

**Draft** Minutes  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
June 1, 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  
Chuck Weeden  
Jennifer Sullivan  
Maureen Brown  
Harley Cudney  
Colin Stabile  
Dan Brooks  
Julie Mach  
Ruth Lampi  
Rhonda Schlangen  
Harry Van Meter  
Mark Frost  
Nancy Morlino  
Tom Collard  
Frank Nelson

**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:
    - Executive Session to discuss employee labor relations agreements.

- b. Deletions: None.
- 5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the minutes of May 18, 2021, as printed.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: 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:
  - There will be a Covid-19 vaccination clinic on Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup> from 4pm-7pm at the Pawlet Fire Department (155 VT Rte. 133). The VT Department of Health will be administering the single-dose Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Adults, age 18 years and older, may be vaccinated at this clinic.
- 8. Reports:
  - A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
    - No report at this meeting.
  - B. Planning Commission's (PPC) Report:
    - PPC Chairwoman, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report with the Board:
      - The Commissioners continue to discuss and work on edits to the Enhanced Energy Plan. The Town has begun surpassing energy goals set to be met by 2022, including the number of heat pumps being utilized in Town.
      - The Commissioners have returned to the larger review of the Zoning Bylaws, especially as regards to various conditional uses.
    - Ms. Van Oort shared that due to a miscommunication, proper warning was not printed for the public hearing pertaining to the adoption of the Zoning Bylaws. This error has resulted in the need to re-warn and host the public hearing to discuss this.
      - Motion made to warn and hold a public hearing for the adoption of the Pawlet Zoning Bylaws on July 13, 2021 at 7:00pm, in conjunction with a regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Rich Hulett, John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
- Road Foreman, Keith Mason, shared a report with the Board:
    - Work on Herrick Brook Road is ongoing and is going well.
    - Mr. Hulett shared information regarding an online auction for the sale of the town Truck.
    - Mr. Mason and Ms. Van Oort to continue to work together on the Wi-Fi signage in West Pawlet.
- D. Assessor Report:
- None.
- E. Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
- Masks and appointments continue as a requirement for the Town Offices.
  - The Library has requested to utilize the Town Hall Auditorium for a series of events throughout the summer and fall.
    - Motion made to approve the Library's requested use of the Town Hall Auditorium for several music events, some of which include the serving of alcohol provided by the Barn Restaurant.
      - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
      - Discussion: None
      - Result: Rich Hulett, John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
  - Legislature has passed that 100% of General Election ballots will be mailed to registered voters. This does not apply to Primary Elections. Many other Covid-19 provisions made for the 2020 elections have carried over and been approved for upcoming elections.
- 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 and the Board discussed some trends on the Wastewater account.
    - Motion made to authorize Ms. Mach to proceed with a money transfer from savings to checking to cover wastewater expenses for this pay period.
      - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
      - Discussion: Ms. Van Oort referenced the federal funds coming to the Town, which may be utilized for budgetary shortfalls due to Covid-19. 50% of the allocated funds are expected to be received in June 2021.
      - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, 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. It is preferred that an appointment be made to drop off cash payments.
  - Ms. Mach shared a working spreadsheet compiled to determine expenses incurred for the Town-owned property in West Pawlet. This is an ongoing effort and a more concrete number will be discussed at a later date.
  - Motion made to approve the warrants.
    - Mover: Rich Hulett
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
    - 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.

- A Covid-19 vaccination clinic in Pawlet has been organized by Jackie Becker. [Please review additional information in 'Announcements' section of the minutes].
  - Mr. Morlino participated in two Covid-19 conference calls this month with VT Emergency Management and other emergency entities.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- The Board reviewed a report submitted by Bob Morlino
    - Prepared two animal bite reports.
    - Confirmed a bank-owned property had a sealed waste line.
    - Correspondence with VT Dept. of Environmental Conservation and VT. Dept. of Natural Resources regarding potential illicit discharge from a residential storm drain.
    - This concludes Mr. Morlino's final report as Pawlet's Health Officer. It has been an honor to have Mr. Morlino serve the community for the last 9 years, and the Board thanks him for his service and dedication to the Town.
      - Motion made to recommend and nominate Jennifer Sullivan to the VT Department of Health to assume the role of Pawlet's Health Officer.
        - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
        - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
        - Discussion: None
        - Result: John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- Jill Marsano of Vermont Utility Management Services (VTUMS) submitted the 2020 Annual Phosphorus Report.
  - The Agency of Natural Resources sent a reminder that the Town's wastewater facility operational permit is due on 6/30/21 and is a total of \$200.00.
  - Mr. Hulett shared an update from Jill Marsano regarding possible sludge storage options. Overall, Jill is happy with how the plant is operating currently and all levels are passing.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Diversity, Equity and Inclusivity, continued:
  - Ms. Van Oort shared a recap of efforts made since the last regularly scheduled meeting, which included contacting the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) as well as our Town's attorney, Merrill Bent, regarding the proposed inclusivity statement. The only proposed edit, from an insurance standpoint, would be to remove the word, "safe".
  - Motion made to adopt the statement, "The Town of Pawlet is proud of our long history of diversity and inclusion. We affirm our commitment to welcome people of all backgrounds, status, and identity to live, to work, and to visit our Town. We stand for kindness, understanding, neighborliness, peace, tolerance, and respect for and toward all. We stand against racism, bigotry, discrimination, prejudice, violence and hatred in all of their forms. Together we share a commitment and a responsibility for everyone in our Town to be honored and valued."
    - Mover: John Malcolm
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
  - Conversation ensued regarding the sharing/publishing of our statement on the Town website. Ms. Powers to work with Web Coordinator, Sean Ruck, to publish the statement to the webpage.
- Mr. Hulett addressed a video submitted to the Selectboard regarding stormwater drainage issues. Mr. Hulett and Mr. Mason are working together to discuss possible solutions.
- Ms. Powers shared an update from Garrett Baxter from the VLCT regarding ethically sharing and communicating information in accordance with public records and open meeting laws. Conversation ensued regarding etiquette and policy re: social media, personally identifiable information, ethics, etc.

9. New Business:

- None.
10. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss employee labor relations agreements at 8:30pm.
    - Mover: Bob Jones
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
  11. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 8:51pm.
    - Mover: Bob Jones
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion:
    - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
  13. Public Comment:
    - Mr. Nelson inquired about the multiple zoom accounts utilized by the Town. Discussion ensued regarding the pros and cons of maintaining multiple accounts, as well as other possible record-keeping ideas.
  14. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:01pm.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - Second: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett - in favor. Approved (Unanimous)