

Selectboard Minutes December 11, 2023

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

Public Present: Laura Sibiliala, Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden, Mike Tuller (Town Administrator) and Susan Ahl

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

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda

Laura Sibiliala

2. Approve the minutes from the November 27 Regular Meeting of the Selectboard

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from November 27th, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

3. FEMA and Storm Preparedness topics: (i) Update on RFPs, (ii) BRIC study, (iii) update on completed projects, (iv) other

All the major RFP's have been completed except for Old Route 8.

Goodaleville Bridge is open.

West Windham Bridge has been worked on to take stress off the bridge, this work has been completed.

NRCS/USDA- There are 7 properties eligible for funding. The list of properties has been sent to Vermont Emergency Management.

The properties that were not near streams are the ones that were not approved.

Vermont Emergency Management mentioned that the Town of Jamaica would be eligible for some scoping on flooding in our town.

There is another program through Hazard Mitigation but we would be responsible for 25%.

Long Island Sound has some grant opportunities that Mike will look into in the new year.

3a. Laura Sibiliala- Act 250

We are a one acre/10-acre town. It means you need an Act 250 permit for anything under an acre or to subdivide.

Necessary Changes to Act 250- Looking at what changes we need to see.

Study looking at designations: village, downtown, neighborhood developments.

They were successful with getting some exemptions for some designations, now they are looking at all designations.

Necessary Changes: Proposal is out on the internet.

There are three tiers:

Tier 2- Towns with robust zoning, sewer and water could apply to be exempt

The rest of the state without all of these, would need Act 250 permits.

Laura will be at the Jamaica Town Office this Thursday at 6 p.m.

If you need help, email Laura, and then send her a text to let her know about the email.

RPC's were funded to work with the towns with the most need. (No Town Manager or Admin or low funds). They would come in and help develop a project. There wasn't enough for the first wave, so they have moved to the second level. Jamaica is in the second level because of all of the flooding. Susan asked if there was funding for libraries, it is possible and something the town should look into. We would need to get confirmation that we are eligible.

4. Report on Audit of 2022/2023 Town Financials

Terri's passing and our flood event resulted in the audit being later than normal.

When the budget had been put together one year ago, Terri came to the board and told them the budget needed to be increased.

There is one bit of good news the auditors found, FEMA money from the July 2021 Rainstorm is still due to the town. Mike is finalizing the paperwork to get the funds into the town.

There are audit findings every year, things that need to be addressed:

No policies in place, the auditors recommend we do this and we will.

Tracking transfer station revenue

We need a third person that is not writing checks but still can look at things. We have discussed having a consultant once a month.

Internal procedures that need to be in place.

We have money that we have tried to pay to people and the checks are not cashed. First, we try to get them their money. After five years you are supposed to send their money to the state for unclaimed funds.

After Irene, we were left with a deficit in our flood fund. Money comes in from taxes and gets allocated to different funds. There is a deficit of over \$800,000 after Irene. We are obligated to refund this money. We are going to start repaying this. This will be discussed at the budget meeting of how much to budget each year.

5. Selectboard membership change

We are losing one of our Selectboard members, Derek and Susan Ahl are moving to Newfane. Jessica said Thank you so much to Derek. Derek also volunteered on the fire department and Susan was our librarian. Thank you to them both. We will need to appoint a new member in January. Please email the Town Clerk or Assistant Town Clerk if interested, you must be a registered voter to serve on the board.

6. IT Support RFP update

There were 2 proposals for RFP. They are fairly complicated, but members of the town have met with both parties. Greg felt both of them would be able to do what we needed, each with their own strengths.

7. Report on Sheriff Department's efforts to regionalize the organization and service delivery

A couple of weeks ago, Jessica attended a meeting at the Sheriff's Department. A lot of towns

struggle with the individual towns having contracts for policing.
There are 11 municipal police departments in Windham County.
The Sheriff has been working with the legislator to get approved for a PILOT program. It would allow Windham County to have police on a regional basis.
Sheriff Anderson wants Vermont to have 24-hour police. The state police are not available all of the time.
Greg suggested we invite the Sheriff to the first meeting in January.
Susan suggested Greg Lakis be aware of the PILOT program.

8. Budget Meetings scheduling

The budget meeting is Saturday, December 16th at 9:00 a.m.

9. Approval of liquor, tobacco, and tobacco substitute license application

Jessica made a motion to approve the 3 licenses, liquor, tobacco and tobacco substitute licenses for Rawsonville Market, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

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

Jessica made a motion to approve the times sheets, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

11. Review and approve pay orders

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

12. Public concerns

Festival of Lights at Our Lady of Ephesus at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17th

Santa Claus comes to town at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 17th

The craft fair was successful and they did a great job, Karen said.

The 250th Anniversary's are upcoming:

2026- 250 years United States

2027- Vermont 250 years

2030- Jamaica 250 years

There is a grant to help with the planning of the Vermont 250th.

Jamaica Day (previously Old Home Day) they will be focusing on the civil war. The hope is to earn enough for a plaque for any veterans before World War I.

Complaints from a resident of contractors are driving 40-50 MPH through the village.
Discussion on calling local contractors to ask them to ask their employees to slow down.

Andy made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Sara Wiswall