

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
August 24, 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
Frank Nelson
Charles Mason
Craig Mason
Bruce Sirjane
Deb & Ed Evans
Valerie Davis
John Davis
Matt Corey
Emily Johnson
WP
Mike Wesko
Chet McClellan
Mark Frost
Michael Robinson
Don DiChiara
Harley Cudney

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:09 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: Continued discussion of the VT Outdoor Recreation Grant.
 - b. Deletions: Continued discussion of the ARPA Funds.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of August 10, 2021, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
 - None.
8. Announcements:
 - None.
9. 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 met on 8/23/21, and worked on conditional uses and reworked the conditions for contractors' yards. Upcoming discussions/efforts include: reviewing and reconsidering the permitted and conditional uses in the Village and Commercial zoning district.
 - The Enhanced Energy Plan was also discussed, specifically as it pertains to approved and non-approved locations for solar arrays.
 - During the next meeting, a guest from Green Mountain Power will be in attendance to bring the PPC up to speed on the Town's electrical grid. Public participation is encouraged via Zoom or in person.
 - C. Road Foreman's Report:
 - No report at this meeting. Mr. Hulett shared some updates from the Highway Department.
 - Mr. Hulett met with Alan May from the Better Roads Grant Program regarding the grant-funded Herrick Brook Road project.

- One action item is required for this project.
 - Winter Stone is hauled and piled in Pawlet, upcoming work includes hauling and piling stone in West Pawlet.
 - Mr. Hulett compiled additional information, including a draft purchase agreement, regarding the tractor for roadside mowing.
 - Motion made to purchase the roadside mowing tractor from Capitol Tractor for \$79,033.00
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Brief discussion ensued regarding the placement of the radar speed control signs.
- D. Assessor Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
 - The Board of Civil Authority hearing took place, and two appellants have submitted letters. Inspection committees are set to visit properties and reconvene in September.
- 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: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- No report at this meeting, however Mr. Beecher and Mr. Hulett will be meeting with Jill Marsano of the VTUMS to discuss ways to improve the WWTF.
10. Old or unfinished business:
- West Pawlet Property –
 - Mr. Beecher and Mr. Hulett will be meeting with a gentleman from VT Rural Waters regarding flooding issues in West Pawlet. This step is necessary before proceeding with the sale of the town-owned property.
 - VT Outdoor Recreation Communities Grant –
 - Ms. Van Oort shared how the efforts have progressed to pursue this grant opportunity to turn an Egg Street property into a welcome center for the Rail Trail.
 - A letter of interest has been drafted, and three organizations are interested in signing off as interested parties.
 - Motion made to submit the letter of interest for the VT Outdoor Recreation Communities Grant.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
 - Act 250 Item (follow-up discussion) –
 - Jessica Van Oort and Rich Hulett shared findings and facts about the Act 250 violations in question, originally discussed at the meeting on August 10, 2021.
 - Per the Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) and Act 250, municipalities shall not investigate nor enforce Act 250 issued permits. Those with concerns regarding town-issued permits and prospective municipal zoning violations shall submit written statements to the Zoning Administrator's (ZA) office.
 - Mr. Wesko provided a letter to be delivered to ZA Jonas Rosenthal, and also provided copies of permits and violations pertaining to this situation to the Selectboard.

- Ms. Van Oort shared the regulations from Pawlet's zoning documents from 2001 regarding sand and gravel pits.
- Conversation ensued with several members of the body.
- Mr. Wesko requested the validity of the 2008 conditional use permit, which the Board determined is a question for the VLCT and possibly Town Attorney, Merrill Bent.

11. New Business:

- None.

12. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson shared that the Planning Commission has utilized the Owl Meeting Pro, and the Selectboard will be moving to a hybrid model for the next regularly scheduled meeting on 9/7/2021.

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:21 pm

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