

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
March 21, 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
Rich Hulett
Perry Brown

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG TV
Bob Morlino
Nancy Morlino
Harley Cudney
Rose Smith
Judy Coolidge
James Sheldon
Julie Mach
Deb Hawkins
Jennifer Sullivan

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:
 - Bob Morlino - LEMP
 - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s).

- Motion made to approve the minutes of March 7, 2023 and March 8, 2023, as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Perry Brown
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

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

- Judy Coolidge & Rose Smith, Pawlett Historical Society:
 - Discussed the 50th Anniversary event, scheduled for July 22, 2023, sharing that the portion of the event to be held in the Town Hall Auditorium contains materials that would benefit from air conditioning. The Board determined that the window AC units can be installed for this event.
 - Ms. Smith also shared that the a cemetery in Town, currently under the care of the historical society, is in need of tree removal and requested support from the Board in these efforts. No decision made at this meeting.
- Bob Morlino, Emergency Mgt. Director:
 - Mr. Morlino spoke to the annual updates of the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) , and requested the Board's approval to be in compliance with the May 1st submission deadline.
 - Motion made to adopt the Local Emergency Management Plan, National Incident Management System, and Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement for 2023.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- Nancy Morlino shared a report with the Board:
 - Three new permits this month
 - Scanning in of permits continues to go well.
 - A site visit was performed on 3/21/23 of a camping trailer which has been inhabited for a period of time exceeding those outlined in Pawlet's Unified Bylaws.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Highway Foreman, Dale Decker, shared a report with the Board:
 - The Highway Department continues to work on road and equipment maintenance, as well as trucking gravel and anticipating spring projects; which include tending to trees in need of trimming/cutting and beginning a project at the entrance of Warren Switch Road.
 - Highway Liaison, Rich Hulett, shared a map and message with the Board from Donald Campbell of the VT Land Trust, which indicated a purchase of property abutting the Town Garage. Discussions ensued regarding the current use of this land, and possible steps moving forward, with no decisions made at this meeting.
 - The Board discussed a message received from the Agency of Transportation regarding the placement of our radar speed signs.

D. Assessor Report:

- None

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Deb Hawkins shared a report with the Board.
 - 5 Fleet Excess weight permits signed by Bob Jones.

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 summary of the 2022-2023 tax collection levy.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #23050 for \$10,936.27 and Accounts Payable Warrant #23051 for \$41,608.12
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Perry Brown
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Town Health Officer participated in an inspection in West Pawlet with potential violations – more information to come at the next meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Mike Beecher shared a report from the WWTF:
 - There was a clog in the lines, filled with small cotton rags, rocks and loose change. This resulted in a costly jetting fee, which ultimately is a direct cost to each user of the WWTF systems.
 - Jessica Van Oort and Mike Beecher investigated heating options for the WWTF. Jessica was able to determine, following a meeting with a heating specialist, that a heat pump is not an advisable option for the space. Mike was provided with a recommendation of stainless Modine heater, designed for moist spaces.
 - Motion made to install a 60 BTU Modine heater in the WWTF.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: Funds for this purchase and install to be pulled from the Capital Improvement Fund.
 - Result: Approved
 - Issues continue with the generator, which require further follow-up.

J. Facilities Report:

- None.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- MSB Chair, Julie Mach, shared a report from February and March with the Board:
 - Motion made to approve the School Board's request to utilize the Town Hall Auditorium on their requested dates.
 - Mover: Perry Brown
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Cannabis Control Board – One Application for Review:

- ZA, Nancy Morlino, shared that all outstanding questions have been resolved, aside from one conditional use concern.
 - Motion to approve this application, pending the change of use form being filed with the local Zoning Administrator.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

9. New Business:

- Harley Cudney spoke to a heating inspection at the Library.

10. Public Comment:

- Julie Mach shared that March 29th, 7:00pm, community engagement event at the Mettawee Community School regarding what matters and public education.
- Frank Nelson expressed several inquiries regarding ongoing 10-acre town questions.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 8:23pm.

- Mover: Rich Hulett
- 2nd: Perry Brown
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

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

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

13. Motion made to extend a job offer to a qualified applicant for the Highway Department.

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

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

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- Second: Rich Hulett

- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.