

Draft Minutes for Town of Pawlet Selectboard  
Pawlet Town Hall  
January 31, 2017

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
Chuck Weeden  
Bob Jones  
Ed Cleveland  
Sarah Ludlam

Others in Attendance:

Timothy Hughes-Muse  
Nancy Morlino  
Elizabeth Gibson  
Keith Mason  
Lyle Jepson  
Mary Cohen  
Eric Mach  
Melissa LaCount  
Mark Frost  
Rick Sassa  
Gary Baierlein  
Wayne Clark  
Bhima Nitta  
Deb Hawkins  
Frank Nelson  
Judy Lake

**Item 1:** Meeting Called to order at 7:00pm by Mr. Beecher.

**Item 2:** Introduction of those present.

**Item 3:** Review minutes of the January 17, 2016 meeting of the Selectboard. Mr. Weeden made motion to accept the minutes with edits, seconded by Mr. Cleveland, motion carried, voted and approved.

**Item 4:** Power Guru presentation, by Bhima Nitta. Power Guru installs commercial and residential solar arrays. Mr. Nitta described possibilities for a PV array at the Pawlet Landfill. He estimated 2,568,000 kWh/year could be produced. His proposal would be up to 500 kW and the site would be considered a “preferred site”, because it is on a landfill. The landfill can produce

electricity at \$0.169/ kWh because of the changes to the net metering rules. It would likely cost \$1,250,000 in order to install the 500 kWh array. Solar Panels have a lifespan of 25 years. However, Mr. Nitta recommended a smaller array that would meet the energy demands of the Town Hall, Library, Mettawee Community School, and town garages and would save the taxpayers about \$6,603 annually.

**Item 5:** Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors

**Item 6:** Warning for annual meeting- The board reviewed the Warning to the Voters of Pawlet for the Town Meeting. Ms. Hawkins specifically asked about several articles, including the article for Big Heavy World for \$250.

**Item 7:** Presentation by Rutland Economic Development Corporation, Lyle Jepson and Mary Cohen. Mary is the director of Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce. They have developed a regional marketing plan and committee. The goal is to reverse the trend of population decline and economic impacts caused by the slow population growth.

There is a 3-part plan to grow the population:

1. Market the high quality of life that Rutland County has to offer.
2. Dispel the myth that there are no Jobs- The REDC has a listing of livable wage jobs at his website, [www.rutlandeconomy.com](http://www.rutlandeconomy.com)
3. Tourism- grow the Killington Valley Initiative : [www.killingtonvalley.com](http://www.killingtonvalley.com)

Tactics:

- Solicited RFP for professional marketing campaigns
- Highlight real, professional jobs

**Item 8:** Reports

1. Road Foreman's Report
  - a. The board reviewed bids for a plow truck from 4 different truck dealers. No decision was made.
  - b. Mr. Weeden received phone calls about bussing. Mr. Weeden asked, if the town crew started at 2:30 am, how can the bus be delayed by 50 minutes? Mr. Mason stated that there should not have been a delay due to the road conditions, but rather the bus got stuck in snow bank in Wells.
  - c. Mr. Jones mentioned that the end of Bull Frog Hollow Rd, and we need to begin to prepare for when the state repairs the culvert at Loomis and repaves it.
  - d. Mr. Weeden asked when Herrick Brook will have the ditch cleaned. Mr. Mason provided a rough calendar to the board for roadwork, in the assistant's memo.
2. Zoning Administrator's Report
  - a. The Pawlet Planning Commission is planning on working on economic development and will make recommendations to the select board (PSB) on

infrastructure that could reverse the economic carnage in the Pawlet's village centers.

- b. PSB asked the PPC to nominate a candidate for the committee that will work with the REDC and the Killington Valley Initiative.
3. Town Clerk's Memo
    - a. Reviewed the Town Clerk's' Memo
  4. Town Treasurer's Memo
    - a. Reviewed the Town Treasurer's Memo.
    - b. Ms. Ludlam made the motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Mr. Cleveland, motion carried, voted and approved.
  5. Selectboard Administrative Assistant's Memo-
    - a. Reviewed the Administrative Assistant's Memo.

**Item 9: Old Business**

Ms. Gibson shared information she received from VT Division of Historic Preservation. Pawlet's auditorium restoration project ceiling was selected as an alternate.

**Item 10: New Business**

No new business.

Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn at 9:25 pm, Ms. Ludlam seconded, motion carried, voted and approved.

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