9 and 10 to the top.

3. Allow for public comment

None

4. Buyout Agreement – 89 Main Street

The Town Administrator told the select board and audience about the process for the buyout of 89 Main Street. Scott M spoke with property owner Carleen Leonhart about the other owners of the property and how the town would proceed to acquire the title to 89 Main Street. The first step will be for the town to have the property appraised. Carleen spoke to the board about what the

space will look like once the demolition has been completed. Matt M and Chris discussed other properties in the village that may also enter the buyout portal.

5. Domestic Animal Ordinance

Scott M spoke to those assembled about loose animals in town causing property damage and other stress on town residents. Scott M believes that Coventry does need an ordinance in order to hold the animal owners responsible for damage that is caused. Resident Rick Burke told the board about his experiences on Covey Road with a pig that is constantly on his property. The board discussed further and agreed that this is something that should be brought to the voters on Town Meeting Day. Resident Chris W told the board that there are many animal owners in town and that the scope of the ordinance should be taken under consideration. Rick B mentioned that the sheriff department was not very responsive to his calls and that something needs to change before something unfortunate occurs. Scott M made the motion to consider a Domestic Animal Ordinance at the March Town Meeting. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

6. Coventry Village School – Ballots

Deb T explained to the board that the school needs town approval to mail out ballots for their yearly elections pursuant to 17 VSA 2680 62. Kerry K made the motion to approve the school mailing their ballots. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

7. Gravel Pit Parcel – Hancock Hill

Dan W talked to the board about the situation with the Ofsuryk family and the gravel pit parcel owned by the town. Dan felt that the Ofsuryks should be given a clear line about what can be done with the land as technically they are within the rights of the deed made with the town. Scott M said that the town made a number of mistakes in the deed when purchasing the land and now those mistakes need to be cleaned up. Scott and Kerry both agreed that it is inappropriate for residents to make money off town land. Carleen L and Chris W both spoke to board about the language and stipulations contained within the deed and how that applies to the situation with the town. Scott M said the town has several avenues that it can explore, but would like to get a legal opinion first.

8. Newport Ambulance Contract

The contract for ambulance service from Newport was presented for approval. Kerry K made the motion to approve. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

9. Vaping License

Deb T explained that this is a new license as the previous owners of Royer's did not sell Vaping products. Scott M mentioned there is some displeasure from residents about vaping products being sold in town. Dan and Kerry, both thought it would be tough to say no to vaping after allowing both alcohol and tobacco. The Select Board would like to speak with a state representative about selling vaping products and will table the issue until next meeting.

10. Town Website/CFD

Scott M told the board that the CFD has been recording their meetings, but people are having a hard time locating them on the internet. Scott would like the CFD meetings to be posted to the town website going forward, so that members can access them easier. Kerry K made the motion to allow CFD meeting recordings to be posted on the Town of Coventry website. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

11. Town Report 2025

The Town Administrator thanked Deb T and David B for providing their budget numbers for the town report. Matt encouraged all other town officials to get their information to him as soon as possible.

12. Other Business

Deb T mentioned that the current Health Club Reimbursement Policy does not allow for personal training and the board may want to make a change to have it included.

13. Approval of Minutes – 10/21, 10/23

Dan W made the motion to approve the minutes of 10/21 and 10/23. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

14. Warrants

Deb T explained the stipend payments for the election officials. Dan W made the motion to accept the warrants. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:39pm.

DRAFT