

Minutes for Town of Pawlet Selectboard  
Pawlet Town Hall  
February 2, 2016

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
Bob Jones  
Charles Weeden  
Sarah Ludlam

Others in Attendance:

Eric Mach  
Kathy Stevens  
Elizabeth Gibson  
Keith Mason  
Timothy Hughes-Muse  
Melissa LaCount  
Paul Elsholz  
Nancy Morlino  
Keith Mason  
Charles Mason  
Mark Frost

**Item 1:** Meeting Called to order at 7:03 pm

**Item 2:** Introduction of those present

**Item 3:** Review Past Meeting Minutes of the January 19, 2016 meeting of the Selectboard. Mr. Weeden made motion to accept the minutes with edits, seconded by Mr. Jones motion carried, voted and approved.

**Item 4:** Public Hearing regarding the Town Plan

The selectboard is able to make changes to the plan that does not alter the intent of the document without restarting the planning process. During the Public Hearing, the selectboard made the following minor changes to the Draft Town Plan:

- Education on page 8, third bullet is not correct, because they have not secured funding for emergency generator. Cross out “has been secured” and this line will now read “is being pursued”.
- On Page 17 “accepted agricultural practices” will be changed to “required agricultural practices”
- On Page 75, eliminate “combined small store” in the last paragraph on that page.

Mr. Mach, the Chair of the Pawlet Planning Commission asks that the board adopt this plan and send it to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

Mr. Weeden made a motion to accept the Town Plan with above identified changes, to be adopted February 2, 2016, seconded by Ms. Ludlam, motion carried, voted and approved.

**Item 5:** Appearances by local citizens and visitors

+Audience member: Mr. Mach, Zoning Administrator

In Response to a citizen complaint, Mr. Mach found the Three Sisters Dr sign and reinstalled the sign. Mr. Weeden informed Mr. Mach that the 911 map at the Town Garage does not have Three Sisters Dr. Mr. Mach will check with emergency management to make sure that everyone has the correct maps.

Mr. Beecher asked Mr. Mach if there are any zoning violations, where businesses are operating without permits. Mr. Mach does not know either way. In order to find violations, Mr. Mach would need to go through the paperwork piece by piece.

+Audience Member: Paul Elsholz

Mr. Elsholz is interested in being reappointed to the Planning Commission.

## **Item 6: Announcements**

### **Item 7: Reports**

#### *1. Road Foreman's Report*

- Yellow Mack Truck is in rough shape. The bed chain was hanging up because of the bent bed frame and the steel frame is too rotten to weld more support onto. The Town of Wells has a v-box sander that may be for sale. The town of Pawlet is trying to get another winter season out of this yellow mack truck.
- Mr. Mason said that VTrans would make an offer to the town. Mr. Jones is in contact with VTrans regarding this issue.
- The crew has been de-icing culverts. Scheduled work with town of Wells, but have had to postpone the work three times now.
- Summer schedule would start with Tadmer Rd and later in the summer work on North Pawlet Road Culvert. The overall plan should be developed by the capital plan by working with regional planning commission. Mr. Mason has contacted Better Back Roads about Rupert Rd. repairs.
- The Rupert Road Crew will work with Pawlet this summer, which will make some projects move faster.

#### *2. Zoning Administrator's Report*

Mr. Mach issued his report in Item 5

#### *3. Energy Group, Members Nancy Morlino and Elizabeth Gibson*

- Regarding solar array on the West Pawlet Lot, any array of considerable and appropriate size would need to wait until 2017 because only installations of certain size (under 150 kw) are being permitted. The energy group is trying to find another way to move forward, but it is likely that the project will have to wait until 2017; at which point the caps on array size might be lifted.

- Regarding PACE program, Ms. Ludlam suggests signing the paperwork with the two small adjustments and sending it to the program administrators, Efficiency Vermont. Ms. Ludlam also suggests adding a form where residents attest that there are no liens, that they are the property owner, and tax payments are current. The first change to the contract will change the section where the municipality is responsible for certifying that there are no involuntary liens to "the homeowner self-certifies that there are no liens". Secondly, in the current contract, PACE releases and holds town harmless. Ms. Ludlam proposes adding the following phrase, "including the Truth in Lending Act (TILA) and Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (RESPA)". According to Mr. Thrasher, the town's attorney, these amendments to the contract will release the town from undue liability.

Ms. Ludlam made a motion to sign off on the PACE paperwork with the amendments and to send it to Efficiency Vermont/ PACE Program, seconded by Mr. Jones, motion carried, voted and approved.

Ms. Ludlam made a motion to approve the resolution adopting the PACE Program guidelines. However, the resolution proved to be out-of-date and will be addressed at the next meeting of the select board.

There is an inter-local contract that approves Pawlet as a participating municipality, and the board will revisit this issue next meeting.

#### *4. Town Clerk's Memo*

Reviewed Town Clerk's Memo

The selectboard signed certificate - No Appeal of Suit Pending Document for the Listers  
The selectboard signed Two Uniformed Municipal Excess Weight Permits  
Letter from concerned from citizen, this was addressed in item 5 of this week's meeting.

#### *5. Town Treasurer's Memo*

Taxes are due next week.

Mr. Weeden Made a motion to accept warrants. Seconded by Ms. Ludlam, motion carried, voted and approved.

#### *6. Selectboard Administrative Assistant's Memo*

Reviewed Assistant's Memo

In order to support the development of a capital road plan that would help prioritize investments in road work and equipment purchases, the town needs to begin collecting data into the RSMS program. The existing laptop is outdated and is needed elsewhere in the Town Offices. Therefore, Mr. Hughes-Muse requests approval to purchase a laptop for this purpose. Ms. Ludlam made a motion to approve the purchase of a laptop computer, seconded by Mr. Weeden, motion carried, voted and approved. Mr. Hughes-Muse was directed to shop around to find the best deal.

FY2017 Better Roads Grant Program is accepting requests for funds that improve water quality and result in maintenance cost savings. The selectboard instructed Mr. Hughes-Muse to submit an application for this grant in regards to the ditch work at the junction of Rt 153 and Warren Switch Rd.

USDA Rural Development has announced Waste-Water loan and Grant Program to finance the improvement of storm water collection, transmission, and disposal. Ms. Ludlam instructed Mr. Hughes-Muse to contact Hillary Solomon of the Poultney-Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District to see if these grants are applicable to the stormwater issues that Pawlet is experiencing in the Flower Brook Watershed.

#### *7. WWTF*

The West Pawlet Wastewater Treatment Facility had another E.coli violation due to the fact that it is still in the process of getting back online after being offline. Mr. Beecher is continuing to work on holding the installers accountable for the repair.

#### **Item 8: Old Business**

All old business has been discussed in previous sections.

#### **Item 9: New Business**

All new business has been discussed in previous sections.

Ms. Ludlam made a motion to adjourn at 8:45 pm, Mr. Jones seconded, motion carried, voted and approved.

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