

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
January 15, 2019
7:00 pm at Pawlet Town Hall
Regular Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Bob Jones
Mike Beecher
Ed Cleveland
John Malcolm

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
Jay Luebke - PEG-TV
Kim Ayers
Ray Duquette Sr.
Beth Moser-Duquette
Paul Tilander
Michelle Tilander
Gary Hadeka
Anne Hadeka
Pete Giese
Nancy Morlino
Valerie Davis
John Davis
Eve Schaub
Frank Nelson

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:05 pm
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
 - a. Additions: None.
 - b. Deletions: None.
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - A. Motion to accept the Minutes of January 2, 2019 with no additions or corrections.

- Mover: Ed Cleveland
- 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: No further discussion therefore the minutes are approved (unanimous).

5. Appearances by local citizens and visitors.

- Pete Giese, MHG Solar - Based out of Manchester with partner Thomas Hand. Thus far have participated in approximately 2 megawatts worth of projects in the surrounding area over the past 8 years, with about a decade of solar experience. MHG Solar aims to drive cost down and deliver drive public good, finding permit-able projects that integrate well with local areas. Specifically, projects in or around slate quarries, which can be made invisible or in the way. Other projects include rooftops, gravel pits, etc. Solar program in VT: power is sold to the grid (GMP), who then turns the power sold into a credit. Credits can then be allocated to anyone in GMP territory, showing up as a reduction to total power bills. MHG then sells credits for less than the credits are worth back to businesses, municipalities, etc. (not currently working with individuals). MHG also designs and operates all the solar facilities, making it so that subscribers do not have to personally deal with the solar units, but can still benefit from them. MHG has a certificate of public good from the state of VT. Currently have one with Newmont Slate. There is currently another project underway near Button Falls, tucked away within another quarry operation. They look for sites that are currently located closely to power. Mr. Giese opened the floor for questions and further discussion ensued revolving around potential involvement/use of MHG projects. A question arose regarding end-of-life cleanup. The answer was that MHG is fully responsible for cleanup of the solar site once it is no longer in use. 98% of systems are above-ground. A question was raised regarding who funds these large projects. Mr. Giese responded stating that there are no direct dollars flowing to MHG, however tax credits are utilized as well as federal tax credits/subsidies.
- Frank Nelson - Shared a document with the Board from Yale Medical School including evidence of formaldehyde and

methyl alcohol and their relationships to macular degeneration.

6. Announcements:

- The Mettowee Makers would like to utilize the Town Hall Auditorium space for Mettowee Makers markets during the second Saturdays of February, March and April (already approved by the Selectmen). The Board will think about space usage fees and will make a decision once the rental application has been reviewed at the next meeting.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's Report:

- The Board reviewed the Zoning Administrator's Report.

B. Road Foreman's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

C. Planning Commission's Report:

- The Board reviewed the Planning Commission's Report.
- Re: The highlighted Conflict of Interest & Ethical Conduct, the Board has adopted this updated policy as of 12/18/2018 and it has been uploaded to the Town's website.

D. Assessor Report:

- The Board acknowledge the message sent from Ms. Wright regarding the necessary correction of the FY 2020 budget letter. Mr. Malcolm will review and follow-up. The Board also requested that a monthly report be submitted from the Assessor's office.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's Memo.
- The Board reviewed the request from the Chair of the Library, Janno Gay, for their blessing to vote in Sally Caras to fill the vacant trustee position.
 - Motion made to appoint Sally Caras to fulfill the remaining year of Joanne Van Meter's three year term.
 - Mover: Ed Cleveland
 - 2nd: John Malcolm

- Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved (unanimous)
 - Bob Jones signed the Uniform Municipal Excess Weight permit.
 - Mr. Malcolm shared the importance of folks being aware of the fact that there will be no school portion discussed at the informational meeting on March 4th. Citizens should attend the Mettawee annual meeting to voice opinions/concerns.
- F. Town Treasurer's Memo:
- The Board reviewed the Town Treasurer's Memo.
 - The Board signed checks.
 - The Board reviewed the warrants.
 1. Motion to approve the warrants
 2. Mover: Bob Jones
 3. Second: Ed Cleveland
 4. Discussion: None
 5. Result: Approved (Unanimous)
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
- The Board reviewed the Emergency Mgt. Director's Report on 1/2/2019.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- None.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- All levels are currently passing.
8. Old or unfinished business:
- Research done on the acquisition of tablets for Select Board Members and a replacement laptop for the Select Board Assistant. Further research to be done with Town IT contact and Town Treasurer regarding budget for these items, etc.
 - A citizen of the Town brought some potential typos in draft minutes from November to the attention to the Town Clerk who then forwarded to the Select Board Assistant. The Board acknowledged these concerns.

- The Board discussed potential topics to be included in the Select Board report for Town Meeting.
9. New Business:
- Mr. Beecher shared a letter sent to Telescope Furniture along with Telescope's response. See attached*.
 - The Board shared that they have decided to work with a realtor on the sale of the D. Wood property in West Pawlet after going through all standard procedures for the sale. The Board signed the documents so that the Town can move forward with this sale. Any cost accrued through this realtor process will be added to the sale price.
 - Discussion to be continued regarding plans moving forward with the Kuban/Swanson property in West Pawlet.
10. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:38pm
- Mover: Bob Jones
 - Second: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved (Unanimous)

*Attached correspondence aforementioned in Item 9, first bullet:

To Whom it may concern,

We viewed this Beecher individual on Vermont PEG television boasting about using your companies time and software/hardware equipment to do Town Select Board duties while working for your organization.

Thought you might want to know this.

Sent from my iPad

I am not sure what your motivation for sending these e-mails would be but nonetheless I will tell you our Company's position on Mr. Beecher.

Mr. Beecher is a LONG time loyal, hardworking employee of our Company. He is very community and civic minded as many of our employees are. He has volunteered countless hours in the many years I have known and worked with him, for various community services related to the Town of Pawlet and other surrounding communities.

If Michael was "boasting" about using our Company's time and software/hardware equipment to do Town Select Board duties while working for our organization it is because he is not only allowed to but encouraged to use our equipment and time as necessary to perform some of these duties.

We treasure our employees commitment to the communities we live in and encourage them to volunteer and support our employees in their endeavors in every way we can .

I can assure if Mr. Beecher was talking about Telescope, he was bragging not "boasting". Michael and the others who volunteer or work with our local towns or organizations are as appreciative and respectful of their ability to use any of our services, equipment or time as anyone can ever be and in the 39 years I have been here I have NEVER had an individual abuse the privileges they are afforded.

Again, I am not sure what your motivation would be to send the above email but I hope this helps clear up for you that Mike Beecher is in NO way doing ANYTHING that we do not wholeheartedly bless and condone.

I hope this alleviates any concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Kathy Juckett

CEO

Telescope Casual Furniture Inc.