

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
June 25, 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
Brian Crossman

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV
Kristin Powers
Fred Stone (Zoom)
Sue LaPorte
Lauren Herbert
Damon Ferenc
Martha and Bob Schoenemann (Zoom)
Cody Hicks
Harley Cudney (Zoom)
Jennifer Sullivan (Zoom)
Deb Hawkins (Zoom)
Julie Mach (Zoom)
Harry Van Meter (Zoom)

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:
 - Software Agreement – Assessor’s Report
 - Town Gravel Pit Survey – Road Foremans Report
 - Slag Pile Log – New Business

- Open Meeting Law Changes – New Business
- b. Deletions: None
- 4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 11, 2024, as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - 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 shared a report with the Board:
 - A DRB meeting is scheduled for 7/17/24 to hear arguments for a variance request on Kelly Hill Road.
 - B. Planning Commission's Report:
 - PPC Chair, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report with the Board:
 - Hillary Solomon from PMNRCD updated the PPC on new funding for mitigation in the Flower Brook Water Shed.
 - The PPC began discussions regarding the Open Meeting Law updates.
 - The RRPC has advised that the PPC is an advisory Board and likely will not be mandated to adhere to the hybrid meeting requirements, however commission members are looking into this.
 - The PPC made plans to move forward with the enhanced energy plan, which was delayed during work on updates to the town plan and bylaws. RRPC will be offering assistance in these efforts.
 - The public is reminded that hearings for both the proposed bylaw repeal and the proposed bylaw amendments will be held at the July meeting on Monday 7/22 at 7:30pm and 8:00pm.
 - Otter Creek CUD updates:
 - Fidium, the company installing fiber internet in West Pawlet, will provide one free hookup for public WiFi.
 - Connections up to 500 ft from the existing poles to peoples homes will be free, but if the connection

distance is greater than 500 ft, homeowners will need to pay for additional distance installation.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Highway Foreman, Damon Ferenc, provided a report to the Board:
 - Throughout the last two weeks the Highway Department has:
 - Organized flammables in the fire-proof cabinet.
 - Completed grading and hauling material to Chet Clark Road.
 - Ditched, graded and hauled gravel to Saw Mill Rd.
 - Hauled crusher run and graded a portion of Betts Bridge Road.
 - Performed some maintenance in and around the Town Garage.
 - Cut and cleared brush on Deer Run.
 - Filled pot holes on Rte. 153 and by the post office.
 - Mowed Briar Hill Road.
 - Continued hauling material for stock.
 - Began ditching on Rupert Hill Road.
 - Upcoming projects to include:
 - Continued roadside mowing and ditch work.
- The new Town Truck is anticipated to arrive next week, and Auction International
- No new updates on the School Street Bridge, however updates will be shared as they become available.
- Sue LaPorte sang the praises of the Highway Department and Rich Hulett echoed this, stating he has received multiple complements for the Highway Dept. team as well.
- Tom Covino relayed an inquiry from a resident, wondering what would be required to slightly relocate a yield sign near Egg St., New St. and Railroad St.
 - Discussions ensued, determining additional research is needed to determine sign placement requirements.
- Cody Hicks addressed the Board regarding the recently completed survey of the Town's Gravel Pit property.
 - The Board acknowledged the existing 10 ft. driveway, which is one of the stand-out elements of the survey noticed by the Board.

D. Assessor Report:

- The Assessor's Office provided a copy of a Catalis software agreement to the Board, requesting signature.
 - The Board unanimously supported Chairman Beecher signing the software agreement.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a report to the Board:
 - Three notices from ANR for the Board's review.
 - Both A/C units were sold for \$75.00 each.
 - The Town Clerk will be out of the office the week of July 15th.
 - A summary of Act No. 120 (S.209) which is now law. Part of this new legislation pertains to prohibiting firearms at polling places.

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.
- The report has been submitted for the mini grant.
- The service with Ace Carting is ready to be cancelled and all locations may be switched to the contractor that picks up.
 - The Board authorized Julie to discontinue service with Ace Carting.
- Julie Mach indicated necessary action by the Board to encumber \$80,000.00 of unused paving funds from FY24 to the School Street Bridge project, which will be paid in FY25.
 - Motion made to encumber \$80,000.00 of unused paving funds from FY24 to the School Street Bridge project, which will be paid in FY25
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Julie shared the 2022-2023 Waste Water Collection Levy.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #24067 for \$10,409.37 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24068 for \$39,777.27.

Mover: Jessica Van Oort

2nd: Bob Jones

Discussion: None.

Result: Approved.

- Discussions to take place at the next regular meeting regarding the new truck loan.
 - The Board unanimously supported Mike Beecher signing the questionnaire sheet provided to the Board by Julie
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report: No report at this meeting.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
- Cat bite reported in West Pawlet. Followed up with owners and all is well.
 - The property in West Pawlet that was noted as being under foreclosure is no longer so. Constables have reported that the prior trash issue no longer seems to be a problem.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):
- Jill Marsano of VTums provided the ANR reports to the Board.
- J. Facilities Report:
- Bob Jones shared updates on the septic issues between the Library and Town Hall.
- K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: No report at this meeting.
8. Old or unfinished business:
- Rich Hulett shared that the Highway Department's grader is in need of tires.
9. New Business:
- Bob Jones reported that he was contacted by the Constables, indicating that a resident had attempted to create speedbumps in their road with hopes to slow traffic.
 - Conversations ensued with the Highway Department, and it was determined that a speed sign may be of benefit in that location.
 - Bob Jones was contacted by a resident as the Large Animal Pound Keeper. He assessed the status of the animals, and determined they were in good health, following up to ensure ample feed was delivered.
 - Slag Pile Policy – Mike Beecher and Julie Mach reviewed the Slag Pile Policy, and felt that it would be good practice to establish a log, keeping records of the traffic and activity.
 - Jessica Van Oort offered to begin drafting a sample log.

- Discussions began regarding the Open Meeting Law updates as they pertain to hybrid meetings and ensuring meeting recordings are available for applicable bodies. Discussion ensued amongst the Board and Body, with no decisions made at this meeting.

10. Public comment:

- Frank Nelson relayed that the infrared cameras are just as useful during the warm months.

11. Motion made to adjourn at 8:06pm

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