

Draft Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
May 14, 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:

PEG-TV
Kristin Powers
Harley Cudney
Sue LaPorte
Frank Nelson
Cori Rail
Lyndsi Barnes
Linda Lynton
Nancy Morlino
Sherri
Kevin Mason (zoom)
Olga Arnold
Fred Smith
Harry Van Meter
Julie Mach
Molly Beverage (zoom)
Deb Hawkins (zoom)
Joanne's iPad (zoom)

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:03pm 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:
 - School Street/Rupert Hill Rd. Bridge Update
 - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 30, 2024, as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - 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:
 - Nancy Morlino summarized the judicial bureau designation of municipal officials to the Board. This designation allows the municipality to issue zoning violations without the presence of the lawyer.
 - Motion made to authorize Mike Beecher to sign the judicial bureau designation of municipal officials.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - B. Planning Commission's Report:
 - Jessica Van Oort shared that the updated village center redesignations for Pawlet and West Pawlet have gone through.
 - C. Road Foreman's Report:
 - Highway Foreman, Damon Ferenc, provided a report to the Board:
 - Waite Hill has been graded, calcium has been added to roads, and the highway team continues to haul gravel.
 - New injectors have been installed into the tractor and welding has been completed on the backhoe.
 - Brush cleanup on Andrus Drive and Deer Run.
 - Tadmer Road has been graded and brush cut.
 - Miscellaneous shop and equipment maintenance continues.

- Preparing to sell one of the Town trucks no longer in service.
- The 2018 Mack continues to require some attention/service.
- The Highway Department made several purchase requests from Tifco.
 - Motion to approve Highway Department purchases.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Rich Hulett discussed the School Street Bridge, sharing that Daniels Construction discovered that the state of the bridge was worse than originally anticipated. This requires the re-evaluation of the project.
 - The Board discussed the three options provided by Daniels Construction.
 - Meeting to be established between Treasurer, Highway Liaison and Liaison to the Treasurer's Office to gather more information.
- Jessica Van Oort met with members of the RRPC regarding the West Pawlet village intersection.

D. Assessor Report:

- The Assessor's office submitted a request to extend the Grand List filing. Their office is still sorting out details for the reappraisal conversion, and technical specs awaiting finalization.
 - Motion to extend the Grand List Filing.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a report to the Board:
 - One event application from VT Farms Catering LLC.
 - Motion to approve the application.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

- Town Offices will be closed on Monday, May 27th for Memorial Day.
- PEG-TV is anticipating a September installation of the permanent camera equipment.
- The Highway Department was contacted by the Town Clerk's Office re: a road sign concern.

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 #24059 for \$7,348.06 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24060 for \$27,312.51.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report: none.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- The Board acknowledged an email from Jennifer Sullivan regarding the ongoing trash situation in West Pawlet.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Jill Marsano, VTUMS, provided a report to the Board:
 - Pump #2 has been rebuilt & a new door code has been established.
 - New manhole on top of New Street and Spruce Gum pump are anticipated to be added to the schedule.

J. Facilities Report:

- Williams Plumbing Mike Beecher to follow up with Williams Plumbing regarding a spring service and new heater part in the Town Hall.
- Harley Cudney relayed that the Library will be having its windows washed.
- MERP energy grant may involve equipment to assist with potential heating cooling systems no grant info until fall per Jessica.

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

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort shared an update on the sidewalk grant. Steffanie Bourque and Peter Pochop will be coming to next meeting, if we turned down grant on the hook for costs to date no other neg impact
- The Town's Health Officer position is in need of renewal upon its expiration on 6/30/24. Chairman Beecher to reach out to Jennifer Sullivan to see if still interested.

9. New Business:

- None

10. Public comment:

- Frank Nelson shared that the infrared camera equipment is at the library for check out – the event went well at Library.
 - There is a balance of funds on the MERP mini grant. The Planning Commission is working to decide on how to spend, and a report needs to be filed with the state by June 30th.
- Linda Lynton spoke of dangerous, invasive weeds growing on the roadside of Rte 133 land opposite church. Seeking a volunteer(s) to assist in the invasive removal efforts. The Board advised that Ms. Lynton contact VTrans to coordinate these efforts.
- Cori Rail spoke to the Library Board's recent vote to pursue the hiring of a new director, acknowledging the vulnerable position it leaves the town from a legal and financial perspective. Inquired about the Selectboard's position on this. No formal comment, however Jessica Van Oort shared that she continues to research the financial practices between the Library and the Town.
- Sue LaPorte reiterated and supported the point of it being an inappropriate time to hire new director for the Library.

11. Motion made to adjourn at 8:12pm

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved