

**Final Minutes**  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
June 13, 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  
Rose Smith  
Frank Nelson  
Kim Ayers  
Deb Hawkins  
Keith Waite  
Nancy Morlino  
Steffanie Bourque  
Harley Cudney  
Pawlet Citizen  
Taxpayer  
Harry Van Meter  
Ruth Byrne

**EVENT**

1. Call to order at 7:02 pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher, with the Pledge of Allegiance, and an acknowledgement of the life and legacy of Chuck Weeden. Mr. Beecher noted the many years Chuck served the community as a dedicated Selectperson, and extended gratitude for his valuable contributions to the Town of Pawlet.
2. Introduction of those present, virtually and in person.
3. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.

- a. Additions:
    - Frank Nelson – New Business
  - b. Deletions:
    - None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of May 30, 2023, as printed.
    - Mover: Rich Hulett
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
- Rose Smith – Pawlett Historical Society
    - Inquired about updates on the air conditioning and lighting installation in the Town Hall Auditorium.
      - Mike Beecher spoke to the A/C, confirming that the contractor plans to install the unit the last week of June once he can secure additional help. He will be at the Town Hall on Monday morning at 9:00am to service the A/C unit.
      - Perry Brown spoke to the lighting installation, reporting he met with Matt Corey and is awaiting a quote. Discussion ensued regarding which lighting is desired for installation, as well as attention needed on the elevator lights.
  - Steffanie Bourque – Village Pedestrian Accessibility Construction Project
    - Addressed the regarding the construction portion of the Village Pedestrian Accessibility project.
      - Addressed timelines (likely 3-4 years in total to complete the project), and the process involved in accomplishing this project – including procurement of a design consultant, acquiring bids, securing
      - The Board discussed the approach of how the Town plans to move forward.
        - Motion made to authorize Jessica Van Oort as the project lead to work alongside Steffanie Bourque on the day-to-day tasks of the project.
          - Mover: Rich Hulett

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved
- Kim Ayers – Delinquent Tax Collector
  - Announced a tax sale for two properties at June 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:00pm. Requested a Selectboard representative to be present at this sale.
    - Motion made to have Bob Jones as the Selectboard representative present.
      - Mover: Rich Hulett
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
      - Discussion: None
      - Result: Approved

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- ZA Nancy Morlino shared a report with the Board:
  - 16 permits year-to-date
  - Nancy has been and plans to continue to attend trainings and conferences.
  - Two conditional use permits are scheduled for a DRB hearing on the 28<sup>th</sup> of June.
  - Work continues on short-term rental policies.
  - The ZA's office has received several concerns regarding Mach's Market parking, and the current permit states that the parking complies as it stands.
    - Discussion ensued amongst the Board and Body regarding the possibility of painting lines in the grandfathered-in parking zones to support more efficient traffic flow.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- No report at this meeting

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Highway Foreman, Dale Decker, submitted a report to the Board:
  - Work on the Waite Hill Road project is ongoing, focusing on clearing and prepping for the application of slate to the roadway.

- Roadside mowing has begun and will continue through the coming weeks.
- The Town's International truck is still down, and the Foreman and Selectboard Liaisons are gathering pricing on new trucks.
- Preparing to apply for the VTrans Highway Safety Improvement Grant, as well as for grant-funding through the MRGP for resurfacing of hydrologically connected road segments.
- Jessica Van Oort inquired about the potential of a written record of rotation of Town vehicles and an accompanying anticipated schedule of when a piece of equipment will be retired and another will be purchased.
  - Rich Hulett and Perry Brown spoke further to this point.

#### D. Assessor Report:

- The Assessor's Office provided a report to the Board:
  - The VTPIE information has been uploaded to the Grand List.
  - The extension request for Grand List Lodging was granted. Plans to lodge on June 19<sup>th</sup>, with grievances scheduled for July 12<sup>th</sup> from 1:00pm-3:00pm.
  - Once the Grand List is lodged, the Assessors will be working with ProVal to do the necessary upgrades so that CAMA will be compatible with VTPIE for the 2024 Grand List year.

#### E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Deb Hawkins shared a report with the Board:
  - Laptop computers have been ordered for the Constable and the Highway Department.
  - Deb shared a survey with the Board that included the Town Garage property.
  - Town Clerk office hours have changed, increasing Mon-Wed by three hours, and have left Thursdays for work-from-home or appointment only.

#### 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 #23066 for \$8,887.43 and Accounts Payable Warrant #23067 for \$39,242.40.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Perry Brown
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: Approved.
- The final wastewater collection date has passed. Final numbers will be reported at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
  - Emergency Management Director, Bob Morlino, provided a report with the Board:
    - The first meeting of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update group has been set for June 26<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm.
    - Pawlet received closeout letters from FEMA for previous culvert projects.
    - A 100% reimbursable PACIF grant in the amount of \$3,234.42 was awarded to the Town of Pawlet and West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Departments for safety equipment.
    - R. Morlino attended the State LEPC (Local Emergency Planning Committee) meeting and was named Chairman of the State of Vermont LEPC.
    - Jackie Becker continues to work on enlisting people for emergency shelter staff.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
  - Town Health Officer, Jennifer Sullivan, provided a report to the Board:
    - State reported a rabid fox in West Pawlet. No details on location, but presence of fox was shared on social media and Front Porch Forum as recommended by state epidemiologist.
    - Situation regarding camper on Rte. 153 is ongoing. State and legal entities are involved.
    - Septic pump failure led to a septic release in the Pawlet Village area. Responsible party has secured a contractor to repair/replace the pump.
- 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:

- The Board discussed the updated Slag Pile Policy, making a few edits to the previous version.
  - Motion made to adopt the updated Slag Pile Policy.
    - Mover: Bob Jones
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved

9. New Business:

- Frank Nelson spoke of the Green Your Fleet Conference he attended outside of Keene, NH. This conference discussed the future of alternatives to diesel powered engines, and what is currently in use throughout New England.
- Chris Ross addressed the Board regarding recent, ongoing Zoning items, requesting the Board's feedback on how to move forward to address the situation.
  - Mike Beecher spoke Pawlet's zoning processes, as outlined by state regulations. Discussion ensued, offering clarification to the process to be continued between Mr. Ross, the Zoning Administrator, and the DRB.

10. Public Comment:

- None.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:26pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.