

Jamaica Select Board Meeting Minutes

Jamaica Town Office – Monday, March 9, 2026, 7:30 PM

Attendance

Select Board Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Kate Ullman, Robert Brooks, Jason Kaas

Public Present: Karen Ameden, Paul Fraser, Peter Golrick, Kevin White (Remote), Eugene Alletto (Remote)

Meeting Proceedings

The meeting was called to order at 7:22 PM.

1. Call for Late Additions to the Agenda

No additions were brought forward.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the February 23 Regular Meeting were reviewed and approved unanimously.

3. Transfer Station Token Pricing

Sara recommended that the new token prices align with the current bag prices: \$2.50 for green tokens and \$3.50 for yellow tokens. The motion was made by Jessica and seconded by Kate.

Existing bags will continue to be honored until they are used up, even after the tokens are implemented. Tokens are redeemable and will be reused.

Ernie is comfortable assessing the volume of boxes, bags, and other items as needed.

Peter Golrick expressed concern about open trash being dumped into the compactor.

It was noted that pink tokens are not planned for use at this time.

Kevin White shared feedback from the town meeting, mentioning that some suggested trash disposal could be free, and voiced concerns for those who cannot afford, or access, the transfer station. Kate clarified that the transfer station operates at a loss and cannot reduce fees further due to a significant deficit, and there is no expectation of new revenue from transfer station fees. There is also no interest in raising taxes.

Residents are encouraged to contact the Town Office for assistance or options. Tom added that adjusting the tax rate could be unfair.

Eugene noted his experience with recycling, suggesting further exploration of recycling options for cardboard, glass, and metal, and stated Ernie's work is highly valued. He offered to connect the board with someone experienced in recycling businesses.

Jessica explained that Jamaica is part of the Windham Solid Waste Management District and, due to limited volume, cannot contract individually for recycling—especially for glass—because hauling and low volume make it economically unfeasible.

Eugene also mentioned that he is refurbishing a house on Main Street, resulting in higher waste costs compared to New York, and stressed the importance of transparency and clear communication regarding subsidizing the transfer station.

Jessica reminded the public that board members are volunteers and that expecting everyone to watch meetings or read minutes is unrealistic. Information and discussions are also made available at Town Meeting, in the Town Report, and at Select Board meetings. Residents can email questions at any time. Eugene clarified that his comments were not complaints but intended to encourage discussion.

Jason Kass suggested that returnable deposit containers at the transfer station could be used to help those unable to afford disposal rates, and called for volunteers to help with this initiative.

The board also considered reaching out to Neighborhood Connections to determine if a service exists for trash pickup for those in need.

The board reflected on the "Pay As You Throw" (PAYT) program implemented about ten years ago, noting that people are less likely to recycle or compost if trash disposal is free. Sara had supplied Ernie with flyers on composting and recycling. The Windham Solid Waste Management District has also conducted programs on these topics.

Motion passed unanimously

4. School Vote Committee Update

Robert Brooks provided an update. The committee will meet on Wednesday to brainstorm and has divided their work into three categories. Neighborhood Connections will participate on March 25. A meeting with Windham Regional Commission is scheduled for the Wednesday, Marc 18th. Meetings are held at JVS..

5. Rawsonville Schoolhouse Committee Update

Karen Ameden requested a letter of support from the Select Board for the Vermont Council of Rural Development. The board agreed and Jessica was tasked with writing the letter. Jessica made a motion to assign her to write letter with Kate seconding. All members voted in favor.

An open house at the Rawsonville Schoolhouse is planned for Saturday, June 6, from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The board discussed the possibility of using the schoolhouse as an emergency shelter and mentioned the potential to add a funding link to the website when available. There are also plans to recognize the building with a historical marker and well as another private home in Rawsonville.

6. Overweight Permits

Permits for Amerigas, Dead River Company, and RK Miles were reviewed.

Motions were made by Jessica to approve with Kate seconding – All approved unanimously.

7. Review of Time Sheets and Pay Orders

Time sheets for the town office, listers, highway, and transfer station were reviewed. A motion made by Jessica and seconded by Kate. All approved with all in favor. Pay orders were also reviewed. A motion made by Jessica and seconded by Kate. All approved, with all in favor.

8. Public Concerns

Peter Golrick inquired about mandatory Open Meeting training. Jessica reported that training is going well; all information is distributed, and new board members are encouraged to attend. Karen added that listers are required to train once or twice a month, totaling 48 hours per year. Paul Fraser recommended in-person meetings for the networking benefits, especially since emergency management requires select board members to have baseline knowledge.

Community announcements included:

- Focus lounge at R&R on Thursdays at 8:30 AM—bring your laptop to work from this space.

- Community lunch at 12:00 PM on Wednesday at the church.
- Bingo on Fridays 6:00pm.
- Pi Day Potluck at the library on Saturday at noon—bring a pie.
- Yoga with Mike on Sunday @ 9:30
- Stitching Circle at R&R at 5:00 PM.
- Jamaica Sings: Songs of Protest, Sunday at Town Hall, 3:00–5:30 PM, followed by an event at River and Rye.
- Crafters Social on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM.
- JCAC meeting at Jamaica Haus on Wednesday at 5:30 PM.
- Zak Yak at R&R, Friday at 6:00 PM.
- Act 59 Listening Session at R&R—discussion and dinner on Community Resilience and Biodiversity, Monday, March 16, at 6:00 PM.

Questions were raised about cleaning the Town Office, with suggestions to outsource or involve L&G students for community service.

9. Executive Session

An executive session was listed on the agenda, to be held if necessary.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:13 PM, with all in favor.