

Selectboard Minutes

September 25, 2023

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

Public Present: Clara Robinson, Harry Robinson, Karen Ameden, Dana Ladd, Michael Connor, Mike Tuller (Town Administrator), Susan Ahl and Greg Joly

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

1.Call for any late additions to the agenda

There were no late additions.

2.Approve the minutes from the September 11 Regular Meeting of the Selectboard

Jessica moved to approve the minutes from September 11, 2023, seconded by Kate, All in favor.

3.FEMA topics: (i) scoping meetings update and next steps, (ii) update on road RFPs and status summary of all outstanding and added municipal projects, (iv) other

They have been having meetings with the FEMA rep with Greg Meulemans, Mike Tuller and Jessica Pollack. The FEMA rep is uploading the information into a portal as they provide it. They have also looked into mitigation to enhance the location so it will weather a comparable storm better.

There are a couple RFP's they have discussed. Goodaleville bridge is one that still needs work. They presented an option to fix around the bridge but it was not approved. The bridge is still structurally sound. They are looking at protecting the bridge. The bridge is still closed. It probably will not be opened up this winter.

Smith Road is moving forward.

Old Route 8, the uphill slope is still a challenge. It is almost impossible to armor it at the steep grade. They will check with FEMA for approval.

The slope on Goodaleville Road needs to be looked at.

Mike will work on RFP's.

Water Street- They need to armor the wall and do some work in the river. Greg feels they need to get in the river to help stabilize the road. The road should be looked at as a separate project. Hopefully they can still get in the river, the normal shut off is October 1st but they are considering extending the date.

There is paving that needs to be patched, they are waiting to see if all the paving projects can be done at once.

Once the culvert project on Pikes Falls is complete, there are a few spots that also need paving that could be done with the ones on South Hill.

Susan asked about the process and what would happen if the government shut down. Greg Meulemans said we have confidence that we will get reimbursed from FEMA. If the government shuts down, Congress will continue to meet.

4.Update on NRCS visits

Mike Tuller reached out to Mike Lapointe. We had 9 projects but that has grown to 15 projects. Watershed studies for Ball Mountain Brook and Dam are on the list. Greg Joly is familiar with all of the spots that wash out in the storms.

5.Adoption of Highway Road Standards

Jessica made a motion to certify compliance for the current year, seconded by Andy. All in favor. Jessica made a motion to approve the bridge and road standards, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

6.Update on maintenance projects for Transfer Station

The transfer station needs some work from storm damage and wear and tear. The retaining wall above the construction container needs to be redone. This will need to go out to bid.

The woodwork along the dumpsters needs some work. They have looked at where water flows and where ditches can be installed. This will be done by the road crew and should be done in the next couple of weeks.

7.Update on interview process for Assistant Town Clerk and Assistant Treasurer position

We had the first round of interviews, the second round started this week. We are hoping to make an offer to one of the candidates this week.

8.Thank you for Jamaica Old Home Day

Thank you for Jamaica Old Home Day. Many people had missed Old Home Day. It was lovely to have it back. Thank you to all who participated and helped. They are hoping to bring the parade back and add other things as well.

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

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

10.Review and approve pay orders

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

11.Public concerns

Clara Robinson- Ask about increase in municipal tax:

Jessica, 25% of your tax bill is the town budget. The increase in cost of materials was a major part of the increase. The Selectboard approved a budget that was a 25% increase. The paving on

South Hill and refurbishment of Bridge 32 to the State Park were also what increased the budget.

Clara asked about fixing the bridge to the state park, it is dangerous to walk on. Greg said it is on their radar and it should have been done a month ago, but it will be done this week. Clara asked about town ordinances. How are they enforced? Specifically, the sign ordinance.

Jessica said that the process for enforcing is missing language to be able to enforce it. They do plan to amend the ordinances. The rights of the individual need to be in the ordinance. Clara asked about the dog ordinance, saying it is not enforced. There are unleashed dogs and it is not enforced.

Andy made a motion to adjourn at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Wiswall