

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
September 3, 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
Brian Crossman
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV
Kristin Powers
Brad Myerson
Sue LaPorte
Nancy Morlino
Linda Lynton
John Sabotka
Dave Ricard
Deb Hawkins
Carol & Barry Schoenwetter
Bob & Martha Schoenemann
Mark Frost
Cori Rail
James Glick
Tom & Elizabeth Torak
Ed & Deb Evans
Tom Covino
Sarah Ludlam
Harry Van Meter
Barbara O'Conner
Steve Williams
Frank Nelson
Kevin Mason
John Thrasher

Ashley Waite
Lauren Herbert

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:00pm 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: Grant Updates – Old/Unfinished Business
 - b. Deletions: None
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 20, 2024, as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Brian Crossman
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Public Hearings:
 - Jessica Van Oort read aloud the warning for the public hearing following a petition accepted by the Town for the repeal of the Pawlet Unified Bylaws.
 - Chairman Beecher and Jessica Van Oort, Selectboard Member and Chairwoman of the Pawlet Planning Commission, reviewed the steps taken thus far to go through this process, and Chairman Beecher opened the floor for public comment.
 - Public comment was made by Brad Myerson, Barbara O’Conner, Bob Schoenemann, Jim Sheldon, Ed Evans, Deb Hawkins.
 - Mike Beecher and Jessica Van Oort spoke to points made during public comment.
 - This public hearing was closed at 7:18 to resume the regular meeting, with the next hearing to begin at 7:30.
 - At 7:30pm, Jessica Van Oort read aloud the warning for the second public hearing, established for the purpose of amending the Pawlet Unified Bylaws.
 - Jessica Van Oort reviewed the Unified Bylaws with the Board and Body, summarizing the proposed changes, which largely

were intended to make it easier for residents to do things on their land.

- Chairman Beecher opened the floor for public comment.
 - Public comment was made by Frank Nelson, Bob Schoenemann, Brad Myerson.
 - The second public hearing was closed at 8:03pm, to be voted on at the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors: None.
6. Announcements: The School St. Bridge is now open.
7. Reports:
- A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:
 - 26 permits year to date.
 - ZA Morlino inquired as to when changes to the Bylaws go into effect if they are voted in this evening, as it would positively impact three permit applicants. Jessica expressed uncertainty of the exact rule on this timeline, however stated she would reach out to VLCT for confirmation.
 - B. Planning Commission's Report:
 - PPC Chairwoman, Jessica Van Oort, shared a report with the Board:
 - At their meeting on 8/26/24, the PPC discussed future initiatives now that the work on the Town Plan and Bylaws are complete. The focus of the PPC now lies on the Enhanced Energy Plan, which was drafted several years ago and now needs updates to meet new state standards and to more accurately reflect how the Town uses energy. Additional discussions included ways in which the PPC can assist in the efforts to improve cell phone coverage and the plans to build a new Town Garage and the relocation of the Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department.
 - C. Road Foreman's Report:
 - The Highway Department welcomed new member, Jim Simonds, to the team today.
 - D. Assessor Report:
 - The Assessor's Office hours will be shifting to Mondays in-person only as of September 9th, 2024.
 - E. Town Clerk's Memo:
 - Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - One DLL-Application-47279 for a third-class commercial kitchen for Haystack Catering, LLC.

- Motion made to approve DLL Application 47279.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Deb applied for and was granted a \$5,000.00 grant to be applied to costs associated with 2024 General Election.
- 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 Accounts Payable Warrant #25016 for \$123,626.95 and Payroll Warrant #25015 for \$8,368.58.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report: No report at this meeting.
- H. Health Officer's Report:
 - THO, Jennifer Sullivan, shared a report with the Board:
 - One dog bit, which occurred in July, was reported. Both parties responsible were spoken to and resolution was reached.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF): No report at this meeting.
- J. Facilities Report: No report at this meeting.
- K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: No report at this meeting.
- 8. Old or unfinished business:
 - Jessica Van Oort shared that last Thursday, there was a gathering in West Pawlet to assess the future placement of benches, bike racks, and a bike repair station at the Town-owned lot at the West Pawlet entrance of the Rail Trail.
 - Jessica contacted the grant administrators to request their assistance in re-allocating these funds.
 - Mike sought, and attained, permission from the rest of the Board members to request that the Highway Department remove some sumac that may infringe on the placement of these items.

- Jessica Van Oort updated the Board on the MERP (municipal energy resilience grant) Grant is now open and funding has become available. The Rutland Regional Planning Commission has offered their assistance with the writing of this grant.

9. New Business: None.

10. Public comment:

- Frank Nelson offered a word of appreciation to Jessica Van Oort and all of her work.

11. Motion made to adjourn at 8:12pm

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