

Minutes
Select Board Meeting
Town of Coventry
Monday July 18, 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.

Board Members Present

Scott Briere, Chair
David Gallup
Phil Marquette, Vice Chair

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
Dom Gervais, Coventry Fire District
Matt Maxwell, Town Moderator

Residents Present

None

Non-Residents Present

None

Contractors Present

None

Press Present

Chris Roy, Newport Daily

1. Order

David B called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm. Persons present introduced themselves.

2. Changes or Additions to the Agenda

David G asked that the asbestos removal from 150 Main Street be added to other business. David B asked that the approval of minutes from June 20 and June 27 be added to other business. David B also added the painting contract for the Cleveland meeting house to other the other business portion of the agenda.

3. Allow for public comment

None.

4. New Coventry School Principal introduction and update

Kristy Ellis was in attendance and introduced herself to the selectboard as the interim Principal at Coventry for a one-year term. Ms. Ellis was familiar with everyone present except for David G, who she happens to be related to. Ms. Ellis was formerly the literacy interventionist at Coventry and accepted the role of interim Principal at the urging of the Coventry School Board. Ms. Ellis has over ten years of experience as a principal at Jay/Westfield. Ms. Ellis stated that the school addition project will begin in the spring of 2023 and finish in the fall of 2023. The Board thanked Ms. Ellis for taking on the responsibility.

5. Appointment of the new town administrator

Scott made a motion to appoint Matt Maxwell as the new town administrator. David G made the second and the vote was unanimous.

6. ARPA funding allocation procedures discussion

David B explained that the town needs to come up with a procedure for distributing the town's ARPA funds. Based on a recommendation from the VLCT David B suggested a committee be formed consisting of one select person, the town administrator, and one other person to hear proposals and make recommendations to the select board. Currently there are \$160,000 available and by September the town anticipates receiving another payment bringing the total to \$315,000. Dom Gervais representing the Coventry Fire District explained to the board that Fire District would like to receive a portion of the ARPA funds so that they may install flow meters in the homes that reside in the district, as well as, the Coventry School. The meters will help regulate the rates paid by members of the district. Dom estimated that the cost of outfitting the fire district with the meters would be around \$25,000.

7. 3rd Vermont Community Leadership Summit, Aug 10th

Scott made the motion to appoint Praneet Menon as the town representative at the community leadership summit. The motion was given a 2nd by Phil and the vote was unanimous.

8. Orleans County Sheriff

There were two items involving the Sheriff's office. The first was an increase in the number of speeding vehicles on Pine Hill Road now that it has been paved. Scott mentioned he had witnessed quite a lot of speeding in the previous weeks, but recently things have been better. The second item was the bill the town received from the sheriff's office in May was really low. David B contacted the sheriff's office and was told that they mistakenly thought the town's contract had expired and therefore did not provide any services for the month of May. The town has received the new contract for the upcoming year from the Sheriff's department.

9. June Treasurer's Report

David B. Went over the June Treasurer's report. David B. moved some money from the general fund into 2 reserve funds as per articles 12 and 14 from Town Meeting. David B had signature cards for the select board to sign updating for year 2022 and adding Phil Marquette and removing Mike Marcotte. David explained that the losses in our investment accounts are due to downturns in the market and that they will go back up.

10. Amendment to the FY2023 Wage and Salary report

Phil made the motion to amend the FY2022 budget for Road Commissioner salary and the corresponding line in the FY2022 Wage and Salary Approval from 59,000 to 60,600 by reprogramming funds in the amount of 1,600 from the part time winter road crew fund line. Scott made the second on the motion and David G abstained. The vote was unanimous. Phil then made a motion to raise the hourly wage of part time road crew employee Zach Patridge from \$30.00 per hour to \$31.77 per hour. Scott seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

11. Regional Emergency Management Conference support Sept 2022

Scott made a motion for the town to provide mileage and a room for Phil to attend the Regional Emergency Management conference in September. The Motion was seconded by David G. Phil abstained and the vote was unanimous.

12. Other Business

The board reviewed the minutes from June 20 and June 27. Scott made the motion to accept both sets of minutes. The second was made by Phil and the vote was unanimous. The next item discussed was the exterior painting of the Elijah Cleveland meeting house. James Fitzgerald has been hired for the project and as soon as the town receives a certificate of insurance from his provider a check will be cut to Mr. Fitzgerald so he can begin work. The final item under other business was the house set for demolition at 150 main street. It is the desire of the board that the demolition is to take place in September of 2022. Jeremy as Casella will be contacted for containers to remove everything once the house has been leveled. David G. explained about the asbestos in the house and the cost to have it removed safely. Scott made a motion to approve the asbestos removal. The motion was seconded by Phil and the vote was unanimous. Concerning the contents of the house the board directed the town administrator to make an approximate inventory and offer the Town Foundation whatever they wanted. The town administrator will then contact Wright's Auction House for the removal of anything that may remain. Scott made a motion to allow the Newport Fire

Department use of the house for training purposes prior to demolition. David G seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

13. Warrants

Phil made a motion to accept all warrants except the one for Fairfield in the amount of \$4679.46 as this was the purchase of blades that have since been returned. Scott seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.

14. Adjourn

Scott made the motion to adjourn. Dave made the second. Vote was unanimous. Meeting adjourned 7:40pm.