

**Final Minutes**  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
March 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  
Frank Nelson  
Harley Cudney  
Nancy Morlino

**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.
3. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.
  - a. Additions None.
  - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the minutes of February 21, 2023, as printed.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.

5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors: None.

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- Nancy Morlino shared proposed drafts of updated zoning forms with the Board.
  - Motion made to approve the updated zoning forms.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
- Nancy shared findings with the Board regarding information gathered about zoning as it pertains to Cannabis establishments in Pawlet & West Pawlet. Discussions ensued.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- Jessica Van Oort shared a report from the PPC with the Board:
  - Discussed updated Zoning forms, which were approved with a few minor suggested edits.
  - Chief of the Pawlet Fire Department, Jonathan Weiss, made a presentation to the PPC regarding a closer working relationship between the PPC and the PVFD.
  - Work continues on Bylaw

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- The Town of Pawlet promoted Dale Decker to the Highway Department Foreman, and also hired Rick Lawrence to join the Highway Department.
- Foreman, Dale Decker, shared a report with the Board:
  - New hire, Rick Lawrence, is transitioning well into the Highway Department.
  - Routine maintenance on roads and equipment continues, as does hauling materials.
- Highway Liaisons, Selectboard Assistant, and Highway Foreman met with members of the VT Agency of Transportation to discuss standards, procedures and projects.
- Discussions ensued regarding other possible road projects as we move into the warmer months.

- The Board acknowledged the need to establish Dale Decker as a local rep. to RRPC & RRTAC.

D. Assessor Report:

- Karen Folger submitted a request for the Selectboard to sign the request for no appeals or suits pending following the lodging of the grand list.
  - Motion made to sign the request for no appeals or suits pending following the lodging of the Grand List.
    - Mover: John Malcolm
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
  - Motion made to approve a Tobacco License for Mach's Market and Sheldon's Market and a second-class license for Mach's Market.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
  - Bob Jones signed the excess weight permits.
  - Organizational Meeting to swear in newly elected or re-elected officers will be on Wednesday, 3/8/23 at 7:00pm at the Town Hall & via Zoom.

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 information on the delinquent tax levy.
- The Town has received grant funding in the amount of \$12,100.00 for the work completed on Kelly Hill Road last season.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #23048 for \$14,616.57. and Accounts Payable Warrant #23049 for \$1,300,000.62.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones

- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- EMD, Bob Morlino, shared a report with the Board:
  - Pawlet's annual Tier II reports were submitted to the State of VT.
  - Jackie Becker completed an inventory of shelter equipment at the Mettawee Community School.
  - Bob Morlino has been appointed by Governor Scott to a three-year term on the State's Emergency Response Commission as the LEPC representative.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Jennifer Sullivan and Bob Morlino inspected a rental property in West Pawlet, and efforts continue regarding following up on another property in Town.
- Jennifer also reported that Covid-19 levels remain low state-wide, and discussions ensued regarding whether or not monthly covid reports were still necessary/desired by the Board.
  - The Board requested that updates are provided if/when new and noteworthy updates become available regarding Covid-19.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Jill Marsano, VTUMS, provided reporting and updates to the Board, relayed to the Body by Mike Beecher:
  - Issues continue with the transfer switch, there was a pump motor failure, and the WWTF is in need of a new propane heater (or alternative heating option).
    - Jessica Van Oort has been investigating rebate opportunities through Efficiency VT and Green Mtn Power.

J. Facilities Report:

- No report at this meeting.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- No report at this meeting.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Cannabis Control Board – Two Applications for Review:

- Motion made to support the state approval of a retail cannabis establishment.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved

9. New Business:

- None.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson expressed concerns about Town involvement in permit-related items that may be under the purview of Act 250. Discussions ensued.
- Bob Jones acknowledged this meeting as the final meeting for John Malcolm as a current Selectboard member, especially recognizing the many years of knowledge and passion for service that John brought to the Board and Town.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:12pm.

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