

**Final Minutes**  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
July 13, 2021  
7:00 pm  
Pawlet Town Hall  
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
John Malcolm  
Bob Jones  
Rich Hulett  
Jessica Van Oort

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers  
Monica Kravitt  
Frank Nelson  
Harley Cudney  
Martin Kravitt  
Keith Mason  
Marlee Mason  
Julie Mach  
PEG-TV

**EVENT**

1. Call to order at 7:01 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:
    - Town Hall Roof Repair – Old/Unfinished Business
    - Email from VT Challenge Group – New Business
    - ARPA Funds – Old/Unfinished Business
    - 2022 Municipal Planning Grants – New Business
  - b. Deletions: None.
5. Public Hearing to Amend the Town Zoning Regulations (Unified Bylaws). – Mr. Beecher explained the nature of the repeat hearing,

and offered opportunity for questions and comments by the Board and public body, with no questions or comments posed.

- Motion made to approve the Town Bylaw Changes
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved.
6. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of June 29, 2021, as printed.
    - Mover: John Malcolm
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.
7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
- None.
8. Announcements:
- None.
9. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
    - Interim Zoning Administrator, Jonas Rosenthal, shared a report with the Board:
      - Two new permits for the month of June, bringing the total for ten permits in June and one in July.
    - Mr. Kravitt asked several questions about details of the amended Zoning Bylaws.
  - B. Planning Commission's (PPC) Report:
    - No report at this meeting.
  - C. Road Foreman's Report:
    - Town Road Foreman, Keith Mason, shared an update from the Highway Department:
      - Work on Herrick Brook Road is ongoing.
      - Anticipating paving bids and winter sand prices are at the next upcoming Selectboard meeting.
      - General conversation took place regarding Town roads and upcoming projects, including water runoff concerns in West Pawlet.
  - D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.
  - Grievance hearings were held on July 12<sup>th</sup> and went smoothly.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
- IT upgrades are underway in the Clerk's office, including new backup batteries and computer for the Town Clerk.
  - The Town Clerk's office was able to utilize the full CTCL Grant (\$5,000.00) for Covid/Election expenses.
- 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 shared the estimated tax rate of .2652, highway .3086, and the local agreement to go down slightly.
  - Motion made to approve the warrants.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.
  - Discussion continued regarding the Town Hall's contracted elevator repair outfit.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
- Mr. Morlino shared there was a successful Covid vaccine clinic at the Pawlet Volunteer Fire Dept.
  - Covid updates are no longer listed on the Town Facebook page following the lift of the state-wide Covid-related restrictions.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- A rental housing code inspection was completed at a multi-family dwelling on Rte. 149.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- Ms. Marsano from Vermont Utility Management Services (VTUMS), provided a report from the Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF).
    - The front tanks are being placed back into service following a determination of weak rear tank walls.

- Jennie Auster, of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates, will be submitting a proposed scope and fee in the next few weeks.
- Several upgrades to Spruce Gum pump will be taking place prior to the arrival of cold weather.
- There will be a jetting of collection system to get rid of solids building up to prevent future unwelcome clogs.

10. Old or unfinished business:

- The Board continued to discuss the ordinances pertaining to Town Wastewater following a request from a West Pawlet resident seeking to have a waste water tax removed/forgiven. This topic will continue to be discussed at the next upcoming meeting on July 27, 2021.
- Jessica Van Oort shared the proposal submitted by Rudd Builderz, Llc. for the repair of the Town Hall roof.
  - Motion made to pursue working with Rudd Builderz, Llc. for initial repairs on the slate roof, with follow-up conversations prior to any additional repairs.
    - Mover: Bob Jones
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
- Ms. Van Oort shared she's officially requested the ARPA funds on behalf of the Town, and we should be receiving the funds within the next few weeks.
  - Conversation continued regarding responsible and thoughtful uses of the ARPA funds.
  - The Board hopes to provide information to the community regarding the appropriate use of said funds, and receive feedback on desired uses.
- Efforts for moving towards a hybrid model for meetings are ongoing. Incorporating Zoom attendance to in-person meetings will require technological investments and planning, and the Board continues to consider options.
- Ms. Van Oort, following communications with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, suggests that the Town pursue the 2022 Municipal Planning Grant. Prior to this, the RRPC recommends the Town take necessary steps to

participate in a brown field study, which is a necessary step in the success of this process.

- Motion made to request Rutland Regional Planning Commission to complete a Brownfield study at the town owned property next to the sewer plant.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved.

11. New Business:

- The Vermont Challenge, a bike group beginning and ending a ride in Pawlet in August, requested support of the Town and Board for suggestions/recommendations of space for parking and facilities. The Board, following discussions, determined that there were not any Town-run buildings suitable for such a large group, however suggested the VT Challenge group contact the church and or Pawlet Fire Dept. regarding their spaces.
- The Board and body spoke to two letters received – one from Solar Fest and another from MHG Solar regarding an impending solar array in the Buttons Falls area.

12. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson spoke to several upcoming initiatives being discussed amongst the Planning Commission, and encouraged community attendance at the planning commission meetings.

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:54pm.

- Mover: John Malcolm
- Second: Bob Jones
- Discussion: None.

Result: Approved.