

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
April 18, 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
Rose Smith
Harley Cudney
Steve Williams
Nancy Morlino
Jennifer Sullivan
Frank Nelson

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:03 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: Rose Smith – Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors
 - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting(s).
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of April 4, 2023, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Perry Brown

- Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
- Rose Smith addressed the Board regarding the Pawlett Historical Society's request for assistance with tree removal as well as the ongoing discussion re: Town Hall Auditorium cooling.
 - A quote for tree removal is anticipated by the next regular meeting, and Perry Brown shared that he is awaiting communication from one outfit to potentially perform the necessary work to the auditorium.
6. Announcements: None.
7. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:
- ZA Nancy Morlino provided a report to the Board:
 - A violation has been issued to the occupant of the camping trailer discussed at the last meeting.
 - Shared of an inquiry from a resident regarding the potential of an indoor Tier 1 cannabis facility.
 - Shared of several reports of unpermitted uses taking place within Town, and followed-up with each.
 - Lots of activity in the ZA office with requests for permits for additions and new builds.
- B. Planning Commission's Report:
- No report.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
- Foreman, Dale Decker, submitted a report to the Board:
 - The first phase of the Warren Switch entrance project is complete.
 - Winter maintenance equipment has been removed from trucks; cleaned and prepped for summer.
 - Cold patched potholes along blacktop.
 - Gravel continues to be stockpiled and grading has begun on roads.
 - Upcoming projects include:
 - Continued grading as weather allows, trucking of more gravel, preparation for Waite Hill Road project. Waite Hill Road project will lead to road closures along route 30 end.

- The Board reviewed the TA65, request for reimbursement, for the bank stabilization project on Rte. 153, and signed for submission.
- The Board also reviewed the annual Agency of Transportation paperwork, and signed for submission.
- The Board signed the letter of intent for Grants in Aid program, due May 5, 2023.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Deb Hawkins shared a report with the Board:
 - Bob Jones signed the two Fleet Excess Weight Permits.
 - Motion made to approve the Request to Cater permit for Rubber Boot Farm, Inc. (Barn Restaurant & Tavern).
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: 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.
- The Town received the quarterly Class 2/3 road State Aid deposit of \$25,287.02.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #23056 for \$9,847.57 and Accounts Payable Warrant #23057 for \$23,096.63
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Bob Morlino requested use of the Town Hall Auditorium on Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 for a CPR/First Aid Class for the Pawlet Fire Department.
 - Motion made to approve the use with waived fee.

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

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Jennifer Sullivan reported that the State is choosing to get involved with the camping trailer site in violation, via an upcoming site visit.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- New heater was installed last week, and work continues on generators and sensors for the facility.
- The WWTF is still looking for part-time help.

J. Facilities Report:

- The Pawlet Library has booked a summer concert with Twangtown Paramours for Saturday, July 15, 2023 from 7:00pm-8:30pm, and has requested permission from the Board to host the concert on the Town Green, as well as obtain permission from the PFD to have the roundabout blocked off from traffic. They continued to request the Town Hall Auditorium as the rain location.
 - The Board unanimously supported this request.
- Harley Cudney shared that the children's room in the Library has chipping paint, and is in need of repair.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- No report at this meeting.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort provided an update:
 - Confirmed that Steffanie Bourque will be the Town's project manager for the project, and her information has been forwarded to Peter Pochop at VTrans, along with a letter from the Town indicating formally that RRPC will serve as the Town's project manager
- Jessica Van Oort provided an update on MERP (Municipal Energy Resilience Program), which is a program overseeing the energy efficiency of municipal buildings.
 - There will be a walk-through assessment of the Town Hall and Library this summer or fall, to look at lighting, heating and cooling, electrical panels, and other energy-related items. There will be a report following the walk-

through, which will allow us to apply for a no-match grant (\$500k). This group will be working directly with the historic preservation trust, which will expedite the process. Continual timeline – obligate grant money by end of 2024, spending by end of 2026.

- The Board signed the Rutland Regional Transportation Advisory Committee Certification and Board of Commissioners Certification forms for July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024, naming John Sabotka as Regular Representative and Harley Cudney as Alternate Representative.
- The Board signed an appointment form indicating that Jessica Van Oort is Pawlet's representative for the Otter Creek CUD.

9. New Business:

- Jessica Van Oort shared of a program called Municipal Technical Assistance, allowing smaller towns to get technical assistance. Pawlet is on the list of pre-approved towns in Rutland County.
- Jessica Van Oort received a phone call from a member of the Rupert Selectboard, sharing of an informal meeting at the dog park on Rte 30, focusing on brainstorming to enhance the recreational experience at this location.
- The Board supported Vinnie Covino assessing the Selectboard Assistant's computer.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson reiterated importance of the West Pawlet Village Planning meeting on April 20th at the West Pawlet Fire Department.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:10pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- Second: Perry Brown
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.