

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
May 17, 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
Bradley Meyerson
Jennifer Sullivan
Harry Van Meter
Mason

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:05 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:
 - Update on sale of West Pawlet Property – Old/Unfinished Business
 - Executive Session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body.
 - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s).

- Motion made to approve the Regular Meeting minutes of May 3, 2022, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
 - Motion made to approve the Special Meeting minutes of 4/26/22, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors.
- Mark Fitzgerald, Ira – Not present, therefore no discussion.
6. Announcements:
- Effective May 16, 2022 – Misty Meadows Spring Water has issued a cost increase due to increased prices of labor, freight and fuel. 5-gallon bottles, utilized by the Town, will be increased to \$9.00 per bottle (from current price of \$8.50 per bottle).
 - Jessica Van Oort shared that the grant secured to improve accessibility to the D&H Rail Trail, and Pawlet's involvement in the process, has been featured in Vermont Sport Magazine. Copies are available at the Town Hall.
7. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- B. Planning Commission's Report:
- No report at this meeting.
 - The Planning Commission and Municipal Planning Grant Committee will be simultaneously meeting (via Special

Meeting) on Monday, 5/23/2022 at 6:30pm, at the West Pawlet rail trail parking lot.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- No formal report at this meeting, however Road Foreman, Keith Mason, continues to update the liaisons to the Highway Department of ongoing projects:
 - A local outfit has been contracted to perform necessary roadside tree work.
 - There is an issue with one of the Town trucks – in need of assessment and repair.
 - Work is beginning on Kelly Hill Road, and Rupert has been contacted for assistance.
 - The Better Back Roads grant has been submitted, and the paving grant is in the final steps before submission.
 - Brad Meyerson shared positive feedback regarding the improvements made to Herrick Brook Road.

D. Assessor Report:

- Karen Folger shared an electronic report with the Board:
 - Inspections have been completed for the 2022 Grand List Abstract.
 - The due date for lodging the Grand List Abstract for towns with populations less than 5,000 is June 4th, however Pawlet will be requesting a thirty-day extension. The Assessor's office requests that the Selectboard Chair signs the extension request letter.
 - Tentative date to lodge the Grand List Abstract is June 13th, with tentative grievance scheduling on July 11th.
 - Motion made to authorize Mike Beecher, Selectboard Chair, to sign the extension request letter.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Jessica Van Oort, John Malcolm, Rich Hulett, Bob Jones – in favor.
- Approved.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a report to the Board:
 - The Town has received 27 Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits to date.
 - A reminder that the front door of the Town Hall should be attended to (re: weatherproofing) before cold weather sets in.
 - Also, with regards to building maintenance, some boards on the porch of the Town Hall are starting to deteriorate.
 - The Town Clerk, Assessors and Zoning Administrator's offices have discussed procuring a large scanner/copier that could handle survey maps, utilizing ARPA funds.
 - Discussion ensued, resulting in the Board requesting pricing and size information from the interested offices on this purchase.

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.
- With approval of the Board, Julie Mach would like to provide information to a resident re: the VT Homeowners Assistance Program. The Board unanimously supported Julie in providing the necessary information.
- A tax sale, scheduled for 5/18, is currently on hold due to the potential receipt of payment on the property.
- Motion made to approve Payroll warrant #22067 for \$9,104.44, and Accounts Payable Warrant #22068 for \$17,800.79.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Bob Morlino shared reports from March and April:
 - In March, Mr. Morlino attended a Homeland Security Grant Program meeting. This group evaluates and decides which grants get funded.
 - In April, Mr. Morlino prepared and submitted a PACIF grant for the Town of Pawlet Highway Department and the Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- Jill Marsano of VTUMS shared a report including personnel updates, upcoming projects and future priorities.

J. Facilities Report:

- John Malcolm shared a report of a roof leak in the northern part of the Library. This will require follow-up.
- Bob Jones shared that two skilled contractors have been contacted regarding the Library front step improvement project. Site visits will take place to determine possible options for improvement.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Rich Hulett provided the Board with procedural updates regarding the sale and closing of the West Pawlet property.
 - Motion made to appoint Rich Hulett to be the designated signature for the sale of the West Pawlet property closing.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
 - Motion made to accept the legal notice of the sale of the land at 3554 Route 153 in West Pawlet.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
- Jessica Van Oort brought the Board up to speed on the current focus of the Pawlet Pedestrian Access Scoping Study. There

will be a meeting of the focus group tomorrow, May 18, 2022, to continue discussions.

9. New Business:

- None.

10. Public Comment:

- Brad Meyerson inquired about Town-permitted ATV routes.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.

12. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: John Malcolm, Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:46pm.

- Mover: John Malcolm
- Second: Jessica Van Oort.
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.