

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
January 24, 2023
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
Bob Jones
Jessica Van Oort
John Malcolm
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG-TV
Jennifer Sullivan
Deb Hawkins
Harley Cudney
Russell Glover
Nancy Morlino
Harry Van Meter
Frank Nelson

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:04pm 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:
 - Municipal Buildings Updates & Energy Resiliency Funding–Facilities Report.
 - MRGP Permit Renewal & Grant Updates – Road Foreman’s Report
 - Pedestrian Grant Project Update – Old/Unfinished Business
 - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

- Motion made to approve the minutes of January 10, 2023, correcting the date in the heading, along with a spelling error in the Road Foreman's Report section.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Bob Jones, John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
- 5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors: None.
- 6. Announcements: None.
- 7. Reports:
 - A. Zoning Administrator's Report:
 - Nancy Morlino shared a report from the ZA's office with the Board:
 - The ZA's office has is transitioning into utilizing the NEMRC system to improve the permitting process.
 - Nancy Morlino spoke to the Board regarding the Wi-Fi configuration in the Town Hall. To be discussed further with Pawlet's IT resource.
 - B. Planning Commission's Report:
 - The Pawlet Planning Commission meeting of 1/23 was cancelled, however Jessica shared that together with the Rutland Regional Planning Commission, a draft has been created of the bylaw modernization updates.
 - C. Road Foreman's Report:
 - The Highway Department provided a report to the Board:
 - Winter maintenance is ongoing with recent and upcoming weather.
 - Grader repairs are underway.
 - The Highway Dept. is maintaining salt and gravel inventory.
 - Awaiting parts for repairs to the Dodge.
 - Markowski Excavation is nearing completion on the grant-funded bank stabilization project on Route 153.
 - Motion made to submit the Notice of Intent and to pay for the MRGP permit renewal.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort

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

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - The Board signed the reservation request form to host the Town Meeting Information Meeting at the Mettowee School on March 6, 2023 at 7:00pm.
 - Bob Jones signed the Fleet Excess Weight Permit.
 - The COTT indexing system is back up and running.
 - The Town Clerk's office received one appropriation request one day after the deadline.
 - Motion made to leave Article 22, Parent Child Center of Rutland County, on the warning.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
 - The Board discussed the Zoom portion of Town Meeting, and unanimously agreed to offer a hybrid (zoom) attendance option.
 - Motion made to accept and sign the warning for Town Meeting 2023.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Bob Jones, Rich Hulett – in favor. 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, and Wastewater.
- Tax payments have been steadily coming in, and final due date for payments is February 10, 2023.

- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #23042 for \$8,679.39 and Accounts Payable Warrant #23043 for \$32,546.47.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, 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 (WWTF):
 - Mike Beecher shared a brief report from the WWTF regarding ongoing maintenance to the Spruce Gum Pump Station.
- J. Facilities Report:
 - Rudd Builderz has begun work at the Town Hall, starting with repairs to the front door and porch.
 - Mr. Armstrong, Rudd Builderz, looked at the Library projects and determined he could complete the work.
 - The Board discussed a list of improvement projects on municipal buildings, and how to approach seeing that those are completed. Mike and Jessica to continue conversations regarding establishing a work schedule.
 - Jessica revisited the topic of Municipal Building Energy Resiliency Funding.
- K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
- 8. Old or unfinished business:
 - Jessica Van Oort followed up with VTrans & RRPC on the Pedestrian and Bike Agreement – we still awaiting the finalized grant agreement.
- 9. New Business:
 - Russell Glover, Consider Bardwell Farm, brought a situation to the attention of the Board involving flooding along the rail trail, on VTrans property, in West Pawlet. Discussions ensued amongst the Board and Body.
- 10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson shared that the second West Pawlet Village planning potluck events will be on Thursday, 1/26/23, at the West Pawlet Fire Department. The first event was successful and informative.
- Jennifer Sullivan inquired about the Highway Department's approach to plowing and sanding.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 8:25pm.

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

12. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 8:48pm.

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

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:50pm.

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