

Selectboard Minutes

July 22, 2024

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Greg Meulemans and Len Beman

Public Present: Karen Ameden, Greg Lakis, Deanne Gilman, Dana West, Joel Katz, Cynthia Hoel and John Hathaway

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. There were no late additions to the agenda.

2. Jessica motion to approve minutes from the July 8th meeting, seconded by Len. All in favor. Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15th Special meeting for the debris removal RFP, seconded by Greg. \$643,806 is the correct bid amount from Crown Point Excavation.

Jessica made a motion to adapt the minutes as corrected by Greg Meulemans, reflective of the bid price, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

3. *FEMA*

Mike Tuller: We have all the documentation that is needed for the July 2021 event. There was an issue over hazard mitigation. It was not done, so we had to ask that the amount be removed from the event. We still must circle back with FEMA for a re-obligation. The Ball Mountain Brook Debris Removal Project was awarded last Monday to Hunter Excavating. They hope to start in early August and the work would take about 4 weeks. The money to pay for this is not coming from town funds, it will be paid through FEMA. Mike said we are making good progress with the December flood. There are some issues with the July 2023 storm, particularly with Goodaleville Rd. We had about \$400,000 in damages from last year that should be reimbursed. Half of any money from FEMA goes to the bond bank to pay off the loan. The FEMA coverage is not 100%. We have been approved for a grant to cover the gaps.

4. *Approval of appointment of Dana West as Deputy Emergency Management Director*

Thank you to Jennifer Dorta-Duque for serving in the role and doing a great job. Dana has already taken the EMD classes. He has done it in the hospital capacity too. Jessica made a motion to approve the appointment of Dana West as our new Deputy Emergency Management Director, seconded by Len. All in favor.

5. *Library Trustee*

There is no one present from the library board. Jessica made a motion to defer this item. They will connect with the library trustees, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

6. Approve the 2024/2025 tax rate

Once the grand list is finalized, the town receives the state education tax rate. The town approves the municipal tax rate. Our lister organization was very active this year. This year they got a lot of work done, so we have a much more accurate Grand List value. This year our municipal tax rate has gone down, it is .6933. Last year the municipal tax rate was .7150. Jessica made a motion to approve the computation and tax rate of .6933 for the Town of Jamaica 24/25 Tax rate, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

7. Discussion of adding a lister

Karen and Pat have done a great job, with the help of Ed (who has resigned). There is a new software program the listers will be using. We can appoint someone until Town Meeting for the position.

8. State park bridge

We are now in the process of seeking alternatives for the bridge to the state park. We had voted to rehabilitate the bridge. There are some constraints that have been lifted. The full cost of construction will be paid by the state and the town will not have to maintain the old bridge. They are seeking out alternatives for design. There will be some test borings taking place August 25-28th. The project has been pushed back because of the flooding last year around the state. We will see a new presentation this fall. Construction would begin in 2025-2027. The current bridge would be taken down. A temporary bridge would be installed, the current bridge would be removed, and the new bridge would be built where the current bridge is now.

9. Hamilton Falls meeting

There were quite a few people from Jamaica and Windham at the meeting. There were three stations. One for high use, one for mid use and one for low use. They did open the meeting up for people to speak. They are going to call another meeting. It is an ongoing discussion. The planning commission is working on something to present.

10. Approve Annual Financial Plan for Town Highways

We need to approve on an annual basis to approve the funds for the highway. Jessica made a motion that we the Legislative Body of the Municipality of Jamaica certify that funds raised by municipal taxes are equivalent to or greater than a sum of at least \$300 per mile for each mile in Class 1, 2 and 3 Town Highway in the municipality. (19 V.S.A. 307)
2nd by Greg. All in favor.

11. New compostable bags

We moved this year to compostable bags. The bag price did increase this year for the first time in over a decade.

One issue raised was that there is no loop on the side, so you must use part of the bag to tie it. The bags are the same size as the old ones but with the lack of a tie, it makes it seem smaller.

Cynthia commented that they are smaller, more expensive and they break. She said they do compost and recycle.

Greg mentioned that we ordered them to try to reduce the amount of plastic. This is an ongoing conversation and the board could reconsider the bags that were chosen.

Deanne said she had troubles with the new bags but did not have issues with old ones. She said the bags are thinner, that is why they are not as strong. She said the bag broke on the way out and she had to use another bag to get it picked up.

Joel wants to delve into the finances. He said the old bags fit in his 30 and 32 gallon cans but the new one does not fit into the 32 gallon.

Joel asked about alternative bags.

Dana asked about recycling batteries, do we accept them at the transfer station? We will see if a barrel collector can be put at the transfer station. As of July 1st, batteries cannot be put into the trash and must be recycled.

12. Ball field

We discussed at the last meeting, Leland & Gray requested to lease the ball field from the town. Jessica reached out to the Army Corp of Engineer, who leases the field to the town of Jamaica. We have no authority to sub-lease. Jessica reached out to Tammy Claussen who gave the specifics for the Army Corp. Jessica is waiting to hear back to see what the next steps will be.

13. Jessica made a motion to approve the times sheets, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

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

15. Public concerns

Jamaica Day is August 17th

Jessica made a motion to close the road on Depot St from Route 30 to the end of the library property on Jamaica Day, seconded by Greg. All in favor.

Karen is looking for volunteers for Jamaica Day, see her if you would be interested in helping or dressing up in historical clothing.

JAMBA is making good progress on the skills loop down at the grade school. They hope to start the initial loop in the fall.

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:23 p.m. seconded by Greg

Respectfully submitted, Sara Wiswall