

## Selectboard Minutes

May 27, 2025

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

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden, Alice Abraham, Christina Healy, Tim Jones (GMP), Carol Weston (GMP)

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

### *1. late additions*

- A. Road sand
- B. Discussion construction at Transfer Station
- C. New member for Planning Commission
- D. Bike and pedestrians scoping study

### *2. Minutes*

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12th meeting, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

### *3. Green Mountain Power*

Green Mountain Power (GMP) submitted the agreement and maps to the town for the work to be done on Turkey Mountain Rd. Tim met with the road foreman, Keith Hazard. They are proposing all of Turkey Mountain Road to have underground wiring put under the road. They will bury the main line in the road and then pick up individual services.

They are also looking at Pikes Falls Road and West Jamaica Road for future projects.

Keith is in support of the project. They will ride the road with Keith again when the project is complete to make sure everything is good.

They hope to start the week of June 23rd. Everyone on the road will be notified. They will probably start at the top and work their way down. They expect to always have one lane open but if they do need to close the road, they will work with the road crew.

Jessica made a motion that the board approve signing the letter from Green Mountain Power as Jessica summarized it and it was presented to us, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

#### *4. Oil spill at Historical Building*

There was an oil spill but there was never an insurance claim filed. There are funds available if insurance is denied but we must try to submit a claim.

Jessica made a motion to approve submitting a claim with our insurance for cleanup and removal of the tank at the Historical Building, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

Paul asked what there is heat in the building now. There is no heat currently.

#### *5. Annual Audit*

The annual audit is here and has been circulated to the board. It will be put on the website tomorrow. The report has three parts. One of the findings does not seem correct. It said we did not produce all the signed warrants. Sara disagreed with this finding.

#### *6. Jamaica Village School (JVS)*

We were asked by the school board last December to vote to close the school. The town asked to have a second article added which was if the school is closed, would the town want to buy back the school.

There has been a push by Governor Scott to take education reform. Jessica believes this is because of the federal government. They believe the changes will be made by 2029 at the latest.

Most of the voters wanted to buy back the school if it is closed.

Jessica would like to vote again to close the school.

It was not clear that the Jamaica Village School would not be used as a school again under the current School District.

If the school is not in the hands of the town, it is in the hands of the school district.

Jessica would like the Selectboard to vote to hold another election on closing the school.

Right now, there is only pre-K at JVS. If the town does vote to close the school and take the building back, the town could rent the school to the district, which the superintendent agreed to.

Greg asked if it would be better to wait to see what happens with the new legislation.

Jessica said it could end up that we couldn't offer the vote to the residents.

Jessica made a motion to approve requesting of the school board to consider and ask the town of Jamaica to notice and warn a vote to close Jamaica Village School, seconded by Kate.

Karen said the school board was discussing having the Town of Jamaica own the property and the district would pay for upkeep. Jessica talked to Drew Hazelton but not the entire school board.

Karen thinks we should wait to see what the state is doing. She thinks it is best to wait. Discussion on what would happen to the school if the town took ownership of the property.

Andy called the vote. 3 in favor, 2 opposed. Motion passed.

Jessica will reach out to Drew Hazelton. Jessica asked anyone interested to come to the next school board meeting on June 9th.

Jessica made a motion to move the next Selectboard meeting to June 10th, motion withdrawn.

#### *7. Transfer Station Hauling Bids*

We received two bids, one was only a partial for composting, recycling and mattresses. It is hard to compare the two bids.

Greg made a motion to postpone the decision until the next meeting.

We have not had a contract with Casella for a couple of years, and they continue to work with us.

Kate wanted to know if they could split the bids between the haulers, Jessica said it would be up to Casella if they were willing.

#### *8. Humane Society Contract*

Jessica made a motion to approve the Humane Society Contract, which is the same as last year, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

#### *9. Overweight permit*

Greg made a motion to approve the overweight permit for Colton Enterprises, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

#### *10. Road Sand*

Keith has sought a rate for road sand. Derrig has proposed \$27.50 for a cubic yard. The other bid from Hunter Excavating was \$33 a cubic yard. Greg made a motion to approve the bid from Derrig, seconded by Jessica. All in favor.

#### *11. Transfer Station construction*

There was some confusion with the bid for work to be done at the Transfer Station. Greg made a motion to extend the deadline to June 5th; there were different RFP's that went out with different deadlines. There is interest, people just saw the June 5th deadline.

Jessica made a motion to change the due date for bids on June 5th, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

#### *12. Planning Commission*

The Selectboard received a letter from Siobhan McDermott, she has a deep love for the town of Jamaica and would like to serve on the Jamaica Planning Commission.

Jessica made a motion to approve adding Siobhan McDermott to the Planning Commission, seconded by Kate. All in favor.

#### *13. Bike and pedestrian Grant*

Greg was talking with someone on the grants available. This grant is potentially available for a scoping study, to look at the bike and traffic flow. The grants range from \$40,000-\$60,000 with a town match. They picked Depot Street for the study. Greg is meeting with Colin tomorrow to do a walk through. There is a 20% percent match.

Chrissy Haskins explained what you would get from the scoping study.

If the plan proceeded with the scoping project, the town could apply for another grant.

The scoping study would be about 9-12 months.

The work would take 3-4 years.

#### *14. Time sheets*

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

#### *15. Pay orders*

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

*16. Public Concerns:*

From Karen Ameden:

July 5th is Tommy Fest, they are looking for volunteers and particularly need someone to keep track of people picking up or dropping off instruments.

The Pikes Falls Chamber of Music will have concerts August 5-9th.

JAMBA (Jamaica Area Mountain Bike Association) has trails open at the Ball Mountain Dam.

Flowers are coming up down on Water Street.

Jamaica Historical Foundation is now open Wednesday and Saturday.

Jamaica Arts Council has a lot of events going on, check out their Facebook page.

Cemeteries are being mowed.

The boy scouts put out flags in the cemeteries.

The flag looks great on the common.

Jamaica Day, they will start having meetings every 2 weeks. They are looking for more volunteers. August 16th is Jamaica Day. There will be reenactments from August 15-17th.

Karen also said there are garden centers in town, and it would be nice to support local businesses.

June 14th at the Town Hall will be a community building event by Jamaica Community Arts Council.

Greg made a motion to adjourn at 8:22 p.m. Seconded by Kate.

Respectfully submitted, Sara Wiswall