

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
November 30, 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
Keith Mason
Rhonda Schlangen
Harley Cudney
Abbie Mahurin
Andy Mahurin
Judy Coolidge
Martha Schoenemann
Rose Smith
Monica Kravitt
Martin Kravitt
Mike Wesko
Jennifer Sullivan
Mike Robinson
Hillary Solomon
Bob Schoenemann
Scott McChesney

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:05 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:
 - Hillary Solomon, Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District (PMNRCD) – Stormwater projects & ARPA Funds.
 - b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meetings.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of November 16, 2021, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors:
 - Hillary Solomon, Poultney Mettowee Natural Resources Conservation District:
 - Shared that Pawlet will be receiving clean water funds coming every year for the foreseeable future. These funds will be eligible for a myriad of wetland related projects.
 - Continued to discuss ideas for future projects for the Flower Brook Watershed that may benefit Pawlet and areas that have potential for being impacted by local damage.
 - A council will be built to help focus on clean water initiatives. The council will discuss agricultural, forestry, stormwater and other in-kind projects to help restore the watershed.
 - Ms. Solomon provided a list of projects that may be eligible under the ARPA fund umbrella.
8. Announcements:
 - Ms. Powers reminded the Board and Body that the virtual meeting attendance option via Zoom is still available. The Zoom link is sent with each meeting agenda, but please reach out to Ms. Powers (pawletselectboard@gmail.com) for virtual meeting attendance support.
9. Reports:
 - A. Zoning Administrator's Report:

- Jonas Rosenthal shared a memo from the ZA's office :
 - A response was drafted to Mr. Wesko's question regarding permit #2008-01, and was sent to Merrill Bent for review.
- B. Planning Commission's (PPC) Report:
 - Chairwoman, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report from the PPC:
 - The PPC continues to discuss the Enhanced Energy Plan. Using the advice of Annette Smith, maps will be created indicating where solar energy must and must not be sited in town. Discussions will continue in January.
 - The PPC discussed conditions for conditional uses, with the hopes of giving the DRB better and clearer guidance when making decisions.
 - Pawlet is now officially a 10-acre town for purposes of Act 250.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
 - No report at this meeting, however Mr. Hulett shared an update from the Town Road crew regarding ongoing and upcoming projects.
- D. Assessor Report:
 - On behalf of the Assessor's Office, Karen Folger shared:
 - The office is 100% certified with Current Use parcels.
 - Full PDF files of the PRCs (aka "Lister Cards") are now available and linked to the GIS website. Additional information on this may be found on the Assessor's page of the Town website.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
 - Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - Ms. Hawkins seeks the Board's support in continuing with the mask mandate in Municipal Buildings.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- 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 inquiry about an invoice from Ferguson, which the Board confirmed was all for a stormwater project. The Board would like to utilize ARPA funding for this project, however seeks confirmation from the RRPC to confirm this is a suitable use of spending.
 - Motion made to approve Payroll warrant #22031
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #22032
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
 - Motion made to approve General Fund FY 2022-2023 Budget \$469,155,83.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: Approved
 - Result: None
 - Motion made to approve Highway FY 2022-2023 Budget \$616,122.00.
 - 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:

- Jennifer Sullivan shared she replied to two calls of concern and, upon follow-up, no necessary action to be taken.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- Mr. Beecher shared an update from the WWTF, specifically in regards to the sudden increase of water into the Spruce Gum pump station. Upon further investigation, this project has been remediated and preventative measures have been implemented.
- The Board spoke to the sludge storage feasibility project, and the pros and cons of said project upon gaining further knowledge on the capabilities of existing infrastructure. No decisions made at this time.

10. Old or unfinished business:

- Request from Mrs. Kravitt for support for a monument on the Pawlet Town Green:
 - Monica Kravitt shared an update and anecdotes with the Board following the gathering of signatures on a petition favoring the addition of a monument on the green. Ultimately, Mrs. Kravitt seeks the support of the Selectboard.
 - Discussion ensued amongst the Board and Body, with questions asked and answered regarding the logistics and specifics of funding, as well as what the obligation would be to the municipality. Ultimately, no decisions made at this time, and this topic will continue to be discussed during the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting on 12/14/2021.

11. New Business:

- Mr. Malcolm reminded the Board and public body of the special meeting scheduled for 12/7/2021 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall and on Zoom to discuss local concerns of the pedestrian scoping study.
- The board acknowledged and came to a consensus in support of the Library's story walk holiday event.

- Ms. Van Oort shared that the Town Clerk's office wished to remind the Board of elevator repairs.
- Ms. Powers shared a local concern regarding quarry activity on Warren Switch Road. The Board confirmed these concerns fall within the purview of state agencies.
- Mr. Jones shared with the Board that he has been working, with state guidance, to remediate the ongoing issue of animals running at large in West Pawlet.

12. Public Comment:

- Mr. Nelson shared an anecdotal story of quarry concerns in other communities.

13 . Motion made to Adjourn at 8:56pm

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