

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
August 8, 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

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers
PEG TV
Frank Nelson
Harley Cudney
Julie Mach
Rick Lawrence
Dale Decker
Joy Proft
Pawlet Citizen
Deb Hawkins
Martha Schoenemann
Gib Mach

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:04 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 July 25, 2023, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort

- 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors: None.
6. Announcements: None.
7. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- B. Planning Commission's Report:
- No report at this meeting.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
- Highway Foreman, Dale Decker, shared a report with the Board:
 - One Highway Department employee will be moving on from the department as of August 10, 2023, leaving an opening within the Highway Department.
 - The hydraulic pump needs replacement in the International truck.
 - Slate projects have been completed on Waite Hill and Switch Roads.
 - Upcoming projects include additional roadside mowing, trucking of gravel, and general road & equipment maintenance.
 - Mr. Decker spoke to the painting of lines on School Street, and requested the Board's approval in moving forward with this project.
 - Discussions ensued with no decisions made. Topic to be discussed at the next meeting.
 - Highway Liaison, Rich Hulett, spoke to the continued efforts towards purchasing a new truck for the Town Highway Department.
 - Motion made to move forward with the purchase of a new Freightliner for \$156,446.00 for the Town Highway Department.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: Treasurer, Julie Mach, initiated discussions regarding financing, and the

Board requested that Ms. Mach gather additional details about financing for the Board for the next meeting so the Board can determine next steps to proceed with the purchase that align with the State guidelines.

- Result: Approved.
- The Board and body discussed multiple road items and projects, current and upcoming, with no decisions made.
- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared in her report that a citizen reported a concern of a tree on Warren Switch Road. This will be remedied.
- Motion made to sign the grant agreement for the FY24 Grants in Aid program.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - There is a 1st Class Restaurant/Bar License & 3rd Class Restaurant/Bar License for Jadie Bean LLC (The Barn Restaurant & Tavern)
 - Motion made to approve the 1st & 3rd class Restaurant/Bar License for Jadie Bean LLC.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Deb Hawkins has been working with VTel regarding a phone issue.
 - The VMCTA conference has been rescheduled and relocated due to the July flood event in Montpelier. The Town Clerk's Office will be closed September 12 & 13 for that conference.

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.
- Tax Bills & Waste Water Bills have been sent out. Pawlet has received VT HW State Aid payments for quarter 1 & 2.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #24006 for \$9,614.64 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24007 for \$25,177.49.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Emergency Management Director, Bob Morlino, provided a report to the Board:
 - The Hazard Mitigation Plan (HMP) update survey was issued and the results will be added to the HMP update.
 - Virtually attended numerous State updates regarding the flooding in Vermont.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- No report at this meeting.

J. Facilities Report:

- The Pawlet Democrats requested to utilize the Town Hall Auditorium on 9/11/23 from 11am-12pm for their organizational meeting. The Board unanimously supported this request.
- Harley Cudney requested to utilize the Town Green on 8/19/23 from 4pm-6pm to host an event for the Library Book Sale volunteers. The Board unanimously supported this request.
- Harley Cudney volunteered to replace the necessary lightbulbs at the Town Hall.
- The primary door of the Town Hall has been repaired; however, the repairperson suggested the Board contact the preservation trust to determine steps to make the door ADA compliant.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- No report at this meeting.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- ORI Number – The Board to invite an expert in this field to present the required steps to obtain this number at a future meeting.
- Pedestrian Accessibility Project – Jessica Van Oort spoke to the updated progress of this project, sharing that the Board needs to prepare a request for proposals (RFP). Jessica continued to share the top three firms of which VTrans suggests requesting RFPs from, as well as the process in which to obtain them. From there, the selected firm will present a detailed plan and design for the project.
 - Motion made to submit a request for proposal to VHB for the Pedestrian Accessibility Project.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

9. New Business:

- None.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson provided a document to the Board regarding electric vehicle charging, which included a valuable contact with extensive knowledge about funding for EV initiatives.

11. Motion made to Adjourn at 8:25pm.

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