

Town Meeting 2020  
Jamaica, Vermont

Greg Joly called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Greg Joly read the warning. "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 of March, March 3rd, 2020, to transact the following business and act upon the following articles."

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

Dana West nominated Greg Joly, seconded by CJ King. All in favor.

Announcements:

The Presidential primaries are all day.

Kelly Pajala our representative will not be able to attend today. She has left a handout and she will have a district wide information meeting Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6-7 at the Mountain School.

WRMUED Annual reports are available.

Windham Regional Broadband survey.

BCTV is recording the town meeting. Please stand and state your name when speaking.

Town Meeting lunch at church at noon.

Article 2: To act on the Town Report.

Patti Dickson made a motion to act on the town report, seconded by Dana West.

Bonnie West, there was a typo in the fire department report Gas/deiseal should be \$1,185.82

Jessica Pollack called the question.

Article 2 passed by show of hands.

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

A. Selectperson for a term of 3 years- Judy Flower

CJ King nominated Dana West. Stephanie Amyot nominated Greg Meulemans. There were 88 total votes.

Greg-62

Dana-25

Tom Tolbert-1

Greg was elected for a 3 year term of Selectboard.

B. Selectperson for a term of one year

Cj King nominated Dana West. Jackie Brown nominated Tom Tolbert. Andy Coyne nominated Stewart Barker, he declined. Dave Kaneshiro nominated Jessica Pollack, she declined.

Dana-30

Tom-61

Tom has been elected for a 1 year term of Selectboard.

C. Selectperson for a term of one year

Patrick McQuillan nominated Jessica Pollack. CJ King nominated Dana West.

Dana- 35

Jessica-54

Jessica was elected for a 1 year term of Selectboard.

D. Lister for a term of three years

Micah Eberhardt nominated Lou Bruso. Lou Bruso was elected for a 3 year term as lister by show of hands.

E. 1<sup>st</sup> Constable for the term of one year

Jessica Pollack nominated Rob Willis. All in favor. Rob Willis was elected 1<sup>st</sup> Constable for the term of one year.

F. 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable for a term of one year

Cj King nominated Ben Williams. All in favor. Ben Williams was elected 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable for the term of one year.

G. Town Grand Juror for a term of one year

Micah Eberhardt nominated Steve Clark. All in favor. Steve Clark was elected Town Grand Juror for a term of one year.

H. Town Agent for a term of one year

Bob Stone nominated Peter Andrus. All in favor. Peter Andrus was elected Town Agent for a term of one year.

I. Trustee of Public Funds for a term of one year

Ray Ballantine nominated Steve Clark. All in favor. Steve Clark was elected Trustee of Public Funds for a term of one year.

J. Agent to Deed Land for a term of one year

Patrick McQuillan nominated Steve Clark. All in favor. Steve Clark was elected Agent to Deed land for a term of one year.

K. Library Trustee for a term of five years

Janet Hamilton nominated Clara Robinson. All in favor. Clara Robinson was elected Library Trustee for the term of five years.

L. School Director for West River Modified Union Education District for a one year of a three year term.

Drew Hazelton nominated Jennifer Dorta-Duque. Patti Dickson nominated Dana West. Sue Stomski nominated Keighan Eaker.

Jen-20

Dana- 27

Keigan-30

Revote:

Jen-11

Dana-22

Keigan-39

Keigan Eaker was elected to the West River Modified Union Education District for one year of a three year term.

M. School Director for West River Modified Union Education District for a three year term.

Patti Dickson nominated Dana West. Andy Coyne nominated Drew Hazelton, he declined.

Stephanie Amyot nominated Jennifer Dorta-Duque.

Jen-33

Dana-36

Dana West has been elected to the West River Modified Union Education District for a three year term.

Article 4: To see what sum of money the Voters will vote to pay the Town's running expenses, and how it will be collected.

Bonnie made a motion, seconded by Nelson Coleman.

Bonnie made a motion that we postpone indefinitely, seconded by CJ King.

Bonnie's concern are:

Page 20- surplus in revenue- cannot spend surplus without a vote

Page 24- shows we have a deficit.

Page 17-\$415,000 was borrowed from highway and is still outstanding.

She would like to see this paid back to the highway fund.

We started the year with a deficit. Part of it was insurance money that came in for the mill building roof which brings the surplus to \$29,427. The other part of the surplus goes to the HRA for employee's health insurance. The town pays 80% of health care.

The deficit was due to the bond payment for the garage. The summer maintenance budget was over because we ended up having to do a lot of ditching for the municipal general roads permit (MGRP).

Lou Brusio- If you have a surplus it must be warned for town meeting. The surplus cannot be used for anything else until voted on at the following town meeting. On page 36 of the town report there are a lot of things that are not budgeted for. They are off budget and must be shown on a cost basis. We do not have to hold up the budget, can vote on in the future.

The total cost of Tropical Storm Irene was \$5,144,216.

\$158,000 for a payment from the state

The amount of \$463,378 was borrowed from our reserve accounts after Tropical Storm Irene and it needs to be paid back. They would like the Selectboard to come up with a plan to repay reserve account. \$72,000 was our share of all the FEMA project

Vote on postponing the budget indefinitely:

8- yes

51- no

Budget for FY 20-21:\$1,910,358

Current Use- can depend on that number being the same every year.

Lou made an amendment to take \$1,091,358 and subtract the \$19,000 from it for a total of \$1,072,358 to be raised in taxes. CJ King seconded.

Page 38- Windham County Sheriff- contract was increased from 40 hours to 80 hours per month. The thought was the revenue would go up. We doubled the hours but did not see an increase on the revenue side. Lou suggested that we go from an 80 hour back to 40 hour contract. The amendment was to cut \$50,000 contract to a \$25,000 contract with Windham County Sheriff's department. Seconded by Stephanie Amyot.

Joel Bluming, Susan Stomski, Patti Dickson and Caroline Persson all would like to keep the amount of patrol we currently have.

Amendment Failed.

Bonnie West made a motion to expend a total budget \$1,072,358

The rest would be in anticipated revenue due on October 1,2020 and as of Oct 2 it will be delinquent with a 8% penalty and 1% interest every month.

Called the Question.

Article 4 has passed by a show of hands.

Article 5: To see if the Voters will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Patti Dickson made a motion, seconded by Nelson Coleman. All in Favor.

Article 6: Shall the Voters authorize the Selectboard to spend "unanticipated funds such as grants, gifts and/or interest"?

Patti Dickson moved, seconded by Ed Flowers. Called the Question. All in Favor.

Article 7: To set the time for the opening of the next Annual Town Meeting to be held on the first Tuesday in March 2021.

Patti Dickson made a motion to set the time to 10 o'clock on March 2, 2021.

Seconded Linda Sheehan.

Article 8: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Chris Robbins- Broadband survey- everyone received a card reminding them to take the survey online or stop in the town clerk's office for a hard copy.

Bob Stone-Connectivity will open things up for Jamaica.

Betsy Johnson- curious about infrastructure and what are the health effects

They will use existing utility poles, if you have a long driveway and need an extra pole put in then the cost would be on the homeowner.

What would the health effects? The effects would be the same as the existing.

Caroline Persson- Rec Committee

Thanks for Tom for his many years of help. She cannot do anything with the committee anymore and is hoping someone will step up and become involved.

Patti Dickson would like a town email list.

Karen-Old Home day will be September 12, 2020.

School budget vote will be March 25, 2020

Drew Hazelton- There is a merged school district, WRMUED

The Articles of agreement are to vote from the floor for school board member.

Townshend, Jamaica, Newfane and Brookline make up the preK-6 part of the budget and grades 7-12 include Windham.

This is why the budget is warned in two separate articles.

This budget could be a 10% increase in property taxes for Jamaica residents.

The Weighting Study is being looked at. Each student has a different weight and a different value. Currently some students are valued at less than 1 and some are valued at more than 1. That is what decides if we pay penalties. Millions of dollars is needed for repairs to current schools. If budget fails, they would put together another budget. There is a default budget that would fall into play if none of the other budgets passed.

Jamaica has an active advisory committee that has been actively going to the board meetings. They would like more people to be involved.

After school programs: gardening, working on outdoor activities, music and other activities.

School district meetings are all televised on BCTV if you are unable to attend. Get involved!

You can send emails to board members. Their policy is not to read emails at meetings. If is recommended to go to a board meeting if you have something to say.

There is an information meeting on March 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Leland & Gray.

The next WRMUED meeting is March 16.

Kelly Pajala will speak this Thursday from 6-7 p.m. at the Mountain school.

Adjourned at 12:59 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall