

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
August 25, 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
Bob Morlino
Julie Mach
Frank Nelson
Keith Mason
Ken Norman
John Sobotka

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:05 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
 - a. Additions:
 - Bob Morlino – Pre-requested appearances.
 - Executive Session to discuss employee labor relations agreements, specifically, employee wage and retirement information with Town Treasurer, Julie Mach.
 - b. Deletions:
 - None.
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of August 11, 2020 as printed.
 - Mover: John Malcolm

- 2nd: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Chuck Weeden, John Malcom, Ed Cleveland, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved (unanimous).
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
- Bob Morlino – Shared 18 V.S.A 603, which is a law allowing the Health Officer to impose penalties to those violating the health code. He continued to share the Health Officer Procedure for Civil Penalty, which requires Selectboard approval.
 - Motion made to accept and adopt the Health Officer Procedure for Civil Penalty.
 - Mover: Chuck Weeden
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: Questions arose regarding who is faced with the penalty – renter or landlord.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Ed Cleveland, Chuck Weeden, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved (unanimous).
 - Mr. Morlino also made the Board aware that a property on Rte. 153, which has the possibility of becoming a town-owned property, may require some attention that could benefit from communication with the Town attorney.
 - He continued to share that a daily Covid-19 report is published online. Masks from the state are available for distribution to those who need them. He also shared grant opportunities for Covid-related expenses.
6. Announcements:
- The town of Pawlet is trailing behind in Census participation. Look out for a Census representative located outside of Mach's Market. It is very important that everyone be counted so that our town may be accurately represented for federal funding.
7. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
 - The Board reviewed a report submitted by Interim Zoning Administrator, Jonas Rosenthal.
 - B. Planning Commission's Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
 - The Board received a letter of resignation from Harry Van Meter, Chair of the Pawlet Planning Commission. This leaves

another vacancy on the PPC. The Board would like to advertise the vacant position prior to selecting a new commissioner.

Discussion ensued on this topic.

- The Board extended their thanks and gratitude to Harry Van Meter for his years of service for the Pawlet Planning Commission. His service, commitment, and dedication to the Town of Pawlet is greatly appreciated.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Road Foreman, Keith Mason, reviewed a report from the Town Highway Dept. with the Board.
- Mr. Mason also addressed the topic of winter sand, inquiring about what the Board would like to do.
 - Motion made to work with Stanley Martel for winter sand for approximately 1500 yards at \$10.00/yard.
 - Mover: Chuck Weeden
 - 2nd: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Chuck Weeden, Ed Cleveland, John Malcolm, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved (unanimous).
 - Motion made to approve a warrant for \$49,669.00 to Rutland Auto Group for the Dodge truck for the Highway Department.
 - Mover: Ed Cleveland
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: Bob Jones remains designated signer for the Board, and is approved to sign this check on behalf of the Selectboard.
 - Result: Ed Cleveland, Bob Jones, Chuck Weeden, John Malcolm – in favor. Approved (unanimous).
 - Mr. Weeden shared information on a tractor that could potentially suit the needs of the Town.
 - The Board discussed a concern from a citizen of West Pawlet regarding a blocked storm drain. This was checked by Mr. Mason, and the grate above the drain appears to have been cleaned off. He will continue to monitor this situation.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

- The Board spoke to the concerns from the Assessor's office regarding the roof leak issue in the Town Hall, sharing that a fix is in the works and requires special equipment due to the nature and location of the leak.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
- No report at this meeting.
- F. Town Treasurer's Memo:
- The Board reviewed the Town Treasurer's memo.
 - Motion made to approve the warrants.
 - Mover: Chuck Weeden
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Chuck Weeden, Ed Cleveland – in favor. Approved (unanimous).
 - Ms. Mach shared she has received several requests for explanation of the Wastewater fee increases. The Board and Ms. Mach will work on this correspondence.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- Mike Beecher shared an update from the WWTF. Necessary paperwork has been submitted for the sludge storage feasibility study.
8. Old or unfinished business:
- Re: available town positions, the Board approved the job description for the Web Coordinator position. To be posted in the proper channels.
 - Re: speed concerns in West Pawlet – several other citizens have expressed concern for speed. Ms. Powers reached out to Constable Ricard, relaying concerns, as well as the RRPC and Pawlet Transportation Advisory Group to see if West Pawlet can be added to speed study. More information to come as this topic evolves.

- Conversation continued regarding signage potential for the West Pawlet intersection, which currently faces the issue of the inability to be signed properly to code.
 - Mr. Cleveland readdressed the Library steps project. The Board to correspond with Librarian, Mary-Lou Willits, to inquire as to whether or not there have been any updates.
9. New Business:
- None.
10. Public Comment:
- Frank Nelson spoke to several points discussed throughout the meeting, including land possession and roadside mowing.
11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss employee labor relations agreements, specifically, employee wage and retirement information.
- Mover: Chuck Weeden
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: Session to include treasurer, Julie Mach.
 - Result: Ed Cleveland, John Malcolm, Chuck Weeden, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved (unanimous).
12. Motion made to exit Executive Session to discuss employee labor relations agreements, specifically employee wage and retirement information, with no decisions made.
- Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Chuck Weeden
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Ed Cleveland, Bob Jones, Chuck Weeden – in favor. Approved (unanimous).
13. Motion made to allow any Town employee making \$5000.00 annually, having worked for the town for one full year, to be eligible for a simple IRA plan through fidelity.
- Mover: Chuck Weeden
 - 2nd: Ed Cleveland
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Ed Cleveland, Chuck Weeden – in favor. Bob Jones – opposed. John Malcolm – abstained from voting. Mike Beecher – in favor. Approved (3-1).
13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:58 pm
- Mover: Ed Cleveland
 - Second: Chuck Weeden

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