

Jamaica Selectboard Meeting

September 12, 2016 7:00pm

Minutes

Present:

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

Public: Joel Katz, Joel Bluming

Paul Fraser called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Additions to the Agenda:

Lexa Clark requested to go into executive session at the end of the meeting for a personnel issue.

Judith Flower would like to add a discussion of an email sent by the Chair regarding the purchasing policy.

Approve the minutes of the August 17th and 22nd Selectboard meetings

Under discussion of Town Policy for injured animals, Lou Bruso requested that "within the first five days" be inserted into the sentence describing the town's risk if they were to euthanize an animal.

MOTION: Lexa Clark moved to approve minutes from the August 22nd Selectboard meeting as revised.

Second: Lou Bruso

Motion passed.

Minutes from the 17th meeting with Castle Hill Bid tabulations will be approved at the next meeting,

Letter from Karen Ameden regarding volunteering for the open cemetery Sexton position

MOTION: Lexa Clark moved to appoint Karen Ameden to the South Hill Cemetery Sexton position.

Second: Andy Coyne

Motion passed

Reappoint the Town Health Officer for another 3 year term

MOTION: Lexa Clark moved to reappoint Andy Coyne as Town Health Officer.

Second: Judith Flower

Motion passed.

Discuss the possibility of a line item in the budget to reimburse THO for his expenses

Andy Coyne suggested a line item be added to the budget for Health Officer expense reimbursement and compensation.

Board stated they will look into doing so at budget time.

Information from the Fire Dept. regarding solar panels

Paul Fraser, acting as a representative for the Fire Dept, explained the added dangers of fire when solar panels are involved. He requests that all Jamaica citizens with solar panels call the Fire Dept and tell them what they have and where they are located so the Firefighters can be better prepared in the event of a fire.

Update on the progress on the Castle Hill Rd. bridge project

Paul Fraser took a moment to thank Lou Bruso, as he is responsible for the success of getting the Castle Hill Project done.

Lou Bruso stated that the 3 easements were signed for the temporary driveway for Castle Hill residents during construction. The Road Crew put in the driveway, which will be brought back as close as possible to its original condition after construction, including the re-planting of a cherry tree that had to be removed. Lou received an update from Mike Renaud that the bridge has been cast and is curing. The road officially closed Monday Sept 12th. The project looks like it will be complete on time (by the 1st week of Oct).

Update on the garage project

Lou Bruso stated that a meeting was held last week with Cotton Design. They provided 90% complete plans. The next step is to send the plans to the State Flood Zone Office with the permit application.

Update on the Transfer Station situation

Judith Flower stated that today, Sept 12, the Transfer Station closed and will be open on the new temporary site at the Masonic Hall starting Saturday Sept 17th. Hours will be as follows: Saturday 8-4, Sunday & Monday 9-5, for the next 3 weekends. There will be 2 containers, one for household trash in Jamaica bags, and one for all recycling (single stream – paper, plastic, glass and aluminum). There will be no dumping of brush, leaves, metal, bulky, electronics, or other large household products at the temporary site. The Windham County Sheriff has been notified of the situation and will be called to investigate any illegal dumping. Judith thanks Jamaica residents for their cooperation.

Lou Bruso explained that waste not accepted at the temporary site can be brought to Triple T or Windham Solid Waste in Brattleboro, and electronics can be brought to the Winhall transfer station.

Time for public concerns:

Joel Katz requested that more information be put on the town website and that it be updated to the standards that other towns have. Lou Bruso explained that the site was just recently brought back after years of dormancy and is still the old design/format. It was suggested that a professional be brought in to work on the site. Pam Tweedy is happy to hear any suggestions for what people would like to see on the website (jamaicatownclerk@svcable.net). Joel Katz also suggested the town create an email list of residents for distributing important information.

Email sent by Chair regarding Purchasing Policy

Judith Flower requested clarification on the following email sent by Paul Fraser on Aug 23rd:

"In order to maximize fiduciary transparency, effective immediately, any motion or procedure that might result in the expenditure of Town funds in excess of \$500 will be warned and placed on the agenda prior to action. If any such action is anticipated, please submit the information to the Chair before noon on the Thursday before the Selectboard meeting.

In the future, the agenda item titled "Any other business that comes before the board." will not be used. Instead, any information or discussion items that a Selectboard Member would like to include in the meeting should be submitted to the Chair before noon on the Thursday before the meeting, but, may be added to the agenda at the start of the meeting under "Additions to the agenda". (Except, as stated above.)

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Paul Fraser, Chair
Jamaica Selectboard"

Paul explained that he would like any motion that will spend money other than the ordinary budgeted expenses to be on the agenda so the townspeople know and can attend the meeting.

He also explained that the "Any other business" agenda item was put on by mistake, and from now on he would like all topics brought to him by Thursday before the meeting or added to the Agenda at the beginning of the meeting under "Additions to the Agenda" for timing purposes.

There will be no meeting on October 10th due to the 3 day holiday.

Any other business that comes before the board:

Lou Bruso reported that the Windham Solid Waste budget is going way up, and they may even be removing recycling from the budget. If Jamaica would like to leave the district, we need to submit a letter by October 21st. A town wide vote would need to be held. We have no outstanding debt with the district but might still need to contribute to their workman's comp program. The Selectboard will hold a special meeting on October 17th (after WSW has voted on their budget) to decide how they would like to proceed.

Lou also reported that he has a contract from WSW's solar project that he will present at the special meeting on October 17th.

Judith Flower reported that the swap shop project at the transfer station is awaiting completion of the bridge project.

Lexa Clark reported that the Windham County Sheriff sat on Goodaleville road on a weekday afternoon and saw about 5 cars. The next step might be to ask the Sheriff to get the traffic counter from Windham Regional Commission. The Town is awaiting some sort of confirmation/petition that other residents of Goodaleville road share the concern that the speed limit is too high.

MOTION: Lexa Clark moved that the board enter executive session for a personnel issue.

Second: Lou Bruso

Motion passed, board entered executive session at 8:15pm.

Board dissolved executive session at 8:25pm.

Board entered a second executive session for a separate personnel issue at 8:26pm.

Board dissolved executive session at 8:32pm.

Board entered a third executive session for a separate personnel issue at 8:35pm.

Board dissolved executive session at 8:55pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Tweedy