

# Jamaica Selectboard Minutes

## August 28, 2023

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Andy Coyne (vice-chair), Greg Meulemans

Public Present: Karen Ameden, Paul Fraser, Diana Dimarsico, Greg Lakis, Chris Mays, Mike Tuller (Town Administrator)

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

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

No late additions

### *2. Approve the minutes from the August 14th Regular Meeting and the August 7th Special Meeting of the Selectboard*

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 14th meeting and the August 7th Special meeting, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

### *3. FEMA topics: (i) exploratory call, (ii) funding for residents who lost private owned sole source driveways/bridges, (iii) potential funding for upgraded infrastructure, (iv) other*

We have been appointed a representative from FEMA and an exploratory call was held. FEMA has updated its processes. The next meeting will be in person. There are over 30 municipal projects that are underway. There is a consultant that is helping the town with the FEMA reporting. FEMA funds take a while to make it to the town. FEMA has expedited the process. The funds could be available more quickly because of this.

Andy asked if the total was under a million. There are some box culverts that are needed and some river projects, so it is still too early to tell. There are still things that are unknown. There is a significant amount of work that needs to be done near the village.

FEMA will pay up to \$41,000 for individuals. Hopefully you have registered with FEMA if you need their assistance.

We are looking at a line of credit, which would be through M&T. It would be a line of credit in anticipation of taxes which is a short term loan. The rate would be around 6%.

Vermont Bond Bank made it clear that there will other funding that will be available sometime before Town Meeting.

The Selectboard received notice of a townsperson that was flooded out. There are deadlines, so if you do have any severe damage let the town know now.

### *4. Update on NRCS applications, storm damage project current RFP's, visit by NRCS representative and the Regional FloodPlain Manager, and related funding from Town Administrator, Road Commissioner and Road Foreman*

Two representatives from NRCS/USDA met with Greg Lakis and Mike Tuller last week. They went around and looked at properties. They do look at the total cost to consider if it is worth

fixing. It is available to property owners. If you have not let the town know of damage, please reach out to Mike or Sara at the town office. The town must submit a letter saying we will participate in the solution. There are at least nine properties that have been impacted. Paul said that a lot of the ways of FEMA have changed since Irene, they have matured and there are more options than there were before. He encourages anyone that has damage to reach out to FEMA because there may be help available. Don't rely on your experience from Irene, FEMA has changed a lot since then. There is a separate program for people outside the flood zone.

After the last meeting, the update on South Hill was that we would do the work this fall. We had put off accepting the bid from Fuller Paving. Greg made a motion that we accept the bid from Fuller Paving for \$179,450, seconded by Jessica. Fuller graciously agreed to put off almost 50% of the cost until next year but will finish the work this year.

Jessica made a motion to rescind the motion, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Greg made a motion to accept the bid of Fuller Paving for \$179,450 with the knowledge we will be invoiced 50% of that now, and the remaining in calendar year 2024, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

#### *5. Jamaica Old Home Day update and discussion of use of Depot Street*

Karen said they are making great progress. There will not be a parade this year, VTRANS does not want them closing the road. There would need to be a permit which required a flagging company. One flagging company said they would do it but would cost over \$1,000 so there will not be a parade this year.

Erica Bowman and Rob Willis are doing an "Escape Jamaica". It will be free that day.

There will be a ceremony to thank everyone for getting us through the flooding.

There will be food, BBQ, pizza and hamburgers and hot dogs.

They are asking to close Depot Street to the bridge so they could have touch-a-truck.

There will be 2 sheriffs' during the day.

Jessica made a motion, that on Old Home Day, from 11 am to 5 pm, that we will close Depot Street in front of the library, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Old Home Day is Saturday, September 16th.

#### *6. Approve corrected contract with the Sheriff's Department*

We had approved the contract but there needed to be an amendment. The sum of \$60,000 will be paid in 12 equal payments. Jessica made a motion to approve the amendment as described, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Andy spoke with the accounting department; she sent an email explaining the credit we have from last year for hours we did not receive. The Sheriff said if we want to schedule time with him, we can do that.

#### *7. Flags in town and other related beautification activities*

There are 6 flags in town that need replacing. We are looking at replacing them before Old Home Day. Andy will dispose of the tattered flags.

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

Jessica made a motion to approve times sheets for the town office, listers, highway and transfer station. Seconded by Greg, all in favor.

*9. Review and approve pay orders*

Jessica made a resolution to approve the contract with NEMRC for bulk hours, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Jessica made a motion to approve the pay orders, seconded by Andy. All in favor.

*10. Public concerns*

Karen- Old Home Day. They are dedicating the day to Bob O'Brien. He has been a fireman; he has been on a Historical Foundation and done many things for the town.

They still have a few spots for vendors, contact Karen Ameden or Anne Brower.

Karen said Sara has been working hard, and she wanted to know if there is an update on the Treasurer. The subcommittee met today and recommended the resume be sent to the Selectboard.

Paul asked about the South Hill paving, he said the minutes said it will be paved to Barbara's house. Paul said it would be helpful to have the actual address in the minutes. The address is 765 South Hill.

At 7:56 pm, Jessica, "I move to find that premature general public knowledge of the individual submitting a resume for the Town Treasurer, would clearly place the individual at a substantial disadvantage, if the Selectboard discusses the individual in public." Seconded by Greg. All in favor.

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

Exit executive session at 8:14 pm.

Jessica made a motion to offer the new candidate, Sara Wiswall, the role of Treasurer, as well as Town Clerk. The board will be posting a job for an Assistant Town Clerk/Treasurer. Seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:17 pm.