

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
November 16, 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
Monica Kravitt
Martin Kravitt
Bob Morlino
Eve Schaub
Harley Cudney
Lyndsi Barnes
Judy Coolidge
Julie Mach
Diane Mach
Mike Wesko
Mike Robinson
Rhonda Schlangen
Jennifer Sullivan
Deb Hawkins
Frank Nelson
Rose Smith
KB Donoghue
Barry Meinerth

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:07 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:
 - Lyndsi Barnes, Pawlet Public Library – Pre-Requested Appearances.
 - b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meetings.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of November 2, 2021, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
 - Motion made to approve the Special Meeting minutes of November 9, 2021 as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: One edit was made to a name in the attendance list.
 - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
 - Bob Morlino, Emergency Management Director – Mr. Morlino requested the Board authorize and sign a 25% Local Match Commitment Letter for an update to the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Motion made to authorize Mr. Beecher to sign on the 25% local match form to update the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None

- Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
 - Monica Kravitt, Pawlett Historical Society – Requested a letter of approval from the Selectboard to place a monument of the 1777 expedition on the Town green. Currently, a monument for this historical event exists at the North Pawlet schoolhouse, however Mrs. Kravitt shared that this location lacks accessibility and visibility. Mrs. Kravitt has collected 100+ signatures in favor of this project, as well as pricing and a timeline. Funding would be obtained through grants and fundraising.
 - Members of the public body including Rose Smith, Eve Schaub, Julie Mach, Martin Kravitt and Barry Meinerth, spoke to this topic.
 - With no decisions made at this meeting, the Board indicated that this topic would be discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting on November 30, 2021, giving them time to review the information presented.
 - Lyndsi Barnes, Director of the Pawlet Public Library – Spoke to the Library budget, submitted by members of the Library Board at last week’s budget discussion meeting, providing additional information supporting the requests.
8. Announcements:
- VTel is offering a free Thanksgiving meal on Friday, 11/26/21 for VTel & VTel wireless users aged 65+.RSVP at: Vermontel.com/thanksgiving.
9. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator’s Report:
- Jonas Rosenthal shared a memo from the ZA’s office :
 - No new permits requested or approved.
 - The DRB heard an appeal on 11/1/21 of permit #2005-06. This was reported last week to the Selectboard.
 - Town Attorney, Merrill Bent, and the DRB are reviewing the testimony and evidence presented.
 - Mr. Wesko has requested a decision from the ZA regarding the validity of permit #2008-01. This and other relevant information, provided by Town Attorney, will be reviewed shortly after the decision on permit #2005-06 is reached.

B. Planning Commission's (PPC) Report:

- No report at this meeting.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- No report at this meeting.
- Ms. Van Oort relayed a complaint received regarding the paving of Danby/Pawlet road. Mr. Hulett shared he is awaiting confirmation from the paving company to address the concerns.
- Mr. Nelson shared a concern regarding road quality near Spruce Gum. Mr. Hulett to look into this.
- Grants in Aid FY22 Standard Grant Agreement Form
 - Motion made to authorize and sign the Grants in Aid Standard Grant Agreement Form.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
- Grants in Aid FY22 Equipment Purchase Program Letter of Intent
 - Motion made to sign and authorize this form
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared there was no official report for tonight's meeting, other than offering opportunity for the Board to ask questions of the Town Clerk regarding the budget requests from the Clerk's office. The Board had no questions for Ms. Hawkins at this time.

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.

- The audit is complete, and copies have been made for the Treasurer's office and the vault.
 - Ms. Mach shared that the heater is being repaired at the Wastewater Treatment Facility, and that there may be a need to review alternative internet options at the WWTF due to frequent outages.
 - Motion made to approve the warrants.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
- Mr. Morlino shared he toured representatives from VT Emergency Management and FEMA to view the 10 culverts the community has installed in recent years.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- Jill Marsano from VTUMS shared a report with the Board indicating that maintenance work in West Pawlet is set to begin 11/16/21. She also shared future projects and requests:
 - VTUMS continues to seek local interest in working part-time (an hour or so per weekend day). Please contact the Selectboard via email: pawletselectboard@gmail.com with interest.
 - Ms. Marsano inquired about the Board's interest in continuing to pursue the RFQ from Jennie Auster of Hoyle, Tanner & Associates for the sludge storage feasibility project.
 - Mr. Beecher to follow up on this.
 - Mr. Beecher shared that there has been a dramatic increase of flow into the Spruce Gum pump station.
10. Old or unfinished business:

- Ms. Van Oort reminded the Board of the need to advertise the vacancy in the Pawlet Planning Commission. Ms. Powers to work with Town Clerk and Web Coordinator to advertise this role.

11. New Business:

- John Malcolm shared that the Pedestrian Scoping Study project manager would like to schedule a Local Concerns meeting for the Pedestrian Scoping Study, spanning from Sheldon's Store, to the Barn Restaurant, down to the Library and up to the Church.
 - Motion made to warn a special meeting on December 7, 2021 at 7:00pm for Ped Scoping Study.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
- Motion made to accept the resignation of James Glick from the Pawlet Development Review Board as of December 21, 2021.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: The Board thanks Mr. Glick for his contributions to the Town. The Town to advertise for both the PPC vacancy and DRB vacancy.
 - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.

12. Public Comment:

- Mr. Nelson suggested that the Selectboard form a sub-committee to further discuss the addition of a monument on the Town green.
- Mr. Cudney requested clarification on the meeting pertaining to the Pedestrian Scoping study.
- Ms. Coolidge reiterated a letter she submitted, as a neighbor of the Town green as well as a member of the Pawlett Historical Society, sharing opposition of an additional monument. Additionally, Ms.

Coolidge shared that a small group of holiday decorators will be soon adding holiday festivity and cheer to the Town green by way of lights. Members of the community are welcome to partake in the decorations with Ms. Coolidge and fellow decorators.

- Discussion ensued amongst the public body on this topic.

13. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss employee labor relations agreements at 8:37pm.

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

14. Motion made to exit executive session with no decisions made at 9:36pm

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

15. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:43pm

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- Second: John Malcolm
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.