

**Final** Minutes  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
March 9, 2021  
7:00 pm Virtually via Zoom  
Regular Meeting

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
John Malcolm  
Bob Jones  
Jessica Van Oort  
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers  
Keith Mason  
John Sabotka  
Colin Stabile  
Martha & Bob Schoenemann  
Deb Hawkins  
Maureen Brown  
Tom Collard  
Frank Nelson

**EVENT**

1. Call to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
  - a. Additions:
    - Policy Discussion – Old/Unfinished Business
    - Maureen Brown – Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors
  - b. Deletions:
    - None.
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meetings.

- Motion made to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of February 23, 2021, as presented.
    - Mover: Bob Jones
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Bob Jones, John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort – in favor. Approved.
  - Motion made to approve the Organizational Meeting minutes of March 3, 2021, with an edit to the attendance list as well as to item 1.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort – in favor. Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
- Maureen Brown – Requested that the community/board consider a declaration of diversity, equity and inclusiveness on behalf of the Town. Also requested that the Town review a document which will help aid in action items to support the aforementioned declaration.
    - Discussion ensued regarding ways in which this topic can be continued, as well as how these efforts will help to create unity and rebirth of the Town’s beliefs.
    - Discussion to be continued during the next regularly scheduled meeting to allow the Board time to review the document sent by Ms. Brown.
6. Announcements:
- Ms. Powers shared she has been working with Pawlet’s Web Coordinator to update appointments/officials on the website following Town Meeting.
7. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator’s Report:
- The Board reviewed a report received from ZA, Jonas Rosenthal.
    - 4 Zoning permit approvals thus far in 2021.

- Working with the Planning Commission to distribute required Zoning Ordinance documents.
- Working with the Development Review Board as well as the Dept. of Environmental Conservation on several (separate) items.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- PPC Chairwoman, Jessica Van Oort, briefly followed up on the ZA report sharing that her and Jonas have worked together to prepare the documents mentioned. The PPC is on track to have the hearing regarding their updated bylaws at their next meeting.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Road Foreman, Keith Mason, shared a report with the Board.
  - Currently hauling plant mix from Wallingford in preparation for mud season (planning on putting up 20 tons to have on hand and use as needed).
  - The crew's new truck has been delivered and undercoated.
  - The Army Corps permit application has been completed for the Herrick Brook Rd. project, and preliminary numbers are being gathered for VTrans grants.
  - A meeting has been scheduled for the RRPC to review the MRGP to establish priorities to maintain compliance and meet future deadlines.

D. Assessor Report:

- The Board reviewed a report from the Assessor's Office submitted by Karen Folger.
  - A request was received for tax exempt status from the Merck Forest Foundation.
    - Brief discussion regarding whether or not the Town would need to vote on tax exemption status. Mrs. Hawkins confirmed that a vote is necessary, and currently takes place, in 5-year increments, and that clarification is needed when a property is added.
  - The Assessor's office will be performing exterior inspections on permits for buildings and previous construction, as well as for solar installations over 50 kW. Homeowners will be notified.
  - Karen will be pursuing ongoing assessor education opportunities, and will continue to be in the office on Mondays, Wednesdays and as necessary.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board.
  - The Pawlet Station submitted a liquor license application, and one form pertaining to the previously approved license for The Barn Restaurant needs signature.
    - Motion made to approve the liquor license for the Pawlet Station.
      - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
      - Discussion: none.
      - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
  - There are overweight fleet permits that require signature by Mr. Jones on behalf of the Board.
  - There was a 45% voter turnout at Town Meeting, with a fantastic group working the polls.
  - Jessica Van Oort shared her thanks to Deb and the rest of the group working for a job well done.

F. Town Treasurer's Memo:

- The Board reviewed a memo from the Treasurer's office, including an overview of payroll, accounts payable, monies from the General Fund, Highway and Wastewater.
- The third installment of wastewater taxes are due 3/10/2021.
- Motion made to approve the warrants.
  - Mover: John Malcolm
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort – in favor. Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- The Board reviewed a report from Bob Morlino.
  - Covid-19 updates continue to be posted daily to the town's Facebook page.
  - Participated in 3 Covid-19 conference calls with emergency entities.

- Submitted 3 Tier II reports for Town of Pawlet locations to the State of VT.
  - H. Health Officer's Report:
    - Nothing to report.
  - I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
    - Mr. Beecher brought the new Board members up to speed on the WWTF, and Ms. Powers shared a brief update from Jill Marsano (VTUMS) of the WWTF.
      - The process continues regarding the RFQ and SOQ for the sludge storage feasibility project. The process is involved, and estimated construction is several years away, thus minor modifications are suggested for the interim.
      - Several air valves need replacement.
      - A jetting of collection system is to be scheduled to reduce solid buildup/prevent unwelcome clogs.
- 8. Old or unfinished business:
  - The Board members were sent the Personnel Policy, Purchasing Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy and Rules of Procedure for their review. The Conflict-of-Interest Policy and Rules of Procedure need annual adoption.
    - Motion made for the Selectboard to adopt and adhere to the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and Selectboard Rules of Procedure.
      - Mover: Rich Hulett
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
      - Discussion: None.
      - Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
- 9. New Business:
  - The Town officially owns 3554 Rte. 153 following tax sale. Following guidance from Town Attorney, Merrill Bent, a Town representative needs to visit the property. Following this visit, the Town then needs to determine next steps for cleaning the property and preparing for sale as a buildable lot.
    - Rich Hulett and Bob Jones offered to visit the property on behalf of the Town.
    - Conversation developed regarding building setbacks and possible discussions for the Planning Commission to consider.

- Jessica Van Oort expressed the desire to solicit a way to obtain feedback from townfolk who are not often heard from, especially the younger generation. The Board supported these efforts, and brief discussion took place regarding these efforts.

10. Public Comment:

- None.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:14 pm

- Mover: Bob Jones
- Second: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None.

Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett - in favor.

Approved (Unanimous)