

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
October 9, 2018
7:00 pm at Pawlet Town Hall
Regular Meeting & Special Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Bob Jones
Mike Beecher
Ed Cleveland
Chuck Weeden
John Malcolm

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
Jay Luebke - PEG-TV
Raymond Duquette, Sr.
Gary Hadeka
Lucy Norman
Ken Norman
Frank Nelson
Valerie Davis
John Davis
Keith Mason
Mark Frost
Judy Coolidge, Treasurer
John Thrasher
Eli Norman
Sonja Falvo
Bob Falvo

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:03 pm
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
 - a. Additions: None
 - b. Deletions: None
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson

4. Public Hearing - Pursuant to 24 VSA §4442 and 24 VSA §4444
 - Mr. Beecher re-capped the proposed amendment to the definition of the word “school” to the town’s bylaws (7 & 8). He continued to open the floor for comment. No comments offered.
 - Motion made to accept amendment to the Unified Bylaws in regards to the word “school.”
 - Mover: Chuck Weeden
 - 2nd: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved (unanimous)
 - Note: The Zoning bylaw change, concerning the definition of “school,” approved after hearings by both the Planning Commission and Select Board, can be put up for a town vote by petition of 5% of the Town’s voters.
 - Mr. Duquette Sr. thanked the Board for their efforts made in regards to this amendment.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - A. Motion to accept the Minutes of September 25, 2018 with two edits made regarding Town Office closure and credit due to Robin Chesnut-Tangerman for the town sign.
 - Mover: Ed Cleveland
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: No further discussion therefore the minutes are approved (unanimous).
5. Appearances by local citizens and visitors.
 - Ray Duquette, Sr. - Provided a copy of required agricultural practices to Mr. Jones. Nothing new to report from the Briar Hill Group.
 - Harry Van Meter - Shared a finding from the Slate Ridge Facebook page, which stated that there would be a 110 car parking lot built on the property. The post credited Harry Van Meter for his help with the process. Mr. Van Meter shared that he knew nothing about said parking lot and is not involved in the project.

- John Malcolm - On behalf of the Pawlett Historical Society Board, shared that there was a successful open schoolhouse day at The Braintree School. Judy Coolidge and Andy & Abbie Mahurin's assistance led to a great event. The Historical Society is working with the Library on a program involving the Neil and Susanne Rappaport photographic display of the "Griswold House on Herrick Brook Rd, now owned by Matt and Joy Proft. The Select Board expressed their support.

6. Announcements: None

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's Report:

- No report present. Mr. Van Meter shared that he is looking for a report as well. Mr. Thrasher added that Mr. Banyai filed an application on Friday for the construction of a 24'x23' garage structure. Mr. Wilkins forwarded application to Mr. Thrasher, who submitted a filing application to the Environmental Court, reminding them that the town does not have anything to do with this specific property while it is in the hands of the court. The application is on hold until we have heard from the Environmental Court.

B. Road Foreman's Report:

- Work continues on the Herrick Brook Road culvert. Looking at dates for the crane. May not be as soon as next week, but progress is anticipated to be smooth despite several struggles. Mr. Beecher inquired as to whether or not there were concerns about the concrete due to dropping temps. Mr. Mason stated that there are no major concerns.
- Mr. Weeden shared that our crushing job would be started next week. Also inquired as to whether or not we have contacted Tom Fuller regarding side dressing (graveling the shoulders) of River Road to complete the paving job. Mr. Mason shared that he felt this would be addressed once the culvert is complete.
- Mr. Jones shared that a concerned citizen brought up a bump in the road due to a culvert on Rte 153. Mr. Mason said he would look into this.

- Mr. Mason shared that there was criteria presented from the Better Back Roads Grants for money available to update culverts on connecting roads (which will be an annual program). Pawlet is eligible for a \$13,000.00 project (\$11,000.00 paid by the grant and remaining by the town). Mr. Mason thought that perhaps this could be well used around the end of Bauer Road. Any culvert installed by said property would be suitable for log truck traffic, which would be of benefit for other community members as well. Further research will be done on this.
- Ed Cleveland inquired as to whether or not anything can be done in West Pawlet to the hole by the culvert. A possible grate was suggested. Mr. Mason shared that culvert sits on bedrock and needs to be addressed. He will look at it and will try to come up with a fix.
- Mr. Mason shared that he has had a few requests for culverts near Mr. Browe's property.

C. Assessor Report:

- 2019 End User License Agreement was signed by Mr. Beecher. Mr. Beecher requested that Judy Coolidge provide the fee amount when she has a moment to look at the budget. *[Addendum: amount was determined via a separate report].*

D. Emergency Management Director's Report: TBD 10/23.

E. Public Health Officer's Report: TBD 10/23.

F. Town Clerk's Memo:

- The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's memo.
- Mr. Thrasher shared a bit more about his response regarding the town's support of the DRB and is now awaiting response from the court.

G. Town Treasurer's Memo:

- The Board reviewed the Treasurer's memo.
- Re: D. Wood property - The property needs to be advertised in the paper for 30 days. Mr. Thrasher suggested that the property be advertised for sale for amount the town requires. Interest had been charged, but ceased upon the day the town obtained the deed from the Town of Pawlet.

- Frank Nelson - inquired as to whether or not the buyers may view the property and whether or not it is insured by the VLCT. Furthermore, Mr. Nelson wonders whether or not the town is protected. Mr. Thrasher shared that as soon as the town obtained ownership there is insurance coverage from the VLCT.
 - Mr. Weeden will get locks for the property and Ms. Powers will prepare an announcement/advertisement for sale.
 - The Board signed checks.
 - The Board reviewed the warrants
 1. Motion to approve the warrants
 2. Mover: Ed Cleveland
 3. Second: Bob Jones
 4. Discussion: None
 5. Result: Approved (Unanimous)
- H. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- All is well at WWTF, however there are still potential issues with the generator.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Slag Pile Property: Mr. Thrasher shared that this would be best discussed in Executive Session.
- Wood Property Sale: Discussed within, *Treasurer's Memo*, section.
- Library Focus Group: The Board discussed the purpose of the planning meeting and a possible date. Mr. Thrasher suggested the Board add an agenda item revolving around the idea of a lease agreement between the town and the Library. The Board agreed on Tuesday the 30th. Ms. Powers to email Mary Lou, Cc-ing Mr. Van Meter. [*Addendum: Board to meet with Library focus group on 10/30*].

9. New Business:

- Yoga Classes: The Board approved Brooke Hughes-Muse's extension of yoga classes through the first three weeks of November (on Saturdays in the Town Hall). Requested that Brooke submit her application and payment to Deb.
- Ed Cleveland shared reports of multiple complaints regarding speeding on local roads. Discussions continued regarding the

purchase of speed signs. The Board suggests that we keep our eyes open for grant opportunities.

- Re: Tax Sale on the corner of Saw Mill Road and Rte 153, Mr. Beecher asked that a member attend the sale on 10/11 at 10:00am and place a bid.
- Gary Hadeka inquired as to whether or not any permits submitted prior to the amendments made to the bylaws would be grandfathered in. Mr. Thrasher responded, sharing that it would be dependent upon when the application was filed and when a change was made. Unfortunately a straight answer couldn't be given to the specific application without exact dates. Hypothetically, if an application that has been submitted and approved (through certain processes) it could hold, but if an application has been submitted prior to the changes, but not yet acted on, there are other factors involved.
 - Mr. Thrasher shared that if a group 5% of total town voters were not happy with the proposed bylaw amendment, there could be a petition submitted within 30 days. However, Mr. Thrasher shared his belief that the change goes into effect as soon as it was voted upon during the meeting.

10. Motion made to enter Executive Session at 8:22pm to discuss personnel information and continued Slag Property litigation.

- Mover: Ed Cleveland
- 2nd: John Malcolm
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved (Unanimous)

11. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 9:08pm.

12. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:08pm

- Mover: Ed Cleveland
- Second: John Malcolm
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved (Unanimous)