

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
October 4, 2022
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
Bob Jones
Jessica Van Oort
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG-TV
Bruce Sirjane
Frank Nelson
Julie Mach
Deb Hawkins

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:04 pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher, with the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Introduction of those present, virtually and in person.
3. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.
 - a. Additions:
 - Executive Session - to discuss labor relations agreements with employees (1 V.S.A. § 313).
 - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of September 20, 2022, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.

- Result: Approved.

5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors.

- Bruce Sirjane – Referenced a letter submitted to the Selectboard regarding the wastewater fees associated with one of his properties with no active wastewater hookup.
 - The Board discussed this, considering options in which to determine the building's current accessibility to the wastewater system, with no decisions made.

6. Announcements:

- None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's Report:

- Mr. Beecher held a moment to honor, remember and reflect on our interim Zoning Administrator, Jonas Rosenthal, for all of his efforts and contributions to our community.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- Jessica Van Oort shared a report from the Planning Commission:
 - The PPC continues to work with Ed Bove from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission on bylaw modernization.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Roadside mowing has begun.
- Shoulder material has been hauled for the upcoming paving project on Buttons Falls Road.
- Winter sand has been hauled.
- Fall grading is upcoming and ditch work has begun on Rte. 153 in preparation for potential paving next year.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, submitted a report to the Board:
 - Ballots have been sent and are being returned.
 - The Board signed the Vermont Town Forest Fire Warden Reappointment Form.
 - Two warnings were issued to local establishments from the Department of Liquor and Lottery.

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, and appropriations.
- Motion made to approve Payroll warrant #23017 for \$8,438.63, Appropriation Warrant #23018 for \$416,303.00 and Accounts Payable Warrant #23019 for \$1,207,561.96.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Bob Morlino shared an Emergency Management Director Report:
 - Jay Luebke and Bob attended the VT Emergency Mgt. Preparedness Conference in Killington.
 - Bob attended the FBI Albany WMD Working Group Meeting.
 - Jay and Bob attended the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee meeting.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Jennifer Sullivan reported no new activity as Town Health Officer, and shared that Covid numbers remain low in Vermont, and vaccines are readily available.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Jill Marsano shared a report with the Board, including test results and an overview of activities happening at the WWTF through the month of September.

J. Facilities Report:

- Air Purification – Jessica Van Oort generated a detailed report of top purifiers according to consumer reports.
 - Motion made to purchase two Blueair units for the Town Hall.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None

- Result: Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor.
Bob Jones – opposed. Approved.
 - Mike Beecher confirmed with Rudd Builderz that they will be completing the improvement projects on the Town Hall, however no specific date has been set to begin work.
- 8. Old or unfinished business:
 - Jessica Van Oort provided an update on the VOREC grant, which was applied for last fall. Pawlet and Rupert, together have been awarded funding, however the grant awarded would entail a different scope of work than was originally applied for. The Board unanimously supported Jessica in moving forward with requesting a drafted grant agreement from the VOREC board.
 - Jessica Van Oort shared that the D&H Rail Trail maintenance has been shifted to the jurisdiction of the Agency of Transportation, rather than the department of parks.
- 9. New Business:
 - Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report – Julie Mach shared a memo from the MSB with the Selectboard, requesting that the Board begin holding space monthly for a MSB report.
 - Julie Mach continued to share key points discussed at the September 2022 meeting.
 - Motion made to add a monthly item to review the Mettawee School Board Report during the meetings.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - PEG-TV Equipment – PEG-TV introduced the concept of updated equipment to be used at Selectboard meetings. The Board agreed to experiment with the new PEG-TV equipment at an upcoming meeting.
 - Town Hall Auditorium Concert Request – The Board unanimously supports the Library in allowing BYOB for of-age attendees of the Friday evening concert.
 - Harlee Cudney shared that there has been a resignation from the Library Board. The Board nominated Heather Lund.
 - Motion made to support the appointment of Heather Lund to fulfill the remainder of the vacant term.
 - Mover: Bob Jones

- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

10. Public Comment:

- None.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees (1 v.S.A. § 313) at 8:10 pm.

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

12. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 8:59pm

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved.

13. Motion made to issue one-time bonus payments to the two active, full-time Highway Department employees for their excellent performance and contributions to our community.

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

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:00pm.

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