

Draft Minutes  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
September 11, 2018  
7:00 pm at Pawlet Town Hall  
Regular Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Bob Jones  
Mike Beecher  
Ed Cleveland  
Chuck Weeden  
John Malcolm

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers  
Jay Luebke, PEG-TV  
Ray Duquette Sr.  
Michelle Tilander  
Paul Tilander  
Anne Hadeka  
Valerie Davis  
John Davis  
Gary Hadeka  
Ken Norman  
Rita Robson  
Frank Nelson  
Chris Rulf  
Eli Norman  
Beth Moser-Duquette  
Martin Kravitt  
Sonya and Bob Falvo  
Keith Mason

## EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:02 pm
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
  - a. Additions: Discuss Special Meeting warning re: School during, “Old Business”. Discuss potential grants during, “New Business”
  - b. Deletions: None
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
  - A. Motion to accept the Minutes of August 28, 2018 with no edits or corrections.
    - Mover: Chuck Weeden
    - 2nd: John Malcolm
    - Discussion: No further discussion therefore the minutes are approved (unanimous).
5. Appearances by local citizens and visitors.
  - A. Ray Duquette Sr. - Inquired about the warning of the special meeting for the discussion of the amendment to the definition of the word, “school”, in the town’s bylaws (*Addendum: this item continues to be discussed*). He also shared that another amendment should be discussed - switching, “accepted agricultural practices”, to, “required agricultural practices”, on page 48 of zoning bylaws. Mr. Beecher responded, stating that The Planning Commission is the first step for these suggested changes. Mr. Duquette continued to discuss Slate Ridge on Briar Hill, reminding the Board that the issues is not a gun issue but a property value issue. Due to the fact that Slate Ridge is still in operation, Mr. Duquette shared his belief that the Board has not supported the residents on Briar Hill and Warren Switch roads. Mr. Beecher responded, stating that the statement has been dually noted and the Board will discuss with their legal counsel who has been guiding the Board through this process thus far. Additionally, Mr. Duquette and Mrs. Hadeka spoke with Hal Wilkins, Zoning Administrator, last week and shared a concern regarding his number of hours allotted. Their concerns revolved around the lack of time allotted for Mr. Wilkins’ job to be completed. Mr. Beecher shared that Mr. Wilkins’ hours

have been determined by the pre-determined amount of money in the town office budget for the position. The town will continue to work with Mr. Wilkins to maximize his time to best benefit the town.

- B. Frank Nelson - Shared that John Thrasher had mentioned additional proposed amendments to the bylaws in addition to the school amendment. Following Mr. Duquette's follow-up questions, Mr. Nelson wondered as to whether or not the town attorney would be able to set up an information session for the residents, so that there can be a general understanding of the legal processes most commonly seen in the town. He shared his belief that this informational session may be of benefit to the town at large as we navigate through various legal cases. Mr. Duquette responded to Mr. Beecher stating that his particular group knows the process as it relates to the situation at Slate Ridge, and did not believe an informational session would be necessary.

6. Announcements: None

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's Report:

- No report from Mr. Wilkins at this meeting. Mr. Beecher stated that he will be talking with Judy Coolidge regarding the budget allotted for the Zoning Administrator and will follow up.

B. Road Foreman's Report:

- Mr. Mason was not present at the meeting, therefore no report. The Board briefly discussed culvert project progression amongst themselves. Mr. Beecher shared that Mr. Mason spoke with Nortrax, who alerted Mr. Mason that there is work to be done on the loader.
- Martin Kravitt shared that the Post Office has stopped delivering mail to his and his neighbor's mailboxes following the recent roadwork. Ultimately, he shared the need for fill to be delivered to these properties to be able to properly house mailboxes to meet USPS regulations. Mr. Beecher sent Mr. Mason a message expressing the importance of this situation. Mr. Kravitt shared that Mr. Mason may want to investigate drainage while he is reviewing the mailbox needs.

- *Addendum: Mr. Mason arrived later in the meeting. He reported that the culvert project is complete. Mr. Beecher shared Mr. Kravitt's mailbox issue Mr. Mason shared that the two other mailboxes effected have been fixed. Mr. Beecher shared his belief that once we complete a project as a town we should leave it better than when we started. Mr. Mason and his crew will fix the mailbox and will address the concerns. Work will continue on desired projects (culverts, painting, shoulder concerns, etc.) as we head into fall. Mr. Mason continued to share that the town needs to make a decision regarding our gravel supply. Mr. Mason to look into prices for gravel crushing.*

C. Assessor Report:

- The Board reviewed the Assessor's Reports from Karen Folger and letter from Lisa Wright
- Mr. Duquette, in response to the letter from the Lister's office, provided a photo to the Board of the building at Slate Ridge posted by Mr. Banyai on November 17, 2017. Ms. Powers to share copies with the Assessors and the Zoning Administrator.

D. Emergency Management Director's Report- The Board reviewed the Emergency Management Director's Report

E. Public Health Officer's Report- The Board reviewed the Public Health Officer's Report.

F. Town Clerk's Memo:

- The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's memo.
- The Town Clerk's office will be closed on Thursday, September 20, 2018.

G. Town Treasurer's Memo:

- The Board reviewed the Treasurer's memo.
- The Board signed checks.
- The Board reviewed the warrants
  1. Motion to approve the warrants
  2. Mover: Ed Cleveland
  3. Second: John Malcolm
  4. Discussion: None
  5. Result: Approved (Unanimous)

h. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- All is running OK at the WWTF. All levels passed.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Re: Wood Property Sale - No further information since last meeting. A determination needs to be made regarding which driveway belongs to the property as well as basic maintenance to prepare the building to be sold. Mr. Beecher shared his belief that the driveway below the house belongs to the home. The Board will follow up with Mr. Thrasher re: next best steps.
  - Re: Potential Grants: Ms. Powers shared potential grants from the Department of Environmental Conservation. The Board determined that said grants do not apply to the Town of Pawlet and West Pawlet at this time.
  - Re: Paint: The Library and Town Hall Porch painting projects have been completed.
  - Re: Signs: Mr. Mason was requested to remove the sign on the edge of Danby Pawlet Road/Forrest Farm Road. The Board requested that Mr. Powers contact Deb Hawkins regarding the publication of the Town and State Statutes discussing signs posted in right-of-ways to the town's website.
9. New Business: Mr. Beecher shared communications between Mr. Thrasher and Ms. Marland of the US DOJ.
10. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:14pm
- Mover: Bob Jones
  - Second: Ed Cleveland
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved (Unanimous)