

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
December 14, 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
Julie Mach
Harley Cudney
Judy Coolidge
Bud Coolidge
Monica Kravitt
Martin Kravitt
Jennifer Sullivan
Rhonda Schlangen
Frank Nelson
Deb Hawkins
Keith Mason
Bob Schoenemann

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:01 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:

- Town Covid Policy – New Business
 - Mark McChesney’s Request – New Business
 - Municipal Planning Grant – Old Business
- b. Deletions: None.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of November 30, 2021, with one edit made to number 9 section F.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
7. Pre-Requested Appearances by local citizens and visitors: None.
8. Announcements: None.
9. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator’s Report:
- Mr. Rosenthal shared copies of a certified letter and DRB findings of fact with the Board.
 - Two permit applications have been received by the ZA’s office, one for a farm structure and one for a replacement sign.
- B. Planning Commission’s (PPC) Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- C. Road Foreman’s Report:
- Mr. Hulett shared that the stormwater project is underway in West Pawlet and is going along well. The crew has run into some ledge which needs to be addressed before continuing. The project should reach completion before the weather turns.
 - Ms. Mach confirmed with the Board that all three members of the Road Crew are authorized purchasers at a local supply store.
 - Ms. Van Oort relayed a message from a concerned citizen in West Pawlet regarding the settling of a portion of Rte. 153. The Board shared that this will continue to be monitored and there are options for how it will be addressed.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting, however Ms. Powers reminded the Board of the message from the Assessor's office pertaining to a possible fee from AxisGIS next fiscal year.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - Still awaiting more information from the Mettowee School regarding Covid policies and Town Meeting.
 - A reminder that those with expiring terms shall begin to collect signatures on petitions should they wish. A petition form can be retrieved from the Town Clerk's office.
 - Requests from social service providers are beginning to come in for appearance on the Town Meeting ballot.

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 Payroll warrant #22035 for \$7,092.33 and the Accounts Payable Warrant #22036 for \$49,136.53.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Some conversation ensued regarding the Town-owned property in West Pawlet, with no decisions made.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Mr. Morlino shared that, at the request of Vermont Emergency Management (VEM) and FEMA, a tour of 10 culverts was accomplished on November 15. Two participants from VEM and two from FEMA's Massachusetts location were taken to visit all 10 culverts.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Ms. Sullivan shared that there was a report of a dog bite. The offending dog is up to date on rabies shots and the owner will contain the dog for 10 days.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- Ms. Powers relayed an update from Ms. Marsano of the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Mr. Beecher spoke to some projects and updates that have evolved since receiving Ms. Marsano's report.
 - Some conversation ensued regarding potential funding opportunities for wastewater and stormwater improvements, outside of the ARPA funding.

10. Old or unfinished business:

- Request from Mrs. Kravitt for support for a monument on the Pawlet Town Green, cont'd.:
 - Mrs. Kravitt summarized additional and updated information, submitted to the Board, regarding the request for a monument on the Pawlet Town Green, including letters of support and information requested by the Board regarding funding.
 - Ms. Van Oort contributed information from the VLCT regarding the opportunity for a monument to be added to the Town's liability insurance policy.
 - The Board and public body offered comments and inquiries.
 - Motion made to draft a letter of support for Mrs. Kravitt to add a monument to the town green.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: None
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Not approved.
- The Board unanimously agreed that the post announcing the vacancies on the Development Review Board and Planning Commission may be sent to the papers, as well as Front Porch Forum, for a broader reach.
- Ms. Van Oort shared that the Town's application to participate in the Municipal Planning Grant has been accepted. The Town now needs to accept or deny the funds.
 - Motion made to accept the Municipal Planning Grant funds.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

11. New Business:

- Town Covid Policy – The Board discussed adopting a Covid policy to be utilized by Town employees.

12. Public Comment:

- Mrs. Kravitt commented on the topic of the proposed monument on the Town green.

13. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss employee labor relation agreements at 8:58pm.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

14. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 9:17pm

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

15. Motion made to adopt a Town of Pawlet Covid Policy, which reads, "Town of Pawlet employees who test positive for Covid-19 or are a close contact of someone who tests positive must report this to their supervisor and follow the guideline on the Vermont Department of Health website. If a town employee must isolate while waiting for a test result, or due to a positive test result, the Town will continue to pay them at their usual rate".

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: The Town will continue to update this policy as necessary.
- Result: Approved

16 . Motion made to Adjourn at 9:21pm.

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