

## Selectboard Minutes January 9, 2023

Selectboard Present: Greg Meulemans (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Tom Tolbert, Kate Ullman and Jessica Pollack

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Bob Rolen, Susan Ahl, Derek Ahl, Karen Ameden, Mike Tuller and Sheriff Mark Anderson

Greg Called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

- A. executive session- Health officer concern
- B. Paul update from EMD PODS

### *2. Approve the minutes from the December 12<sup>th</sup> Selectboard meeting*

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes from December 12<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Jessica. The corrected minutes should say “pay for call” in the approve minutes section. Tom made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

### *3. Approve the minutes from the December 4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> budgeting meetings*

Tom made a motion to approve the minutes from December 4<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

### *4. Discussion with Sherriff Anderson, Windham County Sherriff's Department*

Sherriff Anderson joined the meeting via zoom. He said the joint relationship with Londonderry and Jamaica is going well even though the towns are different. There were hours that were rolled into the current contract from the previous year. One thing they said they would do is increase patrol Friday evenings and Sunday afternoon. They have started doing this. They did 120 hours last month, when they would normally do 80 hours. They are making up hours owed to us from last year.

There is a meeting in February about policing that the Selectboard will be invited to. Jessica asked about the reduction in fees. It has reduced over 50%.

Sheriff Anderson said there has been a reduction in speeding with the speed signs. They do need to work on the enforcement side. There are trends that need to be addressed, speeding, driving out of control, accidents, etc.

They are working to increase traffic enforcement and stops.

Karen asked if it made sense to patrol when traffic is heavy and slow, and more patrol when there is less traffic on Saturday and Sunday morning?

Sheriff Anderson responded that they are open to any input from the board, the board had requested Friday evening and Sunday afternoon.

Andy said that his understanding is that we hire the sheriff's department, and they patrol as they see fit. He doesn't want them to write tickets just to offset town expenses. Sheriff Anderson responded that they are not here to be a revenue generator for us. Vermont allows revenue for the town, but they are more concerned with safety. They do need to do more intervention with cars.

Derek Ahl said that Friday nights people do go slower with a line of traffic, but people do fly through here when there is not a lot of traffic. His concern is the speed people come through town at. He feels that the police presence does slow people down better than the speed signs but also said that the police presence has been sparse.

Sheriff Anderson said he hopes he didn't sound dismissive to speeding in the morning hours. He said there has been someone here almost every day since Christmas.

Discussion on police presence and what it means to the board and the Sheriff's Department.

People can call the Sheriff's Department if they see something that needs to be reported. The Sheriff's Department has moved to Brattleboro.

#### *4A. Paul update from EMD*

PODS- Point of Distribution

If there is an emergency in the state, we can set up a closed POD for the municipal employees. Municipal workers, the Selectboard, and the fire department, along with their families, could go to the closed POD for whatever may be needed.

They are asking for an update in numbers and an agreement or MOU (Memorandum of Understanding).

Tom made a motion to appoint Paul to sign the MOU with the Department of Health, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

Derek Ahl said the Fire Department is having a regional training tomorrow night on if there is an incident, which they are hosting at the Jamaica Fire Department.

#### *5. Discussion of Jamaica's Statement of Inclusion*

It is something we had done a couple of years ago and it has been brought up again. Karen Ameden said this is the Vermont Declaration of Inclusion. There are 86 towns and cities who have adopted this so far. It is a statement that will be statewide on inclusion.

Jessica believes that we have already made our statement that is on our website and that we need to send a letter to the state to be included on their website as a town with a statement of inclusion.

Andy said that he would like to keep the statement as it is. Tom agrees and thinks we should send our statement to them and ask if we can be included.

Tom made a motion to send our statement of inclusion in to see what they say, seconded by Jessica. Motion passed, 4-1.

*6. Discussion of Jamaica Historical Foundation MOU for the former Bank Building*

The only issue with the previous MOU was the length of time that it was for. Karen sent the MOU to the board. It is asking that the town not sell that building and that the Historical Foundation may use the building. This is tabled until the next meeting so the board can review the MOU.

*7. Approve revised VTrans Highway Milage Certificate*

Tom made a motion to sign the highway milage certificate, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

*8. Review and approve time sheets for town office, listers, highway and transfer station*

Greg made a motion to approve the time sheets, seconded by Tom. All in favor.

*9. Review and approve pay orders*

Greg made a motion to approve the pay orders, seconded by Tom. All in favor.

*10. Public concerns*

Bob Rolen thanked Greg for helping with the MOU for the town trails. Bob has purchased property on Craven Road, and he is looking to do some upgrades on the town trails.

Jessica said that Karen Ameden went to the white house to do decorating for Christmas. 150 people from all over the country were selected to decorate and Karen went to Washington DC for a week to volunteer.

Tom, "I move to find that premature general public knowledge of a health officer issue would clearly place the individual at a substantial disadvantage, if it discusses the issue in public." Seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

Tom, "I move that we enter into executive session to discuss the health officer issue under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313(a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes." Seconded by Jessica, all in favor.

Moved into executive session at 8:26 p.m.

Exit executive session at 8:36 p.m.

No decision made.

Submitted by Sara Wiswall