

**Final Minutes**  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
November 2, 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  
Bob Jones

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers  
PEG-TV  
Bruce Sirjane  
John Sabotka  
Harley Cudney  
Don DiChiara  
Ashley Waite  
Mike Wesko  
Bob & Martha Schoenemann  
Keith Mason  
Eric Hall  
Frank Nelson  
Michelle Tilander  
Paul Tilander  
Val Davis  
John Davis  
John Noerr  
Scott McChesney  
Fred Stone  
Colin Stabile  
Storm View Angus

## EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:04 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: None.
  - b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the minutes of October 19, 2021, as printed.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.
7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
  - Ashley Waite – Mr. Waite shared a complaint regarding paving on the Danby/Pawlet Road. Ms. Van Oort shared several similar complaints received from residents. Ms. Van Oort and Mr. Hulett to follow up with the road crew to remediate these concerns.
  - Eric Hall, Rutland Regional Planning Commission – Followed up with the Town regarding the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and how to generate project ideas and establish project eligibility criteria. The fund is designed to furnish projects and programs to help the municipality recover from the impacts from the Covid-19 pandemic.
    - Pawlet is ahead of the curve in its proactivity in community outreach via our survey to retrieve feedback for projects and priorities.
    - There is time to determine the way in which the community will allocate and spend these funds. Project determination needs to be established by 12/31/2024, and spent by 12/31/2026.
8. Announcements:
  - None.
9. Reports:
  - A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
    - Jonas Rosenthal shared there has been one new permit approved by the DRB, and there is an application for a new home.

- Mr. Rosenthal went on to share the DRB met on 11/1/2021, and has 45 days to issue a decision. The DRB is waiting on additional evidence prior to making their decision.
  - Mr. Rosenthal also shared an update on the ongoing discussions with Mr. Wesko regarding permit 2008-01. Town Attorney, Merrill Bent, provided guidance and feedback on the matter, highlighting that the Selectboard is not to offer guidance or decisions on zoning items. Rather, communications should be addressed to the Zoning Administrator, who will then issue a decision which may or may not be appealed to the DRB.
- B. Planning Commission's (PPC) Report:
- PPC Chairwoman, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report with the Board following their last meeting.
    - John Sabotka has volunteered to fill the role as Pawlet's regular commissioner for the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) as well as Rutland Regional Transportation Advisory Committee (RRTAC).
      - Motion made to appoint John Sabotka as the Town of Pawlet Regular Commissioner for the RRPC and RRTAC.
        - Mover: Bob Jones
        - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
        - Discussion: None
        - Result: Approved.
    - Work continues on updating the Unified Bylaws, specifically considering the village commercial zoning district as well as the topic of wedding/event venues, not currently listed as permitted or conditional uses.
    - The PPC discussed grant opportunities, current and upcoming, and expressed their support in the VOREC grant, Bylaw Modernization grant (2021 only), and Municipal Planning Grant.
      - The PPC is requesting the Selectboard adopt the FY22 Municipal Resolution for Bylaw Modernization.
      - Motion made to adopt the FY22 Municipal Resolution for Bylaw Modernization.
        - Mover: Bob Jones
        - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett

- Discussion: Mr. Rosenthal shared that match funds could feasibly come from one of the ZA budgets.
  - Result: Approved.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
  - No report at this meeting, however Mr. Hulett shared a brief update from the Road Crew.
    - The Town crew has been working on grading dirt roads.
    - The crew and Mr. Hulett are working on progressing the stormwater project before winter freeze.
- D. Assessor Report:
  - No report at this meeting, however the Board discussed communications with a resident who has contacted the Selectboard regarding the tax grievance process.
    - Motion made to send a letter, drafted by the Assessor's and Treasurer, on behalf of the Selectboard following several correspondences.
      - Mover: John Malcolm
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
      - Discussion: None
      - Result: Approved.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
  - Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report from her office:
    - One overweight vehicle permit requires signing.
    - The Town Clerk's office has received several calls regarding welfare checks. One situation has been handled, and the other is in the hands of the Town Health Officer.
    - Legislation is evolving regarding elections and petitions. This year, signatures will be required on petitions following the expiration of the waiver during the Covid-19 state of emergency.
- 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

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: Approved.
  - At the request of Ms. Mach, Chairman Beecher signed the auditor representation letter.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
- Mr. Morlino shared that a test of the Pawlet Emergency Notification System through the State of Vermont VTAlert system was performed on October 26, 2021. Over 1300 contact were made by landline, cellphone, text or email.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- No report at this meeting, however Mr. Beecher shared there is a large volume of water in the Spruce Gum Pump station, likely due to residents pumping basements. The manhole recovery project is moving along well.
10. Old or unfinished business:
- Building Maintenance Items – Mr. Hulett shared that Mr. Waite will be patching the Library steps before winter, allowing the Town time to determine the best approach to repair or rebuild.
  - Ongoing Zoning Concerns – Mr. Wesko requested confirmation from the Board and Mr. Rosenthal as to what he needed to request specifically from the ZA office.
11. New Business:
- Jessica Van Oort shared an update on the grant program pertaining to the West Pawlet village center.
  - Ms. Van Oort shared that she spoke with Hillary Solomon regarding potentially eligible stormwater ARPA fund projects, and she is able to attend an upcoming Selectboard meeting to provide additional information. Ms. Solomon also offered to submit a letter of interest, on behalf of Pawlet, for a scoping study for stormwater patterns in West Pawlet.
    - Motion made to ask Hillary Solomon to submit a letter of interest for the Lake Champlain Basin Technical Proposal.
      - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett

- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved.
- Ms. Powers shared an opportunity, passed along by Ms. Hawkins, to apply for a grant through Green Up VT for a water purifier and installation fees. The Board supported moving forward with this application.
- Mr. Rosenthal shared with the Board a grant opportunity via Agency of Commerce and Community Development for designated village centers (downtown transportation improvement grant).

12. Public Comment:

- None.

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:29pm

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