

## **Jamaica Selectboard Minutes**

### **February 12, 2024**

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

Public Present: Karen Ameden, Paul Fraser, Captain Paul Samataro (WCSD)

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

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

- A. The Town equipment that cleaned sidewalks is no longer functioning.
- B. Discussion Selectboard issuing RFP to road condition inventory.
- C. A large sign at the Transfer Station
- D. Approve minutes from January 24 and January 31<sup>st</sup>

#### *2. Approve the minutes from the January 22 Regular Meeting of the Selectboard*

Jessica made a motion to approve minutes from January 22<sup>nd</sup>, seconded by Tom. It should say under the bridge, it should say VTRANS instead of the state. All in favor.

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from January 24<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 31<sup>st</sup> Special Meeting, seconded by Tom. 4 in favor, 1 abstained

#### *3. FEMA and Storm Preparedness general update*

We are still working with the FEMA representative. Mike Tuller has been gathering all the information and updating it in the FEMA portal.

Mike Tuller said we did have a couple other items. USDA said the town needs an engineer.

Mike has reached out to an engineer to get in contact with the homeowners.

There are two different buyout programs. There is a state buyout program that is moving forward but the house on Water Street would go through the other buyout program.

#### *4. Presentation by the Sheriff's Department*

There has been an issue with getting the reports that the Sheriff's Department. Captain Samataro provided a handout with all the incidents from September 2023 to January 2024.

The board expressed the citizens' concern that they do not see the Sheriff's Department's presence.

Andy reminded everyone about the difference in traffic sense the speed signs were installed. People tend to drive slower through the village since the signs went up.

Discussion on large trucks driving through town. There was a study done in Londonderry. It showed that they were not going as fast as people had thought.

They have black boxes that collect data that the town can use to see if people really are speeding.

The Sheriff's Department does have unmarked cars and that could be part of the reason people are not seeing them.

*5. Update on research re Transfer Station compostable bag option; review timing of decision and consider a resolution to approve the change*

Kate said that Ernie told her that people have liked the compostable bags, they seem sturdier. Discussion on having this discussion at Town Meeting.

If we wait until Town Meeting, it will be too late to order the bags and we will probably run out.

Karen would like to see a system that is by weight. The town pays for the waste to be removed by weight.

Paul feels that there would need to be another employee if we went to the weighing system.

Andy made a motion that we order the two sized compostable bags and see how it goes.

Seconded by Tom. Jessica will look to see if there are other providers that she can get a quote from for compostable bags. All in favor.

*6. Creation of a local Cannabis Control Board in Jamaica*

In the absence of a Cannabis Control Board, the town has no say in what happens and everything is approved through the state.

Jessica made a resolution that the Selectboard develop a recommendation for the composition of a Cannabis Control Board and approve it, seconded by Tom.

Jessica asked how the board felt about the Selectboard being the Cannabis Control Board.

Jessica made a resolution that the Selectboard approves the cannabis control board and it will be comprised of the Selectboard Members including Jessica Pollack, Andy Coyne, Tom Tolbert, Greg Meulemans and Kate Ullman. Seconded by Tom. 4 in favor, 1 abstained.

*7. SUPE: Substance Use Prevention Education resources to help educate parents and children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol: <https://www.addicted.org/supe/parents>; <https://www.addicted.org/supe/kids>*

Moved to another meeting, speaker was not present.

*8. Review and approve overweight permits.*

Tom made a motion to approve the overweight permit for Renaud Bros Inc, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

Tom made a motion to approve the overweight permit for Valley Crane Services Inc, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

Tom made a motion to approve the overweight permit for Frost Wells and Pumps, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

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

Jessica made a motion to approve the timesheets, seconded by Tom. All in favor.

*10. Review and approve pay orders*

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

*11. Sidewalk equipment*

The machine we had to clean the sidewalk is no longer working. They are looking at a new snowblower system or machine, it is around \$35,000. The issue is that it is a 40 inch machine and some of our sidewalks are 36 inch.

Keith Hazard is looking into contracting it out.

In the short term, they are winging the sidewalks. It is not ideal, but it is the only way to do it right now. Tom said the sidewalk by his house is badly destroyed by the plow.

This is for awareness, but something needs to be done.

*12. Discussion Selectboard issuing RFP to road inventory*

Our current road inventory is from 2018. For a number of purposes, this needs to be updated.

The Planning Commission had a strong recommendation that we spend some of the ARPA funds on the roads. The ARPA funds need to be allocated by the end of this year.

*13. A large sign at the Transfer Station*

Kate said we need a new sign for the transfer station. There will need to be an RFP.

*14. Public concerns*

Andy serves on the Windham Regional Commission. Today, they were talking about updates on bridges. The bridge to the state park would not have been on the list if it did not go to the state park.

VTRANs has announced the project prioritization will be suspended. This is the second year in a row that towns have been unable to seek help from the state.

Karen Ameden said Jamaica Day will be Saturday, August 17, 2024.

Karen asked if candidates night could be before the next Selectboard meeting at 6:00 p.m. which would be February 26th. There will be snacks!

Karen would like to have some soup for after the Town Meeting. People could bring a crockpot to share.

Tom made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jessica, All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted by Sara Wiswall