



MEETING OF THE PAWLET SELECT BOARD

Tuesday, April 17, 2012

7:03 PM Meeting called to order by chair Mike Beecher

Present: James Glick, Joe Clark, Mike Beecher, Bob Jones

Audience Present: Kevin Mason, Phyllis Mason, Keith Mason, Charlie Mason, Elizabeth Gibson

James had a further correction to the March 20, 2012 minutes. *Motion by James, seconded by Joe to accept the minutes with corrections. So voted.*

The minutes from the April 3, 2012 were reviewed. *Motion by Bob, seconded by Joe, to accept the minutes with corrections. So voted.* James feels that the minutes are skewed. James said his comments were not included in the minutes regarding the fire stair. The line item was not entered on the vote, and that he feels that a fire escape should be installed.

Audience:

Kevin Mason addressed the board in regard to dust control on Kelly Hill Road. There is constant heavy truck traffic, and he lives in the direction the wind blows the dust. He asked if the town will put more chloride on where trucks travel. Mike asked Keith if he can spread more chloride. He said they could, but it will deplete the stores. The excess dust is due to the dry spring. They did spread some chloride today. Mike asked if Kelly Hill is approved for the truck traffic it's getting. Keith said it is.

Kevin Mason commented about the garbage blowing around the neighborhood, and asked if the select board could do anything about it. Mike stated the last health officer said when it violates someone else's space, it becomes a town issue, but he is not familiar with the laws. The town currently has no health officer. Keith suggested a town ordinance, and perhaps there is a state statute.

Charlie Mason, Lister, asked the board for its signature on 2011 grand list. The board signed it.

Charlie has received information from Manatron about the Proval software cost increase.

Charlie said the listers are receiving requests asking when grievance occurs.

- It is always 2 weeks after they lodge their grand list.

- Charlie said there are several of properties selling for way under their listed value. Charlie would like the board's permission to have the town attorney come and look over the grievances and advise the listers regarding state statutes.
- James asked if they were asking John Thrasher to help determine the assessment. Charlie said no. They were asking for help with statutes.
- James said the listers should do site visits before John Thrasher is involved. Charlie said he wants to know statutes.
- Joe asked why this time is different. Charlie said the amount is vastly different this time. Mike feels John Thrasher should work with Charlie to make sure all the statutes are in order. Keith reinforced the importance of having the information in order at the grievance level.
- Keith asked if it's smart for the town to go ahead with a town wide re-appraisal before it's mandated so the taxpayers don't have to pay that extra education tax. Bob agreed with Keith.
- Reappraisal would cost the town \$100,000. There is \$50,000 in the reappraisal fund.
- Mike asked board to make decision about John Thrasher. *Motion by Bob, seconded by Joe, to authorize Charlie to contact John Thrasher to help with the legal aspects of the grievance process. So voted.*
- Kevin challenged need for John Thrasher. Charlie read a grievance letter from a lawyer.

Charlie said the Proval rep. said the listers' current back-up system is not functioning the way it should be. They will investigate and will be back with more information for the board. James asked what specifically is wrong with the back up. Charlie didn't know specifics. James will look at it on Thursday.

Joe asked Kevin if his neighbor's property is a rental property. If there is a landlord, there are rules that need to be followed. Perhaps Kevin could pursue that.

Keith Mason said they are starting work on the green.

- They will have to make some adjustments to the layout as they move forward.
- Mike said a letter from Judy Coolidge regarding the cost of granite stated that Club 2011 would pay for the rest of the granite.
- Joe asked if the curb goes to the town boundary. Keith said it does.
- Keith suggested they might need to put granite at the edge of the road instead of at the edge of the property line. The options will be discussed with the neighbors affected.
- James asked if Eric is aware of the additional curbing. Keith said he is.
- Mike said Gary won't plant trees or seed down the green after June, due to the dry weather so far.

Elizabeth Gibson addressed the board regarding the grant for the fire escape.

- Joe said the meeting for the fire escape is on Friday, and he doesn't feel the timeline is working for a grant at this time.
- Elizabeth asked if there is consensus on Friday, would Karen be able to write an application after the next board meeting. Karen said she didn't feel there would be sufficient time to do a decent job.
- James said he needed a current estimate on the costs, which Karen provided. There was discussion about the estimate and of the alternate location.
- Elizabeth wants to keep our options open as far as applying for the grant. Mike said there would need to be a motion tonight in order for the grant to go forward after the Friday meeting. Only two board members will be attending on Friday, so there wouldn't be a quorum. Keith said there won't be enough information even after that meeting.
- Joe is still in favor of having the escape on the west side, and would like to pursue that option.
- The board is not willing to make a motion to proceed with the grant at this time.
- Joe said other building repairs trump a fire stair. Joe and James are working up a program for all the buildings the town owns.

Correspondence:

Mike said there is a State Highway information meeting on Thursday.

There is an informational meeting at Pawlet library on May 3rd with Cartographics.

The board of listers requests board member attendance at BCA education meetings.

The Clerk's Memo was reviewed:

- James knows where mileage approval form is. Deck has signed it but it needs signatures of the rest of the board.
- Copy of letter from J. Thrasher regarding Transfer of Williams to the town of Pawlet
- Packet from Green Mountain Engineering that needs signatures.
- Thank Joe and James for installing light bulbs downstairs.
- Letter from Meg Campbell from the Preservation Trust of Vermont with information about the placement of the fire escape.

Mike read a letter from Public Works Services and Civil Engineering.

Mike read the letter from the State WWTF: changes occurred within and location changed.

Keith said Jeff should see that letter. Mike will drop it off.

Mike read the letter from GM Engineering regarding the final design. Pawlet will need RD approval before they can order the units direct, and this equipment won't be part of the bidding process.

Unfinished Business:

James said the Invitation to bid for the painting contractors will be in the paper this weekend.

Alan Calfee asked Mike and Gary to accompany him when he meets the state for purpose of purchasing haystack on trip to Montpelier. They are considering going.

Other Business:

Elizabeth commented on the impact of invasive species on trees and forests.

- She would like to speak to the tree warden, and asked who it is. Tim Waite is the tree warden.
- James said there are programs to train for identification.
- Elizabeth said they are looking for volunteers in communities. She may put something in the newsletter after talking to Tim.

8:59 PM Motion to adjourn by Joe, seconded by Bob, so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Folger, clerk