Jamaica Selectboard Meeting

November 12, 2018

Selectboard Members Present: Paul Fraser (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Tom Tolbert and Greg Meulemans

Public Present: Chrissy Haskins, Alex Fraser, Joel Bluming, Rebecca Ohm, Ben Wheeler, Michael Abrams, Lou Bruso, Rich Melanson (BCTV), Sara Wiswall (clerk)

*1.Call for any late additions to the agenda.*

No late additions.

*2. Approve the minutes of the Oct. 22nd Selectboard meeting.*

On the second page, second paragraph, it should say *roof* instead of rood.

On the third page, eighth paragraph, it should say the Arts Council *is*, instead of are.

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes as written with the minor changes. 2nd by Greg, passed.

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

Moved to the end of the session.

*4. Sign Selectboard orders.*

Moved to the end of the session.

*5. Letter of resignation from Planning Commission member.*

Lisa Mann submitted a letter of resignation from the Planning Commission. Paul said we accept her resignation with regret. Rebecca Ohm asked the Selectboard to post the open position.

*6. Discuss soliciting for a 5th Planning Commission member, and, volunteers for 2 alternates for the Zoning Board of Adjustments.*

The ZBA is getting organized and it was recommended that they have two alternates in case of conflicting interest. There is one opening for the Planning Commission and two alternate positions for the Zoning Board of Adjustment.

*7. Discuss appointing, and staffing, a committee to manage the future of the “Cheney Mill”.*

Construct a committee of citizens to do various things on the project. Greg Meulemans is the first member of the committee.

Greg said that he has spoken with Asa about the roof that he will get it done before winter.

Tom made a motion to create the Cheney Mill committee. 2nd by Greg, passed.

*8. Presentation, by the Engineers, of the Jamaica Water Feasibility Study results.*

Chrissy Haskins of the Dufresne Group gave a presentation on the water survey that was done to look at the need for public water and sewage in the town.

The study area was Route 30 from Water Street to 3 Mountain Inn, Pikes Falls Road from Route 30 to number 199, Depot Street to the school, and all of Factory Street. A paper survey went out to 63 residents in this study area and 29 were returned. There was an online survey as well that 49 people responded to.

There was nothing major found in the 16 wells that were tested. The most common things were iron and manganese. There was no E.Coli found but four samples came back with Total Coliform. One well had manganese above health levels.

Out of the survey responders, 86% said they pay 0-$300 a year for water. 1% of your income is what that state says is affordable for the cost of water.

One question asked do you think a Village water system is desirable.

34% yes

30% no

16% not sure

20 % want to see study

One of the online survey questions asked if you would be willing to help pay for the construction and running of the public water.

12% yes

72% no

16% not sure

If the town wants to see economic development, yes we need a water system. If the town does not seek economic development than no, we do not need a public water system. There were varying opinions on the surveys, the need largely depends on the towns plan for economic growth. What we have now is good enough to support the existing businesses but there is no room from growth.

The surveys were not sent to all Jamaica residents because it would have been very costly to do a mailing to everyone.

A public water system would eliminate private wells and there would be no worry about distances from wells to septic tanks.

The cost is unknown until a preliminary engineering report is done. This would be a two part process, the first being sourcing the wells, which would cost $45,000-$110,000. The preliminary engineering would cost $50,000-$100,000.

Five minute break. Reconvened at 8:33 p.m.

*9. Discuss change in policy for updating the Property Assessment model including purchase of relevant computer hardware.*Lou Bruso, the chair of the board of listers would like to see a policy change on the way we do reappraisals. The idea is to do more frequent reappraisals and keep everything current. He would like to do a reappraisal every five years.

NEMC are the current appraisers and could do all every 5 years. NEMC would do the 5 years for $95,000 total. We get money from the state every year for this, last year $11,144 was received. There also would not be the issues we had this year with property valuations rising so much.

Lou also said he would like to purchase a new computer for the listers. It is a Microsoft surface which is a computer and a tablet. If the purchase was made, they would move one of the listers current computers into the town clerk’s office to be used for mapping and land records. The total cost is $1388.

*10. Continuing the discussion of the E-Waste containers at the Transfer Station.*

It would roughly cost $1,000 to fix the containers we have. We could rent one for $100 a month. There are options to buy used containers for $3,475 plus a delivery charge of $800.

Tom made a motion to research current containers for electronics. 2nd by Greg, passed.

*11. Time for public concerns.*

No public concerns.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 9:05, 2nd by Greg.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall