

Jamaica Selectboard Meeting

January 23, 2017

6:30pm Garage Bid Opening

7:00pm Regular Meeting

Minutes

Bid Opening for new Town Garage:

Present-

Selectboard: Paul Fraser (chair), Andy Coyne, Lou Bruso, Judith Flower, Lexa Clark

Public: Keith Hazard (Road Foreman)

Paul Fraser called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Bids were as follows:

VMS - \$645,000.00

Ingram - \$664,734.00

Wright - \$673,064.00

All Seasons - \$665,841.00

GPI - \$678,902.00

Russell - \$646,551.00

Regular Meeting:

Present-

Selectboard: Paul Fraser (chair), Andy Coyne, Lou Bruso, Judith Flower, Lexa Clark

Public: Joel Bluming, Barbara Ferguson (Lister), Rich Melanson (cameraman), Pam Tweedy (Recorder)

Paul Fraser reconvened the meeting at 7:02pm.

Additions to the Agenda:

Paul Fraser added two items to the end of the Agenda.

Approve the minutes of the Jan 9th, 10th, and 12th Selectboard meeting.

MOTION: Lexa Clark moved to approve minutes from the January 9th Selectboard meeting.

Second: Lou Bruso.

Motion passed.

MOTION: Lexa Clark moved to approve minutes from the January 10th Selectboard meeting.

Second: Andy Coyne.

Motion passed.

MOTION: Andy Coyne moved to approve minutes from the January 12th Selectboard meeting.

Second: Judith Flower.

Motion passed.

Discuss the appointment to the Planning Commission.

Jamaica Resident Christopher Robbins submitted a letter of interest for the Jamaica Planning Commission.

MOTION: Paul Fraser moved to nominate Christopher Robbins for the Planning Commission..

Second: Lou Bruso.

Motion passed.

Review two overweight permits.

MOTION: Lexa Clark moves to have Road Commissioner sign the permits with the usual restrictions.

Second: Judith Flower

Motion passed.

Update on the WSWD Solar project

Lou Brusco stated that there is still a discrepancy in the contract that is being worked out so he would like to once again table the topic. Paul Fraser said he's concerned that this project isn't worth the work that's been put into it already, and believes the Selectboard should reconsider their participation. Lexa Clark suggested they discuss it at the next meeting, and Lou Brusco reminded that it would have to be in executive session, being a contractual issue.

MOTION: Lou Brusco moved to table the Solar Project discussion.

Second: Judith Flower

Motion passed.

Monthly lister's report.

Barbara Ferguson provided the Board with copies of her monthly report for the Listers office. She highlighted that the reappraisal is ongoing with field inspections resuming in the spring. The appraisers will assist the listers with updating assessments this spring for the 2017 grand list as well. The State mapping project is in the RFP stage. The Listers 2018 budget was approved by the Selectboard. And there are still two vacancies she is trying to fill on the Board of Listers.

Discuss the options available to the Town to deal with the situation with the Lister's office created by not having enough listers.

Paul Fraser stated that state law required the town to have three listers, which has been difficult to achieve in the last year with multiple resignations. He said the town really has 3 options- 1: Keep advertising the open positions and hope to fill them by or at Town Meeting 2: Vote at town meeting to do away with the office of Lister and hire professional appraisers (which would need to be on the warning for town meeting) or 3: Do nothing

Barbara Ferguson said the situation has been like it is for years now (difficult to fill the lister positions) and she doesn't see it changing, so she thinks option 2 should be included in the town meeting warning.

Another option was described in which the Lister positions remain but they are only responsible for grievances, and a professional appraiser updates property assessments.

Joel Bluming asked who would be in charge if an assessor was hired; and the answer was the Selectboard.

Mr. Bluming asked if this would create a conflict of interest. Lou reported that other towns do it, so it's obviously been looked at. Paul added that either way an elected group is running it.

Review and approve the Warning for the Town Meeting in March

The Board needed to decide whether to include the article about the Listers, so the Warning will be updated and approved at the special meeting on Monday, January 30th.

Public Concerns.

None.

Letter from office of Peter Welch

Paul Fraser received a letter from the office of Peter Welch asking municipalities to come up with a list of potential road/bridge/infrastructure projects – including estimated time and cost – in an attempt to get funding from the Federal government. Paul asked Jamaica residents to submit any ideas to him by Friday.

Letter from VLCT

Paul Fraser informed the board that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns is holding a Board of Directors meeting in Montpelier, and if a Board member plans to attend he received a delegate form to complete.

Lexa Clark moved to adjourn. Second by Lou Brusco. Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Tweedy