

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
January 11, 2022
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
John Malcolm
Jessica Van Oort
Bob Jones
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG-TV
Harley Cudney
Deb Hawkins
Rhonda Schlangen
Martin Kravitt
Monica Kravitt
Frank Nelson
Julie Mach

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:
 - Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program – New Business
 - Certificate of Highway Mileage – Road Foreman’s Report
 - Bylaw Modernization Grant – Old/Unfinished Business
 - b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

- Motion made to approve the minutes of December 28, 2021 as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- Motion made to approve the special meeting minutes of December 7, 2021 as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
- 7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors: None.
- 8. Announcements: None.
- 9. Reports:
 - A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
 - Interim ZA Rosenthal shared his annual report digitally with the Board.
 - Mr. Rosenthal also shared the warning for the upcoming DRB hearing on January 20, 2022.
 - B. Planning Commission's (PPC) Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
 - C. Road Foreman's Report:
 - No report at this meeting, however the board was requested to sign and submit the updated Certificate of Highway Mileage.
 - Brief discussion regarding winter road care and projects, including the beginning of roadside brush cutting in West Pawlet.
 - D. Assessor Report:
 - The Board reviewed a report digitally submitted by the Assessor's Office:
 - The results from the 2021 Equalization Study have been received, which provide the Common Level

Appraisal and the Coefficient of Dispersion for the year. Details on the results are available via the Assessor's Office.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - Ms. Hawkins provided information with the Board regarding a fully virtual informational Town Meeting, pending the Governor's signature on the legislation. Presently, Pawlet's informational Town Meeting is scheduled for February 28, 2022.
 - Motion made to approve, pending the Governor's signature, a fully virtual informational meeting for Town Meeting on February 28, 2022.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Article petitions are due Thursday, January 13, 2022. Ms. Hawkins provided a draft warning for a virtual annual meeting information meeting, and requested the Board members review some details prior to approving the final warning at the next Selectboard meeting on 1/25/2022.

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 elaborated upon and spoke to the equalization study, presented within the Assessor's Report.
- Motion made to approve Payroll warrant #22041 for \$8,431.76 and the Accounts Payable Warrant #22042 for \$38,231.93.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.

- Ms. Van Oort confirmed that recent wastewater projects completed would qualify for ARPA fund spending.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- Jennifer Sullivan shared she has investigated a report of poor living conditions, and determined the residence in question is in Danby. The individual who reported the situation has been referred to a contact in Danby.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- Mr. Beecher shared a report from the WWTF, involving the opportunity to meet with an engineer with expertise in sludge storage possibilities, which may be a qualifying project for ARPA funding or other federal funding opportunities. The Board discussed the possibility of establishing a special meeting to connect with aforementioned engineer, which will be warned accordingly.
10. Old or unfinished business:
- Bylaw Modernization Grant – Ms. Van Oort shared that Pawlet was awarded a Bylaw Modernization Grant, which helps to support efforts to create options, using State guidance, for zoning bylaws. The support through this program will help to excel necessary and important work by the PPC. This grant program has a match, which may be forgiven pending the timeframe of bylaw modernization completion.
 - Motion made to accept the Bylaw Modernization Grant.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
 - Ms. Van Oort shared an update regarding the recently accepted Municipal Planning Grant, and the need for a steering committee to assemble to help propel the efforts associated with this grant.
11. New Business:
- The Board unanimously supported the submission of the Selectboard's Annual Report to the Town Clerk.

- Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program – The Board discussed this program, and the benefit to the Wastewater users as well as the benefit to the Town.
 - Motion made to join and accept the Low Income Housing Water Assistance Program, Terms & Conditions and the Utility Provider Certificate.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- Mr. Beecher and Mr. Hulett shared that the necessary information is being gathered to prepare a Town-owned property to be put up for sale.

12. Public Comment:

- Martin Kravitt shared a tree had partially collapsed on the Pawlet/Rupert Mtn Road. The power company has addressed the bulk of the tree, however what remains appears ominous and may benefit from attention from the Road Crew.
- Harley Cudney and Rhonda Schlangen both expressed appreciation to the Road crew for work done on Buttons Falls Road and New Street.
- Frank Nelson shared a document with the Board, and spoke further to the points made in his article.
- The Board received an email from the Library Board, requesting attention on building safety concerns at the Library. The building liaisons, Bob Jones and Jessica Van Oort, have been made aware of this issue and will follow-up with the Library. Mr. Kravitt helped to reiterate the concerns, as well as possible solutions.
- The Board discussed the draft warning for Town meeting, including the highlighted items requiring attention.

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:31pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- Second: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.