

Jamaica Selectboard Meeting

June 26th 2017

7:00pm

The location of the meeting was changed to the Town Hall building.

Minutes

Present:

Selectboard: Judy Flower, Joel Bluming, Paul Fraser and Andy Coyne.

Raymond Ballantine, Joyce Ballantine, Harry Robinson, Clara Robinson, Dana West, Pete Cobb, Judy Cobb, Rebecca Ohm, Fred Heger, Virginia Heger, Gary West, Bonnie West, Kristian Pierson, Beth Pierson, Carol Cantwell, Doug Friant, Stewart Barker, Karen Ameden, Drew Hazelton, Kevin Beattie, Joel Katz, Veda Bassett, Kevin Polhemus, Garret Polhemus, Lori Polhemus, Karen Coleman-Young, Pat Meulemans, Greg Meulemans, Betsy Miller, Alex Fraser, Dean Fraser, Allen Monroe, Betsy Miller, Nelson Coleman, Matt Coleman, Greg Joly (moderator), April Green (minutes), Emily Richards BCTV.

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

Additions to the Agenda.

Judy Flower asked to add a brief moment that she could explain about the meeting that will be happening for the transfer station about the organic waste disposal

Approve the minutes of the May 22nd, June 1st and June 12th Selectboard meetings.

Motion: Joel Bluming motioned to accept the second draft written for May 22nd.

Second: Andy Coyne.

Paul Fraser voted yes.

Motion passed.

Motion: Andy Coyne motioned to accept June 1st meeting.

Second: Judy Flower

Joel Bluming voted yes.

Motion passed.

June 12th meeting changes.

On page 2 and 3 Erica Roper's name was not spelled correctly.

On page 4 Susan McMahon's name was not spelled correctly.

On some copies May 22, 2017 was the date, it needs to read June 12th.

Motion: Andy Coyne motioned to accept the changes to the June 12th Selectboard meeting minutes.

Second: Joel Bluming.

Judy Flower: abstained.

Paul Fraser voted yes.

Motion passed.

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

The board will do this at the end of the meeting.

Sign Selectboard orders.

The board will do this at the end of the meeting.

The primary agenda item will be for the Selectboard to hear Citizen input regarding the proposed change in ambulance coverage for the Northwest corner of the Town.

Paul Fraser started the meeting off by explaining to the citizens why this meeting is happening. He tells everyone about the motion from the March meeting and explained the confusion about the contract not being warned and so it could not be completely changed on that day. The towns people only voted to raise the budget for the Rescue Inc. change. If the existing contract is just amended then the board does not have to go into executive session. Rescue Inc. computes how many people they cover by a percentage of the population not geography. Paul Fraser discussed some of the factors and differences between Londenderry and Rescue Inc.'s services. He stated that the board and the Town of Jamaica would like to keep their payment and relationship with Londenderry even if Rescue Inc is voted to cover the whole population of Jamaica. Run cards out of Keene will be changed.

Joel Bluming suggested that the town look into the possibility of there being a choice on which ambulance you want to pick you up, if the call is not an emergency. Something to investigate it in the future.

Andy Coyne stated that Rescue Inc.'s contract ends July 1st and in September budget meetings will begin for next year and this addition is not something they have seen before and this September the board will look everything over again.

Greg Joly explained his role as moderator and how he was going to conduct the meeting with Robert's Rules of Order, everyone will have three minutes to speak.

Pete Cobb President of Londenderry Volunteer Rescue Squad read a speech. He listed all of

Londenderry's upgraded equipment. He explained the qualifications of his staff that most are in medical careers. He spoke of team leaders and that all crews are made of three or four people not only two. The average response time for his volunteers is twelve minutes to get to the ambulance but he explained about the First Response Teams that show up at an emergency scene before them. Pete Cobb ended with an explanation about how this change would affect people in the area. A family member will not be able to request Londenderry unless mutual aid was called. Londenderry Rescue is the last volunteer ambulance service in the state of Vermont that does not bill their patients. It costs \$1050 a year for them to cover part of Jamaica.

Drew Hazelton the Chief Operator of Rescue Inc. spoke next. They are a non-profit, they have been covering this area since 2005. Grace Cottage asked them to help cover the area. Response Model has changed as medicine has changed. How long do you want to wait for an ambulance? Rescue Inc. has a staffed model, his crews have an average of 1 minute from tone to out the door response. During the day there are two ambulances staffed at all times and one staffed at night. If an ambulance goes on a call and leaves Townshend then another comes up from Brattleboro. ICU level treatment to definitive care on an ambulance. Rescue Inc. does charge but there are options for low income people and payment plans etc. Drew Hazelton explained that he has to follow certain federal regulations. Rescue Inc. does have Technical rescue but he hopes that Londenderry will still help back them up.

Joel Katz believed the change to be a good thing. Carol Cantwell would prefer to stay with Londenderry. Beth Pierson believed her response time would be better from Londenderry because she is closer to them. Clara Robinson explained that the vote that happened in March should count and the board should vote with the citizens. Betsy Miller talked about a personal experience and she did not believe that one person in the back of the ambulance could handle the emergency on their own. First responders are equipped and this is just a business wanting more business.

Fred Heger asked a question about why the board has not added the rest of the citizens of Jamaica to be covered by Rescue Inc. in the last year's budget meetings? Paul Fraser responded with an explanation. He stated that the contract was made before this board was elected and that they were taking advice from Stewart Barker, the town's representative to Rescue Inc.

Kevin Polhemus believed we should pay Rescue Inc. for the extra coverage they have been covering but that Londenderry should continue their coverage of Rawsonville area. Nelson Coleman was confused about why the vote has not happened yet. Karen Young wants Londenderry to stay in her area. She asked why is Londenderry getting so little from the town? Andy Coyne said that is all they ask for, we would give them more. Lori Polhemus said we have a system that is working why are we changing it, she wants to stay with Londenderry. Matt Coleman said it seems pretty clear what the citizens wanted from the vote in March.

At this point some citizens whom already spoke decided to discuss ideas and get some more clarification on their confusion. Paul Fraser and Greg Joly tried to explain again about why this was not warned and how the budget was warned but not the discussion on Rescue Inc., this was brought up by the citizens. Joel explained to the body that if people had come to the Selectboard meetings prior to the March Town

meeting and expressed what they wanted to be discussed at the meeting the subject would have been warned and able to be decided on immediately.

Greg Joly called the question on the discussion.

Additions to the agenda.

Judy Flower informed the public of the organic waste disposal meeting with Windham Solid Waste on Tuesday at 6:30pm.

Possible Selectboard vote on whether or not to amend the Rescue Inc. contract to include coverage for the remainder of the town that they currently do not cover.

Motion: Joel Bluming motioned to incorporate Rawsonville into our contract with Rescue Inc. and that Jamaica continue it's financial support to Londendery's Ambulance service.

Second: Judy Flower.

Motion: Paul Fraser motioned that Joel Bluming change his motion to be amended to say the remainder of the town of Jamaica not just Rawsonville.

Joel Bluming accepted the amendment.

Second: Judy Flower.

Andy Coyne yes.

Motion passed.

Motion: Paul Fraser motioned to incorporate the remainder of the town of Jamaica into the contract with Rescue Inc. and that Jamaica continue it's financial support to Londenderry's Ambulance service.

Second: Andy Coyne.

Judy Flower and Joel Bluming yes.

Motion passed.

Paul Fraser explained to the public that all the houses need to have numbers on them so that the fire department and ambulance services can find them. It is the Law.

Public Concerns

Karen Ameden brought up Jamaica Old Home Day. She asked if during the parade the police could block off Depot rd. The reading of Fredrick Douglas 1852 for 4th of July speach. It will be on Sunday and she would like the board members to take a portion of the speach to read. July 2nd 11:30 am Potluck following.

Forty days before town meeting is the dead line to request issues to be warned for the March Town meeting.

Motion: Judy Flower motioned to adjourned.

Second: Andy Coyne.

Adjourned 8:44 pm.