

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
December 1, 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
Jessica Van Oort
Jonas Rosenthal
John Sabotka
Julie Mach
Tom Collard
Frank Nelson

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:01 pm by chairman, Mike Beecher.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
 - a. Additions:
 - Old/Unfinished Business – Requested update on records request from Mr. Mike Wesko.
 - New Business – Selectmen letter of support from Pawlet Librarian, Mary Lou Willits.
 - New Business – Covid funds for restaurants in the village.
 - b. Deletions:
 - None.
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meetings.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of November 17, 2020 as printed.

- Mover: Chuck Weeden
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: Mr. Rosenthal added that a report from the ZA's office had been submitted to the Board prior to the meeting, which was reviewed prior to the meeting.
 - Result: Chuck Weeden, John Malcom, Ed Cleveland, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of the Special meeting November 19, 2020 as printed.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Chuck Weeden
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Chuck Weeden, John Malcom, Ed Cleveland, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
- None.
6. Announcements:
- None.
7. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
- Interim ZA, Jonas Rosenthal, reviewed a report with the Selectboard regarding permits received through October and November.
 - A resident has requested information regarding a permit dated back to 2008, which will require research.
 - Brief discussion ensued regarding an ongoing zoning item.
 - Mr. Weeden inquired about the status of parking in front of Mach's Market.
 - Mr. Rosenthal provided feedback on the original permit approved, as well as discussions for potential plans moving forward.
- B. Planning Commission's Report:
- Pawlet Planning Commission Chairwoman, Jessica Van Oort, reiterated a report submitted to the Selectboard.

- Hillary Solomon visited with the PPC regarding a flood and climate resilience planning group.
- Work continued on harmonizing the Town's bylaws and town plan, first looking into housing.
- Ms. Van. Oort requested information the Board may have regarding the Town's Enhanced Energy Plan, as well as the potential transition from a one-acre to ten-acre town. Mr. Beecher responded to these inquiries.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- No report at this meeting, as the Road Foreman was called out to address down trees.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- No report at this meeting.

F. Town Treasurer's Memo:

- Treasurer, Julie Mach, reviewed her memo with the Selectboard.
- Discussion ensued regarding a bill from Schindler re: elevator repairs.
- Motion made to approve the warrants.
 - Mover: Ed Cleveland
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Chuck Weeden, Ed Cleveland – in favor. Approved.
- The VT Secretary of State's office paid towards excess postage costs associated with the August primary, as well as provided funds for the secure ballot box at the Town Hall.
- Ms. Mach publicly thanked Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, for her work in the Town's receipt of a \$5,000.00 grant
- "Due to increases in COVID-19 cases in VT and across the USA we are requiring that tax payments be mailed or dropped off at the Town Hall in the secure drop box. I will mail back

any receipts so it is important to be aware that there may be some extra postage costs coming up. If people need to pay in cash, they MUST schedule an appointment 24 hours ahead of time.”

G. Emergency Management Director’s Report:

- The Board reviewed the Emergency Mgt. Director’s Report.
 - Covid19 updates continue to be posted daily to the Facebook page to keep residents informed.
 - Pawlet Emergency Management applied for and received a grant from Vermont Public Service Commission for a free WiFi hot spot for Pawlet. The WiFi hotspot has been installed at the Pawlet Public Library and provides a WiFi signal in approx.. a 400 ft radius from the Library. The equipment and installation has a value of \$2,500. The network is labeled “Pawlet Hotspot”.

H. Health Officer’s Report:

- The Board reviewed the Health Officer’s Report.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- Mike Beecher shared an update from the WWTF.
 - Planning on having SOQ reviews in order by the next regular meeting.
 - All is well at the WWTF.
 - Ms. Mach shared information obtained regarding the possibility for financial assistance to those in need of help paying wastewater facilities.
 - The application is online at bit.ly/VCAAP2020, and if people don’t have internet access, they can contact their local community action group, like BROCC Community Action in Rutland
 - There’s also a hotline people can try at 800-622-4496.
 - The deadline for applications is Dec. 15.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Re: Mr. Wesko’s public records request – Ms. Mach has provided the information requested from the Treasurer’s office. Ms. Powers to

reach out to Town Road Foreman and Town Clerk, with intention of having the remainder of the requested information by the next regularly scheduled meeting.

- Re: Radar speed control signs – The Board received a quote from Elan City to purchase two radar speed signs. Town ZA, Jonas Rosenthal, offered advice regarding the possibility of waiting for a speed study. Discussion ensued with no decisions made.
- Re: Quarry signage (for no recreating) – The Board to connect with Mr. Mason re: signage for these areas.
- Re: Ongoing speed concerns in WP – Communication is ongoing on the state and local level.
- Individuals residing in the property recently acquired by the Town on rte. 153 have been served with a notice of eviction.

9. New Business:

- John Malcolm shared that Mary Lou Willits at the Pawlet Public Library would like to apply for a grant to help contribute towards the payroll for the, currently, Community Connectors position.
 - The Board unanimously supported this request.
- Mr. Cleveland inquired about an unregistered vehicle that has been parked outside of the Library for an extended period of time. To be investigated with the Library.
- Mr. Rosenthal shared information about available monies (applied for by municipalities and/or other entities) for restaurants to obtain funds to support Covid19 related infrastructure improvements for the winter months.
 - The Board unanimously supported these efforts.

10. Public Comment:

- None.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:12pm

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