

Minutes for Town of Pawlet Select Board  
Pawlet Town Hall  
October 27, 2015

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
Sarah Ludlam  
Bob Jones  
Charles Weeden  
Ed Cleveland

Others in Attendance:

Kim Ayers  
Charles Mason  
Elizabeth Gibson  
Elaine Decker  
Keith Mason  
Hilary Solomon  
Karen Folger  
Timothy Hughes-Muse

Meeting Called to order at 7:00 pm

**Item 1:** Review Past Meeting Minutes of the October 13th, 2015 meeting of the Select Board. Ms. Ludlam made motion to accept the minutes with edits from Mr. Beecher, seconded by Mr. Cleveland motion carried, voted and approved.

**Item 2:** Listers' Report

- The Town Listers are more than half way and less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through current reappraisal.
- GIS mapping has been helpful for this round of appraisals.
- Ms. Decker informed the board that Mr. Charles Mason and Ms. Folger are good assets to the team.
- The listers are operating within their budget and expect to finish the appraisal without going over budget.
- The Town Listers inform the Select Board that the State of Vermont is recommending that the the position of "lister" should be renamed "assessor".
  - The listers suggest that because the position requires more technical knowledge and skills, the board may consider changing the assessment system to a hired position rather than an elected official. Many other towns have adopted the new system. Mr. Charles Mason feels that either system will work but that the modernization of the position which requires skills and training that is difficult to acquire, it will be a challenge to find qualified candidates who can perform the duties of the position and want to run for the office.

- There is some discussion regarding the changes that a hired assessor would have on the town's budget. In order to get more information regarding the financial implications, Mr. Beecher suggest that we request a quote from Jim Boyle, our current appraiser/consultant.
- The Listers request to be paid at the higher appraisal rate for their regular hours, in the upcoming fiscal year.
- The board expressed their gratitude for the hard work and diligence of the Town Listers.

**Item 3: PMNRCD -Hilary Solomon**

The Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District presented the stormwater projects on October 20th to interested town members. There are 17 storm water projects. There are support for the projects and especially for projects that help the Fire Department. To be more inclusive, Ms. Solomon suggests setting a date that the meet electronically with the engineer to review the stormwater projects and review ideas for stabilizing the gullies on Flower Brook.

On November 3rd at 6 pm there will be a presentation of the results of the septic survey and the results of the Illicit Discharge Study. The state also asks for permission to perform a dye test on the septic system at the Town Hall. The board grants this request by the consensus of the board.

Much of the watershed of Flower Brook lies in Danby and the actions of that town impact Pawlet and vice-versa. Therefore, the conservation district will focus on watershed-wide events that include other towns and help the towns to work together to understand downstream effects of their actions.

**Item 4: Audience Member, Kim Ayers**

Two properties for tax sale:

Jolyne Meade Mullen, West Pawlet

Daniel Kibbling, West Pawlet

**Item 5: Road Foreman's Report**

- Hole in the valve cover on the Mack, being replaced this week.
- Working on the shoulder work on North Pawlet Rd.
- Grading is progressing well. Just a few smaller roads left.
- Mr. Weeden wants to know if the shank has been replaced on the backhoe. Mr. Weeden urges the Road Foreman to replace the shank immediately to prevent further damage. John Deere representative has been around to inspect it for warranty claim, but has not connected with the road crew.
- Winter preparations are progressing.
- Kevin Tarbell will sandblast and clean the dump body of the Dodge. The foreman will schedule this work in the spring.

**Item 6 : Audience Member -Elizabeth Gibson**

Budget for town communications:

1. E- newsletter
2. Print Newsletter
3. Website

Ms Gibson proposes to phase out the print newsletter to save costs and hassle associated with printing and distributing. Ms. Ludlam and other board members suggests more economical ways of producing and distributing the town newsletter. There is a general feeling that the print edition is valuable to the town.

The town website picks up more viewers each year. Many business forms are available through the website and include:

- Application to rent the town auditorium
- Marriage License Application
- Lister Card

Mrs. Gibson suggests having a business directory on the website.

Ms. Gibson's budget request will take into account the attempt to reduce the costs associated with publishing the print newsletter.

**Item 7:** Audience Member, Karen Folger

Mrs. Folger says that the walls of the auditorium needs to be plastered, but heating needs to be completed first. Mrs. Folger says that if the room is painted, it will never get the full treatment.

**Item 8:** Zoning Administrator and Chair of Pawlet Planning Commision, Eric Mach

Regarding the Gilbert's request for a permit for two apartments in their building, Mr. Mach passed the issue to the Development Review Board which stated that they cannot change the 1 acre per unit density regulation, in effect denying the permit request. The attorney for the Gilberts contacted Mr. Mach who then referred the issue to the Town of Pawlet's Attorney.

Regarding the draft of the Town Plan, The Pawlet Planning Commision used "must" and "shall" purposefully to give the plan actionable directives, mainly for developers who tend to use the Town Plan more than the unified bylaws.

Regarding Budget concerns, Mr. Mach feels that the budget will need to increase due to the lengthened timeline for work regarding the town plan. The Planning Commision will need to get more help from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

Regarding the vacancies on the Pawlet Planning Commision, there are two applicants:

Mark Frost, West Pawlet

Rick Sassa, West Pawlet

After the Select Board discussed the candidates, Mr. Cleveland made a motion to appoint Mark Frost to the vacant position until March 2016, seconded by Mr. Weeden motion carried, voted and approved..

Regarding Edwards Excavation, which is still out of compliance for zoning regulations. Mr. Mach will notify Mr. Edwards of the town's intention to pursue legal action.

In regards to signs, the board encourages Mr. Mach enforce the restrictions regarding temporary signs that stay up for too long.

**Item 9:** Town Treasurer's Memo

Reviewed Town Treasurer's Memo.

Mr. Jones made motion to approve the warrants, seconded by Mr. Weeden, motion carried, voted and approved.

**Item 10:** Town Clerk's Memo  
Reviewed Town Clerk's Memo.

**Item 11:** Regarding the Glass Repair of the Auditorium  
Consensus of the board is to allow the Mr. Hughes-Muse to contract the work with Royal Glass for the auditorium, if it is in the previously discussed budget.

**Item 12:**  
Service technician for RBC will be onsite to inspect the broken bearing in the Wastewater Treatment Facility on October 28th.

**Item 13:** Buildings  
The board reviewed the building repair projects and requested that Mr. Hughes-Muse solicit bids for painting, winterize the building, and contact Russell Construction regarding the upstairs door.

Ms. Ludlam made a motion to adjourn at 9:17 pm, Mr. Jones seconded, motion carried, voted and approved.  
Respectfully submitted by Timothy Hughes-Muse, Select Board Administrative Assistant.