

**Minutes**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Town of Coventry**  
**Monday August 15, 2022**

*This meeting was recorded on Zoom and then posted to YouTube. The link to the Town's YouTube channel is at [www.coventryvt.org](http://www.coventryvt.org).*

**Board Members Present**

Scott Briere, Chair  
David Gallup  
Phil Marquette

**Town Officials Present**

David Barlow, Treasurer & Acting Secretary to the Select Board  
Kerry Keement, Justice of the Peace  
Praneet Menon, Planning Commission and School Director  
Matt Maxwell, Town Administrator

**Residents Present**

Richard Lussier  
Linda Gosselin  
Brian Martin

**Non-Residents Present**

None

**Contractors Present**

None

**Press Present**

None

**1. Order**

Matt called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

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

Agenda item number 8 was tabled and an invoice to the fire district for the Desrochers fire was added under other business

**3. Allow for public comment**

Linda Gosselin explained about vehicles entering Lawson Ridge from Maple Ridge and failing to yield the right away. This is causing some confusion and could lead to possible accidents. David G said he would provide a response under agenda item 5.

#### **4. Richard Lussier – Community Center Display**

Resident Richard Lussier was in attendance to revisit the idea of a display in front of the community center that would give a history of the building. Richard envisions a replica of the community center building with a write up of the history under glass. The select board authorized Richard and the town administrator to bring a mock up to the board for approval. Richard also would like to see various rooms within the community center dedicated to past prominent Coventry citizens and the wall along the stairway to display past photos of the building. Richard would also like to see something done with how the paper towels are dispensed in the restrooms.

#### **5. Road Policy Discussion**

A draft town road policy was presented to the board. They will review the draft policy, make edits, and discuss at a future meeting. Dave G spoke to Linda Gosselin about placing a yield sign for vehicles coming off Lawson Ridge and going on to Maple Ridge. Dave explained that based on traffic volume and patterns this would make the most sense. Dave G will inspect the site and speak with Linda Gosselin and Brian Martin before any signage is placed.

#### **6. ARPA funds update**

Dave B. explained to the board that he used a template created by the VLCT to come up with a four-person committee for the town of Coventry that would make recommendations to the select board for the distribution of the ARPA funds. The committee would be made up of the town treasurer, town administrator, a member of the planning commission, and a member of the public that is a Coventry resident. Dave G felt that all ARPA funds should go into the general fund as currently the fire district is the only entity with a current financial need, all other town projects are adequately funded. Dave B mentioned that some of the funds could be used for the Communication Union District to upgrade the town's broadband capabilities. Praneet Menon was asked his opinion and he stated he was in favor of setting up a committee to make recommendations for the dispersal of the ARPA funds. Scott B made the motion to establish an ARPA fund committee. Phil M made the second. The motion passed by a vote of 2 to 1 with Scott and Phil in favor and Dave G opposed.

#### **7. FY 2022 Budget Review**

Dave B gave an overview of the FY 2022 Budget detailing revenues and expenditures for the fiscal year. Dave G had a question on a miscellaneous line item that was answered by Dave B as having to do with how we receive payments for delinquent taxes. Dave B also

explained how the State of Vermont no longer requires towns to segregate Road Fund and General Fund monies. The town of Coventry will continue to operate with a separate Road Fund. Most town funds came in under or right at the budgeted amounts. The roads fund was slightly over due to some end of fiscal year purchases that were higher than expected.

## **8. FY 2023 Budget Changes**

Tabled

## **9. July Treasurer's Report**

Dave B. presented the July Treasurer's report. Dave B. stated that it was a typical month for the town. A transfer of \$100,000 was made to set up the road infrastructure fund per the 2022 Town meeting. It was a good month for revenues as the town received a substantial check from Casella. The town investment funds experienced another down month, but in the long term we are looking financially positive.

## **10. Approval of Minutes 8-1-2022**

Dave G asked that the "gasps of horror" line from the minutes regarding a dog euthanizing comment be removed. Dave G then made a motion to accept the minutes of 8-1-2022. Scott made the second and the vote was 2 to 0 in favor.

## **11. Other Business**

Phil M. presented the board with an invoice from the Coventry Fire District to the city of Newport for water use during the Desrochers garage fire. Scott felt that the Desrochers insurance should be responsible for the invoice as it was a cost incurred as part of the fire. The town will look into seeking reimbursement from Desrochers. Scott made the motion to pay \$1700 to the fire district. Dave G made the second and the vote was unanimous.

## **12. Warrants**

Scott made the motion to accept the bid from Oil Supply Corp at \$3.57 per gallon, for the town's #2 fuel oil needs. Dave G made the second and the vote was unanimous. Phil M made a motion to accept the warrants. Dave G made the second and the vote was unanimous.

## **13. Executive Session**

Phil made the motion that premature public knowledge of the town's legal strategy would put the town at a disadvantage when it came to negotiations. Dave G made the second and the vote was unanimous.

Phil made the motion that the select board along with David Barlow and Matt Maxwell enter executive session to discuss attorney and client confidential communications. Dave G made the second and the vote was unanimous. Executive session was entered at 7:08 pm and exited at 7:52 pm. No action taken. Scott then made the motion to pay Skip San Soucy \$1875.00 for work done on the town appraisal. Dave G made the second and the vote was unanimous.

#### **14. Adjourn**

Phil made the motion to adjourn. Dave G made the second and the vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned at 7:56 pm.

DRAFT