

Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
July 18, 2017
7:00 pm at Pawlet Town Hall
Regular Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
John Malcolm
Chuck Weeden
Bob Jones
Ed Cleveland

Others in Attendance:

Timothy Hughes-Muse
Frank Nelson
Eric Mach
Elaine Decker
Charles Mason
Karen Folger
Dennis Morrisseau
Keith Mason
Judy Coolidge

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:02 pm
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
 - a. Additions:
 - i. New Business - none
 - ii. Old Business – none
 - b. Deletions: none
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - a. Motion to accept the Minutes of July 3, 2017.
Result: Approved [Unanimous]
Mover: Mr. Weeden
Second: Mr. Cleveland
Discussion: No discussion.
 - b. Motion to accept the Minutes of July 11, 2017.
Result: Approved [Unanimous]

Mover: Mr. Cleveland
Second: Mr. Weeden
Discussion: No discussion.

5. Appearances by local citizens and visitors.
 - a. Frank Nelson presented information to the board on levels of radon in West Pawlet and the high cost of housing in Vermont. Mr. Nelson asked the board how he can be appointed to the Energy Group. The board was unable to discuss the details at this time.

6. Board of Listers- Discussion topic: hiring an assessor
 - a. The board of Listers presented three options to the selectboard to maintain the grand list. It is important to decide soon. The board discussed the options including, continuation of the current system, finding a consultant to work with the listers, and a change to an assessor. The consensus of the board is to put it to the electorate that we switch to an assessor.

7. Announcements- None at this time.

8. Reports
 - a. Energy Group Report- no report submitted.
 - b. Zoning Administrator's/ Planning Commission Report-
 - i. Mr. Mach invited the board of Listers to their next meeting.
 - ii. Next Monday night, the Planning Commission will do a walking tour of the West Pawlet Village.
 - iii. The Planning commission will apply for a municipal planning grant.
 - iv. Regarding the West Pawlet Slag Pile subdivision, Mr. Mach provided information regarding the possible subdividing.
 - c. Road Foreman's Report
 - i. The road crew has completed the culvert projects. Mr. Weeden asked about the safety of the configuration of the low endwalls.
 - ii. The board discussed scheduling issues and August work projects.
 - iii. Mr. Cleveland proposed that we reschedule the Rupert Mountain Rd project due to financial concerns. The project will not begin until September and should be fine to proceed then.
 - iv. The board discussed the road crew's emergency preparedness. In an emergency, should the road crew need help to resolve a concern, they would hire private contractors.
 - v. Motion to finance the new Mack Truck through the Bank of Bennington for affixed rate of 3.40% for 5 years and to approve Mr. Beecher to sign the loan documents on behalf of the Selectboard.

Mover: Mr. Jones
Second: Mr. Weeden
Result: Approved (unanimous)

Discussion: None

- d. Reviewed town clerk's memo
 - i. Sue LaPorte has been appointed as the Assistant Town Clerk.
 - e. Emergency Management Director's Report- Reviewed the Emergency Management Director's Memo.
 - f. Health Officer's Report- Nothing to report.
 - g. Town Treasurer's Memo
 - i. Reviewed the Treasurer's Memo
 - ii. The Treasurer presented the proposed FY2018 Tax rate
 - iii. Motion that the Municipal Rate be set at 0.2017, the Highway Fund be set at 0.2365, the Local Agreement Tax be set at 0.0053, the Homestead Education Rate be 1.3438, and the non-Residential Education Rate be 1.5887. The total Homestead Tax rate would be 1.7873 and the total Non-residential Rate be 2.0322.
Mover: Mr. Weeden
Second: Mr. Malcolm
Result: Approved [unanimous]
Discussion: The board discussed how the residential tax rate decreased by about 8 cents and the non-resident tax rate increased by about 4 cents.
 - iv. The board discussed the due date for taxes (September 20, 2017) and the date which the Treasurer will send out the tax bills.
 - v. Review of bills and signing of selectboard's orders
Motion to approve the warrants
Result: Approved [Unanimous]
Mover: Mr. Cleveland
Second: Mr. Weeden
Discussion: None
 - h. Selectboard Administrative Assistant's Memo
The board reviewed the assistant's memo
 - i. WWTF- Mr. Beecher briefed the board on process evaluation at the WWTF.
9. Old or unfinished business
- a. Review and propose changes to Personnel Policy
 - i. Further review and discussion of the personnel policy was tabled
 - b. Discussion topic- the subdivision and sale of a parcel of the town's slag pile. Mr. Beecher recused himself from the discussion.
Mr. Malcolm proposed to develop a list of possible uses for the slag pile. Below is a non-exhaustive list of possible uses.

Possible Public uses

- use of slag for building up town road surfaces
- sale/trade of slag to neighboring towns
- sale/trade of slag to local landowners and local contractors
- fill in quarry holes for public safety and aesthetics (might include loss of water supply for firefighting)
- other public uses such as hiking trail, viewpoints, picnic area, community solar fields

Possible Private uses

- sell portions to individuals, return to tax rolls, for industrial/commercial use to help local economy

10. New Business-

- a. The Board read a letter from a Pawlet resident regarding complaints about recent culvert installation.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:28pm

Result: Approved [Unanimous]

Mover: Mr. Malcolm

Second: Mr. Cleveland

Discussion: None