

Jamaica Selectboard Meeting

June 27, 2016 7:00pm

Minutes

Present:

Selectboard: Paul Fraser (Chair), Judith Flower, Andy Coyne

Public: Joel Bluming, Dan Cummins, Pat Meulemans, Andy Avery, Valerie Heisler, David Heisler

Paul Fraser called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

Approve the minutes of the June 13th Selectboard meeting and the June 17th Special meeting.

MOTION: Andy Coyne moved to approve minutes from the June 13th Selectboard meeting.

Second: Judith Flower

Motion passed.

Corrections submitted from Judith Flower for June 17th meeting minutes as follows:

1. Judith Flower asked if it would be possible for the lawyer to be present to clarify some of our questions concerning the Bond Document. Strike the following comments made by Paul Fraser because they did not address the question
2. Statement #2 correct
3. Judith asked if the town would be getting a 20 yr. or 25 yr. Bond because it was not decided at the last meeting. Strike the answer given "The answer is 20 year" because it was incorrect. (The decision had not been made until the 1st motion was made when Lou Brusco inserted into his motion "for a term of 20 years")

MOTION: Andy Coyne moved to approve minutes as corrected.

Second: Judith Flower

Motion passed.

Renew the discussion of a Town policy regarding how to pay for injured animals that come to the attention of the Town Constable.

Judith Flower thinks the town should put some money in the budget to care for the animals, as it is the humane thing to do. Andy Coyne believes a whole new policy will need to be created. Paul Fraser said he doesn't feel comfortable "spending money" without the rest of the board present.

MOTION: Andy Coyne moved to table for further discussion with the full board.

Second: Judith Flower

Motion passed.

Discuss the renewal of the contract with Windham County Humane Society.

Contract remains the same except for an increase in yearly fee from \$250 to \$300.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to increase payment to \$300 to the Windham County Humane Society and have the chair sign the contract for animal holding.

Second: Andy Coyne

Motion passed.

Review and discuss the Scope of Services submitted by Sullivan, Powers & Co. regarding our audit for 2015/2016.

The cost for the audit of the town's 15-16 fiscal year (July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016) will cost \$16,900. The previous year's audit was higher at \$23,000. Paul Fraser explained that because we as a municipality accept Federal money, we go through a much stricter audit than a regular business or other organization would hence the higher cost.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to accept the contract with Sullivan Powers for an audit in the amount of \$16,900 for the 15-16 fiscal year.

Second: Andy Coyne

Motion passed.

Discuss Town support for the Rawsonville school maintenance.

Pat Meulemans approached the board regarding the deteriorating condition of the Rawsonville Schoolhouse building, which is owned by the town. Meulemans stated that work has always been completed by volunteers, and the \$100 appropriated in the town's budget for the school house has never been used; however with aging volunteers and more complicated repairs needed, additional monetary assistance is necessary. The most pressing concern is the bell tower, which needs a new roof. Two estimates have already been obtained, one for \$800. Other areas that need attention are the vent stack for the 'toilets', a large tree on the property that needs to be removed, and lawn maintenance.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved that Pat Meulemans further explore and come back with one more bid for the roof, and the Selectboard will discuss the possibility of finding money in the budget to complete the repair.

Second: Andy Coyne

Motion passed.

Discuss for information only, the memorandum from the Public Service Board regarding changes in how they view the concerns of local municipalities.

This document is available to view at the Town Office.

No action necessary.

Time for public concerns.

Valerie Heisler expressed concerns about the new policy requiring renters of the Town Hall building to obtain their own Liability insurance for the event. She feels this is unnecessary and unfriendly, and wonders if there is an alternative. Judith Flower explained that it was strongly recommended by the Vermont League of Cities and Towns to protect the town, and the policy was voted on by the Selectboard. Pam Tweedy offered to do more research to see if there were any alternatives that were potentially overlooked.

Andy Avery brought up the issue of the sidewalk in front of his house on Route 30 that has been buckled for over a year and has worsened. Paul Fraser explained that the issue has not fallen of the Selectboard's radar, and that Lou Brusco has contacted an engineer and it will be addressed as soon as possible.

Dan Cummins shared a Reformer article with the Board about a financial error made in Rockingham for a construction project, and Mr. Cummins expressed that he does not want Jamaica to make a similar mistake.

Any other business that comes before the board.

Judith Flower stated that she and many others would like to start up a 'Swap Shop' at the Transfer Station. She would like approval from the board to have the electrician put a light in the container that will be used, as well as an outdoor outlet at the main building for the Attendant to test any electronics that come in. Paul Fraser asked her to find out how much it will cost.

Judith Flower also mentioned she would like to look into moving to single stream recycling, but it would require changing companies, and it would be at least a year before anything can change.

Andy made a statement as Health Officer that there has been another report of rats in town. His recommendation to everyone is to use common sense, don't leave out food sources, block any holes, and call an exterminator.

Paul Fraser reported that the Jamaica Volunteer Fire Dept has had 87 calls to date, which is up from between 50-60 this time last year. He reminds residents to make sure their 911 house numbers are visible. Also, the fire hazard is still high with no real soaking rains recently.

Judith Flower moved to adjourn. Seconded by Andy Coyne. Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.