



MINUTES OF THE PAWLET SELECT BOARD

September 6, 2011

7:02 PM Meeting called to order by chair Mike Beecher

Present: Sue LaPorte, Joe Clark, Clarence Decker, Mike Beecher, Bob Jones (arrived at 8:25 PM)

Audience Present: Keith Mason, Keith Southworth, Kathleen Southworth, Walter Southworth, Dave Hosley, Dave Ricard, Alice Ricard, Elizabeth Gibson (also taking Minutes)

Minutes of August 23, 2011 were reviewed. Deck didn't participate in the review since he had missed that meeting. *Motion by Joe, seconded by Mike, to accept the minutes as written, so voted.*

Audience

Walter Southworth addressed the board regarding Sawmill Hill Road He said the last time the road was raised it got more water, and this time around, something should be done to alleviate water that comes from the river onto his land.

- Mike Beecher asked Keith to comment. Keith said the road was raised 6-8 inches. Walter thought it was more.
- Mike asked if something can be done to redirect the water. Keith said the last time we repaired it we were instructed not to raise it because it is a natural event.
- Mike asked Keith where else the water can go? Keith said it overtops and if you raise it the water on the other side will drift back up the meadow, not to Walt's house but it will drift.
- Deck said Dale got the mark higher than originally planned for. Deck will meet with FEMA, take them there, explain the situation, and see what they decide to pay for.
- May be six months before FEMA gets here. Keith Southworth just wants it returned to the original elevation before the flood; that would be safer for everyone, town included.
- Deck said the road will be left right where it is until FEMA comes and does their inspection. The Southworths agree that that is OK as long as we don't get a lot more rain. Kathleen Southworth asked that the town alert property owners before doing any additional work.
- It may be a few weeks, even months, before the town can get back to the Southworths on this. The Southworths should call the town for help if they see any problems in the meantime. The Town will contact Southworths as soon as they have any firm answers from FEMA.

Dolores Luebke – Their house almost flooded due to a neighbor plugging the culvert. They are grateful to the WPVFD for saving our home. They were tireless, unplugging the culvert. Thanks to other people came and helped, including the highway department and Select Board. The culvert is open now. Deck says that the culvert should be replaced at some point. Dolores is satisfied that the town has addressed the problem adequately.

Deck said that West Pawlet evacuated 3 houses. Deck said that the damage on this (Pawlet) side of town was much more extensive.

Dave Hosley – Is here to represent the Fire department in case of questions and wants to review the town's emergency management plan.

- We basically did not even pull it off the shelf, even though it addresses flooding issues that we have.
- Who is the emergency management coordinator in town? It should be someone in town with some authority to make decisions.
- We weren't really prepared to deal with this, in terms of having a command center, red cross, etc. involved.
- We need to review the plan. It was adopted in 2007 and we should review the incident within 60 days to see what we could have done better, what worked and what didn't. Someone needs to see the big picture.
- We might have needed a command post here in Pawlet; this side was gone because we had to evacuate the Pawlet firehouse. We needed some coordination there, that's something to learn from this. Who makes the decisions if we have this kind of problem in town?
- Sue suggested we set up a meeting between the Pawlet and West Pawlet fire departments next Tuesday while all this is fresh in our minds. Dave Hosley said this event is still not over until we are done dealing with FEMA and people are resettled in their houses.
- Someone still needs to coordinate that in town. We need an emergency coordinator now. Who do we go to for a list of families flooded out? How do we distribute supplies? There should be one person to talk to and get whatever they need.
- There are lots of resources available, and we need to get the word out. Next Tuesday would be too quick to warn a meeting in time. Can't make any decisions but should warn it and don't vote. Do it on a regular meeting night of the fire departments.
- The board decided to have the meeting next Tuesday, September 13, at the WPVFD 7:30 PM meeting. Joe will alert PVFD. Someone should be appointed to the emergency coordinator position that is neutral and has knowledge of the instant command system.
- Keith asked Dave if he has read the emergency management plan through since the storm. Dave said it is not badly written but was never implemented and we don't have anyone in a position to even implement it. The plan came from RRPC; Keith, India Farmer and Ronnie Taylor worked on it.

Keith Mason, Road Foreman, regarding the Highway

- We have had some of our schedule planned for us by this event, so there are a few things we might need to contract out, like the Rosenthal storm drain system and the culvert sinking above Cole Bridge on Rte 153. We need good equipment to get that done quickly

in between bus runs. The town equipment is not sufficient. We need to price those two projects (Rosenthal storm drain and culvert above Cole Bridge).

- This week we were to screen winter sand, we need that done and we should do it. There is fall grading and cleaning up from Irene, and ditches and culverts to open up.
- Mike asked about the budget. Keith said we haven't spent a lot of money on this storm, only time and resources. Dale had some overtime.
- Deck said the money spent on overtime contractors should be 75% reimbursed by FEMA and the rest by the state and only 12% by Pawlet, if all goes well. Keith said that's a huge "maybe" at this time. Deck says 6-7K so far for town as a whole, but still one major bill is outstanding. The storm total for work contracted out is not yet known.
- Get bids for the two jobs and make a decision in two weeks. Deck suggested two quotes from local contractors, such as: Doug Leach, Leon, Jim Sheldon, John Edwards, Kelly Waite (she is booked for next 90 days).
- Keith: Danby is paving Danby Pawlet road, get a quote from them on putting shims on culverts there on the Pawlet side. This could save on our paving job next year. Mike says to get prices. The Board is in consensus. Also do the shoulder between Andrus deer camp and Mark McChesney. Get a price and get back to the board.
- Discussion between Deck and Keith regarding bridges. All town bridges have been inspected by state inspectors. Some work is needed, like on Betts Bridge Road bridge and Rte 30 bridge in Pawlet center.
- Keith this was the most water we have ever seen -- more than the flood of 1927, which was the previous benchmark. Many other things are needed, like the ditch by young Chuck Weeden's up by the town garage needing rip rap. We could load the rock, have all the projects lined up, and place the rip rap as needed.

Dave Hosley: need to inspect drainage on New Street before the next 100-yr flood.

Elizabeth: suggests that for the fall newsletter the town offer free advertising to businesses affected by flood damage. OK by board consensus.

Mike: any other board comments regarding flood: Joe -- culvert out here by Town Hall the end section is not attached, behind two of the houses here. There are pieces laying around that could be reattached. They are sitting on the shore just down from where it was. Also, two of the roads that stood up well were Herrick Brook and the Waite Road, Beamans Hill and Rupert Mountain Road, Chet Clark Road on West Pawlet side.

Keith: Roads that we had previously upgraded held up really well, like Tadmer.

Sue reports town hall fared pretty well. The roof leak was repaired before the storm by Dale and it did not leak during the storm.

The Pawlet wastewater plant seems OK. The RBC headers needed to be fixed and blew up an air chamber on one pump but Jeff seems to have taken care of that.

Correspondence

Brookfield generators correspondence goes to Nancy Mark.

Mike went over the wastewater facility monthly monitoring report for June.

Deck: flood damage insurance for library, fire dept, school damage to dry hydrants. Deck is looking into that to see what insurance will pay for.

The Clerk's memo was read

- Free transfer stickers: Sue offered to pay for 50 of them, please mention in the minutes that you agree. Board agrees by consensus. Deb will keep track of it. Consensus of board: four families along Flower Brook. Board unanimously in favor.
- Info for relief help passed out via web site, email blast, handouts, etc.
- The central drop off for clothes, etc. is at the town hall by Helen Wood and Sue LaPorte. SB in favor of that.

Decks documentation about road stuff related to Irene and what town crew did. Deck turned in a figure of \$150K to the state for infrastructure damage.

The Treasurer's memo was read

- Judy needs the second page of the payment request for the wastewater reimbursement

Sue said that people can get their well water checked from the department of health or call Liz

Unfinished Business

The wastewater treatment plant Bond council is in Waterbury. Mike will check prices before the next meeting at John Thrasher's suggestion.

New Business

None

Next meeting with firemen: emergency management meeting, Sept 13, 7:30 PM, WPVFD

8:50 PM *Motion by Sue to adjourn, so voted.*

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Gibson