

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
May 31, 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
Mark Fitzgerald
Harley Cudney
Frank Nelson
Julie Mach
Ken Norman
Keith Mason

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:03 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:
 - Old Store Foundation – Facilities Report.
 - Mark Fitzgerald, VASA Landowner Permission – Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors.
 - Rte. 153 Funding Opportunity – Road Foreman’s Report.
 - Cemetery Maintenance Request from Frank Woodruff – New Business.

- Pedestrian Scoping Study Letter of Support – 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.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of May 17, 2022, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors.
- Mark Fitzgerald, VASA Representative – Asked that the Selectboard sign off on a five-year permission form, authorizing VASA travel on approved roads. The Board confirmed that VASA travel is included in the Town Ordinances for Traffic, on page 7, and was adopted in 2010. Based on this, the Board determined a permission form was not required at this time.
6. Announcements:
- None.
7. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
- Interim ZA, Jonas Rosenthal, reported that one permit is pending, only 12 permits approved over the past 5 months, and upcoming focus is on next steps regarding an appeal of the ZA's decision on permit 2008-01.
- B. Planning Commission's Report:
- Jessica Van Oort reported that the Municipal Planning Grant Committee and Pawlet Planning Commission held a special meeting together, which included walking through the villages.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
- Patrick Wilson from the VT Agency of Transportation, alerted the Town that, upon the passing of a recent Transportation

Bill, additional funding has become available which may be utilized for the Rte. 153 road structure project.

- The Board discussed several questions, and will continue to consider this funding option upon receiving answers to questions posed.
- Road Liaison, Rich Hulett, provided an update on the progress of roadwork on Kelly Hill Road. Also spoke to an upcoming focus on roadside mowing.

D. Assessor Report:

- Karen Folger shared a report from the Assessor's Office:
 - The extension request for the lodging of the Grand List Abstract has been granted.
 - Office hours will be slightly different through the month of June – please check office hours before visiting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a report to the Board:
 - 1 Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permit signed by Bob Jones.
 - A service request was received by the Clerk's office regarding lack of cell service in the area – Jessica Van Oort noted that she will look into this once again to see if any of the state's efforts have evolved or progressed in this area.

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.
- Reminder that the final wastewater payment is due Friday, 6/10. After 6/10 any unpaid wastewater bills will go delinquent – subject to penalty and interest.
- Motion made to approve Payroll warrant #22070 for \$10,041.42, and Accounts Payable Warrant #22071 for \$18,946.02.
 - 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:

- No report at this meeting.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility:

- No report at this meeting.

J. Facilities Report:

- Motion made to support the Library's request to install a, "Little Free Library", for DVDs outside of the Library.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.
- Mike Beecher shared that the foundation of the former store in West Pawlet is in need of repair, and asked that the Town Highway Dept. look into this and complete the necessary cleanup. Highway liaisons to further investigate this project and relay to the road crew.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort shared that Devon Neary of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission has requested letters of support for the Pedestrian Accessibility Scoping Study grant project. Letters have been submitted from the Library and Church Board of Trustees, and Neary is hoping for several more – including from the Selectboard as well as members of the community.
 - The Board unanimously supported Mike Beecher signing a letter of support on behalf of the Selectboard.

9. New Business:

- Motion made to increase Frank Woodruff's price per mow of the North Pawlet Cemetery to \$75.00 from \$60.00.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett, Bob Jones – in favor. Approved.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson spoke to options for enhancing the digital meeting experience.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services at 7:53pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- 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 at 8:23pm.

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

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:24pm.

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