

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
October 19, 2021
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
John Malcolm
Rich Hulett
Jessica Van Oort

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG-TV
Jennifer Sullivan
Rhonda Schlangen
KB Donoghue
Julie Mach
Harley Cudney
Mike Wesko
Mike Robinson
Bob & Martha Schoenemann
Don Dichiara
Frank Nelson
Evan Hulett
Bruce Sirjane
Deb Hawkins
Harry Van Meter
Roland Gibson
Jonas Rosenthal

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:06 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:
 - ARPA Fund Survey Data – Old/Unfinished Business.
 - Grant Updates – Old/Unfinished Business.
 - b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of October 5, 2021, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – In favor. 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:
 - No report at this meeting.
 - C. Road Foreman's Report:
 - No report at this meeting, however Mr. Hulett shared a brief update from the Road Crew.
 - Winter preparatory work is ongoing.
 - Necessary parts have been ordered for stormwater projects in West Pawlet.
 - The Road Crew is satisfied with the new roadside mowing tractor and attachment.
 - D. Assessor Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
 - E. Town Clerk's Memo:
 - Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report from her office:
 - 2 Fleet Permits requiring signature – one is lacking necessary information and cannot be signed as is.
 - There is no current legislation in place with regard to garnering signatures for petitions.

- There is a letter submitted to the Board from Sally Achey regarding the Town's dedication to historical preservation. This will be addressed at a future meeting.
- The company who prints our Town Reports is encouraging municipalities to order Town Reports earlier than usual due to an anticipated paper shortage.
- The Board and Clerk participated in some conversation pertaining to the topic of re-districting and the requirements of the Board of Civil Authority.

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 requested that the Board schedule a Special Meeting to discuss the budget early in November.
 - Motion made to warn a special meeting to discuss the budget on November 9, 2021.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
- Motion made to approve the warrants.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: The Board designated Mr. Hulett as the Board representative to follow up on an invoice in question.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Town Health Officer, Jennifer Sullivan, shared she attended a training.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
 - The Town Road Crew is working to uncover manholes to support projects at the Waste Water Treatment Facility.
- 10. Old or unfinished business:
 - Jessica Van Oort compiled and shared the data following the return of 224 ARPA Fund Surveys (distributed to community members electronically and via USPS mail).
 - Most votes: 165 suggest work on the WWTF.
 - 2nd: Improving stormwater runoff.
 - 3rd & 4th: Otter Creek Communications Union District broadband and digitizing town records.
 - 69 people provided comments, several comments discussed the need of improved cell service in Town (TBD as to whether or not these funds can be used for that). Other comments suggested funds be allocated towards our local rescue squad and fire departments. Several comments/recommendations did not fit the criteria of approved uses for ARPA funds, however did provide helpful insights as to what is on the minds of our residents.
 - Next steps:
 - Invite Eric Hall from RRPC (our ARPA fund liaison) to an upcoming SB meeting to help guide how our municipality may put this feedback into action.
 - Inquire with our Emergency Management Director, Bob Morlino, about what may need support in the Em. Mgt. Services.
 - Connect with Hilary Solomon, of Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District, regarding stormwater runoff.
 - Jessica Van Oort provided the Board and body with updates on grants
 - VOREC Grant – Of a large group of interested applicants, Pawlet has been invited to submit a full grant (due November 29, 2021). The grant agency would like for Pawlet to work alongside Rupert, who also submitted a letter of interest, on one combined grant application. The

consensus of the Board was in support of Jessica working with Rupert to begin the grant writing process.

- Municipal Planning Grant – This grant would be focused on improving the former Dutchie’s store lot, with a highlighted vision on the West Pawlet Town center. This grant is due November 1, 2021, and requires a resolution in order to move forward, as this grant does have a Town match.

- Motion made to adopt the FY22 Municipal Resolution for Municipal Planning Grant, establishing Jessica Van Oort as the Authorizing Official as well as Grant Administrator and John Malcolm as the Alternate Authorizing Official.

- Mover: Rich Hulett
- 2nd: John Malcolm
- Discussion: None
- Result: John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort – in favor. Approved.

- Mr. Wesko inquired as to whether or not there were any updates on his requests for clarification on the process regarding questions on a conditional use permit. Mr. Beecher shared that Town Attorney, Merrill Bent, advised that the next course of action would be for Mr. Wesko to contact the Development Review Board.

- Interim ZA, Jonas Rosenthal, replied and responded and discussion ensued amongst the Board and body.

11. New Business:

- The Board discussed the need to repair the Library steps. Mr. Hulett has contacted several masons, one of whom has replied and will be reviewing the project.
- The Board received a letter of resignation from Tom Collard.
 - Motion made to accept Tom Collard’s resignation from the Planning Commission. Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Rutland Regional TAC and Otter Creek Communication Union District.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: The Board wishes to send a letter of thanks to Mr. Collard.

- Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
- Motion made to appoint Jessica Van Oort as the liaison to the Otter Creek Communication Union District.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Jessica Van Oort – in favor. Approved.
- The Selectboard is seeking an individual to serve on the Planning Commission for the remainder of Mr. Collard's term, ending in 2021. Applications must be submitted by Friday, November 12, 2021 so the Selectboard may review and appoint a new member at their regularly scheduled meeting on November 16, 2021.
 - Ms. Van Oort shared the desire to add an additional alternate member, so long as the total number of members does not go above 9, per state guidelines.

12. Public Comment:

- Mr. Wesko inquired about the process and requirements of establishing the agenda.
- Mr. Dichiaro circled back on several items and questions regarding the structure of various Town positions. Mr. Beecher shared his experiences and explanations for Pawlet's current employment structure.
- Mr. Nelson shared the Planning Commission's support of the importance of digitizing records. Ms. Van Oort reiterated this comment.
- Mr. Beecher commented on the relocation of the radar-controlled speed signs in West Pawlet.

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:56pm

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