Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Town of Coventry
Monday October 19, 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
Deb Tanguay, Town Clerk

Public Present
Chuck Newton, City of Newport Fire Department

1. Order

Ed Fournier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Person's present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

None.

3. Allow for public comment

Chuck Newton from the Newport Fire Department provided updates on recent activities, including their successful annual open house and upcoming trunk or treat events. He expressed concern about people using old wood stoves and fireplaces due to high heating costs, warning of potential chimney fires. The fire department also conducted pump operator training with multiple fire trucks at Built by Newport, involving firefighters from Newport and surrounding towns.

4. NECKV – Establishment of Evaluation Process

The Selectboard discussed streamlining the fiber-optic cable installation process and voted to authorize Road Foreman Nathan Standish to coordinate directly with NEKCV for the project, stipulating that the Road Foreman will oversee operations and that the Selectboard will be apprised of the project's progress. Matt Maxwell made a motion to allow Road Foreman Nathan Standish to coordinate with NEKCV. Dan Webster made the second and the vote was unanimous.

5. Town Property Signage

The Selectboard addressed town property signage issues and decided to reposition the signs to make them more welcoming, stipulating that the final placement be adjusted to accommodate both winter plowing operations and the input provided by the property owner next door to the Community Center. The Selectboard also discussed parking lot improvements, weighing the options of paving versus gravel, and addressed potential septic tank concerns. Ultimately, decisions regarding both the

fence project and the parking lot improvements were deferred for further evaluation and discussion.

6. Tree Removal Invoice

The Selectboard addressed a tree removal issue following a report from Tree Warden John Buchanan that additional road-side tree work is required. A significant portion of the discussion focused on municipal reimbursement policy requirements, emphasizing that proper, formal invoices are strictly necessary for all payments. This arose regarding a recent tree removal job where only a handwritten receipt was provided to the Town. The Board decided to approve a 50% payment of $225 for the tree removal, with the stipulation that efforts will continue to obtain the required formal documentation.

7. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer David Barlow presented the September Treasurer's Report, noting an overall increase in tax revenues and grant payments. Regarding the General Fund, the report highlighted recent grant revenue along with associated expenses. The Highway Fund currently remains in the red; however, it is projected to balance by next month upon allocation of the upcoming Casella payment. David also discussed tax payment tracking and where the Town was at in regard to this.

8. Community Center Key System Quote

Ed Fournier provided the Selectboard with information about the yearly fee for the Community Center Key System. The new key system that was approved requires a yearly fee for technological purposes. Matt Maxwell made a motion to approve the Kelley Brothers proposal for the annual fee. Dan Webster seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous. Ed F. discussed the options for the Town Garage doors.

9. Other Business

The Selectboard directed Ed F. to obtain more detailed scheduling information regarding the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) upgrades at the Community Center. Because completing the energy efficiency and resilience improvements is important, the board requires a clearer timeline to ensure the project stays on track and avoids delays.

Ed F. and David B. provided an initial Informational Technology update to the Selectboard based on recent technical assessments and proposal meetings. They reported that preliminary sales meeting reviews have been conducted, with a comprehensive, follow-up evaluation and detailed strategy recommendations to follow at an upcoming board meeting.

David B. provided information about Solar Power and how this would good to discuss in regard to the Community Center. David B. stated there would be more information to follow.

Ed F. discussed a meeting for the new Town Garage and communication with Roy Ward.

Ed F. discussed the Town Property surveys.

The Selectboard approved the next meeting to take place on November 4th, 2026.

Deb Tanguay brought up the 911 Coordinator position progress and discussed this with the Select Board.

The Selectboard noted the letter received in regard to Deb Tanguay's Vermont

Municipal Clerks and Treasurers Association certification and they congratulated Deb.
The Selectboard discussed the space in the back of the Community Center.

10. Approval of Minutes – 10/05/2026

Matt Maxwell made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/05/2026. Dan Webster made the second and the vote was unanimous.

11. Warrants

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

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent at 5:58 p.m.