

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
December 26, 2023
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
Jessica Van Oort
Perry Brown
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Frank Nelson
Ruth Lampi
Harley Cudney
Sue LaPorte
Nancy Morlino
Lyndsi Barnes
Aaron Levine
Molly B
Tax Payer (Zoom Attendee)
Lauren Herbert
Dave Ricard
Carol Schoenwetter
Cori Rail

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:04pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a review of the Rules of Procedure.
2. Introduction of those present, virtually and in person.
3. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.
 - a. Additions:
 - Executive Session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees.
 - Pre-Requested Appearances – Harley Cudney
 - Old/Unfinished Business – Mini Grant Approval

- b. Deletions: None.
 - 4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of December 12, 2023 as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
 - 5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
 - Harley Cudney approached the Board requesting to change the salary of the staff member at the Library fulfilling the duties of the Library Director on an interim basis. The request was to adjust the salary from the Library Assistant rate to the Library Director rate.
 - The Board and Body raised several questions about the request.
 - Motion made to approve the request to increase the rate of pay of the Library staff member
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: None
 - Discussion: Additional questions and discussion ensued amongst the Board and Body.
 - Result: Motion not carried.
 - Following discussions, the Board asked that the Library Board put into writing a description of the job currently being completed by the staff member. To be discussed at the next meeting.
6. Announcements: None.
7. Reports:
 - A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:
 - Expected to end 2023 with 39 permits issued.
 - Nancy Morlino provided the Board with a draft of the short-term rental ordinance and registration form to make a list of short-term rentals in town. To be added as an item for discussion at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
 - B. Planning Commission's Report:

- No report at this meeting. Thursday 12/28 at 7:30pm will be the public hearing for the Town Plan, in conjunction with the regularly scheduled meeting.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- The Highway Department continues to:
 - Work on trucks.
 - Identify and clear debris on roadsides.
 - Clean up scrap metal at Town Garage.
 - Clean culverts
 - Hauling gravel to repair mud hole on Pawlet/Rupert Mountain Road.
 - Begin planning for summer projects.
 - A loaner truck is on the way due to the delay of the delivery of the new truck.

D. Assessor Report: None.

E. Town Clerk's Memo: None.

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.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #24032 for \$9,079.17 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24033 for \$18,456.57.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- The Town of Pawlet has received another gift of donated securities, to be earmarked towards the construction of a new Town garage. Julie requested the Board to confirm whether they would like to manage this donation the same as the last with regards to investment terms.
 - Motion made to authorize Julie Mach to accept the gift and sell the securities, bringing the Board fund investment options at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort

- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- EMD, Bob Morlino, shared an opportunity with the Board regarding the opportunity for the Town to obtain free cyber security products.
 - The Board determined it would be wise to check with the Town Office employees on their appetite for this.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Health Officer, Jennifer Sullivan, shared that she attended a training given by the State Department of Public Safety's Division of Fire Safety (DPS) regarding the transition of authority for rental housing. Jennifer plans to speak more on this in the New Year once the State's DPS site is live.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF): None.

J. Facilities Report: None.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: None.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort shared that Energy Coordinator, Frank Nelson completed the mini grant application to be used to purchase the infrared cameras for the Town. The application was approved to purchase two cameras, associated equipment, and to host an informational event.
 - Motion made to accept the mini grant and authorize Jessica Van Oort to sign and submit the necessary paperwork.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Perry Brown
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Jessica Van Oort shared an update on the Pedestrian Accessibility (sidewalk) grant. The proposal from Fuss & O'Neill came in at over double the estimated amount in their initial plan.

9. New Business: None.

10. Public Comment: None.

11. Motion made to go into executive session to discuss labor relations

agreements with employees at 7:53pm.

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

12. Motion of board to come out of executive session with no decision made at 8:42pm.

- Mover: Perry Brown
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

13. Motion made to adjourn at 8:43pm

- Mover: Perry Brown
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved