

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
December 18, 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
Daniel Banyai
John Smith
Ray Duquette, Sr.
Keith Mason
Jay Luebke
Helen Wood
Frank Nelson
Valerie Davis
John Davis
Michelle Tilander
Eve Schaub
Kim Gaschel
Martin Kravitt
Ken Norman
Lucy Norman
Lauryn Axelrod
Judy Coolidge
Susan White

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:02 pm
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
 - a. Additions: Helen Wood & Lauryn Axelrod, Mettowee Makers, and Daniel Banyai present as Local Citizens and Visitors. Continued Ethics/Conflict of Interest Prohibition discussions during Old 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 December 4, 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.
 - Helen Wood, Mettowee Makers - Shared with the Board the success of the first Mettowee Makers Market. Expressed interest in utilizing the 2nd story of the Town Hall for a organizational meeting on 1/7 at 6:00pm, along with future markets on the second Saturday of January, February and March 2019. The Board approved the use of the space, and requested space usage agreement forms to be filled out and submitted to the Town. No fee for the meeting, fee discussion TBD for future markets.
 - Daniel Banyai, 541 Briar Hill Road - Continued conversations from a few meetings ago re: ethics and conflicts of interest, written and/or spoken, as they pertain to acceptance in the Town. Specific topics included recusals, ethics, misconduct and conflict of interest. He continued to discuss the topic of new potential fees for permitting in Town. He shared examples of accountability and ethical conflict of interests related to specific Board members, calling for public resignation of multiple Board members. Mr. Beecher requested a copy of Mr. Banyai's statement for Town record purposes.

- Kim Gaschel - Shared her concern with ethics, conflict of interest, etc. is in part due to the duration of time taken to receive clear messages and understanding from Town officials. She has shared that she will be working with the state moving forward regarding various items.
 - Mr. Cleveland responded and discussion ensued.
- Eve Schaub - Inquired about the proposed expansion/projects at the Library. Mr. Cleveland replied that the project is currently on stand-still, though there are conceptual plans that will be made available for her review. Asked if there were complaints re: handicap accessibility to lower level, Mr. Cleveland replied there had not been complaints. Eve also asked if the library reno project would be an item on the ballot, and was told it had not yet been decided.
- Martin Kravitt - Continued conversations about the Library, and inquired about which stage of design the architect feels he is in. Shared that once the project is ready to be put out for formal bid, there will be an additional booklet including cost, specs, etc. Discussion continued regarding potential designs and their efficiencies or lack thereof. Ultimately, Mr. Kravitt shared recommendation of holding off on any decisions until the Library has completed its current master planning study.
 - Mr. Cleveland shared more detail about some of the reasons for this potential renovation.
- Lauryn Axelrod, Mettowee Makers - Shared some information about conversations taken place regarding Mettowee Makers and the positive impact had on economical development. Mettowee Makers is registered with the state as a Makers Cooperative. This allows opportunities for funding for area-enhancing projects and movements. Specifically, rural economic development funding for a makers space. Helen Wood added the hope to begin offering workshops for business building education.

6. Announcements:

- A reminder that the next upcoming Select Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, 1/2/19 at 7:00pm.
- Pete Giese of MHG Solar will be attending the meeting on 1/15/19.
- Ms. Powers and Mrs. Coolidge have worked together regarding the potential for future banking options for the Town. This project will continue in the New Year.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's Report:

- The Board reviewed the Zoning Administrator's Report. Ms. Powers read aloud a abbreviated "action items" list from Mr. Wilkins.

B. Road Foreman's Report:

- Mr. Mason shared with the Board the need for a signature for a Better Roads grant. This signature is required by 12/31/2018. He continued to share that the Town is in good shape in regards to roads compliance, however will need to pursue future grants. The Board expressed the desire to have information from the Planning Commission site.
- Mr. Mason has a driveway permit for the Tarbell property. A question was raised as to whether or not a permit can be issued to a property which has not been taken possession of as of yet. Mr. Weeden shared his belief that he did not feel a permit should be signed until possession has been taken.
 - Motion made to refrain from signing the curb-cut permit until formal possession of the property has been taken.
- Winterizing projects are in effect while there is not winter weather. Next direction is brush cutting.

C. Planning Commission's Report:

- None.
- Frank Nelson shared a brief overview of the economic development topic discussed at the Planning Commission meeting.

D. Assessor Report:

- None.

- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
 - The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's Memo.
 - The Town Clerk's Office is closed next week until January 2, 2019.
- F. Town Treasurer's Memo:
 - The Board reviewed the Town Treasurer's Memo.
 - Regarding Keyser Item: Ms. Powers forwarded email from Ms. Keyser to the Board members for their review.
 - The Board signed the Budget Letters
 - John Malcolm agreed to adjusting check signing schedule and will connect with Ed Cleveland to sign any checks that may involve a conflict of interest.
 - The Board signed checks.
 - The Board reviewed the warrants. Only 2 warrants included in meeting folders. Memo indicated 3.
 1. Motion to approve the warrants
 2. Mover: Chuck Weeden
 3. Second: Bob Jones
 4. Discussion: None
 5. Result: Approved (Unanimous)
 - Judy Coolidge, Treasurer, arrived to clarify aforementioned warrant confusion.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
 - Reviewed on 12/4/18.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
 - Reviewed on 12/4/18.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
 - All levels are currently passing.
- 8. Old or unfinished business:
 - Ethics/Conflict of Interest Policy 2019.

- Motion made to adopt the Policy Regarding Conflict of Interest and Ethical Conduct 2019 for the Town of Pawlet, Vermont.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved (Unanimous)
 - The Board signed the policy.
- The West Pawlet Wood Property - The Board spoke about the potential of speaking with a realtor to work with them on the sale of this property. Chuck Weeden to contact McChesney Realty.

9. New Business:

- None.

10. Motion made to enter Executive Session at 8:29 pm to discuss personnel information and Treasurer applicant information.

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

11. Motion made to exit Executive Session at 9:12pm with no decisions made.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: John Malcolm
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved (unanimous)

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:13pm

- Mover: Chuck Weeden
- Second: Ed Cleveland
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved (Unanimous)