

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
March 22, 2022
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
John Malcolm
Bob Jones
Rich Hulett
Jessica Van Oort

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG-TV
Harley Cudney
Julie Mach
Rhonda Schlangen
Judy Coolidge
Frank Nelson
Harry Van Meter
Jennifer Sullivan
Martha & Bob Schoenemann
Taxpayer
Mandy's iPhone

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:00 pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher, with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Introduction of those present, virtually and in person, by chairperson.
3. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.
 - a. Additions:
 - Kim Ayers – Pre-requested Appearances.
 - DRB Item re: Cannabis Control Board – New Business
 - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s).

- Motion made to approve the minutes of March 8, 2022, as printed.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- Motion made to approve the Organizational Meeting minutes of March 2, 2022, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved

5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors

- Rhonda Schlangen & Judy Coolidge – Requested to understand whether the Selectboard may be able to establish parameters to allow the Pawlet town green to be maintained as an open green space.
 - Jessica Van Oort spoke to the fact that the town green is public property falling within the purview of the Selectboard, and the management of this space may be something that is covered in the Town Plan and/or the Unified Bylaws. Both of these documents have the potential to be amended through the years. Conversation ensued with no decisions made at this meeting.
 - Judy Coolidge inquired about the possibility of seeking an alternate maintenance outfit for the Town Green.

6. Announcements:

- The Town-owned property in West Pawlet has been advertised for sale via online auction from 3/23-4/6. The link and auction description have been published in the Rutland Herald and Lakes Region Free Press. Direct link to the auction is:
<https://www.auctionsinternational.com/auction/27962>.

7. Reports

A. Zoning Administrator's Report:

- Jonas Rosenthal provided the Selectboard with a written report, including approved permits from 2022, upcoming permits to be approved, as well as updates on ongoing zoning investigations.
- B. Planning Commission's Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
- Mr. Hulett shared a report from the Town Highway Department:
 - The crew continues to work on tending to roads in need of attention due to mud season conditions.
 - Mr. Hulett and Mr. Beecher will be meeting with a member from the State to assess a deteriorating portion of the roadway in West Pawlet. This meeting will also include potential funding opportunities for necessary improvements.
- D. Assessor Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board.
 - Mr. Jones signed eight overweight permits.
 - Motion made to approve the liquor permit for the Flower Brook Station Restaurant:
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - 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. She also provided a tax collection breakdown.
 - Motion made to approve Payroll warrant #22057 for \$9,637.72 and Accounts Payable Warrant #22058 for \$40,430.72.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None

- Result: Approved.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
- None.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- Town Health Officer, Jennifer Sullivan, shared that Bob Morlino has been deputized to fulfill Town Health Officer duties in the event that Jennifer is unavailable.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:
- None.
8. Old or unfinished business:
- No updates regarding Library improvements, however Mr. Malcolm shared that Meg Campbell from the Preservation Trust made and gave her approval of the Town Hall and Library during her yearly review.
 - Ms. Mach inquired about two necessary building improvements to the Town Hall.
 - Jessica Van Oort shared that the first round of ARPA reporting is due at the end of April. She continued to share recent updates regarding approved methods of spending ARPA funds for qualifying municipalities, of which Pawlet is one.
 - Conversation ensued amongst the Board and public body regarding potential approaches towards budgeting and spending the ARPA funds.
9. New Business:
- The Pawlett Historical Society has requested to utilize the Town Hall Auditorium for a speaker event on May 21, 2022
 - Motion made to approve this event.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - The Board spoke to the topic of establishing a Cannabis Control Board following the DRB deliberation of a cannabis retail establishment in Town.
10. Public Comment:
- Bob Schoenemann shared a suggested improvement project for Hickory Hollow Road.
 - Harry Van Meter inquired about the status of the rear handicap access ramp project at the Library. Ms. Van Oort and Mr. Jones

shared conversations following the recent Building Liaison meeting with members of the Library, which identified that this project is not currently in motion but does need attention.

- Conversation ensued regarding the previous bond vote for this project initiated previously, and whether or not a version of this project may be resurrected again in the future. Harley Cudney to bring this topic to an upcoming Library Board meeting to re-open the conversation.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees as well as confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body (1 V.S.A. § 313) at 8:07pm

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

12. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 8:47pm

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

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:48pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- Second: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.