

**Final** Minutes  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
April 20, 2021  
7:00 pm Virtually via Zoom  
Regular Meeting & Public Hearing

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
John Malcolm  
Bob Jones  
Jessica Van Oort  
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers  
Olivia McChesney  
#Taxpayer  
Robert Morlino  
Eli-Anita Norman  
Ken Norman  
Lucy Norman  
Joy Proft  
Karla Crossman  
Julie Mach  
Fred Stone  
Sarah Post  
Keith Mason  
John Sabotka  
Deb Hawkins  
Colin Stabile  
Rhonda Schlangen  
Maureen Brown  
Paul and Michelle Tilander  
John and Val Davis  
Bob and Martha Schoenemann  
Mara Hearst  
Jonas Rosenthal  
Jennifer Sullivan  
WCBS  
Ray Duquette Sr.

Mary  
Dan and Brooks  
Frank Nelson  
Chuck Weeden  
Tammy  
Mary Ellen Norton  
Tom Collard

## EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:03 pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher.
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson.
4. Public Hearing:
  - The purpose of the Hearing is to amend the Town of Pawlet Zoning Regulations (Unified Bylaws). The geographic area affected include all areas of Pawlet. Jessica Van Oort, Chairwoman of the Pawlet Planning Commission, provided an overview:
    - Proposed Zoning Bylaw changes - Table of Contents:  
Article II, Sections 5, 6, and 7: District #5 Industrial I, District #6 Village and Commercial VC, District #7 Agriculture and Rural Residential ARR  
Article III, Section 4: Multiple-Family Dwelling  
Article V, Section 23: Accessory Dwelling Units  
Article XVI: Definitions
    - The proposed amendments were adopted by the Town in 2017, however the necessary paperwork was not filed with the state to allow for complete adoption. Ms. Van Oort shared a thorough overview of the changes with the Board and body, followed by opportunity for public comment and question.
  - Motion made to adopt the proposed amendments to the Pawlet Zoning Bylaws:  
Article II, Sections 5, 6, and 7: District #5 Industrial I, District #6 Village and Commercial VC, District #7 Agriculture and Rural Residential ARR  
Article III, Section 4: Multiple-Family Dwelling  
Article V, Section 23: Accessory Dwelling Units  
Article XVI: Definitions
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
5. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items
- a. Additions: Bob Morlino – Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors
  - b. Deletions: None.
6. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of April 6, 2021, as printed.
    - Mover: John Malcolm
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Bob Jones, John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort – in favor. Approved.
6. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
- Bob Morlino, Emergency Management Director & Town Health Officer discussed the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) 2021 as well as the Rutland Regional Planning Commission Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement 2021.
  - Motion made to adopt the Local Emergency Management Plan and the Rutland Regional Planning Commission Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement for 2021.
    - Mover: Bob Jones
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones, John Malcolm Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
  - Mr. Morlino also spoke to the E911 mapping system, and Pawlet's current two-map structure. Following discussion, the Board unanimously supported the consolidation from a dual to a single map E911 model for the Towns of Pawlet and West Pawlet.
7. Announcements:
- None.
8. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator's Report:

- Jonas Rosenthal shared that one appeal was received for the permit issued for 541 Briar Hill Road. The Development Review Board (DRB) will hold a hearing within a 30 day period following the receipt of the appeal on April 14, 2021.
    - Discussion was ongoing regarding several questions pertaining to the permitting process at the aforementioned property.
- B. Planning Commission's (PPC) Report:
  - No report at this meeting.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
  - Road Foreman, Keith Mason, shared a report with the Board:
    - Spoke to prospective grant-funding for upcoming paving and roads projects. Several grant applications have been submitted.
    - Discussion ensued regarding road sign purchasing, the condition of Warren Switch Road and others requiring attention, and the acknowledgement of the removal of a damaged road sign.
- D. Assessor Report:
  - No report at this meeting.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
  - Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board, which included overweight permits in need of signing by Mr. Jones on behalf of the Board.
- F. Town Treasurer's Memo:
  - Town Treasurer, Julie Mach, reviewed a memo with the Board, including: an overview of payroll, accounts payable, monies from the General Fund, Highway, Wastewater, and multiple state payments.
  - Motion made to approve the warrants.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 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:
    - No report from the Emergency Mgt. Director:
  - H. Health Officer's Report:
    - No report at this meeting.
  - I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
    - Mr. Beecher provided an update from the WWTF, sharing that there is currently an issue with one of the chart recorders which monitors the flows running through the system. Following considerations, Mr. Beecher and Mr. Hulett expressed shared beliefs that replacing the chart recorder would be an appropriate/necessary action.
      - Motion made to authorize the approval to replace the entire Chart Recorder unit at the WWTF for the quoted cost of \$4260.00
        - Mover: Rich Hulett
        - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
        - Discussion: None.
        - Result: John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
    - A Wi-Fi hotspot has been installed at the Waste Water Treatment Facility to provide improved internet access in downtown West Pawlet, however the internet provider is currently experiencing service issues. Discussion ensued regarding the notion of pursuing an alternate provider.
8. Old or unfinished business:
- Ray Duquette posed questions regarding permits and activities at 541 Briar Hill Road.
  - Maureen Brown initiated conversation regarding the ongoing topic of inclusion, equity, diversity, etc. in our community. Discussion was ongoing with additional input from members of the Board and public body, This topic continues to warrant ongoing community discussion.
    - Motion made to add an equal opportunity employment statement to the Pawlet Town site.
      - Move: Jessica Van Oort
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
      - Discussion: Ms. Powers and Ms. Van Oort to consult state guidelines/regulations while formulating this statement.

- Result: Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
  - Michelle Tilander, a representative for the concerned taxpayers in West Pawlet, submitted a letter to the Board regarding recent activity at 541 Briar Hill Road.
  - Mr. Hulett offered an update for the town-owned property in West Pawlet:
    - Clarence Ritchie will be cleaning up the property, the propane company will be removing the tank, and the power company will be removing power from the meter. Discussion ensued regarding interest in this property.
9. New Business:
- None.
10. Public Comment:
- Oliva McChesney offered a statement following the discussion surrounding diversity, equity, etc. during Old/Unfinished Business.
11. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:08pm
- Mover: Rich Hulett
  - Second: John Malcolm
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett - in favor. Approved (Unanimous)