

MINUTES
SELECT BOARD MEETING
TOWN OF COVENTRY

Friday June 9th, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Michael Marcotte/Chairman; Bradley Maxwell; Scott Morley

Town Officials Present:

Amanda Carlson/Town Administrator

Paul Gillies/Town Attorney

Maurice Jacobs/Planning Commission; Skip Gosselin/Planning Commission

David Barlow/Trustee of Cemetery Funds & Public Money

Kate Fletcher/Delinquent Tax Collector

Guests:

G. Darby; E. Darby; Martha Sylvester; Joshua Griffes; Ryan Fletcher; Leo Piette; Ellen McGreery; Valerie Gosselin; Deb Tanguay; Alan Feltmarch; Adam Messier; Sheila Morley; Doug Rounsevelle; Frank Carbonneau

Press:

Elizabeth Trail/ Baton Chronicle; Dan Schwartz/VT Digger; Chris Roy/Newport Vermont Daily Express; Robin Smith/Orleans County Record

1. **Mike Marcotte called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.**
2. **Review bond application presented by the Town Clerk/Treasurer.**
 - No bond application was received. Item tabled.

3. Discussion and action on the possible vacancy in the office of Clerk/Treasurer, issuance of a notice of vacancy of the office to the public and invitation to submit nominations for replacements, changing keys and locks in the town office, and requesting return of all property belonging to the Town by the Clerk/Treasurer, and other decisions relevant to these issues.

- Mike Marcotte stated that Cynthia Diaz had papers served to him by the Sheriff's department earlier that day.
- The court filed complaint alleged that the special meeting held by the Board on May 24, 2017 was improperly warned, therefore the decision to notify the Clerk of the ten days to receive a bond was invalid.
- Cynthia Diaz also provided the Board with a letter explaining that since the meeting was improperly warned, she will have ten days to produce a bond application from the day she receives a notice that was issued in a duly warned meeting.
- Mike Marcotte stated that the Board warned the May 24th, 2017 meeting properly and in accordance with the Vermont Open Meeting Law. The dispute served to Mike Marcotte by Cynthia Diaz will be handled by the Board separately.
- Mike Marcotte stated that by not providing a bond application as requested, the Office of Town Clerk and Treasurer is now, by law, vacant.
- The Board will issue a notice of vacancy and consider candidates for the position. Nominations will not be considered during this meeting.
- Brad Maxwell made the motion to change the locks on the Town Clerk and Treasurers office door following the close of the meeting, and address additional measures to secure the office over the next several days. Seconded by Scott Morley. Unanimously approved by the Board to change the office door locks immediately.
- The Town Attorney, Paul Gillies, will draft a letter to Cynthia Diaz requesting all Town property be returned immediately.
- Residents had questions for the Board on the letter received from Cynthia Diaz. Further explanation into the contents was discussed.
- Mike Marcotte stated that there were three options for the Board to considering when filling the Office of the Clerk and Treasurer. The Board could appoint a person(s) to the position until Town meeting day where it will then be elected by the voters; the Board could call a special Town Meeting and allow the voters to elect a new Clerk and Treasurer; or; the Voters can petition the Board to request a special meeting to allow the voters to fill the vacancies.
- The Board agreed unanimously to discuss further at the regular Select Board meeting scheduled for Monday June 12, 2017 and make the decision then on how best to proceed for the Town.
- Attorney Paul Gillies stated that there is no statute on the time frame required before appointment or election, however, the Town wants to ensure business can ensue and there is no interruption in services provided. Paul recommended a temporary Clerk and Treasurer be appointed to allow the Board more time to consider options.

4. Other Business

- No other business brought before the Board.

5. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

The next Select Board meeting will be held on Monday June 12th, 2017 at 5:00 p.m.

Michael Marcotte / Chairman

Bradley Maxwell

Scott Morley

Amanda Carlson / Town Administrator