

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
February 6, 2024
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
Linda Lynton
Harley Cudney
Bob Schoenemann
Frank Nelson
Sue LaPorte
Bob Herbert
Lauren Herbert
Harry Van Meter
Robin Pomerance
Eve Schaub
Nancy Morlino
Tom Black
Deb Hawkins
Molly Beverage
Mark Frost
Cori Rail
Joy Proft
Jennifer Spademan
Nic Stark, RRPC
Kb Donoghue
Mason (zoom)
Amy Thebault
Hannah Herbert

Martin Kravitt

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.
 - b. Deletions:
 - Signing of grant agreement.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the minutes of January 23, 2024 as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
6. Announcements: None.
7. Reports:
 - A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:
 - Nancy Morlino shared that the DRB met on 1/24/24 and approved a variance for a garage construction.
 - B. Planning Commission's Report: No report at this meeting.
 - C. Road Foreman's Report:
 - Highway Foreman, Rick Lawrence, submitted a report to the Board:
 - The Highway Department has:
 - Graded and graveled several roads.
 - Stockpiled gravel for summer projects.
 - Continued tree trimming and removal, which will be ongoing.
 - Performed repairs and maintenance on town equipment.
 - Installed school zone signs.

- Continued to perform winter maintenance as weather requires.
- The Board acknowledged that the individuals who have expressed interest in providing input on the future construction of the Town garage are offering to provide their knowledge and experience on the topic of construction. These individuals are not a part of any committee, group or board created by the Selectboard or Town.

D. Assessor Report:

- The Board was provided with the 2024-2025 CAI paper and GIS map maintenance contract from CAI Technologies, and the Assessor's Office requested signatures from the Board.
 - Motion made to approve the tax map maintenance contract with CAI Technologies.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - Two applications from the Department of Liquor and Lottery need approval – one for Mach's Market for a one-time occasion on 2/17 and Apollo Industries Inc. Tobacco Substitute Endorsement needs approval.
 - Motion made to approve the one-time occasion permit on 2/17 for Mach's Market (application #36383), and the tobacco substitute endorsement permit for Apollo Industries (application #36269).
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Two excess weight permits need signature.
 - Bob Jones signed one excess weight permit, and expressed a concern with information on the second so did not sign.
 - The Town Report has been sent to the printer.
 - PEG-TV made a site visit to the Town Hall to make plans for the permanent installation of the camera equipment.

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.
- Taxes are due by February 12, 2024 at 4:00pm.
- Still awaiting communication regarding the VT Municipal Equipment Loan Application, which may impact Berkshire Bank's role in the purchase of the new Town truck.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #24039 for \$810.26, Payroll Warrant #24041 for \$11,382.74 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24042 for \$32,870.12.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Emergency Management Director, Bob Morlino, shared a report summarizing activities throughout January 2024 with the Board:
 - Bob Morlino attended the State Emergency Response Commission meeting, Homeland Security Working Group meeting and the Local Emergency Management Planning Committee meeting.
 - Jackie Becker and Bob Morlino attended a Tabletop Exercise in Rutland, sponsored by Vermont Emergency Management and Rutland Regional Planning Commission.
 - Paperwork for reimbursement of \$8,000.00 for the Consultant work on the Hazard Mitigation Plan has been submitted to Vermont Emergency Management.

H. Health Officer's Report: No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Two residents are working with VTUMS to perform the daily checks.
- A pump motor in need of replacement has arrived and will be replaced soon.

J. Facilities Report:

- Mike Beecher has reached out about the two heaters for the Town Hall.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: No report at this meeting.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort reported an update on the Bike and Pedestrian (sidewalk) grant. Following the rejection of the first two proposals, the Town requested a proposal from the third firm. The third firm did not wish to submit a proposal, so the Town is now in the, “at the ready” process. This means that we will now work with a different pool of firms. This may result in the need to extend the grant timeline, but that is yet to be determined.
- Kristin Powers offered an update on the Small Highway Safety Improvement Grant.

9. New Business:

- Jessica Van Oort offered to do some research about the possible ways to approach the management of Library personnel, beginning with reaching out to VLCT to inquire the ways in which other Towns in Vermont structure their relationship with Libraries.
 - The Board unanimously supported this information gathering initiative.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson inquired about the process of requesting a meeting of the Board of Abatement to address a Homestead tax situation.
 - Sue LaPorte and Deb Hawkins offered guidance on this, indicating that Homestead Declaration Fines may not be a reason for the Board of Abatement to meet.
 - Nic Stark, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, requested to provide a short presentation, which the Board approved.
 - Nic shared that the Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) is beginning work on updating their visionary plan, which happens every 8 years. The plan dictates where Rutland County would like to develop and where there are opportunities to preserve.
 - There is a survey that has been put out by the RRPC, and the hope is that residents will complete this to provide their feedback.
 - Harry Van Meter spoke to the CAI GIS Mapping contract, sharing that in the past, the deadline to update anything for this

contract is generally April 1st. Harry also spoke to the community values mapping initiative in 2018. This program developed maps which highlighted several items the community felt would be worth mapping. These maps are available for review at the Town Hall.

- Martin Kravitt shared that there is a contractor (former resident of West Pawlet) interested in the former Dutchie's Store property in West Pawlet, with an eye on housing and/or a mixed-use property. Martin requested that the Selectboard consider this interest. The Board determined to add this item to the agenda at the next regularly scheduled meeting.
- Martin Kravitt inquired if there were any further updates on the ongoing situation regarding the Library Board.
 - Mr. Beecher indicated that, per legal guidance, the Board does not have any public comment on the topic at this time.

11. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees.

- Mover: Rich Hulett
- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

12. Motion to come out of executive session with no decisions made.

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

13. Motion made to extend a job offer to a qualified applicant.

- Mover: Rich Hulett
- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

13. Motion made to adjourn at 8:40pm

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