

Minutes

Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry Monday April 21, 2025

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

Kerry Keement
Dan I Webster
Scott Morley

Town Officials Present

Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator
Praneet Menon, School Board

Public Present

Chris Roy
Phil Marquette
Cathlin Lord
Dan Rondeau

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. Ice Jam Engineering - RFP

Cathlin Lord from NVDA was present to explain to the Select Board that the Coventry Engineering grant will be honored because it was awarded in 2022. Cathlin went over the deadlines associated with the grant and what the next steps are for the town. Phil Marquette, Emergency Management Director, felt the town should proceed with the engineering study. Kerry K made the motion to accept the contract from Dubois and King for Ice Jam engineering services. Scott M made the second and the vote was

unanimous. Matt M signed the contract on behalf of the town.

5. Emergency Management Director

Current EMD, Phil Marquette, will speak with some potential candidates and report back to the Select Board.

6. Coventry Village School – Update from Board Chair

Praneet Menon was in attendance. Praneet spoke to the board about having good communication between the town and the school. Praneet plans on updating the board quarterly and invited the select board to attend school board meetings. Praneet explained the possible consolidation of school districts and how the funding formula for schools will look in the coming years. Praneet mentioned that fundraising went very well for the 8th grade class trip and that he would like to have a select board member say a few words at the 8th grade graduation. Scott M and the board thanked Praneet for coming and that his update on the school was very much appreciated.

7. NEK Broadband Appointment

Kerry K made the motion to appoint Charles Conn and Phil Marquette and the NEK representative and alternate from Coventry. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

8. Petition for Special Town Meeting

The town received a voter backed petition for the election of two additional select board members. After consulting with VLCT the petition was deemed non-actionable, the town must first decide if it wants any additional select board members. Dan Rondeau spoke to the board on behalf of the petition. Dan R said the idea for a five-person board came about over a year ago and was originally going to be introduced at Town Meeting. Dan R and others feel that with five people representing the town there would be more opportunities for people to feel heard on certain issues. Dan R also stated that the investment fund for the town might be better managed under a five-person board. The Select Board and Dan R conversed over how to move forward and it was agreed that the issue will be presented as an article for vote at the next Town Meeting.

9. Personnel Policy – Summer Hours for Road Crew

The Select Board reviewed the language change to the Town's Personnel Policy. Kerry K made the motion to approve. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

10. Town Right of Way – Heermanville Road

A town resident requested permission to put an underground cable in the town right of way on Heermanville Road. Dan W made the motion to approve the request. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

11. Part Time Office Administrator – Interview Schedule

Scott M gave a description of the position the town is looking to hire for. Matt M and Kerry K will schedule an interview for this week with the one current applicant.

12. Town Investment Portfolio

The Select Board would like to invite Westview Investments to meet with the full Select Board and the Town Attorney at a Special Select Board meeting on April 28, 2025.

13. Other Business

Kerry K suggested that the next time the Select Board warns an Executive Session, the reason for the session should be less vague.

14. Approval of Minutes

Dan W made the motion to approve the minutes of 4/7/2025 and 4/14/2025. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous.

15. Warrants

The Select Board discussed how to resolve the \$100 credit card invoice from the Vermont Secretary of State. Dan W made the motion that the town has received adequate information to pay the invoice and the matter is now closed. Kerry K made the second and the vote was unanimous. Kerry K made the motion to approve the Warrants. Dan W made the second and the vote was unanimous.

16. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:23pm.

DRAFT