

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
July 27, 2021
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
John Malcolm
Rich Hulett
Jessica Van Oort

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG-TV
Harley Cudney
Julie Mach
Marlee Mason
Keith Mason
Bruce Sirjane
Tom Fuller
Frank Nelson

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 Auditorium Request from Mr. Morlino – New Business
 - Executive Session to discuss Employee Labor Relations/Agreements.
 - Town Truck Sale – Old/Unfinished Business
 - Paving Bids – Road Foreman’s Report
 - b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

- Motion made to approve the minutes of July 13, 2021, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- 7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
 - Bruce Sirjane – Waste Water Request (continued discussion from previous meetings).
 - Mr. Beecher shared with Mr. Sirjane the Board’s findings regarding the Town’s wastewater ordinances, which do not currently allow for the waiving of the WW user fee on the building in question. Mr. Sirjane was provided with several options moving forward with no official decisions made.
- 8. Announcements:
 - None.
- 9. Reports:
 - A. Zoning Administrator’s Report:
 - Interim Zoning Administrator, Jonas Rosenthal, shared the current permit log with the Board.
 - B. Planning Commission’s (PPC) Report:
 - PPC Chairwoman, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report with the Board:
 - Discussions regarding the Town’s Enhanced Energy Plan are ongoing, with the hopes of the plan being complete by the end of 2021. Current efforts are focused on adopting specific language that will give the Town Substantial Deference with the Public Utility Commission moving forward.
 - Focus remains on continuing to work on conditional uses in the bylaws.
 - The PPC looked at communications from MHG solar regarding a proposed solar installation on Buttons Falls Road, and determined this would be an excellent location being an old slate quarry screened from public view.
 - Conversations are also taking place regarding Pawlet’s energy grid through Green Mountain Power (GMP).

- The Planning Commission encourages community members to attend the September meeting for an opportunity to speak with a member of GMP.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Town Road Foreman, Keith Mason, shared an update from the Highway Department:
 - Sealed paving bids arrived, and Jessica Van Oort and John Malcolm, Road Liaisons, opened and shared the three bids received. Bids included the necessary distance for the grant project, as well as possibility for additional shimming:
 - Tom Fuller: \$66.00/ton for Danby/Pawlet Rd. and \$69.00/ton for Buttons Falls Rd. @ 2181 tons.
 - Wilk Paving: \$69.95/ton @ 2137 tons.
 - Pike Industries, Inc.: \$79.20/ton @ 2674 tons.
 - Motion made to accept Tom Fuller's paving bid.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
 - Conversation ensued regarding winter sand and salt. No decision made – topic to be continued next meeting.
 - The materials have been ordered for the New Street project.
 - The Town truck and plow has sold at auction for \$12,700.00. The Town will have to pay a \$30.00-\$40.00 fee for the auction platform.
 - Motion made to accept the final auction bid price of \$12,700.00 (minus the auction platform fee) to sell the Town truck and plow.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
 - Mr. Hulett continues to work on obtaining prices for tractors and boom-side mowers for road-side mowing.
 - Mr. Malcolm shared an update from Eric Hall and Devon Neary of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) regarding the ongoing progress and process of

the Pawlet center scoping study. Efforts are ongoing and continue to be prioritized amongst the Town as well as on the RRPC level.

D. Assessor Report:

- The Board reviewed a report submitted by the Assessor's Office:
 - Results of Grievance Hearings were mailed via certified mail on Monday, July 19, 2021.
 - Taxpayers who grieved during the formal grievance and were not satisfied with the results of grievance have 14 days from date of notice to notify the Clerk in writing that they wish to appeal to the Board of Civil Authority.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- No report at this meeting.

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.
- Motion made to approve the warrants.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- Ms. Mach discussed the Tax Rates with the Board
 - General fund tax rate: \$.2653
 - Highway tax rate: \$.3087
 - Local Agreement tax rate: \$.0054
 - *Set by the State* - Residential Education Rate (small reduction this year): 1.3347
 - *Set by the State* - Non-Residential Education rate: 1.5231
 - Overall tax rate (municipal + education):

- Homestead: \$1.9141
- Non-Homestead: \$2.1025
- Late homestead filing penalty 3%
 - Motion made to adopt the general fund, highway and local agreement tax rates as well as the late homestead filing penalty of 3%.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Ms. Mach discussed the Waste Water user fees with the Board. The Town was significantly over budget last year, and robust conversation ensued regarding options. The Board determined that they would like to utilize all available funds to help to keep rates low for users, however it was determined that ample steps need to be taken to work towards greater efficiency at the WWTF moving forward.
 - Motion made to establish the Wastewater User Fee Rate at \$925.08/hookup.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
- The Town received the first round of Homestead State Payment as well as the quarterly HW State Aid payment and the quarterly for the highway supplement payment.
- According to Consolidated Communications, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has adopted, “988”, as the new 3-digit number to be used nationwide to reach the National Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Crisis Lifeline starting

July 16, 2022. Until then, number will remain 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

- Everyone in VT must begin using the 802 area code for ALL local codes effective now.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- No report at this meeting.
- The Emergency Mgt. Director submitted a request to utilize the Town Hall Auditorium on August 25, 2021 for a dental wellness event provided by the Rutland County Free Clinic from 4:00pm-7:00pm.
 - The Board unanimously supported this request.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- No report at this meeting.

10. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort briefly discussed a document she put together regarding the approved and not approved uses of the ARPA funds. To be continued at the next meeting.
- The Board continued to discuss a hybridized meeting model, with ongoing efforts and this topic continues to be discussed. Further research to be done regarding necessary equipment needed for a specific hybridized setup with hopes of confirming at the next meeting.

11. New Business:

- None.

12. Public Comment:

- None.

13. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss employee labor relations agreements at 9:04pm

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.

14. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 9:24pm.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: John Malcolm

- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved.

14. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:25pm

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