

THE LEGAL VOTERS OF THE TOWN OF JAMAICA, IN THE COUNTY OF WINDHAM AND STATE OF VERMONT, ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED AND WARNED TO MEET AT 10:00 A.M. AT THE TOWN HALL IN SAID TOWN OF JAMAICA, ON THE FIRST TUESDAY IN MARCH, MARCH 7th, 2017, TO TRANSACT THE FOLLOWING BUSINESS AND ACT UPON THE FOLLOWING ARTICLES: VIZ:

Paul Fraser called the meeting to order at 10:02am.

Article 1. To elect a Moderator for a term of one year.

Greg Joly was nominated by CJ King. Norma Drosky seconded. There being no other nominations Greg Joly was elected Town Moderator for a term of one year by voice vote.

Greg Joly took a moment to remember Ralph Coleman, who passed this year. Ralph was Moderator for 37 years and contributed in many ways to the community.

Article 2. To hear the report of the professional auditors.

Ray Ballantine made the motion to accept the article as read. Seconded by Ed Flower. The motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 3. To elect the following officers as required by law:

A. Selectperson for a term of three years.

Judith Flower was nominated by Clara Robinson. Ed Flower seconded. Joel Bluming was nominated by Rob Litchfield. Norma Drosky seconded. The paper ballot vote count was as follows: Judith Flower 40, Joel Bluming 24, Blank 1, Clara Robinson 1. Judith Flower was elected Selectperson for a term of three years.

B. Selectperson for a term of one year.

Paul Fraser was nominated by Robert Stomski. Bob Stone seconded. Joel Bluming was nominated by Micah Eberhardt. Elaine Beckwith seconded. The paper ballot vote count was as follows: Paul Fraser 48, Joel Bluming 19. Paul Fraser was elected Selectperson for a term of one year.

C. Selectperson for a term of one year.

Lou Bruso was nominated by Robert Stomski. Lou respectfully declined. Joel Bluming was nominated by Micah Eberhardt. Dan Cummins seconded. Greg Meulemans was nominated by CJ King. Robert Stomski seconded. The paper ballot vote count was a tie: Greg Meulemans 34, Joel Bluming 34. Greg Meulemans withdrew his nomination. Greg Joly made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot for Joel Bluming. Elaine Beckwith seconded. Joel Bluming was elected Selectperson for a term of one year.

The Moderator invited Paul Fraser to explain that later, in Article 8, they will address whether or not the Town should move away from electing Listers and instead hire a professional assessor. The Moderator decided that for voters to make an informed decision they should hear a description of the Listers' duties, which Lou Bruso explained.

D. Lister for a term of three years.

Lou Bruso was nominated by Cortland Wood. Ben Williams seconded. Ann Cummins was nominated by Peter Andrus. Bob Stone seconded. Micah Eberhardt was nominated by Barbara Ferguson. Joel Bluming seconded. The first paper ballot count was as follows: Lou Bruso 33, Micah Eberhardt 26, Ann Cummins 10. 35 votes were needed for a majority so a second ballot vote was conducted. The results of the second count were as follows: Lou Bruso 38, Micah Eberhardt 21, Ann Cummins 10. Lou Bruso was elected Lister for a term of three years.

E. Lister to fill vacant three year term ending 2019.

Ann Cummins was nominated by Peter Andrus. Robert Stone seconded. Micah Eberhardt was nominated by Barbara Ferguson. Amber Burrow seconded. The paper ballot vote count was as follows: Micah Eberhardt 39, Ann Cummins 30. Micah Eberhardt was elected to fill vacant lister term.

F. First Constable

Rob Willis was nominated by Frances Sherwood. Micah Eberhardt seconded. Ed Dorta Duque made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot for Rob Willis. Seconded by April Green. Rob Willis was elected to serve as First Constable for a term of one year.

G. Second Constable

Ben Williams was nominated by Jen Dorta Duque. Norma Drosky seconded. Ed Dorta Duque made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot for Ben Williams. Seconded by Stewart Barker. Ben Williams was elected to serve as Second Constable for a term of one year.

H. Town Grand Juror

Stephen Clark was nominated by Robert Stomski. Jen Dorta Duque seconded. Norma Drosky made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot. Seconded by Jen Dorta Duque. Stephen Clark was elected to serve as Town Grand Juror for a term of one year.

I. Town Agent

Peter Andrus was nominated by Joel Bluming. Norma Drosky seconded. Ed Dorta Duque made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot. Seconded by CJ King. Peter Andrus was elected to serve as Town Agent for a term of one year.

J. Trustee of Public Funds

Stephen Clark was nominated by Ray Ballantine. Robert Stone seconded. Ed Dorta Duque made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot. Seconded by Norma Drosky. Stephen Clark was elected to serve as Trustee of Public Funds for a term of one year.

K. Agent to Deed Land

Pam Tweedy was nominated by CJ King. Pam Tweedy respectfully declined. Stephen Clark was nominated by Stephanie Amyot. Jen Dorta Duque seconded. CJ King made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot. Seconded by Caroline Persson. Stephen Clark was elected to serve as Agent to Deed Land for a term of one year.

L. Library Trustee for a term of two years

Rachel Stoll was nominated by CJ King. Rachel respectfully declined. Bonnie West was nominated by Clara Robinson. Seconded by Jen Dorta Duque. Ed Dorta Duque made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot. Seconded by CJ King. Bonnie West was elected to serve as Library Trustee for a term of two years.

M. Library Trustee for a term of two years.

Alice Abraham was nominated by Ray Ballantine. Jen Dorta Duque seconded. Rachel Stoll made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot. Seconded by Caroline Persson. Alice Abraham was elected to serve as Library Trustee for a term of two years.

N. Library Trustee for a term of five years

Sue Stomski was nominated by Ray Ballantine. Norma Drosky seconded. Ed Dorta Duque made the motion to close nominations and cast one ballot. Seconded by Caroline Persson. Sue Stomski was elected to serve as Library Trustee for a term of five years.

Article 4. Shall the Voters authorize the transfer of the prior year Revenue Surplus of \$144,359.00 to the following funds: \$55,814.00 to pay the FY18 Bond payment on the new Town Garage, \$50,000.00 to be moved to the Town Building Reserve Fund and \$38,545.00 to lower the amount of taxes to be raised?

Ed Flower made the motion to accept the article as read. Seconded by Jen Dorta Duque. Dan Cummins asked how the Selectboard decided to divide the surplus this way. Lou Brusco responded that this is merely the Selectboard's recommendation of how to use the funds, but it's up to the taxpayers.

Elaine Beckwith moved to amend the article to put the \$38,545 into a sinking fund for a low interest loan program managed by the Town for low-income homeowners to borrow for home repairs. Micah Eberhardt seconded. Discussion

ensued, including questions about how the funds would be managed, eligibility requirements, and whether or not the Town could be a "lending agency". Karen Ameden and Bonnie West mentioned that the "Muzzy Fund" was established as gift funds for low income residents, women and children who are in need of assistance. That account has approximately \$17,000 in it. Paul Fraser also brought up that the Salvation Army provides some funds to assist residents. Ed Dorta Duque requested to close discussion. More than seven people requested a paper ballot, so the motion was voted with a paper ballot. Results were: Yes 28, No 44. Amendment did not pass.

Returning to the original Article, Bob Stone asked if the Selectboard can change where the Surplus funds are allocated after this vote, Lou Brusco responded "No." Ed Flower called the question. Seconded by Norma Drosky. The motion carried in the affirmative by a hand vote.

A lunch break was taken at 12:05pm.

Town Meeting resumed following the School Meeting.

Article 5. To see what sum of money the Voters will vote to pay the running expenses, and how it will be collected. Ed Flower made the motion to raise the sum of \$869,992 by Taxation for the running expenses of the Town. Seconded by Amber Burrow. Erica Bowman asked what happens at the Rawsonville Schoolhouse that requires electricity, as there is a line for it in the budget. Pat Meulemans explained that they have electricity there for a few events and in case anyone wants to use the space. David Mink requested that the \$1500 appropriation to Mountain Valley Medical that they no longer need be re-allocated to the Jamaica Community Arts Council. Elaine Beckwith responded that the JCAC should go through the normal request process for funding. Stewart Barker moved to amend the article to add \$14,373 to the budget to hire Rescue Inc to cover the entire Town. Seconded by CJ King. Rescue Inc presently serves as far as Stratton Gate Rd, and South Londonderry Rescue covers the Rawsonville area. Erica Bowman asked what the difference would be with Rescue Inc. The answer was improved response time. Elaine Beckwith asked if the \$14,373 would be enough to cover the additional service. Drew Hazelton responded yes, and elaborated on the services provided by Rescue Inc. Judith Flower called the question. Seconded by Syna Stevenson. The amendment was voted in the affirmative by voice vote. The new budget total after the amendment is \$884,365.

Discussion continued on the budget. Clara Robinson expressed a need to spend money on better equipment for sidewalk maintenance. Lou Brusco responded that an equipment purchase for that purpose would come from the reserve fund as a capital expense. Judith Flower called the question, seconded by Amber Burrow. The budget was voted in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 6. To see if the voters will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Caroline Persson made the motion to accept the article as read. Seconded by Syna Stevenson. Nelson Coleman called the question. Seconded by Rob Litchfield. The motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 7. Shall the voters authorize the Selectboard to spend "unanticipated funds such as grants, gifts and/or interest"?

Caroline Persson made the motion to accept the article as read. Seconded by Norma Drosky. Nelson Coleman called the question. Seconded by Amber Burrow. The motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 8. Shall the voters authorize the elimination of the Office of Lister and replace it with a professionally qualified assessor appointed by the Selectboard who shall have the same powers, discharge the same duties, proceed in the discharge thereof in the same manner, and be subject to the same liabilities as are prescribed for Listers or the board of Listers under the provisions of Title 32?

Barbara Ferguson moved to pass over the article. Amber Burrow seconded. Nelson Coleman called the question. Seconded by Syna Stevenson. Article 8 was passed over by voice vote.

Other Business.

Ben Williams asked that the Selectboard look further into creating an assistance fund for the poor and elderly, as mentioned in Article 4.

Article 9. To set the time for the opening of the next Annual Town Meeting, to be held on the first Tuesday in March, 2018.

Ed Flower made the motion to open Town Meeting on Tuesday March 6, 2018 immediately following the Annual School Meeting. Seconded by Jennifer Dorta Duque. Joel Bluming made a motion to open discussion about the possibility of changing the time and/or date of Town Meeting. Seconded by Micah Eberhardt. Patti Dickson stated a change would probably have to be warned in next year's Town Meeting warning. Jen Dorta Duque suggested a "candidate's night" or "pre-town meeting" with no votes, just information and discussion. Joel Bluming said he doesn't have a specific time or date in mind, just that he would like more people to get involved. Nelson Coleman called the question. Seconded by Caroline Perrson. Affirmative voice vote to end discussion. Back to original motion to set Town Meeting for Tuesday March 6, 2018 immediately following the Annual School Meeting. Nelson Coleman moved the question. Seconded by Syna Stevenson. Motion carried in the affirmative by voice vote.

Article 8. To adjourn.

Stewart Barker made a motion to adjourn. April Green seconded. Town Meeting adjourned at 2:31pm.

Approved by the Jamaica Selectboard on March 27th, 2017.

Paul Fraser

Andrew Coyne

Joel Bluming

Lexa Clark

Judith Flower