

**Final Minutes**  
**SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET**  
January 25, 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  
Keith Mason  
Frank Nelson

**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:
    - Executive Session – to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body (1 V.S.A. subsection 313).
    - Emergency Legislation re: Open Meeting Law – New Business
  - b. Deletions:
    - Sale of Town-owned property.
5. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

- Motion made to approve the minutes of January 11, 2022 as printed.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
  - 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, Jonas Rosenthal, provided a written report to the Board, which shared the results of the most recent DRB hearing along with two permits approved in January - one permit for a 2 lot subdivision, and one permit to raise the foundation of a barn.
      - In addition to hearing an appeal on 1/20/22, the DRB also heard two conditional use applicants.
  - B. Planning Commission's (PPC) Report:
    - PPC Chairwoman, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report with the Board:
      - The PPC is working on solar siting for the Enhanced Energy Plan. Proper maps and language should give up, "substantial deference", with the Public Utility Commission should the Town end up in a dispute with an energy developer who wishes to build a large-scale solar installation in an inappropriate place in our Town.
      - The PPC discussed a staffing change at the Rutland Regional Planning commission, and what that will look like for several projects currently in progress with said staff member.
  - C. Road Foreman's Report:
    - Nothing to report at this meeting.
  - D. Assessor Report:
    - Nothing to report at this meeting.
  - E. Town Clerk's Memo:
    - Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
      - Deb has requested the Board review and move to approve the Town Meeting Warning.

- Motion made to place \$10,000.00 for Helping Hands on the ballot despite lack of signatures given the difficulties to obtain due to Covid.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: None
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Motion not approved.
- Motion made to place article 32 (in draft Information Town Meeting Warning) on the ballot, with edited language making it non-binding.
  - Mover: Bob Jones
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett, Bob Jones – in favor. John Malcolm – opposed. Approved.
- Motion made to sign the Information Town Meeting Warning.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved.
- A reminder that there is a Board of Abatement meeting on February 1, 2022 via Zoom.
- Motion made to renew the mask mandate for Town buildings, auto-renewing every 30 days until such time that it can be lifted.
  - Mover: Bob Jones
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
  - 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.

- Motion made to approve Payroll warrant #22044 for \$8,851.16 and the Accounts Payable Warrant #22045 for \$35,917.03.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved.

- The Board spoke to an A1 bill in question for new pumps at the WWTF. Mr. Beecher to follow up.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- Mr. Beecher shared that he and Ms. Van Oort would be meeting at the WWTF with an engineer to discuss opportunities to enhance the efficiency of the facility.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body (1 V.S.A. subsection 313) at 8:00pm.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

12. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 8:45pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

10. Old or unfinished business:

- Ms. Van Oort shared she has made initial communications with the Library regarding concerns expressed re: building safety.

11. New Business:

- Motion made to nominate Harley Cudney for the vacant seat on the Planning Commission:
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved
- Motion made to appoint James Glick as an alternate for the DRB.
  - Mover: Bob Jones
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: John Malcolm
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved

12. Public Comment:

- None

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:08pm.

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