

JAMAICA SELECTBOARD  
Monday, September 25, 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:** Lou Bruso (Lister), Veda Bassett (Planning Commission Chair), Laura Sibia & Kristin Mehalick (BDCC/SeVEDS), Dan Cummins, Matthew Beck (Beck Engineering), Keith Hazard (Road Foreman), Rich Melanson (Cameraman), Pam Tweedy (Minute Taker)

Paul Fraser called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

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

- a. Town Plan update from Veda Bassett
- b. Librarian update

**2. Approve the minutes of the Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.**

**MOTION:** Joel Bluming moved to approve the minutes from Sept 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Second:** Judith Flower.

Paul asked that the word "to" be added to the last sentence in section #12 to read: "Paul pointed out that the committee doesn't have to be restricted to the three people if anyone else is interested."

**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. Discuss replacement for aging town truck.**

Road Foreman Keith Hazard first spoke about a meeting he had with Emily Davis of the Windham Regional Commission regarding the hydrologically connected road segments that need work to comply with Act 64. He said they're in great shape and only have a couple ditches and berms to fix. Joel asked about the slide on West Jamaica Rd. Keith said it's out of our right of way and it isn't eligible for FEMA funding. He would like to try hydrologically seeding it with something other than grass to hold it together better.

Next, Keith stated it's time to begin the process of replacing the '06 truck. They should be replaced about every 10 years, that way they still have a decent trade in value. He would like to start getting prices so he can purchase by Jan 1, and hopefully have the truck by Oct 2018.

**MOTION:** Judith Flower moved to proceed with getting 3 bids for a new truck.

**Second:** Andy Coyne.

**Motion passed.**

**6. Review and consider a new Errors and Omissions report from the Listers.**

Lister Lou Bruso stated that Cersosimo called when they discovered they weren't being taxed on a piece of property they recently acquired.

**MOTION:** Andy Coyne moved to accept the Errors and Omissions.

**Second: Joel Bluming.**  
**Motion passed.**

**7. Review and sign the MOU with WSWMD regarding the loan of recycling containers.**

Judith explained that the Memorandum of Understanding is for a loan of the three recycling containers at the Transfer Station. Windham Solid Waste will hold the coverage but the Town is held responsible for any damage.

**MOTION: Judith Flower moved to sign the MOU with WSWMD for 3 roll off recycling containers.**

**Second: Andy Coyne.**  
**Motion passed.**

**8. Appoint a voting member for VLCT annual business meeting.**

The Town needs to appoint a voting member for the annual VLCT meeting on October 4<sup>th</sup> at Killington. Joel is the only Selectboard member planning to attend.

**MOTION: Judith Flower moved to appoint Joel Bluming as the voting member for the VLCT meeting.**

**Second: Paul Fraser.**  
**Motion passed.**

**9. BDCC presentation.**

Laura Sibilia and Kristin Mehalick were present from the Brattleboro Development Credit Corp (BDCC) and Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS). They presented the programs they have developed, which are focused on economic development and connecting youth in the region with employment opportunities. Their organizations are about the being the process of creating another CEDS, or 5 year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, and are hoping the town will participate and provide feedback on the usefulness of the programs that came out of the last CEDS.

**10. Presentation by Beck Engineering regarding estimate for town water project.**

Matthew Beck from Beck Engineering distributed to the Selectboard a proposal for a Jamaica Town Water System Feasibility Study. He emphasized the need to compare the potential costs against the potential benefits, and surveying residents to figure out who would be affected, and who would want such a system. The study would also look into costs and potential funding sources. The feasibility study itself would cost the Town \$10,000.

There was mention of the Water Study that was done in 2000, which looked more into the issue of potentially failing septic systems in the village. Mr. Beck said there are still setbacks for public water lines, but the isolation distances from septic systems are smaller than with private wells.

Discussion went further into why it is thought the town as a whole may benefit from a water system in the village with regard to potential economic development.

The Selectboard will hear a third presentation from Otter Creek Engineering at their meeting on Oct 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**11. Joel's report on recent meetings he has attended.**

Joel attended the "Housing Revenue Bond Initiative" informational workshop in Bellows Falls. The program has a total of \$35 million to "develop and improve ownership and rental housing for very low to middle-income households." The funds are for municipalities and non-profits only, are intended

to create new and rehabilitate substandard multi-family rental or single-family housing, and the average funding per unit would be around \$55k. Applications can be submitted this fall.

Joel also attended "When Governments Cooperate / State Municipal Day" in St. Johnsbury, which focused on environmental issues, Act 250, permitting, and agricultural development. He obtained updated "Do you need a state permit?" brochures which are available at the Town Office. State permitting specialists at the meeting urged local citizens and officials to call with any questions they may have about permits.

#### **Agenda Addition: Town Plan Update**

Veda Bassett of the Planning Commission asked the Selectboard to approve a Municipal Service Agreement with the Windham Regional Commission – the grant money the PC received ran out and they would like to continue using the WRC's services.

She also explained that the PC held their hearing for the Draft Town Plan earlier that evening, and the next step is for the Selectboard to hold a hearing prior to the adoption of the Plan. That hearing is expected to be scheduled for some time in November.

#### **12. Request for financial assistance with a town wide pumpkin project.**

Paul explained that Lexa Clark would like to have a town-wide pumpkin carving event for children and their parents at either the fire dept or town hall. The pumpkins cost \$175, she will donate \$50 and the lights if the town will pay the remaining \$125.

**MOTION: Judith Flower moved to help finance the pumpkin event with \$125.**

**Second: Joel Bluming.**

**Motion passed.**

#### **13. Cancel the Oct. 9th SB meeting.**

**MOTION: Andy Coyne moved to cancel the October 9<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting.**

**Second: Judith Flower.**

**Motion passed.**

**\*The next Selectboard meeting will be Monday October 23<sup>rd</sup>!**

#### **14. Review offer from citizen to donate land to the Town.**

The Selectboard received a letter from a property owner in which he offered to donate his land on Route 30 to the town. The board decided to get more information about the piece of property from the Listers before making a decision.

#### **Agenda Addition: Librarian**

The Jamaica librarian has resigned, and the Board of Trustees is actively seeking a replacement.

#### **Agenda Addition: Composting**

Judith Flower wanted to remind residents that there are bins for composting at the Transfer Station, which can take not only food scraps (including meat and fish!) but also soiled paper and cardboard products. Flyers will be available at the Town Clerk's Office.

#### **15. Time for public concerns.**

None.

**Andy Coyne motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Judith Flower. Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm.**