

Selectboard Minutes

June 9, 2025

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

Public Present: Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden, Megan Guest (VTRANS), Gary Larouche (VTRANS), Vincent Polhemus, Sean James (VTRANS), Kristen Wilson, Bryan Stearns

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

1. Late additions

No late additions

2. Minutes

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from May 27th, seconded by Kate. Christina Robinson was present. All in favor.

3. VTRANS presentation

VTRANS presented three alternative bridges for the Depot Street bridge leading to the state park. There will be a temporary bridge with any of these alternatives.

Alternative 5- New Steel Girder Bridge would be the most cost efficient. It would be the least expensive to maintain.

Alternative 6- Replace the bridge with a new Truss Bridge.

Alternative 7- Replace the bridge with a new Through Truss Bridge (this was considered at the request of the Selectboard) There would be large building and maintenance cost with this bridge.

Truss bridges need a lot more maintenance.

There was another update since VTRANS presented last time. Additional geotechnical information led to the recommendation of a deep foundation.

Alternative 5 is what VTRANS recommended. The total project would cost \$7,500,000.

The town cost would be \$138,000 for a new steel girder bridge while maintaining traffic on the temporary bridge alongside the existing bridge. Maintenance costs were discussed, VTRANS said they would get us more information.

Jessica suggested that the town may need to start a bridge fund.

If the town decided to go with one of truss bridges (More expensive) then it would have to fit into the VTRANS budget and could take longer. It would take each bridge the same amount of time to construct but if the town chooses one with a higher cost, it might take longer to start because of budget.

There are things you can do to make the bridge more aesthetically pleasing, such as color, type of material, form work, etc. but each option would add cost to the bridge. All three alternatives are for a double-handed bridge. None of them account for sidewalks/pedestrians/bikers.

Jessica asked if it is reasonable to put the decision on the agenda for the meeting in two weeks. VTRANS agreed.

4. Transfer Station Hauling bids

We received bids from Casella for everything and Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) for some of them.

Casella bids:

Construction and Demolition (C&D)- \$288 per haul/\$225 per ton

Mattress- \$50 each

Municipal Solid Waste- \$138 per ton

Compost- \$35 per cart per service

Recycling- \$288 per haul/\$182 per ton

WSWMD- \$45 per mattress but must be dry (there is no place right now to store them to keep them dry) Ernie did mention if we removed the cover over the C&D container, we could repurpose it to keep the mattresses dry.

Compostable waste \$390 a month

Jessica made a motion to select the company Casella to do our hauling of C&D, our solid waste and non-paper recycling, and to contract with Windham Solid Waste Management District for composting and paper until such time the board makes another motion. Seconded by Kate, all in favor.

5. Review Transfer Station construction bids

A Request for Proposal (RFP) was issued by the town for work to be done at the Transfer Station. We received one bid from Hunter Excavating for \$120,000 which

includes all the engineering work. It far exceeds what we had budgeted for. The way it was bid, it did not allow us to take the bid apart.

Chrissy Haskins told Jessica that the cost is in line with the work to be done. Any retaining wall over 3 feet requires engineering. The only part that wouldn't require engineering is in front of the recycling.

Jessica made a motion that we withdraw this RFP and instead issue a new RFP that would have two separate parts, one with the work around the recycling area and the second part would be to ask for bids to remove or repair the overhead over the construction bins, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

6. Bike/Pedestrian Grant application

These studies are \$50,000-\$60,000. They would look at the traffic in the area. Greg walked the town with Colin. If we are going to apply for the town, the town's share would be 20%. The grant application is due in early July. Discussion on finances and we do not have to accept the grant. Jessica made a motion to prepare and submit the application with the help of Windham Regional Commission, seconded by Greg. 4 in favor, 1 opposed.

7. Time sheets

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

8. Pay orders

There is a payment to pay off a significant part of the loan we took out from M&T Bank. The commercial line of credit expires at the end of this month. It doesn't include \$180,000 that would be the town's share. Jessica and Sara discussed paying it all down. At the next meeting, we will recommend paying off the rest of the loan once the numbers are crunched a little more. There are two projects from FEMA that hopefully will be obligated soon. There is still work that is not done on Goodaleville Road. Jessica made a motion to approve the pay orders as issued, seconded by Christina. All in favor.

9. Public concerns

Jamaica Village School (JVS): Jessica has been in contact with the school board. Jessica asked the school board to put on the agenda bringing up another vote to close Jamaica

Village School. She had asked to put it on the agenda in mid-July, but the school board said it wouldn't be until late fall. Jessica has asked for information on the maintenance of JVS but has not heard back yet.

Andy Avery had sent an email expressing concern about the trees outside of Town Hall. They need to be trimmed down because they are hitting the building. The board will work on an RFP for the work to clean up the trees.

Jamaica Day Saturday August 16th.

Wednesdays are the sidewalk social at 6:00 p.m. in the village.

Complaints about speeding on Henderson Road. Please call the Sheriff's Department.

We are stronger Together, June 14th at 9:00 a.m. at the Town Hall. Becca Balint will be there from 9:30-10:30.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:37 p.m. seconded by Christina.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Wiswall