

**Final Minutes**  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
May 16, 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  
Perry Brown

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers  
PEG TV  
Hallie Boyce  
Judy Coolidge  
Harley Cudney  
Michael Allen  
Frank Nelson  
Nancy Morlino  
Dennis Morrisseau  
Lauren Axelrod  
Deb Hawkins  
Julie Mach  
Jennifer Sullivan

**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:
    - Michael Allen – West Pawlet Village Planning – Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors
    - Harley Cudney – Library Policy Questions – Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors

- Structures Grant – Road Foreman’s Report
- b. Deletions: None.
- 4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the minutes of May 2, 2023, as printed.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Perry Brown
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.
- 5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
  - Judy Coolidge 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.
    - No updates re: cemetery tree removal
    - Judy inquired about occupancy limits for the Town Hall Auditorium.
    - Judy requested the services of the Town Constables for traffic control on the day of the Historical Society’s event. The Board unanimously supported this request.
    - The Board reviewed a quote from Williams Plumbing & Mechanical to install a heat pump and service the existing A/C units.
      - Motion made to work with Williams Plumbing & Heating to install a heat pump, with accompanying service, for \$6400.00.
        - Mover: Bob Jones
        - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
        - Discussion: None
        - Result: Approved
  - Michael Allen – West Pawlet Village Plan
    - Provided the Board with a copy and synopsis of the West Pawlet Village Plan, bringing attention to several items, before wrapping up the draft by the end of the month to meet the grand deadline.
      - Item 1: WWTF recommendations to help enhance the efficacy of the facility and reduce user fees.
      - Item 2: Roadway safety improvements and realignments.

- Item 3: Town pursuing potential re-classification of Town-owned land to encourage small plots for affordable & accessible housing options in West Pawlet.
- Item 4: The desire for a store in the West Pawlet village, ideally spearheaded by residents, to begin steps towards determining a location and concept for a store space.
- Discussions ensued amongst the Board and Body regarding the planning process, timelines, and future priorities for the uses of this plan, as well as acknowledgement of the general inclusivity and positivity of the overall process of this grant-funded initiative.

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- ZA Nancy Morlino provided a report to the Board:
  - 9 permits thus far in 2023 - one unpermitted construction project was addressed this week.
  - Attended a Rutland-town meeting re: short-term rental policies, with plans to bring this topic to the Pawlet Planning Commission to gauge Pawlet's position on the subject.
  - Nancy will be attending a Rutland-wide meeting of Zoning Admins at the end of the month.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Structures Grant
  - The Town has been recommended to receive the structures grant for the School Street bridge revitalization project.
- Slag Pile Memo
  - The Board reviewed the existing slag pile memo, and discussed several minor updates to modernize the contacts and document title. To be discussed at the next regular meeting.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting, however the Assessor's Office has received approval of the Grand List Extension request.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Deb Hawkins shared a report with the Board:

- Deb shared a resident concern regarding debris dumped in the roadway on Waite Hill Road.
- The Board of Abatement and Board of Civil Authority will be meeting on Tuesday, May 23, 2023.

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.
- Pawlet has received the \$100,000.00 grant payment for the Rte 153 project.
- Julie contacted a locksmith and received a quote to re-key the Town Hall for approximately \$350.00.
  - The Board unanimously supported the re-keying of the Town Hall.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #23061 for \$9,392.13 and Accounts Payable Warrant #23062 for \$31,867.50.
  - Mover: Bob Jones
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: Approved.
- Jessica Van Oort relayed information gained from a training for municipal finances, specifically discussing several finance-related policies that Pawlet may consider adopting.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Jill Marsano, VTUMS, provided a facility report to the Board.

J. Facilities Report:

- Harley Cudney, Pawlet Library Board Member, shared two issues that were discussed at the most recent board meeting.
  - Item 1: Can the Library be utilized by residents while the Library is not actively staffed? Ex: the use of the building for an exercise class. The Board did not recall a policy requiring a staff member to be present, however Julie

Mach will provide contact to potential resources to confirm this.

- Item 2: Do Library policies need to be run past the Selectboard? This is not something that has been practiced in the past.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- Julie Mach shared the report for May 2023 with the Board:
  - The Board continues to discuss the results of the community engagement event in March, as well as monitoring of policies. The next meeting will be on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and the public is welcome to attend.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- An inquiry was made regarding the status of the pending site visit of a residence on Briar Hill Road.

9. New Business:

- None.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson inquired about several Town Banking items. Discussions ensued amongst the Board and Julie Mach. Frank also spoke to the Affordable Heat Act.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:20pm.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- Second: Perry Brown
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.