

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
April 5, 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
Harry Van Meter
Frank Nelson
Kim Ayers
Michael Allen
Rhonda Schlangen
Judy Coolidge
John Sabotka
Harley Cudney
Jennifer Sullivan
Deb Hawkins

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.
 - Municipal Planning Grant Contract – Old/Unfinished Business.
 - RRPC & RRTAC Appointments – Old/Unfinished Business

- b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of March 22, 2022, with one edit to the first bullet of, *Old/Unfinished Business*.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors.
- Kim Ayers, Delinquent Tax Collector, spoke to the Board regarding a situation pertaining to fees and interest accrued due to improper filing of paperwork several years ago. The Board supported Ms. Ayers in pursuing the necessary steps to rectify this. Conversation continued with no further decisions made.
 - Ms. Ayers continued to inform the Board of a property which will soon be prepared to undergo the tax sale process.
6. Announcements: None.
7. Reports
- A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
 - B. Planning Commission's Report:
 - Pawlet Planning Commission (PPC) Chairperson, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report with the Board:
 - Ed Bove from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) continues to work with the PPC on the Bylaw Modernization Grant.
 - Discussions continued regarding the Town's Enhanced Energy Plan, and some changes following the State's new Comprehensive Energy Plan, passed this year.
 - The Board unanimously supported Mr. Beecher in signing the Bylaw Modernization Grant contract.
 - Motion made to certify John Sabotka as Regular Commissioner and Harley Cudney Alternate Commissioner for Rutland Regional Planning Commission's (RRPC) Board of Commissioners and

Rutland Regional Transportation Advisory Council (RRTAC).

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: John Malcolm
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Mr. Mason shared an electronic report from the Town Highway Department:
 - Mr. Mason, Mr. Hulett, and Mr. Beecher met with Patrick Wilson from the State of VT to discuss grant funding opportunities for the quarry site on Rte 153.
 - Work being put forth towards securing material for summer projects.
 - Efforts continue to close out Herrick Brook Road grant.
 - The Board discussed a concern received from a citizen regarding roadside tree/shrub pruning.

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 the five overweight permits and the Board reviewed the pruning concern, reported to the Town Clerk's office, within the Road Foreman's report section.

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 #22060 for \$9,314.17, and Accounts Payable Warrant #22061 for \$34,115.33.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- None.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Town Health Officer (THO), Jennifer Sullivan, shared an electronic report with the Board:
 - THO followed up on an anonymous call regarding the possibility of garbage being burnt at a local property. Followed up with property owners. No further reports.
 - THO followed up on a report of remnants of a freezer belonging to a recently vacant residence making neighboring dog ill. Followed up with property owner, who confirmed problem had been rectified. No further reports.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- Mr. Beecher shared that there was an issue with one of the pumps at the facility, and a repair is in the works. Ms. Van Oort and Mr. Beecher shared that they continue to be in touch with entities to assist in funding for improvement projects.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Town Hall Repairs – Mr. Malcolm shared that he has collected a list of repairs and will continue to put together a list of action items and priorities.
 - Motion made to add a standing item to the agenda titled, *Facilities Report*.
 - Mover: John Malcolm
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - The Board shared that they are awaiting correspondence from a potential outfit to remedy the Library steps, and continue to obtain information from multiple entities to better understand the current strengths and weaknesses of the entrances and exits of the building.
- Local Cannabis Control Commission – Jessica Van Oort shared an overview of the current happenings within the state's Cannabis Control Board.
 - Motion made to establish the Selectboard as Pawlet's Municipal Cannabis Control Board.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett

- Discussion: Ms. Powers to alert the state of this motion.
 - Result: Approved
- Municipal Planning Grant Contract – Jessica Van Oort shared that the Municipal Planning Grant Committee (MPGC) met and voted to advance Michael Allen’s proposal for regrowth regarding the West Pawlet village center master plan to the Selectboard for approval.
 - Motion made to accept Michael Allen’s proposal for regrowth with regard to the West Pawlet Village Center Master Plan.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: John Malcolm
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Following this approval, next steps include: connecting with Ed Bove for additional guidance and an official contract will come to the Selectboard for signatures.
- Judy Coolidge and Rhonda Schlangen inquired as to whether or not the Selectboard had any additional information on the concept of Town Green protection.
 - Jessica Van Oort shared that at this time there is limited language in the Town Plan, however the next round of Town Plan edits will take place in 2024, drafting beginning in 2023, and suggested interest parties participate in those discussions.
- Rich Hulett informed the Board that the Town-owned property is still up for auction, closing on 4/6.

9. New Business:

- John Sabotka spoke to the Board regarding happenings within the RRTAC and inquired about plans for upcoming grant funded projects.
- Jessica Van Oort shared that Pawlet and Rupert, together, have been awarded partial funding from the VOREC grant, which will focus on improvements to Rail Trail parking, signage and facilities in West Pawlet and Rupert.

10. Public Comment:

- Mr. Nelson inquired about a possible fee that may be applicable for a building in West Pawlet, discussed earlier in the meeting.

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:19 pm.

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