

**Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Town of Coventry
Monday July 06, 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
David Barlow, Town Treasurer
Nathan Standish, Road Foreman

Public Present

Melanie Rodjenski, Town Accountant
Chuck Newton, Newport City Fire Department
Chris Roy, Newport Daily Express, Town Resident
Tyler Billingsley, East Engineering
Ricky Burke, Town Resident
Pedro Grondin, Constable, Town Resident
Martha Sylvester
Patrick Higgins, Town Resident
Matt Krajeski, Assessor
Dan Rondeau, Cemetery Commission, 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

Martha Sylvester discussed the property of 227 Covered Bridge Road in regard to owners, residents, and recent activity at the property. Martha would like to open a dialect with the town and community about issues surrounding the property. The Select Board thanked Martha for her time.

Ricky Burke discussed a tree on his property and his concern for dead tree limbs. The Select Board asked Ricky to send the town a tree limb removal bill for review. Ricky also discussed his concerns with road maintenance. The Board told Ricky they would look into this and thanked him for his input.

Chuck Newton presented the Board with updates from the Fire Department. He discussed Fire Department trainings and a 5K run.

4. Tyler Billingsley, East Engineering – Coventry Station Road Updates

Tyler Billingsley updated the Select Board about Coventry Station Road. Tyler gave a brief overview of the work that had been done in the past on the road and discussed the recent issues with the road. He explained that he analyzed the road and worked with Goodhue Excavation to fix the issues. Tyler noted that after the work was done, he has been monitoring the road and believes the issues are corrected. Tyler also explained that he would be paying the bill for this as he does not think this is anything the town should have to pay for. The Board thanked Tyler for his work and his update.

5. New England Municipal Consultants – Contract

Ed Fournier presented the Board with an updated contract from New England Municipal Consultants. The Board had asked Assessor Matt Krakeski from NEMC to amend one part and clarify the wording. Matt made the amendment and clarified the wording. Matt Maxwell made a motion to approve the contract. Dan Webster made the second and the vote was unanimous. The Board thanked Matt for his service.

6. Tax Map Maintenance Contract

Ed asked Matt K. to discuss the tax map maintenance contract. Matt K. explained that the tax map software would help the town streamline information and help those seeking the information. He also noted the software would have a benefit due to the fact that the Assessor office and Clerk office are not staffed five days a week. Kerry Keement discussed the uses of the software. Dan decided he would like get more information about the usage and process. The Select Board decided to research this further and discuss it in another meeting.

7. Melanie Rodjenski – Stone Shore Municipal Consulting

Town accountant Melanie Rodjenski discussed the proposed contract for Stone Shore Municipal Consulting. Matt M. made a motion to approve the contract. Dan made the second and vote was unanimous. The Board noted that Melanie has done an excellent job and thanked her for her service.

Melanie discussed Capital Planning with the Select Board. Melanie discussed the phase of data building and how this would help planning. Melanie has imported the data into the application that her company is developing. Melanie noted that this would be a good opportunity for Coventry to maximize the use of planning.

8. Treasurer's Report

David Barlow presented the Board with a Treasurer's Report for the month of May. David discussed the checking account and the school taxes paid. He also discussed the VLCT insurance bill and normal fund finances. David previewed the June report.

9. Forest Fire and Fire Prevention Statute Changes – Town Forest Fire Warden Designation

Ed explained to the Board that there has been State statute changes for designation of Forest Fire Wardens. Ed explained that because Coventry is served by two fire departments, the Board would need to designate a warden from one of the departments. Matt M. made a motion to appoint Chief Kevin Lacoss as the town forest fire warden. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous. Ed noted that Pedro Grondin, who has been the town fire warden leading up to this could be appointed by the warden as a deputy and continue forest fire warden work under the new warden. Pedro discussed the work he has done as a warden and the rules surrounding forest fire warden regulations. Matt M. noted that the town was happy with Pedro's work and would like him to continue.

10. Town Common – Cleaning Contract

Kerry presented a quote for the cleaning of the memorials on the town common. Matt M. made a motion to approve the cleaning contract. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous.

11. Town Official 911 Coordinator – Phil Marquette - *Proposed Executive Session

Matt M. made a motion to enter executive session for a personnel issue to include the Select Board, Town Administrator and Phil Marquette. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous. The Select Board, Town Administrator and Phil entered executive session at 6:03 p.m. Matt M. made the motion to exit executive session at 6:15 p.m. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous. No action was taken during the executive session.

12. Other Business

Ed noted that the Road Foreman is now all set to start purchasing rags from Claire's. Ed also explained that the Road Crew uniforms and rags have been returned to Unifirst. David discussed paying out the new uniform allowance.

Ed discussed the America at 250 updates from the Newport Daily Express.

Ed explained that he and Nathan put up a new American Flag on the town common.

Kerry noted that the Wednesdays on the Waterfront event in Newport coming up is the event that the town sponsored.

13. Approval of Minutes – 06/15/2026, 06/22/2026

Matt made a motion to approve the minutes of 06/15/2026 and 06/22/2026. Dan made the second and the vote was unanimous.

14. Warrants

David discussed the paving invoice and the difference in the contracted amount and billed amount. The Board agreed with David to

send a letter and payment for the contracted amount plus the additional approved paving. Dan made a motion to approve the warrants. Matt M. made the second and the vote was unanimous.

15. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 6:16 p.m.