



MINUTES OF THE PAWLET SELECT BOARD

November 29, 2011

Pawlet Select Board Meeting, November 29, 2011

Mike Beecher called the meeting to order at 7 PM

Present: Mike Beecher, Joe Clark, Clarence Decker, Sue LaPorte

Audience present: Judy Coolidge, Keith Mason, Glenn Munson, Adelle Seaman, Jay Luebke, Beth Kashner, James Glick, Stacey Banet, Eric Mach, Fred Stone, Ray Foster, David Ricard, Alice Ricard, Charles Mason, John Thrasher.

The minutes from the November 15, 2011 meeting were reviewed and the board discussed the extent to which the preliminary budget figures should be included in the minutes.

Sue moved to accept the November 15 meeting minutes. Seconded by Joe. Passed.

James Glick asked that the minutes be corrected to state that he had been appointed to the Development Review Board rather than the Planning Commission.

Audience

Fred Stone, Planning Commission Chair, reported that the commission is asking the board to reconsider its appointment of Lenny Gibson as the alternative representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. If the board will not reconsider the appointment, the Planning Commission asks the board to attend their meeting to explain why their choice for the position, James Glick, was not considered.

Mike Beecher said he had seen no official document from the Planning Commission regarding their choice for the alternate position. Clarence Decker said that Eric Mach had asked him to report to the board that Eric wanted James to be the alternate, and Decker said that he had reported that information to the board verbally.

Mike reported that the Select Board did receive James' letter of intent and considered both candidates and chose Lenny Gibson. Mike asked how long the term is for, and no one present seemed to know.

James Glick said that he had not had an opportunity to present his credentials and that was unfair. Sue LaPorte said that the board had read his letter.

Joe Clark asked Fred Stone if the commission is not supporting Lenny Gibson as the alternate representative to the Regional Planning Commission. Fred said no, that Lenny had not been discussed; the board was only concerned that its recommendation was not followed and consequently the board needs an explanation.

Mike said he did not know the correct protocol and it was difficult to make a decision without all board members present.

Deb Hawkins urged that the two excellent candidates be given equal consideration.

Fred Stone said that there is a lack of communication between the Planning Commission and the Select Board, and problems such as this result. He suggested that the groups read each other's minutes.

Mike asked John Thrasher to recommend the correct course of action. John said that the position is not an elected position but is at the board's discretion; therefore, the board can reconsider its appointment.

Joe Clark moved to revisit the issue with James Glick and his resume, as requested by the Pawlet Planning Commission, at the next meeting when Bob Jones is present. Motion seconded by Sue, passed.

Adelle Seamens on behalf of the Pawlet Library asked if alcohol can be served at a library function. John Thrasher explained liability issues. Clarence Decker moved not to allow any alcoholic beverages on any town properties. Joe seconded, passed. Sue voted against.

Adelle also requested that the board give Beth Kashner, the librarian, a salary raise, pointing out that Beth has acquired further training and education since she got the position. Glen Munson spoke in Beth's favor. Beth mentioned that the board should consider possible health insurance implications if her salary increases.

Old Business

The board continued to work with Judy Coolidge on the Town budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Items discussed included 6% increase in MVP health insurance, highway budget (with Keith Mason), and general fund increases for listers, town clerk and librarian. Sue mentioned a possible energy audit for the library (\$500) and costs of insulating portions of library and town hall. Judy mentioned the capital maintenance fund as a possible source, if criteria for its use can be defined (per auditor John Mudgitt). Joe and Sue mentioned also that the board should consider the cost of a fire escape for the town hall.

Judy mentioned replacing the office copy machine and is investigating options.

Correspondence

The board discussed various correspondence items: VLCT claims to be signed and returned, wastewater report, legal issues regarding a longstanding property situation in West Pawlet, activities by the Vermont Land Trust, the proposed donation to the town of slate quarry property in West Pawlet and the assurance by VLCT that acquiring this land would not present an additional insurance burden to the Town.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Gibson

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