

Minutes for Town of Pawlet Selectboard

Pawlet Town Hall

April 12, 2016

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
Bob Jones  
Sarah Ludlam  
Ed Cleveland  
Chuck Weeden

Others in Attendance:

Emily Cutts  
Keith Mason  
Elizabeth Gibson  
Timothy Hughes-Muse

**Item 1:** Meeting Called to order at 7:00 pm

**Item 2:** Introduction of those present

**Item 3:** Review minutes of the March 29, 2016 meeting of the Selectboard. Ms. Ludlam made motion to accept the minutes with edits, seconded by Mr. Cleveland motion carried, voted and approved.

**Item 4:** Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors

**Item 5:** Announcements

**Item 6:** Reports

1. *Energy Group Report- Elizabeth Gibson*
  - a. *The Energy Group has met with James Holtzman, from CEDG (Clean Energy Design Group). There is no hurry on this project because the project has been extended.*
  - b. *After their site visit, CEDG has proposed 1.6 megawatt install on the landfill site.*
2. *Town Hall Auditorium- Elizabeth Gibson*
  - a. A representative from the Preservation Trust of Vermont visited the Town Hall to review the town's progress of the preservation and restoration of the town hall.
  - b. The representative encouraged the town to use the space as that would increase funding opportunities. Ms. Ludlam encouraged Ms. Gibson to reach out to the person who planned a concert last summer.
  - c. Mr. Weeden asked if there was a comment on the walls. Ms. Gibson stated that it is more important to work on the ceiling first.
  - d. The consensus of the board is to provide Ms. Gibson a key to the town hall in order to support her work on the town hall.
3. *Road Foreman's Report (Note: Agenda Item discussed out of sequence from posted agenda)*

- a. Mr. Mason presented the board with a bid for roadside mowing that includes one mowing on the entire road system with two widths of the mower.
    - i. The Board discussed other options for mowing grass.
    - ii. There will be another quote for a single pass on mowing the blacktop in Pawlet, September/ October.
    - iii. Ms. Ludlam made the motion to approve and accept the bid by David Hosley to perform Roadside Mowing, seconded by Mr. Cleveland, motion carried voted and approved.
  - b. The town need to increase its supply of crushed gravel. Mr. Beecher would like to put it out for bids for crushed gravel. The consensus of the board is to solicit bids from three sources.
  - c. The board discussed the schedule for paving.
  - d. The Steadman Culvert on Tadmer Rd, Mr. Mason is trying to get permission from ANR to start on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Otherwise, scheduling and budgeting becomes a concern when the two culvert projects are scheduled close together.
  - e. Rupert road crew is ready and willing to start with the Pawlet Road Crew, when the time comes.
  - f. Mr. Jones reported that the slate rubbish pile arrangement is working well and that tax payers are using the resource.
  - g. Mr. Cleveland asked when the town will get to cleaning the ditches. Mr. Mason indicated that there will be extensive cleaning this summer. Mr. Cleveland specifically indicated that the ditch on Waite Hill Rd is full of gravel.
4. *Zoning Administrator's Report- not submitted.*
  5. *Town Clerk's Memo*
    - a. Reviewed Town Clerk's Memo
  6. *Town Treasurer's Memo*
    - a. Reviewed the Town Treasurer's Memo.
    - b. Mr. Cleveland made the motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Ms. Ludlam, motion carried and approved.
  7. *Health Officer/ Emergency Management Director's Memo*
    - a. Reviewed Emergency Management Director's Memo
    - b. Mr. Cleveland made a motion to adopt the Town's Emergency Management Plan, seconded by Ms. Ludlam, motion carried, voted, and approved.
  8. *Selectboard Administrative Assistant's Memo*
    - a. Reviewed Assistant's Memo
    - b. The Board reviewed the Better Roads grant applications.

- c. Mr. Weeden made the motion to sign and approve the grant applications for Better Roads grants entitled “Warren Switch and Rte 153 Ditching Project”, “Rte 153 Culvert Project”, and “Rupert Mtn Rd- Mettowee Erosion Control Project”, seconded by Ms. Ludlam. Motion carried, voted and approved.
- d. Ms. Ludlam made a motion to submit the Rte 153 and River Rd paving project grant applications to VTrans. Seconded by Mr. Weeden, motion carried voted and approved.

9. WWTF

- a. Facility had a high E.coli count last week, causes are unknown.

**Item 8: Old Business**

- 1. The AOT responded to the Town’s request for speed limit reduction on Rte 30.
  - a. Suggested radar speed feedback signs at \$2,000 - \$3,000 each
  - b. Suggested Mini-roundabout
  - c. Suggested pedestrian safety could be enhanced through additional street lights
  - d. Crosswalks are not an option because they have to link ADA walking facilities
  - e. Suggested adding warning signs that pedestrian traffic is heavy in an area.
  - f. The nature of the bicycle accident that resulted in a fatality was not impacted by speed, but center-line rumble strips could have helped.
  - g. Mr. Mason suggested renting the radar speed feedback from Sherriff’s department. And that there is a possibility that the downtown designation would provide for more funding for this project.
  - h. Ms. Ludlam suggested we should look into renting the radar speed feedback signs.
  - i. Mr. Weeden asked that the AOT response be posted for public review.
  - j. The town may have possible areas for crosswalk once Mach’s Brewpub parking lot is installed, because the Post Office and the Parking lot could be ADA Pedestrian facilities.
  - k. Ms. Ludlam asked Mr. Hughes-Muse to respond to the AOT encourage the implementation of rumble strips and other measure to improve safety and to thank them for their response.
- 2. Delinquent Tax Policy – By consensus of the board, the discussion of the delinquent tax policy will be moved to the next regular meeting. The board asked

Mr. Hughes-Muse to add language to the draft that would clarify the interest rate applied to delinquent taxes.

**Item 9: New Business**

1. FHWA -536
  - a. The Federal Highway Administration Form 536 needs to be filled out by local municipalities. This task will be completed between the Treasurer and Assistant to the Selectboard.
3. The board reviewed a correspondence from Mark Whitworth from EnergizeVermont, regarding legislative action on solar siting regulation.
4. Insurance Policy Issue on Town Hall policy
  - a. Mr Weeden made the motion that the town changes the insurance policy coverage on the town hall to “Guaranteed Replacement Costs”, rather than the current “Historic Replacement Cost”, seconded by Mr. Cleveland, motion carried, voted and approved. The change will ensure that in the event of damage, the cost of repair is entirely covered by the insurer.
5. Payroll Issue-no longer a concern, and the board did not discuss it.
6. At 8:55 pm the Ms. Ludlam made the motion to enter executive session to discuss the evaluation of a public officer or employee pursuant to Title 1, Section 313(a)(3), of the Vermont Statutes. The motion was voted and approved.
7. At 9:46 pm Ms Ludlam made the motion to exit executive session, the motion was voted and approved. No actions were voted on during executive session.

Ms. Ludlam made a motion to adjourn at 9:46 pm, Mr. Cleveland seconded, motion carried, voted and approved.

Respectfully submitted by Timothy Hughes-Muse, Select Board Administrative Assistant.