

JAMAICA SELECTBOARD
Monday, August 14, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
At the Jamaica Town Office Meeting Room
Minutes

Selectboard present: Paul Fraser (Chair), Andy Coyne, Lexa Clark, Judith Flower, Joel Bluming
Others Present: Lou Bruso (Lister), Veda Bassett (Planning Commission Chair), Rebecca Ohm, Bob Stone, Allen Monroe, Travis Thiele, Rich Melanson (Cameraman), Pam Tweedy (Minute Taker)

Paul Fraser called the meeting to order at 7pm.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda.

- a. Judith asked to discuss an emergency situation at the Transfer Station.
- b. Paul requested that Veda Bassett of the Planning Commission be given time to speak.

2. Approve the minutes of the July 10th and July 24th Selectboard meetings.

July 24th: Add "Judith made the motion to adjourn and Andy seconded."
Correct spelling of the word "previously" in section 12.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to approve the minutes from July 24th as corrected.

Second: Andy Coyne.

Motion passed.

July 10th: Minute taker will edit the draft minutes and re-submit due to the lengthy corrections.

MOTION: Lexa Clark moved to approve the minutes from July 10th with corrections.

Second: Judith Flower.

Motion passed.

3. Approve time sheets for: town office, listers, highway, and transfer station.

Completed after public meeting.

4. Sign Selectboard orders.

Completed after public meeting.

5. Review and consider the Errors and Omissions Report from the Listers.

Lister Lou Bruso explained that in July after Grievances, the Listers send the Grand List to the Treasurer and Clerk and it is then used to generate tax bills. Any changes made to the Grand List from then on need to go to the Selectboard in the form of an 'Errors and Omissions' report. Lou went on to describe the specific errors/omissions on the list. The last request stated: "The Listers request permission to add reverse this change to revert back to the assessed value of 2016." Paul suggested they remove the word "add" from this sentence.

MOTION: Lexa Clark moved to accept the Errors and Omissions with one change in the last sentence.

Second: Andy Coyne.

Motion passed.

6. Discuss the use of the Town Attorney.

Joel Bluming stated that after he contacted the Town's Attorney, Paul Gillies, he was informed that only the Selectboard Chair can have such contact. Mr. Bluming feels that all contact and communications with the Town's Attorney should be released to the rest of the Board and, therefore, become a public record. Paul Fraser would like to contact Mr. Gillies to ask if this violates any kind of attorney/client privilege. Lou Bruso agreed with Paul Fraser, stating that discussions between the Chair and the Attorney are confidential and could put the Town at a disadvantage if made public, especially with regard to contractual issues. Joel agreed that the Town's Attorney should weigh in and volunteered to draft a statement for Paul Fraser to send to Paul Gilles. The Selectboard agreed unanimously to spend the money to bring the question to Paul Gillies.

Andy Coyne inquired about the Board members having their own official Town email addresses. Pam Tweedy said she will work to get them set up for everyone this week.

7. Discuss the presentation "Economic Development for Town Leaders in SoVT."

Joel reported information from the Economic Development conference he attended in Guilford, put on by the Brattleboro Development Credit Corp. Attendees discussed the principles of towns seeking to advance their economic development. They highlighted four main assets: fiber optics (over broadband), water & sewer, road development, and affordable housing. Joel plans to attend the next meeting.

Additions to the Agenda:

Veda Bassett, Planning Commission Chair, asked the Selectboard to appoint Rebecca Ohm to the Planning Commission. Ms. Ohm provided a letter of introduction. Paul Fraser explained that the vacancy must be posted for 15 days – after that time the board can appoint someone.

Veda also said deadline for Town Plan is close. The draft should be ready by next Monday, and Veda emphasized that this is one of the last chances for the Selectboard to submit anything they want to include or change. The Selectboard will then have time to review the draft, and she hopes to have the new plan adopted before the old one expires. The old Town Plan expires Nov 19th 2017, so the Selectboard would ideally approve the new plan at their Nov 13th meeting.

Judith Flower reported that the compactor motor at the Transfer Station broke last Tuesday. The motor was taken to Keene to be repaired, and TAM supplied a 40 cu yard container to put the trash in for now. Judy wants to thank townspeople for their cooperation. Electrician Chris Clark recommended the Town purchase a new motor. The new 'OEM' (a specific motor for that compactor) will cost \$2200 and the freight will cost \$135. Judith stated that the Capital Fund has 23-24k, and she requested that the Selectboard use money from that fund to purchase a new motor. The one being repaired will be a backup motor.

MOTION: Judy moved that the Town buy the new OEM for the compactor.

Second: Joel Bluming.

Further discussion ensued: Paul Fraser explained that the Procurement Policy allows for a single source purchase to bypass the bid/quote process. Lou Bruso explained that the motor is so expensive because it is a single phase motor - there isn't '3 phase' up at the Transfer Station. Joel Bluming thanked Dan Miller, the Transfer Station Attendant, for dealing with the inconvenience.

Motion passed.

8. Public Concerns

a. Bob Stone is interested in providing potable water in the village and has been doing research. Beck Engineering said it would cost about 3k for an estimate to figure out some possibilities for a village water/sewer system. Joel Bluming added that he will follow up with Chrissy Haskins for another quote. Paul Fraser stated that the Selectboard will need to follow the Procurement Policy and obtain a few bids, but there is no need for a formal RFQ.

b. Veda Bassett asked when the Planning Commission position was posted, referring to her earlier request to appoint Rebecca Ohm and the 15 day vacancy posting requirement. Paul replied that it was posted today. Veda responded that the vacancy was created on July 25th and she was not aware of the 15 day requirement.

c. Travis Thiele raised the water issue again. He has 3 acres of field just below town that he thought might be used for a Town sewer system. Concerns were expressed about the land being in the flood plain. Lexa Clark asked if the land would be donated or sold. Mr. Thiele said he would want to work something out financially. It was concluded that the engineers could determine whether or not the land would be useful.

Lexa Clark moved to adjourn. Second by Andy Coyne. Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Pamela Tweedy