

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
June 11, 2024
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
Bob Jones
Brian Crossman

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV
Kristin Powers
Harley Cudney
Sue LaPorte
Frank Nelson
Ruth Lampi
Gib Mach
Deanna's iPhone (zoom)
Deb Hawkins
Jennifer Sullivan
Nancy Morlino
Linda Lynton
Lyndsi Barnes
Lauren Shehadi Herbert

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:05pm 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:
 - Hiring Needs – Highway Foreman's Report
 - b. Deletions:
 - Veterans Flags – Old/Unfinished Business
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

- Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 28th 2024, as printed.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Brian Crossman
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors: None.

6. Announcements:

- The School Street Bridge construction is expected to resume on Wednesday, June 19, 2024. The anticipated duration of the project is 6 weeks and the bridge will be fully closed for the entirety of the project. Updates will be provided as they become available.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- ZA Nancy Morlino shared a report with the Board:
 - The appeal period for the short-term rentals concluded on May 30, 2024. Now there is a several-month wait period before the formal adoption of the ordinance.

B. Planning Commission's Report: No report at this meeting.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Highway Foreman, Damon Ferenc, provided a report to the Board:
 - Throughout the last two weeks the Highway Department has:
 - Retrieved Town truck following repairs.
 - Continued to haul material to West Pawlet
 - Continued grading, resulting in ordering new parts to repair grader, ultimately completing grading on Heatherington (also received calcium), Betts Bridge, and Bauer Road. Grading has begun on Chet Clark Road.
 - Inspected new Town truck in Williston.
 - Completed ditch work on Betts Bridge Road and mowed Robinson Hill Road.
 - Upcoming projects to include:
 - Hauling gravel to Sawmill Rd.
 - Completing Chet Clark Rd. grading.

- Adding gravel to improve parts of Tadmer Rd.
 - Roadside mowing and ditch work.
 - The Highway Department will begin searching for another member of the team.
- D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
 - Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a report to the Board:
 - Wade Masure from VLCT visited the Town Offices last week to follow-up on a claim. Town Office employees raised the questions as to who the best contact person from the VLCT should be.
 - Some discussion ensued, and Mr. Beecher determined that contacting the Chairperson and SB Asst. would be most efficient.
 - Adelle Seamans reported to the Board that the alarm rang indicating the septic needed pumping. The question of, who should be contacted for this service, was asked.
 - Mr. Beecher suggested A1 Sewer & Drain or Dorr Septic.
 - Deb sought additional clarification from the Board regarding who is leading the efforts for repairing the Town Hall Auditorium shades.
 - The Board unanimously supported Harley's efforts to repair the battery-operated shades, alongside supervision for safety purposes
 - PEG-TV will be direct-shipping some of the necessary equipment to the Town Hall for the installation of the permanent audio/visual equipment.
 - Deb provided the board with a copy of VT Legislature S.55 pertaining to Open Meeting Law.
 - DeAnna Mach expressed concerns for the timeframe and methodology of the Japanese knotweed removal efforts at this time on her property on Rte 133.
 - Ultimately the Selectboard does not have any control over these efforts.
- 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.

- Information has been requested from the Board regarding the Bylaw Modernization Grant and the FY24 Grants In Aid program.
 - Bylaw Modernization Grant: Jessica Van Oort virtually shared that the RRPC is helping to close out this grant and she will confirm where they are at in the process.
 - FY24 GIA: No updates at this time, however the Highway Liaisons, SB Assistant and Highway Foreman will have conversations regarding this project.
- Julie Mach requested the Board review and approve the auditor engagement letter.
 - Motion made to authorize Mike Beecher to sign the auditor engagement letter.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Brian Crossman
 - Discussion: Lauren Herbert inquired about whether or not Library funds are audited via the Town.
 - Result: Approved
- Julie Mach received an inquiry regarding the Town's Slag Pile Policy. This policy was forwarded along to Julie for reference, and was briefly discussed by the Board.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #24064 for \$9,814.37 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24065 for \$40,540.72.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Brian Crossman
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Emergency Management Director, Bob Morlino, digitally shared a report with the Board:
 - R. Morlino attended the State Emergency Response Commission meeting virtually on May 15, 2024.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Jennifer Sullivan offered a brief update regarding an ongoing situation at a property in West Pawlet. The property in question has recently gone into foreclosure which should remedy the issue.

- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):
 - RRPC has shared that Pawlet is one of two Towns that will be receiving support via the Municipal Technical Assistance Program. This is to help us with improving the Wastewater Treatment Facility.
 - Parts were ordered to repair pumps.
- J. Facilities Report: No report at this meeting.
- K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: No report at this meeting.
- 8. Old or unfinished business:
 - Gib Mach sought clarification regarding funding for the School Street Bridge, and continued to discuss the sidewalk project process.
 - Discussions ensued amongst the Board and Body.
- 9. New Business: None
- 10. Public comment:
 - Frank Nelson asked about the handicap accessible parking sign outside of the Town Hall. To investigate re-painting the parking space.
 - Harley Cudney inquired about the possibility of the Library Board utilizing the Town Hall for Library Board meetings.
 - Conversations ensued regarding the new evolutions of the open meeting law, requiring a hybrid component.
- 11. Motion made to adjourn at 8:06pm
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Brian Crossman
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved