

JAMAICA SELECTBOARD AGENDA

Jamaica Town Office

TUESDAY, June 10, 2024 at 7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING

Select Board Members Present: Jessica Pollack, Chair; Andy Coyne, Greg Meulemans, Len Beman

Also: Mike Tuller, Town Administrator

No Public present in audience or via Zoom

Meeting Commenced at 7:03 PM.

1. Call for any late additions to the agenda – None referenced
2. Approve the minutes from the May 28 Regular Meeting of the Selectboard

Jessica Pollack motioned for Approval – No discussion

Greg Meulemans second

Minutes Approved 4-0

3. FEMA general update; M&T loan update; Results of windshield survey with WRC for flood mitigation grant application; Ball Mountain Brook debris removal project update; other items

Jessica Pollack referenced the state Education Department tax payment currently due. The town is working with M&T Bank regarding the closing of a loan for the town to assist in this state payment requirement. The town attorney is currently reviewing the necessary documentation on the town's behalf.

Mike Tuller provided a FEMA update on the two-storm events in 2023 and coordination efforts with state/federal partners. The town is finalizing the documentation related to the 2021 FEMA event and subsequent reimbursement through the state/FEMA.

The Ball Mountain Brook RFP is advertised locally and with VLCT for contractor services to perform the rock and sediment debris removal within Ball Mountain Brook at the JVFR area and Water Street/Depot Street bridge where two significant rock depositions are located. The state/town will oversee a pre-bid meeting June 20th with prospective contractors - bids will be due June 24th to be reviewed by the Select Board.

July 5, 2024 is the deadline for reporting damages related to the December 10, 2024 storm that passed through Jamaica. If property owners have storm-related damages from this event that you would like to have review by the town and/or FEMA please contact the town very soon to meet the July deadline.

The Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) brought staff from WRC Emergency Management and DEC Watershed to evaluate projects in Jamaica for this \$90 million program specific to addressing flooding and storm impacts experienced by VT towns. Jamaica promoted potential projects such

as box culverts on Pikes Falls Road at Kidder Brook and the North Branch of Ball Mountain Brook, and Goodaleville Road (near VT Route 30) as potential projects. The program pays 100% of the cost for awarded projects. Pre-applications due August 19, 2024.

Town is also pursuing an engineered option as a HMGP project, where large quarry stone would be placed within the stream channel of Ball Mountain Brook to help protect the town and neighboring properties. The only location the state River Engineer would support this type of improvement would be along the Water Street embankment near the Depot Street bridge, for approximately 250'-300'. The project would likely entail digging 6' under the existing stream channel depth to set the base foundation for the wall and building it in front of the existing embankment along Water Street, and backfilling the area between the two wall sections. A professional engineer will need to be hired to design the project.

4. Town Operations: Update on childcare contribution withholding tax and NEMRC upgrades

Jessica Pollack spoke about the new state law, where employers are obligated to set-aside 0.44% of employee wages earned to go to a fund to support childcare in Vermont. Jamaica will pay the employee share amounts called for by the state. The expenditure also falls within normal budgetary expenditures for the town.

5. Jamaica Village School update

Jessica Pollack briefed the Select Board on recent events regarding the Jamaica ES and efforts to close the school temporarily for one academic year and/or amend the program at the school to either Pre-K or K-2 educational setting. The school does not have enough time to recruit educators for the facility location and limited funding within the school system to operate the property. A long-term planning meeting is to be scheduled for the school site soon. The School Board is not authorized to close the school permanently.

6. Lister hosted software upgrade update

Jessica Pollack briefed the Board regarding the need to approve software upgrade expenditure for two modules costing a total of approximately \$5,000 from Patriot software to operate programs for the Lister Office. The contract also includes an annual 6% increase in annual fees to operate/maintain the software for the town. The software is part of the NEMRIC operating system for Jamaica. The town will need to budget for these increased expenditure costs.

7. Follow-up on Traffic and Parking Ordinance enforcement discussion

Jessica Pollack presented a notification letter to the Board regarding the ordinance proposal. Greg Meulemans mentioned the need to notify all the residents in the town about this ordinance change and to also include short-term rental property owners.

Discussion included a tiered or escalating approach towards a parking violation fine violations, either two levels or three levels, based on research in other VT towns. Winhall and Williston referenced. Parking along West Windham Road, by Hamilton Falls in an on-going concern. Enforcement signs in place are ignored by the public visiting Hamilton Falls.

Andy Coyne asked about enforcement challenges, where residents may be parking on sidewalks for short-term basis compared to people leaving vehicles parked on sidewalks overnight. Jessica Pollack stated the ordinance is aimed at allowing people to use sidewalks in town. Temporary parking on a sidewalk is not the focus...repeat offenders parking overnight is the concern.

Andy Coyne expressed concern with the ordinance placing enforcement responsibilities on future Select Boards.

Jessica Pollack motioned a set of fine amounts for parking violations related to roadways or sidewalks would have a first offense amount of \$50 and a second offense amount of \$75. Every day after the second offense would be an additional \$75/day amount, with no time limit.

Second by Len Beman.

Passed 3-0 (Andy Coyne abstaining)

Motion from Jessica Pollack regarding Article 7 for West Windham Road, where parking violations are set at a \$100/per day amount, with no time limit. The town will have the ability to tow vehicles parking in violation of the ordinance at any time.

Second by Greg Meulemans

Passed 3-0 (Andy Coyne abstaining)

8. Follow-up discussion of Recreation Committee and related budget

Jessica Pollack recommended deferring the discussion to a future date.

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

Motion to approve by Jessica Pollack

Seconded by Len Beman

Passed 4-0

10. Review and approve pay orders

Motion to approve by Jessica Pollack

Second by Len Beman

Passed 4-0

11. Public concerns – None referenced.

12. Executive Session, if needed – No Executive Session

13. Adjourn at 8:00 PM