

Jamaica Selectboard Meeting Minutes

Jamaica Town Office

Monday, October 26, 2026 · 7:00 p.m.

Board members present: Jessica Pollack, Greg Meulemens, Robert Brooks, Jason Kass, Kate Ullman.

Public present: Paul Fraser, Meg Staloff, Rob Willis, Greg Lakis, Karen Ameden, Sara Wiswall, Bryan Zieroff, Diane Robles, Emma Spett, Ranier Frost

Call to order: The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

1. LATE ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Robert Brooks requested that a foot care clinic discussion be added to the agenda.

2. APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 13, 2026 MINUTES

Motion: Jessica Pollack moved to approve the minutes of the October 13, 2026 regular meeting. Kate Ullman seconded. **Vote:** All in favor; motion carried.

3. BDCC/SEVEDS UPDATE

Meg Staloff presented an update on BDCC/SeVEDS and requested funding of \$3.00 per person. She described BDCC contracting with SeVEDS to run programs, including lending, technical assistance, workforce development, and programs for students in schools. Additional support includes grant assistance and capacity building.

The municipal leader network meets three times a year. Meg Staloff is also assisting with the school assessment.

4. JAMAICA VOLUNTEER FIRE AND RESCUE INSURANCE REIMBURSEMENT WAIVER

Greg reported on JVFD's insurance and reserve funds. The annual funding request includes liability, workers' compensation, property, and automobile insurance through VLCT. Reported expenses included \$24,000 for new equipment, funded primarily through fundraising and partly from reserves; \$11,000 for radio repeaters; a primer pump replacement for Engine 1; and \$13,200 for repairs to Engine 2's foam system. The notes record a dispatch bill change from "\$25000" to "\$32,500"; the starting amount requires confirmation.

Greg reported that the prior year's insurance invoice of \$9,678.82 had been overlooked and remained unpaid. The current year's insurance cost was reported as \$9,571.

Because of the reserve position, JVFD requested a waiver of the \$9,678.82 insurance reimbursement. JVFD also requested a current-year allocation of \$110,700.28 and indicated that the bill would be submitted less the insurance cost.

Motion: Jessica Pollack moved to approve a waiver of the insurance reimbursement in the amount of \$9,678.82. Kate Ullman seconded.

Sara indicated that additional information might be available in two weeks. If payment were required, it would come from the truck fund.

Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

5. GENERAL UPDATE FROM TOM TOLBERT, TOWN CLERK AND TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Updates at Town Hall

The Town Hall thermostat and lights will be replaced. Rob Willis offered to provide scaffolding.

School Building Updates

Water Testing

Tom reported that he and Ian had adjusted the water pH to safe levels.

Alarm Monitoring

Countryside is now monitoring the alarms.

Heat

Tom is working to get the credentials for the heating system.

Transfer Station

The Board discussed raising C&D rates at the transfer station. No rate change or vote is recorded.

Server Retirement and Patriot Migration

Karen's migration was completed on October 26. Pat and April are scheduled to migrate on Wednesday.

Next Steps

Tom is looking for solutions for the historical foundation database and file storage.

Election

Tom reported that the November 3 election will be held at the Town Office, with polls open from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Voters were asked to bring their state-issued ballots when voting in person.

Tom recommended against mailing ballots at this point because of the proximity to the election.

6. LT-27 (FORMER HOLLOW ROAD): CONFLICT WAIVER AND HEARING

Jessica Pollack requested a conflict waiver based on informed consent, noting that she had been asked to represent Ranier Frost. The precise scope of the waiver requires confirmation.

Motion: Greg made a motion in connection with the conflict-waiver request. Kate Ullman seconded. **Vote:** All in favor; motion carried. The exact motion wording requires confirmation.

Withdrawn motion: Greg moved to accept the JPC recommendation. Kate Ullman seconded. The motion was withdrawn.

Motion: Kate Ullman moved to appoint a Town Officer, Greg Meulemans to replace the recused member for this matter. Jason Kass seconded. **Vote:** All in favor; motion carried. The appointee's name is not recorded in the notes.

Motion: Greg moved to accept the JPC recommendation to discontinue LT-27. Kate Ullman seconded.

Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

Motion: Greg moved to hold a hearing on December 14 at the Town Office at 6pm. Robert Brooks seconded. The hearing time is not recorded in the notes.

Karen expressed opposition to discontinuing the trail. Bryan explained that the recommendation was based on Town Plan policies.

Vote: All in favor; motion carried.

7. LT-13 (PLEASANT VALLEY ROAD): IMPROVEMENT REQUEST

Jessica Pollack recused herself from this discussion. No recommendation was available. JPC will research the property, Act 250, and the Town Plan and provide a report to the Selectboard.

The property owner requested improvements to the town road. Discussion referenced a 2006 building proposal by a previous owner, Act 250 restrictions, and a bear corridor. The notes state that the Board rejected the earlier plans and that GMP could not install poles. The Board discussed the purpose of the requested road improvements and existing improvements on the land. The notes reference a “dash 2” septic permit request for a party space for 16 people; the permit description requires confirmation.

Bryan recommended an agreement with the landowner before allowing improvements to LT-13.

8. JVS PROPERTY

The Town did not receive the grant for the JVS property.

Other Grant Opportunities

Siobhan is pursuing other grant opportunities. A WRC grant application is due December 1, with potential funding of \$30,000–\$60,000.

Right-of-Way and Spring Rights

The right-of-way appears to have been eliminated in 1965; this requires confirmation.

Jessica is working to obtain an updated deed, address spring rights, and renew the public water system.

Current Needs — Generator Work

Motion: Jessica Pollack moved to approve \$2,100 for generator work. Kate Ullman seconded. **Vote:** All in favor; motion carried.

Water Contractor

Jessica indicated that the water contractor work would move forward. The notes do not record a formal motion or vote.

Fire Alarm Inspections

The notes reference spending authorization involving Jessica for fire alarm inspections. The amount, motion, and vote require confirmation.

Internet and Cameras

Tom will develop a plan for internet service and cameras.

2027–2028 Budget

Budget preparation is underway. Funding for the JVS property will need to be included.

Other JVS Matters

Oil needs were raised; no decision is recorded.

Discussion emphasized involving the public and keeping residents informed about plans for the property.

9. REMAINING TOWN-OWNED PROPERTY SALE

The sale of the property on Pikes Falls Road is expected to close in November.

10. PROPOSED GIFT OF A PIANO

The Town will follow up with Robles regarding the proposed piano gift. Greg cautioned against accepting the piano solely because it is free. No decision is recorded.

11. REGIONAL POLICING INITIATIVE

The regional policing initiative has held weekly meetings of approximately 90 minutes over ten weeks. Bylaws have been developed. Discussion includes allocating service hours among towns, improving service while reducing costs, and reviewing 911 arrangements. An update is expected at the next Selectboard meeting.

12. NEIGHBORHOOD CONNECTIONS FOOT CARE CLINIC

Neighborhood Connections proposed a nurse-run foot care clinic on the second Thursday of each month from noon to 4:00 p.m., beginning in January. The Board agreed to host the clinic at the Town Office. A reclining chair is needed.

Insurance coverage needs to be checked before the clinic begins.

13. INDEPENDENT FINANCIAL AUDIT

The independent financial audit is on track, and the auditors have completed their on-site work. The notes reference October 20, 2026; the significance of that date requires confirmation.

14. APPROVAL OF TIME SHEETS

Motion: Jessica Pollack moved to approve time sheets for the Town Office, listers, highway, and transfer station. Kate Ullman seconded. **Vote:** All in favor; motion carried.

15. APPROVAL OF PAY ORDERS

Motion: Jessica Pollack moved to approve the pay orders. Kate Ullman seconded. **Vote:** All in favor; motion carried.

16. PUBLIC CONCERNS

Karen reviewed events on the Town Calendar.

Spooktacular

Many events in Jamaica on Halloween – see Town Calendar

Motion: Jessica Pollack moved to close Water Street from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Halloween for Thriller Dance. Kate Ullman seconded. **Vote:** All in favor; motion carried.

A “Honk and Wave” voter-turnout event was announced for Friday, October 30, in the center of Jamaica. Gathering begins at 2:45 p.m., with the event from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

17. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session is recorded in the notes.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Motion: Jessica Pollack moved to adjourn. Kate Ullman seconded. **Vote:** All in favor; motion carried.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Attest: Tom Tolbert, Town Clerk.