

JAMAICA SELECTBOARD
Monday, November 13, 2017 at 7:00 P.M.
At the Jamaica Town Office Meeting Room
Minutes

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

Others Present: Veda Bassett (Planning Commission Chair), Lou Brusco, Enrique Chavez, Michael Abrams, Joel Katz, Greg Meulemans, Chris Robbins, Rebecca Ohm, Chris Mays (Reformer), Rich Melanson (Cameraman), Pam Tweedy (Minute Taker)

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

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda.

- a. Set date for post-termination hearing
- b. Set date for Road Crew interviews
- c. Snowblower
- d. Road Commissioner resignation
- e. 'Connectivity Summit' overview (Joel Bluming)
- f. Health Officer update (Andy Coyne)
- g. Fire Dept reminder about visible 911 address numbers
- h. Possible executive session to discuss water feasibility study.

2. Approve the minutes of the Oct. 23th Selectboard meeting, and the Oct. 12th Special Meeting

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to approve the minutes from October 23rd as written.

Second: Joel Bluming.

Motion passed.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to approve the minutes from October 12rd as written.

Second: Andy Coyne.

Motion passed with one abstention.

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. Vote on whether or not to pass the new Town Plan.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to accept the Town Plan with great thanks.

Second: Joel Bluming.

Motion passed.

6. Planning Commission to discuss a new Energy initiative.

Chris Robbins of the Jamaica Planning Commission explained that the PC would like to begin working towards compliance with Act 174, which calls for voluntary expansion of Regional energy planning. The PC and Selectboard Chair have signed a letter to the Energy Planner at the Windham Regional Commission requesting "technical assistance in preparing an Act 174 compliant enhanced energy plan as the energy element in our Town Plan." By developing and working towards energy goals, the Town will receive "substantial deference" from the Public Service Board when it comes to the approval or rejection of large-scale energy projects.

7. New Garage up date.

Lou Brusco presented as a member of the Town Garage building committee, and on behalf of Lexa Clark, who was unable to attend. Lou stated that the new Town Garage is substantially complete, the Fire and Electric inspectors

have completed their inspections, and the Certificate of Occupancy has been issued. A few kinks need to be worked out: the trucks are still parked outside as their emissions set off the Fire Alarm (the alarm company will be fixing this soon), and one garage door needs repair. The holes for the new trees have been staked and will be dug soon. The Town would like to trim some white pine trees that have branches overhanging the roof; however the easement with neighbors Michael Abrams and Enrique Chavez states that those trees will be left "standing and undisturbed." Abrams, Chavez, and Brusco came to an agreement that the Town may trim the necessary branches, but if any of those trees subsequently dies from the trimming (potentially years from now), it should be replaced with an Arborvitae.

Joel Katz asked if there will be an open house, and the Selectboard said yes but the date is still TBD.

Additions:

a. Set date for post-termination hearing

The Selectboard chose Tuesday, November 21, 2017 at 1pm for the post-termination hearing for an employee.

b. Set date for Road Crew interviews

The Selectboard chose Monday, November 20, 2017 at 5pm to hold interviews for the 2 road crew candidates.

c. Snow blower

Paul Fraser identified two issues that kept the sidewalks from being properly cleared last winter – one was that the equipment was insufficient for the heavy, salted snow that is pushed up from the State plow, and the other was that the hired help could not start work soon enough, as he had another job. So, this year the Road Foreman has a plan for someone to begin clearing the sidewalks in a more timely fashion, and Paul has researched machines and found a larger, more adequate snow blower at Brown's for \$5800. They will give us \$1000 trade for our current snow blower. Andy Coyne noted that the town has been in this position before and he wonders if we shouldn't just spring for a more expensive machine like Brattleboro has. Paul noted that Jamaica has a mere mile and a half of sidewalk.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to buy the snow blower with attachments at Brown's for \$5800 less the \$1000 trade-in for a total of \$4800.

Second: Joel Bluming.

Motion passed.

d. Road Commissioner resignation

Paul Fraser announced that Lexa Clark has resigned as Road Commissioner, and Andy Coyne is willing to accept the position. Joel Bluming thought it should be posted for the public like Planning Commission vacancies. Paul, Judith and Andy felt it should stay within the Selectboard.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to appoint Andy Coyne as Road Commissioner for the Town of Jamaica.

Second: Joel Bluming.

Amendment: Judith Flower amended her motion to state the length of term, which would be until March of 2018.

Amendment passed.

Amended motion passed.

e. 'Connectivity Summit' overview (Joel Bluming)

Joel Bluming attended a 'Connectivity Summit' in Dover, sponsored by BDCC and SeVEDS, which focused on Economic Development through the increase in communications through broadband services including DSL, Cable, and Fiber optic. Joel gave the Town Clerk materials from the meeting if anyone would like to review them.

f. Health Officer update (Andy Coyne)

Andy Coyne, as Town Health Officer, said that the burning of trash is never allowed. It is illegal and there can be penalties. He will be putting out more information provided by the state at the Transfer Station and Town Office.

g. Fire Dept reminder about visible 911 address numbers

Paul Fraser asked residents again to please make their 911 addresses visible from the road for Emergency Response crews.

h. Possible executive session to discuss water feasibility study.

The board will discuss and possibly choose an engineer at their next meeting on 11/27 to potentially perform a feasibility study for public water for the town, pending a Special Town Meeting vote in January.

8. Time for public concerns.

Joel Katz asked for clarification on how many Road Crew positions they were interviewing for. Paul Fraser stated just one.

Joel Bluming moved to adjourn. Judith Flower seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Tweedy**