

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
May 2, 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
Frank Nelson
Judy Coolidge
Rose Smith
Julie Mach
Jennifer Sullivan

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:01 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 April 18, 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, continuing the conversation re: the Pawlett Historical Society's request for assistance with tree removal, as well as the ongoing discussion re: the Town Hall Auditorium cooling system.
 - Confirmed that the Town will assist with cleanup following tree removal.
 - The Board should have both cooling quotes for next meeting and will decide then.

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- ZA Nancy Morlino provided a report to the Board:
 - Three new permit requests, bringing total year-to-date permit requests to eight.
 - West Pawlet camping trailer occupancy is still a work in progress.
 - ZA Morlino attended the Pawlet Planning Commission meeting, which addressed fence regulations and short-term rentals.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- Jessica Van Oort shared a report from the PPC:
 - An update was provided by Michael Allen on the West Pawlet Village Master Plan, funded by the Municipal Planning Grant, offering the concept of the Town of Pawlet selling land near the quarry in West Pawlet, to be developed into smaller affordable housing for young families coming to the area.
 - Discussion ensued re: short-term rentals.
 - Review of the bylaws with Ed Bove is ongoing.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- No formal report at this meeting, however the Highway Department continues work on the Route 30 end of Waite Hill Road, with plans to progress with grading as the weather allows.
- The Board discussed the Radar Speed Signs, and plans to re-install on Town roads.

- Grant Opportunity – Small Scale Highway Safety Grant could be a viable option to enhance the safety of the North Pawlet Road/Route 30 intersection.

D. Assessor Report:

- Karen Folger shared a report from the Assessor's Office:
 - Inspection and data entry has been completed for the 2023 Grand List. Several technical issues are ongoing with ProVal's Computer Assisted Mass Appraisal (CAMA) software.
 - Due to technical issues, the Assessor's office has requested a 30-day extension to lodge the Grand List, shifting the deadline from June 4th to July 4th.
 - Motion made to approve and sign the Grand List Extension request.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion:
 - Result: Approved
 - The Assessors are working with NEMRC with uploads to the VTPIE system for Homestead Declarations, which are being received regularly.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Deb Hawkins shared a report with the Board:
 - Bob Jones signed the one Fleet Excess Weight Permit.

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 of Pawlet will be receiving a bill from Jointa Galusha following an error in tax exemption status, of which VT municipalities are not qualified to receive.
 - Motion made to pay the retroactive sales tax from Jointa Galusha.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #23059 for \$9,886.79 and Accounts Payable Warrant #23060 for \$16,222.54

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.
- Jessica Van Oort submitted the annual report for ARPA funds.
- Pawlet is the lead town for the VOREC grant, so will be receiving invoices from the Rupert constituents for associated project costs.
- Jessica Van Oort will be attending a training for municipal funding.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Emergency Management Director, Bob Morlino, shared a report with the Board from April 2023:
 - Signed a contract with OPH Consulting Services for producing the Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. A team will be organized in the coming weeks to initiate the project.
 - Jackie Becker initiated the organization of shelter volunteers. This team will be trained by the Red Cross.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- No report at this meeting.
- Jessica Van Oort initiated conversation with John Kiernan re: WWTF grant funding for facility improvements.

J. Facilities Report:

- No report at this meeting.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- The MSB approved the Superintendent's interpretation of Policy 2.7, and monitored board Policies 3.0 and 3.1, as well as updating the work plan for policy monitoring schedules.
- Discussion and authorization provided for Teacher Appreciation Week gift and plans.

- A date was set for the MSB retreat, and future steps were established following the March 29th community engagement event.
- Next regular MSB meeting is on May 8th at the Pawlet Town Hall.
- Motion made to add a \$25.00 cash gift (transferred from an appropriate fund) to the Irene Hanfield Citizen award.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

8. Old or unfinished business:

- No updated on the Bike & Pedestrian Grant at this meeting.
- Michael Allen has completed the first draft of the West Pawlet Village Master Plan, which has been shared with the public as well as the Planning Commission.
 - The grant culminates at the end of May, with a report due at the end of June.
 - Discussion ensued amongst the Board and Body re: affordable housing within the community.
- Jessica Van Oort spoke to the Board about the park on Route 30, continuing to speak to future possibilities of Pawlet working alongside Dorset and Rupert to evolve this property.

9. New Business:

- Town Slate Policy – The Board discussed this policy, which needs to be revisited at the next upcoming meeting.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson spoke to energy regulations as they pertain to trucks, and shared that the Fish and Game had their derby on Saturday - the fish were biting like crazy.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:24pm.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- Second: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.