

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
August 11, 2020
7:00 pm Virtually via Zoom
Regular Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
John Malcolm
Chuck Weeden
Ed Cleveland
Bob Jones

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
Frank Nelson
Jessica Van Oort
John Sabotka
Barbara Noyes- Pulling
Devon Neary
Keith Mason
Harry Van Meter
Sara Young
Diana Simonson
John Noerr
Dave Ricard Sr.
Tom Collard
Jennifer Sullivan

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:05 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
 - a. Additions:
 - Devon Neary, RRPC – Speed Study
 - Barbara Noyes-Pulling, RRPC – Flower Brook Update
 - b. Deletions:
 - None.
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson

4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of July 28, 2020 as printed.
 - Mover: Ed Cleveland
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Chuck Weeden, John Malcom, Ed Cleveland, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved (unanimous).
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
 - Rich Hulett – to be added to the agenda of the regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting on 8/25/2020.
 - Devon Neary, RRPC – Shared several recommendations and information regarding a pedestrian and bicycle accessibility grant, which could be utilized in downtown Pawlet. This topic has been picked up from a study originally conducted in 2014. Discussion also included the re-evaluation of speed along VT route 30, north and south of the School St. intersection.
 - Sara Young, Pawlet’s Community Coordinator and head of the Transportation Advisory Group, shared that a community survey reported that the desire to create a safer intersection in downtown Pawlet is a common desire.
 - Motion made to authorize the Transportation Advisory Group, along with Devon Neary of the RRPC, to move forward with the grant application.
 - Mover: Ed Cleveland
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Ed Cleveland, John Malcolm, Bob Jones – In favor. Chuck Weeden – opposed. Approved (3-1).
 - Motion made to move forward with writing a letter to VTrans requesting the engineering study on the intersection.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved (unanimous). Ed Cleveland, Chuck Weeden, Bob Jones, John Malcolm – in favor. Approved.
 - Barbara Noyes-Pulling, RRPC – On behalf of Hilary Solomon, provided progress report on the third phase of the Flower Brook flood

resilience project. If anyone is interested in joining these efforts, contact Barbara Noyes-Pulling of the RRPC or Hilary Solomon.

6. Announcements:

- None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- Harry Van Meter reviewed a report from the PPC, sharing the Planning Commissions' recommendations for the remaining vacant position.
 - Motion made to appoint Jessica Van Oort to fill the remaining term of Melissa LaCount's position on the PPC.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: None.
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Seeing no second, the motion was not approved.
 - Motion made to appoint Frank Nelson to fill the remaining term of Melissa LaCount's position on the PPC.
 - Mover: Ed Cleveland
 - 2nd: Chuck Weeden
 - Discussion: The Board thanked Jessica Van Oort for her interest in serving the Town, and encouraged her to apply for future and/or currently available positions.
 - Result: Chuck Weeden, Ed Cleveland, Bob Jones – In favor. John Malcolm, Mike Beecher – Opposed. Approved (3-2).

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Road Foreman, Keith Mason, reviewed a report from the Town Highway Dept. with the Board.
- The Board discussed possible trucks for the Highway Department to purchase to add to their fleet.
- Motion made to purchase a truck from Dodge, quoted for the Town Highway Department.
 - Mover: Ed Cleveland
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None

- Result: Chuck Weeden – opposed. John Malcolm, Ed Cleveland, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.

D. Assessor Report:

- The Board reviewed the Assessor's report.
- Motion made to approve the Errors and Omissions Report, authorizing Bob Jones to sign on behalf of the Board.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion:
 - Result: Bob Jones, John Malcolm, Ed Cleveland, Chuck Weeden – in favor. Approved (unanimous).

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- No report at this meeting.
- The Board discussed an outstanding insurance claim. To be investigated further.

F. Town Treasurer's Memo:

- The Board reviewed the Town Treasurer's memo.
 - John Malcolm commented re: payables – the Library roof repair has been completed, and came in \$5.00 less than what was quoted.
 - John Malcolm reported on a Zoom meeting he attended with Peter Welch regarding state-wide financial impacts due to Covid-19.
- Motion made to approve the warrants.
 - Mover: Chuck Weeden
 - 2nd: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Chuck Weeden, Ed Cleveland – in favor. Approved (unanimous).
- The Board reviewed a memo from the Delinquent Tax Collector regarding tax sales.
 - Motion made to authorize the Delinquent Tax Collector to proceed with tax sales.

- Mover: Chuck Weeden
 - 2nd: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Chuck Weeden, Ed Cleveland, John Malcolm, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
- The Board reviewed the Emergency Management Director's report.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- The Board reviewed the Health Officer's report.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- Mr. Beecher inquired about the Board members' feelings on moving forward with the sludge storage feasibility project at the Wastewater Treatment Facility.
 - Motion made to proceed to the next level to apply for funding for the sludge storage feasibility study.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Chuck Weeden, Bob Jones, Ed Cleveland, John Malcolm – in favor. Approved.
8. Old or unfinished business:
- Re: available town positions, the Board supported moving forward with posting the Web Coordinator position as a town position, with hopes of deciding on an applicant within two meeting cycles.
9. New Business:
- Speed Concerns in West Pawlet – Diana Simonson, John Noerr and Jennifer Sullivan of West Pawlet expressed concerns regarding high, unsafe speed of vehicular travel on Rte. 153. Frank Nelson agreed with the comments regarding excessive speed in W. Pawlet. Ms. Powers to follow up with the RRPC and the local Transportation Advisory Group to see if West Pawlet's speed concerns can be added to their focus study, alongside the Rte 30 + School St. intersection. Additionally, to reach out to constable Ricard about the possibility of increased attention to speed in West Pawlet.
10. Public Comment:

- Ed Cleveland addressed concerns regarding parking around the Library as the Library is scheduled to re-open.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:57 pm

- Mover: Ed Cleveland
- Second: Chuck Weeden
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Chuck Weeden, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Ed Cleveland - in favor. Approved (Unanimous)