

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Town of Coventry
Monday May 18, 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
Matt Maxwell

Town Officials Present

Ed Fournier, Town Administrator
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk
David Barlow, Town Treasurer
Renee Falconer, Animal Control Officer

Public Present

Melanie Rodjenski, Town Accountant
Dan Rondeau, Cemetery Commission, Town Resident
Isreal Sanville, Constable, Fence Viewer, Town Resident
Chris Roy, Newport Daily Express, Town Resident
Orleans County Sheriff
Don Bennett
Cheryl Blouin
Laura Bennett
Arthur Blouin
Bianca Villeneuve
Harper Smith
Larry Villeneuve
Cassidy
Keith Jacobs
Ryan Rice
Cynthia
Sheila Bowman
Tamieka
Laura Mount
Amber Before
Shawn Jacobs
Toni Roberge
Chaylah Roberge
Michelle Carr
Brian Carr
Kenneth Carrier
Tyler Before

1. Order

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

2. Vicious Dog Hearing

Kerry Keement read the procedure and conducted the hearing as follows:

- Opened hearing by reading warning posted.
- Read the complaint filed.
- Informed all present of hearing manners, process, and rules.
- Informed all statements must be directed to the Chair.
- Directed complainant, dog owner and all others Providing evidence to take the oath of the hearing.
 - Oaths taken by those required.
- Invited victim to present their oral testimony.
 - Complainant Don Bennett presented his oral testimony.
- The video provided by Don was shown and a photo taken of his hand the day of the incident was presented.
- Invited dog owners to respond.
 - Hannah Jacobs, Keith Jacobs, Amber Before, and Shawn Jacobs responded to the evidence/testimony regarding the complaint.
- Allowed others to respond.
 - Oaths taken by those required.
 - Others responded to the evidence/testimony regarding the complaint.
- Invited anyone else to submit any relevant evidence/testimony regarding this complaint.
 - Sheila Bowman presented testimony.
- Asked Selectboard if they have any more questions regarding this complaint from either the victim or dog owner.
- Kerry moved to close the hearing and stated that the Select Board will conduct deliberations in private. Following deliberations, the decision of the Selectboard will set forth its findings and facts, conclusion of law, and protective order for the dog and will be made in writing and sent to the dog owner and complainant within two weeks.

- The Selectboard thanked the complainant, dog owners and others for coming and speaking.
- Reminded anyone with comments regarding the hearing to remain for public comment during the regular Select Board meeting.

3. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Allow for public comment

Public comments in regards to the Vicious Dog Hearing:

- Some of the public present commented on the behavior of the dogs.
- Animal Control Officer Renee Falconer commented on the behavior of the dogs and the situation of dog control.

5. Fence Viewing – 182 Covered Bridge Road

Ed Fournier explained that a resident called requesting a fence viewing and that he contacted the fence viewers. Fence Viewer Isreal Sanville presented information about the viewing and property situation. Isreal noted that he and fence viewer Devon Von Bockler recommended to the resident that they have a survey done. Ed gave the Selectboard information about fence viewing and town responsibility. Isreal noted that he and another fence viewer would return to the property and inform the resident of the limits of fence viewers and that this situation would be beyond the responsibilities of the viewers. The Board thanked Isreal for his work with the fence viewing.

6. Road Crew Uniforms/Rags

Ed presented the Board with new information about road crew uniforms and rags. Ed noted the budget amount, personnel policy, and the steps of changing the uniform process. David Barlow explained the finances behind allowing the road crew an allowance for uniforms as well as information in the personnel policy. Matt Maxwell made a motion that the road crew members collect and return all Unifirst property and that the town will issue them one thousand dollars for their uniform needs for the year. Dan Webster made the second and the vote was unanimous. The Board noted this would start fiscal year 2027.

7. Audit Documents

Ed presented the Board with Audit documents. David discussed the audit and the document. Matt made a motion for chairperson Kerry Keement to sign the management representation letter. Dan made the second and vote was unanimous.

8. Delinquent Tax Collector Transition

Ed provided an update explaining that the lawyer is working on

sending a letter to the former delinquent tax collector in regards to returning all town property.

9. Ice Jam Study

Ed explained that the State needs direction from the Town on what direction they would go in regards to an Ice Jam project when funding becomes available. Ed gave the Board information from the Ice Jam Study. Matt stated to have this at Town Meeting or a Special Meeting so residents could decide. Kerry noted that Town Meeting would be best.

10. Town Owned Property – Surveys

Ed discussed Town owned property and having the right information. He noted the following properties: 150 Main St., 89 Main St., 983 River Rd., Main St. Town Garage, and the Town baseball/softball field. Ed noted that the survey for 150 Main St. is complete. The Select Board decided to get surveys for those discussed other than 150 Main St. and added Hancock Hill, Cleveland Meeting House, and the Cemetery Properties. David noted that the town may have some maps for some of the properties. Matt made a motion to get surveys for all properties needed. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous.

11. Other Business

Ed presented the Selectboard with a State Transportation Board public hearing order. Ed noted that he would post this online and at the town office.

Ed also asked the Board if they wanted to stay on schedule with the meetings because there will be 5 Mondays in June. The Board decided to stay on schedule.

Deb Tanguay discussed proceeding with discussing and coordinating for all procedures with the Dog and Animal ordinance.

Deb discussed the MERP grant and amendments. Matt noted that he would discuss the grant and amendment with project manager Larry Ruggles.

Dan stated that Hancock Hill will be an agenda item in the next meeting.

David stated that there will be a budget update and other information at the next meeting.

12. Approval of Minutes – 05/04/2026

Dan made a motion to approve the minutes of 05/04/2026. Matt made the second and the vote was unanimous.

13. Warrants

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

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:37 p.m.