

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
July 25, 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
Frank Nelson
Harley Cudney
Julie Mach
Deb Hawkins
Bob Schoenemann
Martha Schoenemann
Perry Waite
Judy Coolidge
Gib Mach

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:
 - Judy Coolidge – Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens & Visitors

- Gib Mach – Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens & Visitors
 - Grant Agreements – Highway Report
 - Town Hall Auditorium Request from Library – Facilities Report
 - ORI Number Info from Constables – Old/Unfinished Business
 - Grant Opportunities - Old/Unfinished Business & New Business
- b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the minutes of July 11, 2023, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
- Judy Coolidge, Pawlett Historical Society – Offered thanks and appreciation to the Board on behalf of the PHS. A successful 5^{0th} birthday event was had and enjoyed by all.
 - Gib Mach – Discussed the concept of the Electric Vehicle Charging stations at Mach’s Market with the Board.
6. Announcements: None.
7. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator’s (ZA) Report:
- ZA Nancy Morlino shared a report with the Board:
 - A conditional use permit hearing was held with the DRB on 7/19/23.
 - Discussions surrounding bylaw review & updates continued at the 7/24 Planning Commission Meeting.
 - Scanning of zoning records continues, alongside necessary day-to-day zoning tasks. Currently working on scanning 2017 permits.
- B. Planning Commission’s Report:
- PPC Chairperson, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report with the Board:

- PPC met on Monday 7/24 and continued discussions on bylaw modernization.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Highway Liaison, Rich Hulett, shared a report with the Board:
 - The Highway Department continues work on Waite Hill Road resurfacing. Grading and general road maintenance is also ongoing.
 - The Highway Foreman and Liaisons continue efforts towards pricing a Town truck.
 - The Board discussed the Agency of Transportation grant awarded to the Town of Pawlet for the School Street Bridge.
 - Discussions to be continued at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board, requesting the Board re-word the motion from the last meeting:
 - Motion made to approve the class 1 & 3 liquor and catering licenses for Haystack Catering, LLC.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 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, Wastewater.
- Julie Mach shared suggested 2023-2024 tax rates for General Fund (\$0.2717), Highway (\$0.3069) and Local Agreement (\$0.0067). The Homestead Education rate (set by state) is \$1.6379 and Non-Homestead is \$1.7175. If above rates are approved, Homestead Tax Rate would be \$2.2232 and Non-Homestead Tax Rate would be \$2.3028 with a 3% Late Homestead Filing Penalty.
 - Motion made to approve the above tax rates proposed by Town Treasurer, Julie Mach.
 - Mover: Bob Jones

- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Motion made approve the 3% Homestead Late Penalty fee.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Julie Mach presented several Waste Water Users Rates to the Board.
 - Motion made to proceed with option #4, as presented to the Board.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Six-month investment accounts have matured and decision needs to be made regarding whether to re-invest.
 - General consensus of the Board is to roll the funds into a 1-month Tbill.
 - Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #24003 for \$9,938.08 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24004 for \$24,890.64.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
 - The Board discussed the end-of-year numbers, clarifying the breakdown presented by Julie Mach.
- 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 of VTUMS provided a report to the Board.
- J. Facilities Report:

- The Library has requested to utilize the Town Hall Auditorium on 10/7/23 for the 3rd Annual Freddi Shehadi Acoustic Show.
 - Motion made to approve this request.
 - Mover: Perry Brown
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Mike Beecher shared that a second heater at the WWTF needs to be replaced, and the condenser for the AC unit in the Town Hall needs replacing.
 - Nancy Morlino reported that several lights need to be replaced in and around the Town Hall.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- No report at this meeting.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort shared that Pawlet's application had been completed for the Municipal Energy Resilience Program.
- Jessica and Steffanie Bourque have been meeting regarding the Pedestrian Accessibility project and will have a proposal for the next meeting.
- Jessica Van Oort offered an update on the rail trail parking lot grant (VOREC).
- Jessica Van Oort also followed up on the Municipal Assistance Program (presented by Devon Neary at a prior meeting).
 - Motion made to accept the Municipal Technical Assistance Program to work with RRPC on funding initiatives.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- ORI Number – Pawlet's Constables provided the Board with initial steps necessary to pursue advanced credentials in Town Law Enforcement. Additional information required to proceed.

9. New Business:

- Jessica Van Oort shared a grant program called Vermont Community EV Chargers, which would provide funding (with 5% match) for electric vehicle chargers in the community.

- Discussions ensued amongst the Board & Body with no decisions made at this meeting.

10. Public Comment:

- Martha Schoenemann addressed the Board regarding a public safety concern involving a member of the community, discussed at the last regularly scheduled meeting.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:19pm.

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