

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD MEETING**  
**TOWN OF COVENTRY**

**Saturday February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 8:00 a.m.**

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**Board Members Present:**

Bradley Maxwell; Scott Morley

**Town Officials Present:**

Amanda Carlson/Select Board Clerk

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**1. Bradley Maxwell called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m.**

**2. General Audit Discussion.**

- The meeting was attended by 30 Coventry residents.
- Scott Morley opened by stating the meeting would be conducted as an open forum with questions from the public. Copies of the last five financial audits were available for review.
- Residents questioned the Board's authority over current offices and control over the Treasurers position. The Board explained that the offices were independent and the Board could not force another elected office to perform their duties in any particular way.
- The Board stated they are taking responsibility for all functions of the Town not statutorily responsible by the Town Clerk and Treasurer. This will be facilitated through the new full time Town Administrator hired for the Select Board Office.
- The Board has taken steps towards addressing all recommendations made by the Auditor, but there has been little, if any, effective or appropriate compliance from the Treasurer's office.
- Cost of the most recent financial and forensic audit was questioned. The Board replied this was a necessary step and that more money would need to be spent unless they received better cooperation from the Treasurer's office.
- The Board was questioned on the Town & School Meeting Warning Article #3 asking the voters to allow the appointment of a Delinquent Tax Collector.
- Delinquent tax payers were present stating they have had communication difficulties with the current Collector of Delinquent Taxes.
- The Audit report was referenced saying that the Auditor uncovered inconsistencies in delinquent tax reporting.

- Scott Morley stated his personal opinion that offices should remain elected and independent, however, felt this was a necessary step in order to correct the current records.
- The article allowing appointment can be voted with the stipulation that it is for a one year term and then will be turned back to the voters. This amendment would need to be done by the voters, from the floor, on Town meeting day.
- The report of missing monies was addressed and discussed. Residents voiced their concern and disappointment with the current situation, and that it had been allowed to continue for as many years as it had.
- Residents discussed if there was anything the voters could do to remove the current Clerk and Treasurer before the end of her term for not performing the duties of the office effectively.
- Residents stressed the importance of attending Town meeting so the voters have a voice in addressing these issues.

**3. Meeting was adjourned at 9:47 a.m.**

**The next Select Board meeting will be held on Monday February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 5:00p.m.**

**The next informational meeting will be held on Wednesday February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.**

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**Michael Marcotte / Chairman**

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**Bradley Maxwell**

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**Scott Morley**

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**Amanda Carlson / Select Board Clerk**