

Selectboard Minutes December 13, 2021

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans, Tom Tolbert, Andy Coyne, Jessica Pollack and Kate Ullman

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Betsy Thomason and Leigh Merinoff

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

Call for any late additions to the agenda

Vote on winter operations policy for the Town of Jamaica.

Approve the minutes from the November 22nd Selectboard meeting

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes from November 22nd, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

Approve change-order for work on Bridge #29, West Jamaica Road

The first bridge on West Jamaica Road is being worked on by Hunter Excavating. The work was approved at the last meeting but the amount of material needed was exceeded. They had approved \$94,500 and need an additional \$70,000 to finish the project.

Tom made a motion to approve the change the amount from \$94,500 to \$164,500 for the work done by Hunter Excavating, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

To approve the Winter Operations Policy

This is for our highway departments policy for winter operations. It is the same as it was. Tom made a motion to approve the winter operations policy as written, seconded by Kate. All in favor. It can be found on the towns website.

Discussion of recent vandalism in town

There was some spray painting on the Tewksbury house, and there was some more on South Hill. Tom noticed some on the containers at the transfer station. Discussion on what the town can do, or who to contact or if the town should be involved. The sheriff's department is aware of the graffiti. The board will reach out to the homeowner or caretaker to let them know what has happened. Andy will reach out to them.

The speed sign on Route 30 was hit and knocked off the pole.

Discussion of changes to Act 250

There was a recent supreme court case addressing several issues with Act 250. In towns that do not have zoning, the act imposes Vermont state supervision if the proposed commercial development is larger than an acre. If it was less than an acre, then you did not have to seek approval from the state or town.

The supreme court ruled that the one-acre town interpretation of Act 250, was not the whole parcel owned but just the portion of the parcel that would be used. The statute says the land "involved". There is a rehearing scheduled for February. This has a chance of being overturned.

Discussion of digitizing town land records

Our land records are digitized back to 2004 at current, an attorney needs to do a 40 year search and it would be great for people searching our records. Discussion on ARPA money in general.

Set date for Town Plan Amendment hearing, January 10

Greg moved to hold the Selectboard public hearing on proposed amendments to the 2017 Jamaica Town Plan on Monday, January 10, 2022 at 6:30 p.m., in the Jamaica Town Office meeting room., seconded by Tom. All in favor.

Decision to cancel December 27, Selectboard meeting

Tom made a motion to not have a Selectboard meeting on December 27, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

Public concerns

Discussion about a mask mandate. Greg does not feel it is the towns prerogative to initiate a mandate. He has spoken with all the businesses in town.

Betsy and Leigh came to the meeting to have this discussion. As a respiratory therapist, she was told that the only effective mask is an N95. Paul agrees that in surgery, N95 are needed but people wear surgical masks to protect others from what we may have.

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

Review pay orders

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswal