

Jamaica Selectboard Minutes

March 8, 2021

*Meeting held virtually through a video conference **

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans (Chair), Tom Tolbert, Paul Fraser, Andy Coyne and Jessica Pollack

Public Present: Terri Garland, Galen Robinson (BCTV), Lou Bruso

Greg called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

- A. Paul would like to expand on Lou, is he hired? Will be part of discussion on listers.
- B. Transfer Station
- C. Summer mowing
- D. Water sampling
- E. Transfer station information from Windham Solid Waste District

2. Approve the minutes from the Feb 22, Selectboard meeting

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Andy.

Greg would like the wording for the Cannabis Australian Ballot vote in the minutes.

Shall the town of Jamaica authorize cannabis retailers and integrated licensees in town pursuant to 7 V.S.A. § 863.

Tom made a motion to accept the minutes with the amendment, seconded by Jessica. 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

3. Set date for Information Meeting for Retail Cannabis Sale vote

The vote is Australian ballot, on March 24th from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Tom made a motion to have the cannabis informational meeting at 6 p.m. on March 22, seconded by Paul. 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

4. Update regarding Board of Listers and filling of vacancies

We have two vacancies on the board of Listers.

There are a couple of impending things that need to be dealt with, the most important is to have grievance hearing at the end of May or early June. You need to have two or more listers who will hear grievances or if you do not have a quorum, you can hire an accessor. At Town Meeting, if we can get two or more listers, they could have their organizational meeting and then set up grievances. If you do not get two or more listers, then we could hire an accessor or the Selectboard could set the date for grievance. Grievance hearings need to be warned three weeks in advance.

Something else that needs to be done, is looking at the new construction that has been done. This includes sheds and outbuildings. Steve Clark has volunteered to help Lou go out and do this field work.

The other part of grievance, is the BCA meetings. Whatever listers or assessors that did grievance, would also be a part of these hearings.

My VTAX needs to be worked on, this is the communication between the listers and the state regarding appraised value and sales value.

Discussion on appraised value and sales, a lot of sales have come through that are higher than what they are appraised at.

Lou has spoken to NEMC about doing grievance for us, it would cost \$500 a day and would probably take about three days.

Lou and Steve could do the leg work for looking at new construction and NEMC could finalize the new appraisals.

Paul made a motion that the Town of Jamaica hire Lou Brusio and Steve Clark to conduct the field work for assessment. Both individuals to be compensated at the current lister rate.

Seconded by Tom. All in favor.

Lou will talk with NEMC about doing grievance if we do not elect any listers at Town Meeting.

5. Notice of Hearings for April 1st and 8th for proposed Town Charter change

The Hearing dates have been set for April 1st and April 8th.

The town charter change has to be done by Australian Ballot. Terri suggested doing it on May 4th, following the Town Meeting so it is still in the allotted time. Terri said that we can make any changes at the first hearing such as changing the vote to Australian Ballot on May 4.

Greg made a motion to have the Australian Ballot vote for the Town Charter Change on May 4th. Seconded by Tom, all in favor.

6. Discuss/Approve extending license of Town Hall Wi-Fi hot-spot

Our license expires in 90 days, the hosting town is now responsible for the licensing. It is \$180 for 2 years or 5 years for \$270.

Andy made a motion that we buy the 5 years license for \$270. Seconded by Paul, all in favor.

7. Approve Liquor License

Tom made a motion to approve the liquor license for West River Provisions, seconded by Paul. All in favor.

8. Transfer Station

Complaint about the Swap Shop being a mess again, it is not being kept up.

The can returns still say Jamaica School on it but they are not going to the school anymore.

9. Update on Summer Mowing

Keith came to Greg, about roadside mowing for the town. Keith has found a place that rents the roadside mower. It is \$2400 a week and would take roughly 2 weeks. The Selectboard agrees with moving forward with this.

10. Water Testing

ANR determines which waters are tested each year. They were suggesting that Pikes Falls be removed from the list. It was suggested that the board contact the Southeastern Vermont Watershed Alliance.

Tom made a motion to send a letter and ask that they continue to test the water at Pikes Falls. Seconded by Jessica.

Paul would like confirmation that the statement is true.

All in favor.

11. Update from meeting with Windham Solid Waste Management (WSWM)

Jessica and Greg met with WSWM at the transfer station. There is grant money available for containers and composting. The recycling container could use a cover over it. Another idea is to have a separate container just for cardboard. It has some resale value but would need to be separated.

A request for the grant would need to be submitted by Wednesday. The request would be for two coverings and some open containers.

12. Review time sheets for town office, listers, highway and transfer station

13. Review pay-orders

14. Public Concerns

No public concerns.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall