

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
May 18, 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
Mark and Doreen Frost
Keith Whitcomb
Karla Crossman
Dan Brooks
Colin Stabile
Maureen Brown
John Noerr
Chuck Weeden
Harley Cudney
Olivia McChesney
John Sabotka
Jennifer Sullivan
Sara Hannon
Ruth Lampi
Storm View Angus
Carol Schoenwetter
Deb Hawkins
Rhonda Schlangen
Julie Mach
Bob & Martha Schoenemann
Keith Mason
Frank Nelson
Sarah Post
Bob Morlino
Mark & Margaret McChesney

Jack McChesney
Ashley Maynes
Mara Hearst
Ray Duquette
Mandy Hulett
Tom Collard
Joy Proft

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Introduction of those present by chairperson.
4. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.
 - a. Additions:
 - Appointment of Health Officer – Health Officer Report.
 - Flag Purchasing Request from Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department – New Business.
 - Spruce Gum Interest – Old/Unfinished Business.
 - Covid Relief Funds – New Business.
 - b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of May 4, 2021, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Bob Jones, John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort – in favor. Approved.
6. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
 - None.
7. Announcements:
 - None.
8. Reports:
 - A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
 - Interim Zoning Administrator, Jonas Rosenthal, shared a report with the Board :

- Two recent permits issued – one for a pole barn and one for a guest house.
- Will be working with Mr. Mason in regards to an appeal.
- Harry Van Meter has begun work on compiling a database for permits beginning with the 2004 file, with plans to move forward to 2018 and then backwards from 2003 following that. Mr. Rosenthal has had to go back to 1994 looking for permits and this database will be a great start.

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:
 - West Pawlet and Pawlet Villages have been swept
 - Failing culvert on Buttons Falls Rd. has been removed and work has begun on Herrick Brook Road.
 - Mr. Mason requested a hydroseed application on Herrick Brook Road, which he believes would be of benefit for several reasons, one of which is limited accessibility to mulch hay. Mr. Hulett offered the use of a round bale chopper which may suit the project's needs. More information to be collected before a decision is made. Otherwise, the project is progressing nicely and is going well.
 - Mr. Mason discussed with the Board the process of putting a truck out to bid.

D. Assessor Report:

- None.

E. Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:

- The Town Hall has updated their office protocol. Masks and calling ahead to make appointments are still required at this time.
- There are Town Hall Rental Contracts from the Pawlet Library in need of signatures.

F. Town Treasurer's Memo:

- Town Treasurer, Julie Mach, shared a memo with the Board, including: an overview of payroll, accounts payable, monies from the General Fund, Highway, Wastewater.

- Ms. Mach requested authorization to pay the credit card bill, due 6/1/21 – this will be included in warrants for next upcoming meeting, however would like to issue payment early next week.
 - Motion made to authorize the payment of the credit card bill (\$267.77).
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
 - Friendly reminder to Waste Water users that the final installment is due on June 10, 2021. Anything paid after 6/10/21 will be delinquent and subject to penalty and interest. The secure drop box outside of the Town Hall is still available for check and money order payments.
 - Motion made to approve the warrants.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: 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 submitted by Bob Morlino.
 - Covid-19 updates continue to be posted to the Facebook page.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- The Board reviewed a report submitted by Bob Morlino
 - The Board and Mr. Morlino discussed the Health Officer position, which will become available at the end of May 2021. Mr. Morlino to work with an interested candidate and discussion ensued regarding opportunities to share information regarding this role.

- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
 - Nothing new to report at this meeting.
8. Old or unfinished business:
 - Rich Hulett informed the Board and Body that the clean-up process at the Town-owned property in Spruce Gum is ongoing, and several folks have continued to express interest. Discussion continued, focusing on the process and requirements of selling the property via tax sale.
 - Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity, continued:
 - Conversation began with acknowledgement of the robust community feedback offered to the Selectboard on John Malcolm's proposed inclusivity statement throughout the past two weeks. Discussion ensued, allowing for public comment and conversation. Mr. Beecher shared that the statement has been shared with the Town's legal advisor as well as the VT League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) to ensure the language used is universally permissible. Ultimately, it was decided that the statement would be voted on during the next regularly scheduled meeting on June 1, 2021.
 - Ms. Powers shared a list of suggested meeting norms, utilized by the Pawlet Library Board, as well as several other groups. Discussion ensued, which resulted in the decision to publish the already adopted Selectboard Rules and Procedure to the website so that members of the public may easily view the Selectboard's norms.
 - Ms. Van Oort is working with Keith Mason to make and post signage to publicize the Wi-Fi hotspot in West Pawlet.
9. New Business:
 - Ms. Van Oort shared with the Board the information she gained from a training on Covid Relief Funds, which included the amount of/possible uses for Federal funds to be allocated to the Town(s) of Pawlet/West Pawlet. For more information on this visit:
 - <https://www.vlct.org/resource/intro-coronavirus-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>

- <https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/coronavirus/assistance-for-state-local-and-tribal-governments/state-and-local-fiscal-recovery-funds>
- The Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department has requested approval and support to purchase new flags to be hung throughout the villages. Motion made to approve the purchase of new flags for Pawlet village. Ms. Mach to work with Chief Weiss to determine flags needed for Pawlet and West Pawlet villages.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: Pawlet to confirm with West Pawlet what flags they may need prior to purchasing.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort – in favor. Approved.
- Ms. Powers shared a request from Delinquent Tax Collector to determine a Covid-safe meeting space for anticipated tax sales in the Fall. Following discussion, the Board determined that, pending the state of Covid-19 at the time of the tax sale, the auditorium of the Town Hall would be an appropriate space.
- Mr. Beecher acknowledged the state of the town-owned property next to the Waste Water Treatment Facility, which could benefit from improvements. Possible improvements discussed included a space for people to sit, a charging station, etc. The topic of possible grants to pursue improvements was discussed.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson proposed topics for the next upcoming meeting including: digital policy and public record keeping as well as streamlining the Town's Zoom account.
- Maureen Brown posed several questions regarding communication ethics and procedures amongst Town officials and members of the public, with hopes that the Board may be able to clarify their policies.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:09pm

- Mover: Rich Hulett
- Second: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None.

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