

## Minutes

### Select Board Meeting Town of Coventry Monday January 5, 2026

*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**

Kerry Keement  
Scott Morley  
Dan Webster

#### **Town Officials Present**

Ed Fournier, Town Administrator  
David Barlow, Treasurer  
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk

#### **Public Present**

Melanie Rodjenski, Town Accountant  
Jeff Johansen, Newport Ambulance  
Chris Roy – Freelance Reporter, Town Resident  
Dan Rondeau – Cemetery Commission, Town Resident  
Stephanie Rondeau–Planning Commission, Town Resident  
Roy Ward, EHDanson Associates  
Jim Cobb – Town Resident

#### **1. Order**

Ed Fournier 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**

Jeff Johansen gave updates in regards to Newport Ambulance responded calls, responded calls for Coventry, response times and an awards ceremony being held for a cardiac arrest save. Jeff thanked the Town. The Select Board thanked Jeff and the Ambulance for their work.

#### **4. Town Garage Update**

Ed Fournier gave an update that there was a recent meeting regarding the proposal for a new Town Garage involving plans and information offered from Roy Ward of EH Danson. Roy Ward gave updates regarding plan progress and bidding. Roy gave a bidding schedule and explained that he has passed along questions for the Town to answer and adding that he thought the plan was in good shape to get this out to bid on the right dates. Kerry Keement discussed the Town Report and the importance of getting the right information before printing deadlines. Ed F. explained the printing dates and that Roy had a

plan to get a number for the Town. The Select Board discussed the timeline and thought that the bidding process would supply the right information. Scott Morley thanked Jim Cobb for his work with the Town Garage planning and discussed the background of this project. Scott asked if we had substantial information for the Town voters. Jim C. noted that the Town had the right information and reported progression to present to the voters. The Board discussed having an estimated cost of the proposal for the Town Report and whether this could be amended during Town Meeting. Deb Tanguay explained the amount could be amended up or down. Jim thought the planning and progress was in the right place. Roy W. gave a rundown of the questions that needed confirmation to proceed. Roy continued explaining how the bid process could go. The Select Board thought that the invitation to bid procedure would be good. Scott M. asked Jim C. to continue progressing with the project and thanked him for his time. The Board thanked Jim C. and Roy W. for their work and time. Chris Roy asked about relaying the right information to residents in terms of taxes. The Board answered that financial planning has been progressing with successful Town Meeting discussions. Ed F. explained that the article wording would be there to give the voters the right information.

#### **5. Town Accountant Contract**

Ed F. presented the Board with notes regarding a contract discussion with Town Accountant Melanie Rodjenski. Melanie explained that she and the Town are only about half way through the original contracted dollar amount, so she asked if the Board would be okay with extending the agreement date and starting a new contract when the original amount is exhausted. Dan Webster made a motion to extend the accountant contract through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026 with the original amount of ten thousand dollars. Kerry K. made the second and the vote was unanimous. The Board thanked Melanie for her work and discussed progress and planning.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

David Barlow presented the Board with a Report. David B. noted the impact of collecting taxes and reported on moving funds. David B. discussed the fund balances and explained incoming payments. Scott M. asked David B. to prepare to discuss reserve funds in detail for a planned meeting. The Board thanked David for his time.

#### **7. Town Report/Budget – Updates**

Ed F. presented the Board with updates on Town Report Articles. Ed discussed an Article about moving from a three-person board to a five-person board and that this would have to be one of the early Articles. Scott added that if this is voted in, there would be three Board spots to be voted on and that the terms would need to be clearly stated. Kerry K. explained the method of staggering the terms of members. The Board asked Ed F. to reach out to the Town Lawyer for assistance in getting this Article phrased right. Ed and the Board discussed that the Financial Articles would be worked on in another

meeting so they could be clearly presented to the Board in the next Select Board meeting. David Barlow discussed the report budget with the Board. He pointed out the revenue amounts and that he would have additional information moving forward about the highway fund. Scott M. asked if there was anything else to highlight in terms of difficulties to get the right information. David B. added information about budgeting for appropriations and that everything was in line for preparation.

#### **8. Coventry Village Australian Ballot Voting**

Deb T. explained that the Board needs to address this each year because the School needs their approval for Australian Ballot Voting. Kerry K. made a motion to approve the School sending out Australian Ballots for their budget for Town Meeting. Dan W. made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **9. Dental Insurance**

Ed F. explained that this has been discussed, but has not been decided. Ed F. gave the Board additional information regarding pricing and what the insurance would offer. Kerry K. noted the types of coverage and what plans would be selected. Dan W. thought that the Town should have this insurance. Scott M. asked about the sign-up process and budgeting. Ed F. explained that it was previously noted that sign up would be in November for January enrollment. Kerry K. made a motion to approve signing up for Northeast Delta Dental benefit plan two for full time employees for November enrollment. Dan W. made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **10. Other Business**

Dan W. gave an update on the Town gravel pit and that he heard back from the Town attorney and that they are waiting for additional documentation. Kerry K. discussed adding this to Town Meeting and the Board thought this would be good to add.

Dan W. discussed the paving contract and how others have asked about having each road separated as an article in Town Report. Kerry K. explained that this would change the amount and make the paving more expensive. Scott M. added that there could be an amendment at Town Meeting by a floor vote.

Ed F. noted that there is a County Meeting. The meeting is for Orleans County and will be held on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.

Ed F. asked the Board if the plan was to meet on January 20<sup>th</sup> for the next Select Board meeting. The Board added to keep this date for the meeting.

#### **11. Approval of Minutes – 12/15/2025**

Dan M. made the motion to accept the minutes for 12/15/2025. Kerry K. made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **12. Warrants**

Deb T. gave information regarding the warrants. Dan W. made the motion to accept the warrants. Kerry K. made the second and the vote

was unanimous.

**13. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:44 p.m.