

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
August 10, 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
PEG-TV
Russ Layle
Matthew Corey
Emily Johnson
Mike Wesko
Ed Evans
Deb Evans
Michael Robinson
Frank Nelson
Bruce Sirjane
Darren Godette
Dan Lincoln
Chet McClellan

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. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.
 - a. Additions:
 - Matthew Corey & Emily Johnson – Pre-Requested Appearances.
 - Mike Wesko – Pre-Requested Appearances.

- Grant Opportunity from VT Outdoor Recreational Communities – New Business.
 - Owl Hybrid Meeting Tool – Old/Unfinished Business.
 - Tractor for Roadside Mowing – Road Foreman’s Report
- b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of July 27, 2021, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
- Matthew Corey & Emily Johnston – Ms. Johnston spoke on behalf of herself, her fiancé and her neighbors, regarding activity at the Roblee Farm Quarry property. Discussion ensued amongst the Board and Body, which determined that more information must be gathered by the Board from Act 250 and all parties involved. This item to be added to the agenda of 8/24/2021.
 - Mike Wesko – Continued discussing the above subject matter, specifically pertaining to Act 250 and permitting.
 - Mr. Ed Evans shared a goal to encourage all parties to operate in compliance.
 - Mr. Hulett and Ms. Van Oort to work together with all parties with a goal to achieve understanding and compliance.
8. Announcements:
- None.
9. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator’s Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
 - B. Planning Commission’s (PPC) Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
 - C. Road Foreman’s Report:
 - No report at this meeting. Mr. Hulett shared some updates from the Highway Department.
 - Mr. Hulett shared winter sand and stone research and findings.

- The roof of the Town Hall has been repaired, yet the front and sides of the building are in need of a good cleaning.
- Several changes implemented last year that affect our elections have been incorporated into election law. The most significant change is that 100% of General Election Ballots will be mailed. Municipalities may determine whether or not they would like to implement this for local elections.
- In preparation for the mid-term election, the Elections Division has charged all towns in the state to perform assigned maintenance on the voter checklists.

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.
- The Town has received another round of Homestead State Payments and the first American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. The ARPA funds are being held in a separate fund, as required by the ARPA program.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Emergency Management Director, Bob Morlino, shared a report with the Board:
 - An EOC review was conducted on July 29 at the Mettawee School. Radio systems were checked, and the Local Emergency Operations Plan reviewed.
 - The culvert across from the Pawlet Firehouse backed up as a result of the heavy rains on July 29, causing some minor flooding of resident's property. Photos were taken and sent to Vtrans District 3 for discussion of potential solutions.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Town Health Officer, Jennifer Sullivan, submitted a report to the Board:
 - One rental property inspection on Rupert Mountain Road.
 - A State bulletin regarding increased tick-borne diseases in VT has been added to Front Porch Forum.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- No report at this meeting.
 - Bruce Sirjane shared that there could be funds available through Vermont State Clean Water Revolving Fund and/or USDA Search Grants to investigate the more efficient functionality of the WWTF. Conversations ensued regarding work done currently and efforts to be made moving forward.
10. Old or unfinished business:
- ARPA Funds – Ms. Van Oort shared a draft questionnaire to potentially be sent to residents to request feedback for the use of our ARPA funds.
 - Owl Tool for Hybrid Meeting – Ms. Powers and Ms. Van Oort shared information gathered from a call regarding the Owl Meeting Pro tool.
 - Motion made to purchase the Owl Meeting Pro.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
 - West Pawlet Property – The Board briefly began to discuss the Town-owned property in West Pawlet, however this topic requires continued discussion.
11. New Business:
- VT Outdoor Recreational Communities Grant – Ms. Van Oort and Mr. Sirjane shared the discovery of this grant, and determined they would work together to present a draft letter of intent for the next regularly scheduled meeting.
12. Public Comment:
- Frank Nelson shared that the Solar Fest group was looking for property to host a concert, and suggested perhaps a quarry property.
13. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:11pm
- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - Second: Rich Hulett

- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.