

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
September 7, 2021
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
John Malcolm
Bob Jones
Jessica Van Oort

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG-TV
Frank Nelson
Harley Cudney
Bruce Sirjane
Mike Wesko
Matthew Corey
Don DiChiara
Jennifer Sullivan
Bob & Martha Schoenemann
Nancy Morlino
Sarah Ludlam
Jonas Rosenthal
Julie Mach
Mike Robinson
Eric Hall
Chuck Weeden

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:

- Rutland Regional Planning Commission Pedestrian Accessibility Scoping Study Recommendations – Zoning Administrator’s Report
 - VTrans Grants In Aid Extension Request – Road Foreman’s Report.
 - Permit Inquiry Follow-up Request – Zoning Administrator’s Report.
- b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of August 24, 2021, as printed (with corrected date in header).
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
- None.
8. Announcements:
- The state-wide mandatory shift to ten-digit dialing begins on 10/24/21 . All Vermont telephone numbers will require 802 when dialing.
9. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator’s Report:
- Interim Zoning Administrator, Jonas Rosenthal, shared a report with the Board :
 - Working on two subdivision applications.
 - Mr. Rosenthal received an updated flood zone map from FEMA.
 - Many requests are moving through the ZA office currently, and Mr. Rosenthal is working through them within his allotted hours for the Town of Pawlet.
 - Permit/Violation Inquiry Follow-Up : Efforts to piece together past permits/violations are ongoing. Documents compiled have been submitted to Town Attorney, Merrill Bent, for review, and contact has been made with other involved parties for clarification.

- Discussion is ongoing regarding this topic, to be continued when additional information becomes available.
 - Selection Committee Recommendation Memo from Pedestrian Accessibility Scoping Study by the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) :
 - Eric Hall, of the RRPC, shared results from the Selection Committee regarding Pawlet's Pedestrian Accessibility Scoping Study. Ultimately, Fuss & O'Neill, based out of Manchester, VT, is the recommended outfit to perform the study based on the Selection Committee's scoring system. The scoping study is paid for in part by RRPC funding, accompanied by the Town's match. RRPC has determined that their Transportation Planning Initiative funds may supplement additional costs beyond the predicted budget.
 - Motion made to include Zoning Administrator, Jonas Rosenthal, in the Pawlet Transportation Committee with John Malcolm and Devon Neary.
 - Mover : John Malcolm
 - 2nd : Bob Jones
 - Discussion : None
 - Result : Approved
 - Motion made to contract with Fuss & O'Neill for the Pawlet Transportation Scoping Study.
 - Mover : John Malcolm
 - 2nd : Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion : None
 - Result : Approved.
- B. Planning Commission's (PPC) Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
 - No report at this meeting, however Mr. Jones shared:
 - The Road Crew is utilizing the new roadside mowing tractor.
 - A member of the Road Crew proposed a tractor attachment that would aid in roadside clean-up. Additional quotes are desired for this equipment – no decisions made at this meeting.

- The Board requested an extension for the Grants In Aid project (deadline of 10/31/21). The extension request was not granted.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting, however Mr. Malcolm shared that two inspection committees of the Board of Civil Authority (BCA) completed their inspections. One appellant cancelled their inspection date due to Covid and was provided options to reschedule within the pre-determined inspection timeframe. At this time, no date has been established.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- One overweight permit in need of signature.

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 an item from Sourcewell Registration to qualify for a reduced rate on the tractor mowing head.
 - The Board members present unanimously supported this registration.
- Ms. Mach shared she is amending the tax collection policy and asks for the Board's blessing. The only amendment is in the Forms of Payment. Upon working through the VLCT financial questionnaire, there will likely be other policy amendments. The Treasurer's policies are listed on the Town website as well as at the Town offices.
 - The Board members present unanimously supported Mr. Beecher in signing the amended policies.
- Motion made to approve the warrants.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Pawlet's Emergency Management Director, Bob Morlino, shared a report with the Board from August 2021:
 - Attended a Covid-19 briefing.
 - Attended a Hurricane Henri briefing on 8/21/21 and 8/22/21.
 - Request to approve Bob Morlino and Jay Luebke as the voting members of the Regional Emergency Management Committee (REMC) for the Town of Pawlet.
 - Motion made to name Bob Morlino and Jay Luebke as the voting members of the REMC for the Town of Pawlet.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- Town Health Officer, Jennifer Sullivan, shared a report summarizing activity from August 2021 with the Board:
 - Met with a citizen of West Pawlet regarding excessive items and unregistered vehicles on the property.
 - Follow-up inspection of resident on Rte. 133.
 - Fielded a complaint from a resident regarding a rat sighting.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- No report at this meeting, however Mr. Beecher shared that the facility is operating well, as it has been. Efforts are being made to improve performance of the facility.
10. Old or unfinished business:
- Mr. Wesko inquired about the structure of the Zoning Administrator's position and hours.
 - Jessica Van Oort shared an updated questionnaire regarding the ARPA funds. Following discussion and a few edits, the Board determined the questionnaire is ready for distribution (via email, website and mail).
 - Eric Hall, the RRPC liaison to ARPA funds, shared some insights from his office.
11. New Business:
- The Rutland Regional Planning Commission announced four grant opportunities available now. Ms. Van Oort continued to discuss a

Municipal Planning Grant, which may be of benefit for updates in West Pawlet. Additional conversations required at future meetings.

- Ms. Van Oort, on behalf of the Planning Commission, shared a Bylaw Modernization grant, which would benefit Pawlet's Planning Commission as they work to update Zoning pertaining to housing.
 - The Board supported Ms. Van Oort in pursuing grant opportunities.

12. Public Comment:

- The Schoenemann's inquired about PEG-TV's schedule for uploading meeting recordings.

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:33 pm

- Mover: Bob Jones
- Second: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.