

Minutes  
Select Board Meeting  
Town of Coventry  
Wednesday March 2, 2022

**Board Members Present**

Scott Briere, Chair  
David Gallup  
Phil Marquette

**Town Officials Present**

David Barlow, Treasurer  
Ned Connell, Administrator  
Pedro Grondin, 1st Constable, Fire Warden, Health Officer  
Amanda Jensen, School Director  
Praneet Menon, School Director & Planning Commission  
Israel Sanville, 2nd Constable & Planning Commission  
Deb Tanguay, Clerk

**Residents Present**

Jim Cobb, Moe Jacobs, Skip Gosselin, Kerry Keement

*This meeting was recorded on Zoom and then posted to YouTube.  
The link to this recording is at [www.coventryvt.org](http://www.coventryvt.org).*

**1. Order**

Scott Briere called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

**2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda**

No additions or changes were proposed.

**3. Board Reorganized**

Phil Marquette made a motion to appoint Scott B as Select Board Chair and David Gallup seconded the motion. Phil M and David G voted in favor.

Scott B made a motion to appoint Phil M as Vice Chair for the Select Board, seconded by David G.; Scott B and David G voted in favor.

**4. Appointments**

Scott B asked Ned Connell to read aloud the list of appointed positions and their incumbents. Ned read the list aloud. It was identical to the list in the 2021 Town Report with these exceptions:

- The addition of assistant Animal Control Officer Michelle Falconer.
- The deletion of Fence Viewer Josh Griffes (position vacant)
- The deletion of Solid Waste Committee member Sherry Bradley (four positions vacant)
- The addition of Town Treasurer as an appointed position per Article 16 of the Town Meeting warrant as passed by Australian ballot on March 1, 2022.

Scott B asked for the appointment of Community Center Coordinator, Road Commissioner, Town Administrator, Town Service Officer, and Emergency Management Coordinator to be tabled until after discussion in the upcoming executive session. David G asked for the Town Attorney to also be tabled for such discussion.

Skip Gosselin asked the purpose of the Zoning Administrator. David Barlow explained that the Town has flood zoning, per a Town bylaw passed in 1994. The Zoning Administrator facilitates any flood zone building permit requests with the Select Board and the State of Vermont. Skip G. then asked what the (upcoming) executive session was all about. Phil M. and Scott B. explained that it involved personnel, and if any decisions were made they would be announced after they came out of executive session.

The Select Board briefly discussed the entirely vacant SWIP committee with Praneet Menon and Deb Tanguay.

Phil M made a motion to accept appointments as noted with the exception of the above tabled items and Scott B seconded the motion. All members voted in favor and the following appointments were made:

Animal Control Officer - Renee Falconer  
 Assistant Animal Control Officer - Michelle Falconer  
 Civil Defense Chairmen - Pedro Grondin  
 Fence Viewers - Israel Sanville, Stuart Maxwell  
 Select Board Bookkeeper - Deb Tanguay  
 Assessor - New England Municipal Consultants  
 Assessing Clerk - Kate Fletcher  
 Town Treasurer - David Barlow  
 Tree Warden - John Buchanan  
 Zoning Administrator - David Barlow  
 Emergency Management Director - Phil Marquette  
 911 Coordinator - Phil Marquette

## **5. Noticing and Posting**

Phil M made a motion to accept the posting and agenda as noted and Scott B seconded the motion. All members voted in favor and the information was accepted as follows:

Meeting Dates - first and third Monday of each month

Meeting Times - 6:00pm

Meeting Location - Coventry Community Center

Posting Locations - Royer's Store, Coventry Community Center, Coventry Post Office, and the Landfill Scale House  
Newspaper to post in - Newport Daily Express

## **6. Executive Session - Personnel matters**

Scott B made a motion for the Select Board to enter executive session at 6:18pm. Phil M seconded the motion and the Board went into executive session for personnel discussion by exiting the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room and moving to the Town Administrator's office on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. The Zoom meeting recording was suspended; audience members remained in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room while the Select Board relocated.

Upon exiting executive session at 7:18pm, Phil M made a motion to give a suspension notice to the employee per a letter that was signed in the executive session. Scott B seconded the motion. Phil M and Scott B voted in favor. Phil M noted that David G had left the meeting escorting Ned C from the building. Amanda Jensen asked if David G would be returning to the meeting, and Phil M said he would probably not be returning.

## **4. Appointments (continued)**

Phil made a motion to appoint David G as the Road Commissioner. Scott seconded the motion and both members voted in favor.

Scott G noted that the appointed positions of Community Center Coordinator, Town Administrator, Town Service Officer, and the Emergency Management Coordinator would remain tabled.

Praneet M and Amanda J asked for further information on the suspension. Phil M left the room briefly to call the Town attorney, Brian Monaghan, to get guidance. While Phil M was gone, audience members mentioned that Ned C had returned to the meeting room before the Select Board members returned from the executive session and Ned C had given a copy of the suspension notice to one or more of the audience members present. When Phil M returned, he stated that Brian Monaghan told him the

actions were employer - employee privileged information and were exempt from any public records request.

## **7. Adjourn**

Scott B made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Phil M seconded the motion. Both members voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 7:24pm.

---

Scott Briere - Chair

---

David Gallup

---

Phil Marquette