

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Town of Coventry
Tuesday March 8, 2022

Board Members Present

Scott Briere, Chair
David Gallup
Phil Marquette

Town Officials Present

David Barlow, Treasurer
Ned Connell, Administrator
Praneet Menon, School Director & Planning Commission
Deb Tanguay, Clerk

Residents Present

Jim Cobb, Skip Gosselin, Donna & Len Griffes, Moe Jacobs

*This meeting was recorded on Zoom and then posted to YouTube.
The link to this recording is at www.coventryvt.org.*

1. Order

Chair, Scott B called the meeting to order at 6:03pm.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

No additions or changes were proposed.

**3. Anticipated Executive Session - Disciplinary or Dismissal
Action**

Scott Briere announced that the Select Board was to hear the comments (of Ned Connell) on the charges they presented to him in a letter last week (at the March 2, 2022 Select Board meeting) and that their intent was to do so in executive session. Scott B stated that Ned C had the right to continue the session in public. Ned C chose to hold the session in public. Scott B invited Ned C to step forward and present his case.

Ned C began by apologizing that his actions forced the Select Board to get to this point.

Skip Gosselin interrupted, requesting information on the contents of the letter given to Ned C (at the March 2, 2022 Select Board meeting). After a brief discussion, Scott B provided a copy of a letter to Skip G.

Ned C continued his discussion of his actions referenced in the letter:

Ned C first explained that while he did not want to negate the Select Board decision to print the 2021 Town Report in (full) color, his decision to print the Town Report (partially) in black and white saved the Town about three thousand dollars. He thought black and white was sufficient for the Town Report, given that there were two boxes of 2020 Town Reports leftover representing a large expenditure for full color reports gone unused.

The second charge was in reference to an Act 250 jurisdictional opinion filing that Ned C stated: "I definitely jumped the gun on that one." He added that the Act 250 jurisdictional opinion would take weeks for the State to put together as they receive many such requests and the process is slow. He also mentioned the recent "Snowstone Decision" by the Vermont Supreme Court and that its impact would be a response of "no, they don't have jurisdiction."

Ned C discussed the third charge in terms of his actions "I am certain that I sent the Town Attorney, Brian Monaghan, a copy of the letter, and I spoke with him by the phone, my phone, and he said he was fine with the text of the letter."

Ned C closed by thanking the Select Board for allowing him to speak his peace and reiterated his apology from the opening of his remarks.

Scott B thanked Ned C for coming in and responding to the Select Board letter presented to Ned C at the March 2, 2022 Select Board meeting. He further stated that the Select Board would be responding to Ned C via letter regarding Ned C's presentation at this March 8, 2022 meeting. Scott B, Ned C and David Barlow confirmed that the Select Board had Ned C's email and postal mailing addresses.

4. Deliberative Session

Scott B made a motion to enter a deliberative session at 6:08pm. David G seconded the motion. Both voted in favor to enter deliberative session.

Upon exiting deliberative session at 6:22pm Scott B announced that Ned C would receive written notice of their decision within seven days.

5. Executive Session - Appointment Discussion

Scott B made a motion to enter executive session at 6:24pm to include David B for the discussion of appointments. David G seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

Upon exiting executive session at 6:39pm Scott B made a motion "to appoint David Barlow as a temporary/acting Select Board Secretary because we have a vacancy." David G seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

6. Review Tabled Appointments

Scott B made a motion to appoint Brian Monaghan as the Town Attorney. Phil M seconded the motion and all members voted in favor.

The remaining tabled appointments will be discussed in future meetings.

7. Community Center Cleaning Contract

Two quotes have been received for cleaning the Community Center; one from the current cleaner and one from Israel Sanville. Scott B motioned to table this item as he would like to ask questions of Israel Sanville, such as his experience, insurance, and equipment. David G seconded and all members voted in favor.

8. Warrants

Scott B made a motion to approve and sign all warrants as presented. David G seconded the motion. All members voted in favor.

9. Adjourn

Scott B made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:44pm. David G seconded the motion. All members voted in favor and the meeting was adjourned.

Scott Briere - Chair

David Gallup

Phil Marquette