

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
May 30, 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
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG TV
Judy Coolidge
Rose Smith
Harley Cudney
Frank Nelson
Michael Allen
Mark Frost

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:00 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:
 - Computers (Highway Dept. & Constable) – Old/Unfinished Business
 - b. Deletions:
 - Slag Policy
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of May 16, 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
 - Rose reported that Green Mountain Power will not cost share for the removal of the trees in the cemetery.
 - Rose inquired about the lighting that was donated for the Town Hall Auditorium. Understandably, the Town has been waiting to install until the ceiling restoration project is complete, however the Historical Society wonders if the Board would consider installing the fixtures for the event this summer.
 - Mike Beecher reported that the A/C unit is scheduled to be installed around the middle of June.

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- No report at this meeting.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- PPC Chair, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report with the Board:
 - The PPC met on Monday, 5/22, and ZA Nancy Morlino provided an update on the approach other towns are taking on short term rentals: creating registries/ordinances largely in response to safety concerns. Ed Bove from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission reminded the PPC that the Town Plan needs to be updated by February of 2024, meaning the approval process should begin in December of 2023. Pawlet's current Town Plan is strong and should not need any major changes.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Highway Foreman, Dale Decker, acknowledged a concern with the Towslee Hill Road sign, which was replaced with a hand painted sign. New regulated sign to be ordered.
- The Road Foreman and Highway Liaisons have been discussing pricing for a new Town truck.
- The Highway Dept. members continue to stockpile stone.

- Grading continues as roads hardened up early, making for challenges with early season grading.
- Repairs are necessary for the Town's Mack truck.
- Speed signs will be re-installed on Town roads by the end of the week.
- Work continues on the Rte 30 end of the Waite Hill Road, and that will be slated around the first of July.
- Roadside mowing is anticipated to begin in the next few weeks.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- No report at this meeting.
- Deb Hawkins left a tobacco license application from Apollo Fuel in West Pawlet, in need of approval by the Board.
 - Motion made to approve the Tobacco License for Apollo Fuel.
 - 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.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #23064 for \$9,801.84 and Accounts Payable Warrant #23065 for \$39,541.04
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- The Mettawee School Graduation is June 15th, and Julie inquired about which Selectboard member may be available to present the Irene Hanfield award.
 - Perry Brown will be the Selectboard Representative to present the award.

- A locksmith has been contacted regarding the re-keying of the Town Hall.
- 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):
 - No report at this meeting.
- J. Facilities Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
- K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:
 - No report at this meeting.
- 8. Old or unfinished business:
 - Motion made to accept Rutland Regional Planning Commission as the Town of Pawlet's Project Manager for the Bike & Pedestrian Grant.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Michael Allen followed up with the Board on the draft of the West Pawlet Village Master Plan, presented two weeks ago.
 - Discussions ensued, with focus on the concept of the Town considering the sale of property in West Pawlet to be intentionally utilized for development of affordable/accessible housing.
 - Jessica spoke to the intention of the plan, which was a grant-funded initiative to create a conceptual document for bettering the community.
 - The grant term culminates at the end of May; however Michael has offered to continue his working relationship with the Town to see the project through.
 - Motion made to work with Vinnie Covino to purchase a laptop for the Highway Department and for the Town Constable.
 - Mover: Perry Brown
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

9. New Business:

- Jessica Van Oort inquired about a digital message pertaining to an ongoing legal matter. Mike confirmed it was a nonsensical message.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank inquired about the existence of architectural drawings of the Town Hall or Library, as well as inquired on the existence of a log of projects on Town buildings.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Perry Brown
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

12. Motion made to exit executive session with no decisions made.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

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

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: Perry Brown
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.