

JAMAICA SELECTBOARD

Monday, November 27, 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: Veda Bassett (Planning Commission Chair), Greg Meulemans, Rebecca Ohm, Dana West (Fire Chief), 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. Fire Dept Budget
- b. Winter Operations Policy
- c. Transfer Station Update
- d. Invitations for Water Vote Info Meeting

2. Approve the minutes of the Nov. 13th Selectboard meeting, and the Nov. 13th Town Plan Hearing.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to accept the minutes from the Nov. 13th Town Plan Hearing as written.

Second: Andy Coyne.

Motion passed.

MOTION: Joel Bluming moved to approve the minutes from Nov. 13th as written.

Second: Andy Coyne.

Andy pointed to page 2, section d, and asked that his name be removed from the 3rd sentence to make it read "Paul and Judith felt it should stay within the Selectboard."

MOTION: Andy Coyne moved to approve the minutes from Nov. 13th as amended.

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. Announce new Town Road Dept. employee.

Paul Fraser announced that a new Road Crew Member was hired. William (Bill) Flood had extensive experience running all the necessary equipment and will begin on Dec 4th.

Additions:

a. Fire Dept Budget

Fire Chief, Dana West, provided the Selectboard with Jamaica Fire & Rescue's 2018-19 budget, which is about \$3000 less than last year's. West says they "trimmed the fat" by making energy efficiency upgrades and cutting back on Rescue's budget since they are needed less with Rescue Inc. moving into West Townshend. Some anticipated expenditures include building repairs, such as siding and woodwork, and more gear. The budget is \$98,791.

Judith Flower asked how the trucks are holding up. West explained that they are undercoated every year, and the fleet ranges from early 2000s to 2-3 years old.

West also explained that he is working on policies, protocols and guidelines. There are new standards coming for the EMS license, and even with the decrease in patient contact due to Rescue Inc.'s proximity, West does not want to lose Jamaica's Rescue service. He is focusing more on "firefighter rehab": taking care of firefighters' health on calls throughout the area.

West added that on behalf of the Fire Dept, if the Town moves forward with a feasibility study for a town water supply he would like them to look into bringing fire protection to the Town, as the dry hydrant has been inconsistent and our village is extremely vulnerable with old homes located so close together.

b. Winter Operations Policy

Paul Fraser distributed the recently updated Winter Operations Policy for the Selectboard's review. A vote to adopt was tabled until next meeting as the topic was not warned on the agenda.

c. Transfer Station Update

Judith Flower wanted to say "Thank you" to the community for their use of the compost bins at the Transfer Station. They are now filling a tote per day, whereas it was taking 3-4 days to fill one previously. "Keep up the good work!"

d. Invitations for Water Vote Info Meeting

Joel Bluming asked the Selectboard to extend an invitation to Laura Sibilia of the BDCC to speak at the informational meeting for the water feasibility study vote. Discussion ensued about what kind of information the BDCC would be bringing and whether or not it would be biased towards the potential pros of a municipal water system. It was concluded that they would be a useful informational resource at the meeting, in addition to a representative from the Windham Regional Commission. As an administrative task moving forward with the informational meeting, Judith suggested inviting a representative from WRC and BDCC. Joel volunteered to do so.

6. Time for public concerns. None

7. Executive session to discuss contract options for the possible municipal water feasibility study.

Greg Meulemans spoke up on behalf of the Planning Commission members present and asked to be invited into the executive session, as they are partners with the Selectboard in this plan and would like to be involved from the beginning. Lexa Clark read from the statutes regarding who may be in attendance in executive sessions, citing that it is limited to the Selectboard, staff, legal counsel, and persons who are subjects of the discussion or whose information is needed. It was determined that the information had already been laid out by the 3 engineering firms and this executive session was more about the contract.

MOTION: Joel Bluming moved to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the Town's choice of contractors would clearly place the Town and the potential contractors at a substantial disadvantage because the Selectboard risks disclosing its negotiation strategy if it discusses the proposed contract terms in public.

Second: Judith Flower.

3 in favor, 1 abstention, Motion passed.

MOTION: Joel Bluming moved that the Board enter executive session to discuss the Town's contract with one of either Dufresne Group, Beck Engineering, or Otter Creek Engineering under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes.

Second: Lexa Clark.

3 in favor, 1 abstention, Motion passed.

Selectboard entered executive session at 8:05pm.

Selectboard exited executive session at 8:26pm.

MOTION: Judith Flower moved to accept the Dufresne Group's proposal to present for the January 3rd town informational meeting concerning the water system.

Second: Joel Bluming.

3 in favor, 1 abstention, Motion passed.

Lexa Clark moved to adjourn. Judith Flower seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:29pm.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Pamela Tweedy**