

**Minutes**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Town of Coventry**  
**Monday April 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](http://www.coventryvt.org).*

**Board Members Present**

Kerry Keement  
Dan Webster  
Matt Maxwell

**Town Officials Present**

Ed Fournier, Town Administrator  
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk  
David Barlow, Town Treasurer  
Nathan Standish, Road Foreman

**Public Present**

Chris Roy, Newport Daily Express, Town Resident  
Stephanie Rondeau, Planning Commission, Town Resident  
Daniel Rondeau, Cemetery Commission, Town Resident  
Jim Cobb, Town Resident  
Kevin Lacoss, City of Newport Fire Department  
Chuck Newton, City of Newport Fire Department  
Donald Pedro Grondin, Planning Commission  
Kathleen Ahearn, Public  
George St. Onge, Public

**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**

Fire Chief Kevin Lacoss of the Newport City Fire Department presented the Select Board with updates and asked the Board for feedback. Matt Maxwell stated that the Newport Fire Department is doing a great job. Kevin updated the Board on staffing, call responses of which ten were in Coventry, and training. He also discussed testing and fixing dry hydrants if needed in Coventry. The Board advised him to connect with Ed Fournier about this. Chuck Newton of the Newport Fire Department discussed area trainings. The Board thanked Kevin and Chuck for their time and service.

Kathleen Ahearn gave a thank you to everyone who help produced the annual Town Report. Kathleen stated that the Report was easy to read and a helpful tool for voters and credited Ed for making a useful

Report that is a credit to Coventry. Ed thanked Kathleen and noted that the Report was a team effort. Kerry Keement added a thank you to Road Foreman Nathan Standish and the Road Crew for their work. Kerry also shared a message from a resident who credited Ed for his welcoming customer service.

#### **4. Road: TH-62 Discontinuance**

Ed presented the Board with information about the AOT question of whether the Town will discontinue TH-62. The Board asked resident and property owner Jim Cobb for his thoughts. Jim explained that he has always maintained the road and that he agrees with the town giving the road up. Nathan stated he feels the town should give the road up because they are not doing anything with the hundred feet of road and Jim has done the road work over the years. Dan Webster stated he did not see an issue with this. Matt made a motion that the Town of Coventry discontinue road TH-62. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous. Kerry noted other town roads that should be looked into in regards to usage.

#### **5. 150 Main St./89 Main St. – Fence**

Ed presented the Board with information about a fence for town owned property 150 Main St. Jim Cobb stated a fence would be good for safety and a guidance. Jim noted there could be difficulties with plowing if a fence is added. He also noted that a decision about paving and the lawn would be better before a fence is added. Nathan said that the parking lot paving should happen first and that if the town has said they would add a fence, it would be good to honor that. David Barlow stated that a fence would help to control driving across the lawn and be good for safety. The Board thought a fence or some boundary would be good and that the next steps would be finding a property boundary and where the fence should be. Ed explained that he has gathered some information about the town owned property of 89 Main St. and that he needs to here from the State on whether a fence is allowed on the property. The Board would like to get the right survey information for this property as well as 983 River Rd. David stated the first step would be to search the land records for information.

#### **6. Planning Commission Updates/Member Appointment**

Stephanie Rondeau from the Planning Commission explained to the Board that the Commission has a vacancy and the Commission has voted to suggest the Board appoint Daniel Rondeau to the Planning Commission to serve out the current year and that the vacancy would be reelected in March. Matt made a motion to appoint Dan Rondeau to the Planning Commission. Dan W. made the second and the vote was unanimous. Stephanie gave a presentation about legislation in relation to the Municipal Plan. She gave information about Act 59 and Vermont plans to conserve land. She continued with information about Act 181 and the effect of this on Municipal Planning and property control. Stephanie stated that the Planning Commission has come to

decision that they do not believe that Act 181 has the best interest of the Town in mind and that they are asking the Select Board to formally oppose this on behalf of the town in the capacity of a letter written to legislation. The Board noted that the presentation was great and that they support the Planning Commission with this. The Board approved of the letter and asked for edits of adding the town letterhead and signature lines for signing.

#### **7. Road Crew – Uniforms/Rags**

Ed reviewed a prior meeting discussion regarding road crew uniforms and rag changes and that the Board was looking for more information from the road foreman on what the road crew would like in regards to this. Matt noted he would like to know from David how the town would pay for the requested change of giving the road crew an allowance to purchase their own attire. David explained that he would need to gather information about payroll and taxes. Nathan explained that it would be good for the road crew to have flexibility in where they bought attire. David said he would look into this and gather more information. Ed gave the Board a sample attire policy to add to the personnel policy once this issue was decided on. Nathan presented information on rag charges and the cost of switching to a different rag. The Board decided to wait for further information about the uniforms and rags.

#### **8. Contract – New England Municipal Consultants**

Ed presented the Board with the NEMC contract. Matt noted that there are still amendments to be made. The Board was in approval of the contract, but would like the suggested changes made. Matt made a motion to accept the contract from New England Municipal Consultants with the change to the language on the parcels and have Kerry Keement sign it on behalf of the town. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **9. Treasurer's Report**

David presented the Board with a Treasurer's Report for March 2026. He noted that March involves Town Meeting and that several articles impacted finances. He explained that there were two articles that moved money. He also noted the major expenses in March including Emergency Services and normal operations. David added that not much happened in the Cash Management Account and that he would have a request for money movement coming soon.

#### **10. Investment Communications Letter**

David explained that the communications letter states a communication order in order to make sure everybody understands how we communicate and who does what. He explained that the Board decides how much money gets invested and that it is executed through Ed. He also explained the funds it covers and that the Treasurer works to decide how the money is invested with assistance from the Investment Advisor. Matt made a motion to accept the Investment Communications

Letter and for Kerry Keement to sign on behalf of the Select Board. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous.

### **11. Credit Card Holder**

Ed gave the Board the current policy regarding credit cards and noted that there was a request to have Town Clerk Deb Tanguay have a town credit card. Deb noted that she could use the card for training and seminars and noted that office supplies would still be purchased through Ed. Matt made a motion to issue a town credit card to Deb Tanguay. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous. The Board stated the card would have a two-thousand-dollar limit. David noted he would get the card created.

### **12. Town Landscaping**

Kerry explained that the landscaping expenditures went way over budget. Ed added that during the Fiscal Year so far, the Town has spent sixty-four hundred dollars. The Board decided it would be best to talk to the current landscaping company and get some estimates from some other landscaping companies.

### **13. Coventry Graduation**

Kerry noted that the Coventry School Board is looking for someone to speak at School graduation. Kerry decided to speak at the graduation.

### **14. Delinquent Tax Collector Transition**

Ed gave an update that he has not heard anything from the former delinquent tax collector returning town property. Deb gave an overview of items that have not been returned and that all items need to be retained by the town. The Board discussed having a letter sent by the town lawyer. Ed offered to contact VLCT first for advice on this. Matt made a motion for the Town Administrator to contact VLCT for advice on how to retrieve town property. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous.

### **15. Other Business**

Ed explained that there is more information needed for the MERP grant propane tanks. Kerry and Deb noted that the town may be changing propane suppliers. Ed also stated that the Community Center doors are in the process of being added to the MERP grant.

Ed asked the Board if they were ok with the use of the town baseball/softball field for local teams. The Board approved of this.

Kerry welcomed George St. Onge and discussed the snowmobile club using the old town garage at some point for groomer storage. George St. Onge added information about their club and that the garage would be a good place to store the groomer. The Board stated they were ok with this dependent on the plans for the town garages.

Ed talked about the new town garage permit plans.

#### **16. Approval of Minutes – 04/06/2026**

Matt made a motion to approve the minutes of 04/06/2026. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **17. Warrants**

Matt asked Deb about an animal ordinance situation and trash burning. Deb gave an overview and update of both issues.

Dan made a motion to approve the warrants. Matt made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **18. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:21 p.m.