

Minutes for Town of Pawlet Selectboard  
Pawlet Town Hall  
January 19th, 2016

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
Bob Jones  
Charles Weeden  
Ed Cleveland

Others in Attendance:

Bob Morlino  
Berta Maginniss  
Scoop Maginniss  
Deb Hawkins  
Keith Mason  
Don Dicharia  
Larry Leslie  
Martin Kravitt  
Elizabeth Gibson  
Timothy Hughes-Muse

Meeting Called to order at 6:58 pm

**Item 1:** Review Past Meeting Minutes of the January 5, 2016 meeting of the Select Board. Mr. Jones made motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Mr. Cleveland motion carried, voted and approved.

\*The board approved a request from Bob Morlino to change the agenda to talk about the future culvert projects first.

**Item 2:** HMGP Culvert Replacement Projects

Bob Morlino reported that FEMA has added time to when the projects need to be completed, extending the deadline to 2019. Regarding the selectboard's deliberation on whether or not to complete all approved projects because some culverts may not require total replacement, Mr. Morlino implicated that it is the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program's position that because hazards have been researched, grants have been requested, and funds approved and allocated, then the projects should be completed. Mr. Weeden stated that the Town's cash flow has often been a problem when we have scheduled these projects. Mr. Morlino offered to help speed the reimbursement.

The board discussed issues regarding scheduling summer work. Mr. Cleveland made a motion to approve Mr. Morlino to apply for an extension to the HMGP culvert projects. Mr. Jones seconded, voted and approved.

Mr. Morlino also informed the board that it is likely that the school will get a generator through a grant, which will make the school a better location for the Town of West Pawlet Emergency Operations Center.

Mr. Morlino also informed the board that the new radio repeater at the gravel pit is operational and has eliminated most of the dead zones.

**Item 3:** Audience Member: Manchester and the Mountains Chamber of Commerce, Berta Maginness

The Partnership is a regional public/private partnership to foster economic development. This is a four year initiative and Ms. Maginness requests that the Selectboard add The Partnership to the Town's Warning for monies to fund this partnership.

The Partnership is focused on destination marketing. Ms Maginness stated that the region is under performing and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce wants to coordinate a large scale effort to execute a marketing campaign. Ms. Hawkins asked how will this help Pawlet. Ms. Maginness said that Pawlet will be included in marketing materials and that all the towns would benefit from increased investment. Mr. Cleveland asked what does Manchester see coming that everyone else does not. Ms. Maginness responded by describing the economic development in southern Vermont. She added that Manchester is well suited in the southwest corner of the state to receive investment.

The board discussed whether or not to add it to the Warning. The board feels that it would be wise to wait until next year to consider contributing to The Partnership.

**Item 4:** Audience Member Deb Hawkins, Town Clerk

Ms. Hawkins asked the selectboard to review the draft Warning for the Town Meeting. Ms. Hawkins mentioned that every article on the warning with a request of \$501 or more was petitioned.

Mr. Weeden made a motion to approve the Town Warning, seconded by Mr. Cleveland, motion carried, voted and approved.

**Item 5:** Audience Member- Don Dicharia

Mr. Dicharia stated that he was lathered at the his previous meeting with the Selectboard, but he did not act contentious. Mr. Dicharia feels that his behaviour was not contentious but rather

his contention is that he wanted work done on Kelley Hill Rd. He wants heavier gravel to be added to the road condition.

Mr. Dicharia brought material to show what Danby adds to the road.

Mr. Beecher's contention is that adding coarse stone is a very short term fix and that the town's long-term plan will provide a lasting improvement to the road. Mr. Beecher stated that Kelley Hill Rd is due for a large overhaul. Since the last time Kelley Hill Rd was graveled, Pawlet has been adding coarser gravel into the bank run gravel, which will provide a better road base.

Furthermore, the road crew has developed a system in which they remove the existing road base and replace it with large quarry slag which provides excellent drainage, then they cap it with bank run gravel mixed with crushed stone, to provide a long lasting and easily maintained road bed. The selectboard recognizes that these road improvements are required on gravel roads throughout the town.

Mr. Dicharia would rather pay more in taxes to have better road conditions, and indicated that Danby has a higher tax rate and better road conditions.

Mr. Beecher mentioned that the town always tries to improve the material it uses for road maintenance, but also balances the cost to taxpayers.

**Item 6:** Audience Members Larry Leslie and Martin Kravitt

Mr. Leslie would like to have Rupert Hill Rd fixed as soon as possible. The road is silty and incredibly dusty. He would like to have something done to control the dust or slow down the traffic. It degraded the value of the property and they cannot open the windows in the summer. He would like to see the road patrolled by the constable. Mr. Leslie would like to see a plan developed to curtail the dust.

Mr. Leslie's neighbor put up signs which seemed to help.

Mr. Mason agreed that the the road is a good candidate for a black-top seal.

Mr. Kravitt, also a resident of Rupert Hill Rd, also suggested blacktopping or removing the top layers of the road to remove the fines and replacing with coarser gravel.

Mr. Beecher suggested contacting the Better Backroads program to request an evaluation of the road and to provide plan for repair of the road.

Mr. Jones made the point that in the past 25 years, improvements to the road have led to broader lanes which in turn leads to faster speeds and allows more water to sit on the road, which causes even the best built roads to turn to mud and dust.

Chloride applications to control dust are very expensive and the timing of application is critical to be successful. Weather also plays an important factor in when chloride can be applied and how effective it is.

Mr. Beecher suggested that there needs to develop a comprehensive plan to work forward.

Mr. Leslie asked the board to consider blacktopping the road.

The board consensus is to ask the constable to patrol Rupert Hill Rd.

**Item 7:** Audience Member, Elizabeth Gibson

**PACE Program.** Mr Thrasher has not changed his position on Regulation Z. Ms Gibson wants to know what the town will do about the impasse. Mr. Beecher will table the discussion until the February 2nd, 2016 meeting in order to include Ms. Ludlam.

**Heating Town Hall Auditorium.** One bid has come in for the heating system. The board has repeatedly solicited bids from four other contractors and has not received a response. Mr. Cleveland made the motion to accept the bid from M and M Plumbing & Heating Inc., seconded by Mr. Weeden, motion carried, voted and approved.

**Item 8:** Old Business- Painting the Town Auditorium

The selectboard received painting bids. Ms. Gibson will research if there are any regulation regarding patch repair of the ceiling. Mr. Weeden made a motion to approve the bid by Mr. Kevin Olsen of Pawlet of \$1200 to paint the three rooms outside the elevator and \$2000 to sand and paint with primer the auditorium with an additional add-on expense to repair the ceiling where the plaster is missing. Mr. Cleveland seconded the motion, motion carried, voted and approved.

**Item 9:** Road Foreman's Report

*Road Work Schedule:*

The result of the extension for culvert projects does not change the 2016 work schedule, which will be the North Pawlet Rd and Tadmer Rd. For the Ross and Weeden Culverts on Herrick Brook Rd (tentatively scheduled for 2017) the town would replace them both at the same time because they are only a few hundred feet apart, and this would result in less disruption to travel, overall. An examination of the 2015 culvert replacements make it apparent that the Town should direct the town crew to install the culverts because it is in the best fiscal interest of the town. For road bed repair, the Town Road Crew will need to determine a road bed to apply the slate rubble base to in 2016. With  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the dirt roads on the Pawlet side of town it makes sense to do spend more time on the eastern side of town, but it takes twice as long to haul quarry rubble over from West Pawlet. On Sawmill Rd, Mr. Mason would like to repair the tee junction with Rt. 153 with slate rubble. Mr. Beecher would like to make sure that we address the water issues that developed by overbuilding the road bed in 2011.

Projects on the Pawlet side could include, Kelley Hill Rd, Waite Hill Rd, and Rupert Hill Rd. The selectboard and Mr. Mason discussed road building technique and the benefits of building roadbeds with slate rubble.

*Equipment:*

The Dodge Truck problem, discussed last meeting, was something to do with the ignition switch. Also the clutch cylinder had been leaking and is now fixed. The Green 08 IH is getting repair done in shop.

The selectboard discussed plowing conditions with Mr. Mason.

The Board discussed an ongoing issue regarding a vehicle parked on the side of a road, which interferes with snow removal. Mr. Hughes-Muse will send a registered letter indicating that the owners have 24 hrs upon receipt of the letter to remove the vehicle and that after 24 hours, if the vehicle has not been moved, the selectboard will have the vehicle removed at the owner's expense. Mr. Jones made the motion to send a registered return receipt letter, seconded by Mr. Cleveland, motion carried, voted with Mr. Weeden abstaining, and approved.

During the discussion, reference was made to the Town of Pawlet's Traffic Ordinance which is as follows:

*Pursuant to 24 V.S.A. 2291 (4) and 23 V.S.A. 1008 of the Vermont Statutes and Chapter 13 of Title 23:*

*A person shall not park or leave standing any motor vehicle, whether attended or unattended, upon a paved or improved, or the used or traveled part of any highway in the Town of Pawlet, so as to interfere with traffic or snow removal on such highway. A Selectman or a duly designated official of the Town of Pawlet, or a Constable, State Police Officer or Deputy Sheriff shall cause any motor vehicle found in violation of this regulation to be removed at the expense of the owner.*

*A person violating this ordinance shall be fined not less than \$15.00 or more than \$50.00 for each offense.*

*Effective June 25th A.D., 1978*

**Item 10:** Town Treasurer's Memo

Reviewed Town Treasurer's Memo.

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

**Item 11:** Selectboard report for town report.

The selectboard reviewed and agreed by consent of the board to submit the report to the Town Clerk.

**Item 12:** WWTF

Mr. Beecher is working to get the town reimbursed on the repair costs, but the WWTF has been fixed and is back online.

Mr. Weeden made a motion to adjourn at 9:47 pm, Mr. Cleveland seconded, motion carried, voted and approved.

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