

**Final Minutes**  
**SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET**  
February 7, 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  
Tammy Lewis  
Joyce Perry  
Frank Lewis

**EVENT**

1. Call to order at 7:11 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:
    - Cannabis Control Board: New Application – New Business
    - Executive Session to continue discussions regarding labor relations agreements with employees.
    - Signing of Pedestrian Grant Agreement – Old/Unfinished Business.
  - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the minutes of January 24, 2023, as printed.
    - Mover: Rich Hulett

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: 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:

- Tammy Lewis – requested that the Board authorize Green Mountain Power to replace a streetlight that once was present on Rte. 153. Discussions ensued, and the Board determined they would revisit a study that called for the removal of a number of streetlights. Also to make communications with Green Mountain Power to gather further information.
  - Discussion to continue at the next regular meeting on 2/21/23.

6. Announcements:

- Kristin Powers thanked Jon Weiss and Chris Ross for their creativity and efforts towards advancing the Town Hall's hybrid meeting capabilities.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- Nancy Morlino shared a report from the ZA's office with the Board:
  - No new permits since the last Selectboard meeting.
  - All permits from 2022 have been processed through the NEMRC program, and Nancy anticipates completing 2021 by the end of the month.
    - This process proves to be a single-person operation and will be completed by the ZA.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

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 complete.
  - The Highway Dept. continues to haul gravel when time allows.
  - UVM has alerted the Town of a state-wide study on salt sheds.

- The Rte. 153 bank stabilization project is complete, and grant closeout will commence once the Town has received all necessary project paperwork.

#### D. Assessor Report:

- Karen Folger and Lisa Wright shared a memo with the Board:
  - The Tax Map Maintenance Proposal from Cartographic Associates for the 2023-2024 Grand List year. This has been reviewed by the Assessor's Office and Selectboard approval is requested.
    - Motion made to sign the Tax Map Maintenance Proposal from Cartographic Associates for the 2023-2024 Grand List Year.
      - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
      - Discussion: None
      - Result: Bob Jones, John Malcolm, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.
  - The Assessor's Office has notified all taxpayers with open permits for construction/renovations of inspections to take place through the middle of April.
  - Issues continue with the Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal Software (CAMA) through ProVal, and efforts continue to reach a solution.
  - The search continues for options for the Town-wide appraisal. Currently, appraisal companies are booking out to 2027-2028.

#### E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
  - The Mettawee Community School has confirmed the Town's request to utilize the multipurpose room for informational meeting night before Town Meeting day.
    - The meeting warning has been posted to all usual channels.
    - Town Reports have been mailed, one per household.
    - Ballots have been proofed, approved, and are in production.
  - One fleet excess weight permit to be signed.

- Bob Jones signed this permit.
- The Town Offices will be closed on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, in observance of President's Day.
- The Department of Liquor control is now requesting licensees submit applications through a portal now.

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.
- Final due date for tax payments is February 10, 2023.
- The Treasurer's Office will be closed next week, along with February 20<sup>th</sup> in observance of President's Day.
- Julie Mach submitted two maintenance requests for the Treasurer's Office.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #23044 for \$8,948.04 and Accounts Payable Warrant #23045 for \$157,752.88.
  - Mover: Rich Hulett
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Bob Morlino shared a report with the Board:
  - Jackie Becker has joined the Pawlet Emergency Management Team, initially reinvigorating the sheltering program.
  - Bob attended a National Weather Service Ice Spotter Training.
  - Bob and Jackie attended a Rutland Regional Planning Commission Sheltering Seminar.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Jenifer Sullivan reported that no new THO activity since last meeting.
- Re: mask wearing – the community level of covid remains low and mask wearing continues to be voluntary, unless required by a business or medical facility.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Mike Beecher relayed facility updates from Jill Marsano, VTUMS.

J. Facilities Report:

- No report at this meeting – municipal buildings maintenance plan to be discussed at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- No report at this meeting.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Pedestrian and Bike Agreement:
  - Motion made to authorize the signing of the grant agreement.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Bob Jones, Jessica Van Oort, Rich Hulett – in favor. Approved.

9. New Business:

- Cannabis Control Board (CCB): New application – The Board discussed an application, recently approved by the CCB, that has been forwarded to the local cannabis commission for approval. Discussion ensued, and the Board determined to add to the next agenda once reviewing the application further.
- Jessica Van Oort shared that a representative from the Rail Trail has requested to meet to discuss topics pertaining to the West Pawlet portion of the rail trail.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson shared that the West Pawlet planning pot lucks are well attended, and encourages all to attend.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 8:06pm.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: 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 8:35pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort

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

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:40pm.

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