

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Town of Coventry
Tuesday January 20, 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.

Board Members Present

Kerry Keement
Dan Webster

Town Officials Present

Ed Fournier, Town Administrator
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk

Public Present

Melanie Rodjenski, Town Accountant
Daniel Rondeau, Cemetery Commission, Town Resident
Sheila Warren, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Tessa Yip, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation
Asa Brayton, Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation

1. Order

Ed Fournier called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None.

3. Allow for public comment

None.

4. High-Water Mark Sign

Ed Fournier introduced Tessa Yip, Sheila Warren, and Asa Brayton to discuss bringing a High-Water Mark Sign to Coventry. Tessa is with the Department of Environmental Conservation. She explained that she is involved with flood risk outreach and education for Vermont communities. Ed stated that Tessa, Asa and Sheila came to Coventry recently to meet and assess possible locations for a sign. Tessa explained that this is a Statewide program dedicated to communities that have dealt with flooding and that the sign is great for educating and bolstering flood mitigation. Sheila is with the Army Corps of Engineers. Sheila gave background information on the program and talked about the Silver Jackets Team and how they focus on a team effort for flood education outreach. Sheila stated that the Core of Engineers pays for the sign and assists in the process. The Town would be asked permission for the project and to maintain the sign after installation. Select Board members Kerry Keement and Dan Webster thought the sign was a great idea and would like to move forward with the process. Ed noted that the area of 89 Main St. has been discussed as a possible location. Asa explained that they have reached out to Vermont Emergency Management and that the flood

granted buyout site of 89 Main St. is an acceptable place to locate the sign. Sheila stated that the Town could choose the design of the sign. Kerry and Dan thought samples of other Town signs would be helpful and that Coventry could move forward with the process. Sheila thought another site visit to Coventry would be beneficial to confirm the location of the sign. Ed and the Select Board thanked the guests for their time.

5. AOT Mileage Certificate

Ed presented the Select Board with the yearly Agency of Transportation Mileage Certificate. Ed explained that the Town road mileage total needed to be determined, and any changes noted each year to determine the transportation State aid for the Town. Kerry noted that there were some changes that may not be reflected in the current document. Kerry and Dan decided it would be best to confirm the document accuracy before accepting and signing to move forward. Ed said he would confirm accuracy and present this at a future meeting.

6. Dental Insurance – Start Date, Review

Ed presented the Board with new information about Dental Insurance sign-up start and the options for employees signing up. He noted the sign up could be earlier than originally discussed. Ed explained that if the start date changed, it would change the budget, so it would be good for the Town to have a specific start date. Kerry made a motion to amend to start Dental Insurance July 1st, 2026, for full-time employees and their families. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous. Ed thanked the board for their time.

7. Commercial Appraisal and Litigation Assistance Program

Ed presented the board with documents from Treasurer David Barlow. Ed explained that these documents are necessary to add the listed properties for reappraisal. Ed said that David needed to work on this more, but that he wanted to update the board with where this was at. Ed relayed from David that David needed to consult with Assessor Matt Krajewski and these documents could be completed to move forward. Melanie Rodjenski added that a new State program is allowing for reevaluation of the reappraisal reserve fund and that Select Board member Scott Morley asked David to have this document ready in relation to the Town Warning. Ed thanked Melanie for the information.

8. Town Report/Budget – Updates

Ed presented the Board with a Town Report and Budget update. Ed presented the annual report on the shared screen and made notes about the sections. The Town Warning section was discussed in detail. The warning article about moving from a three-member board to five was discussed in relation to sequence and if this passed, when the new members would be voted in. Ed gave information from Town attorney Brian Monaghan and asked Melanie to address this article. Melanie stated that she has presented the wording as an example of how this could be stated. Ed and Melanie explained that Brian advised having an additional meeting after Town Meeting for new board member voting

if passed. Kerry stated that VLCT has stated it is ok to vote for the new members at Town Meeting. Kerry and Dan decided it would be best to vote for the new members at Town Meeting. Ed continued and noted the financial articles and the new garage article with a thank you to Melanie for her work on these. Ed continued presenting the entirety of the report and noted the board has budget copies printed. Kerry and Dan stated that the Report looks good and thanked everyone for their efforts.

9. Other Business

Ed asked if the board would like to discuss a new ton truck for the town. Dan explained this would need to be researched further. Dan and Kerry though the town should wait for now focusing on this.

Ed explained that a group came to discuss the planning for building work being done at the Town garage and Community Center in relation to the MERP grant. Ed noted that there would be a presentation from the contractor at some point for the board.

Ed explained that he has touched base about the Ice Jam study and there is no current funding. However, he noted that he will meet with someone from the State to discuss possible ideas to be ready when there is funding.

Ed presented the board with thank you letters from organizations that received appropriation request funds from the town in the prior year.

Ed stated that the Multi Sector permitting the town gravel pit is completed and submitted to the State.

Ed thanked Dan Rondeau for his organization's work on some electrical issues at the Community Center. The board also thanked Dan for this.

The Board discussed having an additional meeting for the Town Report and that this would be set when everyone confirmed availability.

10. Approval of Minutes – 01/05/2026

Kerry noted there was one sentence to correct in the minutes. Ed said he would fix this. Dan made the motion to accept the minutes for 01/05/2026. Kerry made the second and the vote was unanimous.

11. Warrants

Deb Tanguay gave information regarding the warrants and explained that one warrant would need to be held until David Barlow could offer more information. Dan made the motion to accept the warrants withholding one warrant. Kerry made the second and the vote was unanimous.

12. Adjourn

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