



## MINUTES OF THE PAWLET SELECT BOARD

December 27, 2011

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by vice-chair Sue LaPorte

Present Sue LaPorte, Clarence Decker, Bob Jones

Audience Present: Elizabeth Gibson, Charlie Mason, Leon Corey, Philip Picotte, James Glick, Jay Leubke

The minutes of December 13, 2011 were reviewed. *Motion by Deck, seconded by Bob, to accept the minutes as written, so voted.*

### **Audience:**

Leon Corey: Is there any permit process to put a grinder pump in Dutchie's store to pump into the sewer plant? Jeff said to go ahead and do it. The owners are paying for it. The board asked what kind of connection is there now. Leon said there is a 6" cast iron pipe still in the old store.

There is a hedgerow between the store and the sewer plant – who owns it? The wall is the line. The town paid for the hedge. The owners plan to backfill against the retaining wall. It is OK with the board to take out the shrubs. The store may pay for two hook-ups, but they had two to begin with.

Philip Picotte: Rutland Regional Planning Commission for FEMA Mitigation Plan. The plan was approved two weeks ago. He would like the board to adopt the plan. The town was successful in obtaining a grant for \$72,000 for the culvert on Betts Bridge Road. That money will not be realized unless the plan is approved. This is good for 5 years. *Motion by Deck, seconded by Bob, to sign the mitigation form. So voted.* 15% of the total costs to FEMA were made available for mitigation funds. This was for spring flooding in 2011.

Charlie Mason, Lister: Re: Board of Abatement hearing on the Connie Pafundi-Conese (Gary Pafundi Estate) 1365 Warren Switch Road, associated with the 2010-2011 tax year – Christie said if it's an error, to handle it under Errors and Omissions. The listers took the assessment of the building off. If handled this way, it doesn't affect the education tax. *Motion by Bob to acknowledge that the building was not there. A copy to be put in the grand list under Errors and*

*Omissions. Seconded by Deck, so voted.* Charlie will call Deb to have her cancel the Abatement hearing.

The board asked if there were there any requests for abatement for flood damage. Charlie said he hadn't received any. The town has said the damages are unknown at this time.

A tax appeal hearing is coming up on January 18<sup>th</sup> with PVR. Does the town recommend having a town agent present? Deck recommends the agent be present. Sue doesn't think the agent needs to be present. Charlie said John is very proficient in preparing a summary for the Officer. Charlie will not ask John to be present.

The listers have scheduled Christie on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January to work on sales in reference to the grand list.

Jay Leubke: Library Board

- The library board has an estimate from Stan Decker for snow guards on the roof that he would like added to next year's budget. They will try and keep the ramp open under the existing conditions in the meantime.
- Jay asked about the energy audit: Weatherization Works. Sue said Beth knows the details.
- Since the Board approved a 3% salary increase for Beth, the Library will try and get by with the same budget they had last year. Put the roof guards in the budget as a line item.

Elizabeth Gibson:

- The winter issue of the newsletter is coming out at the end of January. Let Elizabeth know if there is anything you want in it.
- Elizabeth reported on the PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy) program. It creates districts that enable funding for energy efficiency projects. The Town needs to vote to be a part of it. Elizabeth doesn't think we could be up to speed to vote in March. There is a meeting in Dorset on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Philip Picotte: State legislation enabling this has only been around for 2 years. It has been adopted by dozen towns around state, and is being actively looked at by a dozen or so more. Payment stays with house as it changes owners. Monthly energy savings will be more than the loan repayment. Pawlet could possibly get it on the November ballot. Bob suggested information given before/after/or flier distributed at town meeting.
- Energy group is hosting the CVPS smart meter presentation on January 16<sup>th</sup> at Town Hall at 7pm.
- February: The energy group is sponsoring a transition towns initiative on the 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00PM at the Town Hall: Bill LaBerge will speak.

Charlie asked if the Energy committee should have a half page report in Town report. James asked if that would be appropriate. Charlie said those other groups receive money. Elizabeth said John Thrasher told her the town report should have only items related to the ballot.

**Correspondence:**

The Preservation Trust is asking for a donation

There is a bid for roadside mowing from Dave Hosley

Deb composed a letter to Randy White asking for a bid for mowing.

Petitions are on the table if anyone wants to run for office

There is a letter regarding upgrading to LED lighting for the town's street lights. Clarence talked to Pat Travis at CVPS in Poultney. We would get a discounted price because of the reduced energy usage. Pawlet does not own the lights. Elizabeth recommends at least checking out what the cost would be. The energy group can download the guide and research it. Elizabeth asked for the light inventory. Deck said Judy should have it.

The Clerk's memo was reviewed.

**New Business:**

Sue has two bids for insulating town hall – will table until next meeting

Deck and Keith met with FHWA re: money to rip rap the river by Betts Bridge. We have until the 25<sup>th</sup> of Feb. to get it done if we wanted to get paid. They found the stone in town, delivered it to the job, Keith rented an excavator, and has one more day to finish. FHWA will come and inspect it as soon as it's finished.

Clarence is putting out bids for the bridge itself. Once the bids come in, FEMA will cover the cost of the repairs.

The board asked about Cubby's bridge. Deck said that will be done soon.

Elizabeth: The annex just adopted talks about the USGS flood gauge that was removed due to cuts in federal funding. Philip said it costs \$20,000 per year to fund the gauge.

**8:10PM** *Motion to adjourn by Bob, so voted.*

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Folger, clerk