

Town Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2022

Greg Joly called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

Greg 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 Garage in said town of Jamaica, on the first Saturday of April, April 2nd, 2022, to transact the following business and act upon the following articles."

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

Paul Fraser nominated Greg Joly for moderator, seconded by Jessica Pollack. All in favor.

Article 2: To review the town report.

Alice Abraham moved to review the town report, seconded by Dana West.

Dana West said that on page 31, the Fire and EMS totals are reversed. The total is the same, but the numbers were reversed. On article 3, the 2 two-year terms were done last year and are not needed. Article 10 was also voted last year and does not need to be voted this year.

Bob Stomski said on page 2 it has him as the assistant fire warden but he no longer holds that position. Paul Fraser called the question. All in favor.

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

a. Selectperson for a term of three years.

Tom Tolbert nominated Kate Ullman for Selectperson for three years, seconded by Dana West. All in favor.

a. Selectperson for a term of one year.

Jessica Pollack nominated Tom Tolbert for Selectperson for one year, seconded by Greg Meulemans. All in favor.

b. Selectperson for a term of one year.

Lexa Clark Nominated Andy Coyne for Selectperson, seconded by Jessica Pollack. Andy Coyne nominated Paul Fraser, Paul Fraser declined. All in favor.

c. *Lister for a term of one year.*

Valerie Pantorno nominated Karen Ameden for Lister, seconded by Lexa Clark. All in favor.

d. *1st Constable for a term of one year.*

Erica Bowman nominated Rob Willis for 1st Constable, seconded by Paul Fraser. All in favor.

e. *2nd Constable for a term of one year.*

Rob Willis nominated Ben Williams for 2nd Constable. All in favor.

f. *Trustee of Public Funds for a term of one year.*

Tom Tolbert nominated Rob Willis for Trustee of Public Funds, Clara Robinson nominated Steve Clark. Steve declined. All in favor.

g. *Agent to deed land for a term of one year.*

Erica Bowman nominated Rob Willis for Agent to deed land. All in favor.

h. *Library Trustee for a term of five years.*

Patti Dixon Nominated Sue Stomski for Library Trustee, Sue declined. There were no other nominations.

i. *School Director for West River Modified Union Education District for a term of three years.*

Bonnie West Nominated Dana West for school director. All in favor.

j. *School Director for West River Modified Union Education District for two years of a term of three years.*

Dana West Nominated Drew Hazelton for school director, Andy Coyne nominated Anne Connor.

Drew-32

Anne-24

Drew Hazelton won the School Director for two years remaining of a three-year term.

Article 4: Shall the town allocate \$25,000 to pursue hiring a Town Administrator?

Dana West moved to hire a Town Administrator, seconded by Patrick McQuillian. The Selectboard would like to pursue hiring a Town Administrator to help the Selectboard and Planning Commission. The main reason the Selectboard is pursuing this is because

there is a lot of funds available that could be beneficial to the town. Andy Coyne added that he did not support this decision but supports what the town decides.

C.J. King asked if it is to pursue or to hire.

The money is not being used in pursuit of the position. This money would cover the salary of this position.

Paul Fraser asked if the money was to pursue hiring or if it is to pay the Town Administrator. The board said it is for a part-time Town Administrator. They came up with the \$25,000 as a salary for a part-time position. The board will not spend any money to hire someone. Dana West suggested hiring a full time Administrator and having a smaller Selectboard.

Erica Bowman said she understands the confusion of the word pursue but she would like to put faith in the Selectboard.

Clara Robinson asked if there is a job description? The Selectboard has drafted a job description.

Sue Stomski asked if it could be taken out of the budget and then added back?

Jeff Dixon asked about the job description as well and wanted to know the time period of the position. Is it for one year? Five years?

Jessica Pollack said the Planning Commission has been working on what the priority grants are.

Stephanie Amyot said she thinks it's clear that they plan to use the money to pay the salary of the Town Administrator.

Alice Abraham said that the way this is written is murky. If things are getting shifted, the number of people on the Selectboard needs to be decreased.

Nannette Roina asked what happens when there is no surplus? What happens when we get all the grants, is the person then fired?

Greg Meulemans said this would be a permanent position in the town.

Chris Healy said she was told it would not affect our taxes but where would the money come from?

Christopher Robbins said there is a lot of money that is available. We cannot get the money if we do not go after it.

Dan Cummins asked where the money comes from?

Greg Meulemans said it is in the budget now and is covered by taxes.

Drew Hazelton wants to clarify that if this passes, the money could not be used for salary.

Drew Hazelton called the question.

Paper ballot: 61 votes

Yes-46

No- 15

Article 5: Shall the town assess a one percent (1%) tax on sales, meals and alcoholic beverages and rooms, pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 138b?

Dana West moved the motion, seconded by Paul Fraser.

This would be applied to anything there is sales tax on including retail cannabis.

Chrissy Haskins said this does apply to anything you have shipped to your house. She asked if there is any type of estimate of what this might bring in for the town?

Patti Dixon asked if it would be on all things? It would be anything that is taxable.

Drew Hazelton said all of the towns that have the 1% tax are ski towns. He said it would be hard on citizens who are already struggling.

Andy Coyne would like to keep the tax down so people do not have to leave Jamaica.

Greg Meulemans spoke with other business owners in Jamaica. He supports this as a business owner. He thinks it is a higher return than burden.

Sue Stomski called the question, seconded by John Beagan.

Paper Ballot: 57 votes

Yes- 26

No- 31

Revote: 54 votes

Yes-25

No-29

Article 6: Shall the voters in the Town of Jamaica appropriate the sum of \$3,105 to be raised by taxes for the support of Southeastern Vermont Economic Development Strategies (SeVEDS) to provide workforce and economic coordination services to the Windham Region.

Dana West moved, seconded by Patrick McQuillian.

SeVEDS mission is to support economic development primarily in Windham County.

They are asking every community to give them \$3 per voter for an appropriation.

Dana West, as a school board member, said \$25,000 for the school budget was given to this organization already.

Chris Robbins said SeVEDS has been helpful with all the work he has been doing with DVFiber. Bob Johnson called the question.

The article passes by a show of hands.

Article 7: To see what sum of money the voters will vote to pay the Town's running expenses, and how it will be collected.

Bonnie West made a motion to raise the sum \$1,138,186 by taxation for the running expenses of the town and this along with anticipated receipts of \$328,472, equal a

budget of \$1,466,658 to be expended. Taxes will be paid to the treasurer on or before October 4, 2022 with an 8% penalty added by state law on October 5, 2022 plus interest at the rate of 1% will be added monthly starting December 1st until paid in full. Patrick McQuillian seconded.

Jessica Pollack called the question.

Article 7 passes.

Article 8: To see if the Voters will authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes.

Dana west made a motion to authorize the Selectboard to borrow money in anticipation of taxes, seconded by Patrick McQuillian.

Patti Dixon called the question. All in favor.

Article 9: SHall the Voters authorize the Selectboard to spend “unanticipated funds such as grants, gifts, and/or interest?

C.J. King made a motion to authorize the Selectboard to spend unanticipated funds such as grants, gifts and/or interest, seconded by Dana West.

Jessica Pollack called the question.

All in favor.

Article 11: To set the time for the opening of the next Annual Town Meeting, to be held on the first Tuesday in March 2023 at the Town Hall.

Dana West made a motion to have Town Meeting on the first Tuesday in March 2023, seconded by C.J. King.

Jeff Dixon would like to have next year’s town meeting back at town hall.

Paul Fraser wanted to know if the location has to be set now.

Jeff Dixon moved the article to have the location at the Town Hall.

Vote on whether to add the location. The amendment passes.

Dana West made an amendment to change the article to have the time as 10:00 a.m.

Seconded by Paul Fraser.

Patti Dixon called the question.

All in favor for the amendment.

Article 12: To transact any other business that may legally come before this meeting.

Rob Willis reminded people that dog licenses are due. All dogs must be registered.

Karen Ameden- Jamaica Day Saturday, September 17, 2022.

The Historical Foundation will be opening in May.

Kitty Toll will be at the Town Hall tomorrow.

Redistricting is happening and we are losing Kelly Pajala as our representative.

Alice Abraham said looking at the vital statistics, please don't list as bride and groom, it should be party A and party B.

Fran Janik said that medical cannabis patients are having to fight for caregivers.

Dana West said the school board is tackling long term planning. This does affect the future of our schools and our taxes. He would like to see more participation and hear more voices for the concerns of the school.

Senior Solutions representative said they have services for people over 60.

Reminder Green up is May 7th, bags are available at the town office.

Thank you to Anne Connor for serving on the school board.

Reminder, don't dump trash on the side of the road.

Tom made a motion to adjourn at 12:15 p.m.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall