

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
October 1, 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

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV
Kristin Powers
Sue LaPorte
Frank Nelson
Ethan Pepin
Lauren Herbert
Julie Mach
Deb Hawkins
Cori Rail
Linda Lynton
Jennifer Sullivan

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:01pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a summary of the Selectboard's Rules of Procedure.
2. Introduction of those present, virtually and in person.
3. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.
 - a. Additions: None
 - b. Deletions: None
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2024, as printed.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort

- 2nd: Bob Jones
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.

5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:

- Ethan Pepin, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, provided the Board and Body an update on the status of the Rutland Regional plan. This document is adopted by the commission every eight years, balancing economical development with social and cultural priorities. The goals of this plan are focused on those which are measurable and achievable.

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- ZA Nancy Morlino shared a report with the Board:
 - 28 permits total year-to-date.
 - Document scans are complete through 2002.
 - Notification is being prepared for short-term rental property owners, with a registration deadline of January 1, 2025.
 - The ZA's Office received notification of a Tree Maintenance and Removal Grant. The paperwork was provided to the Board for review.

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:
 - Winter sand has been hauled to West Pawlet. Ditching was completed on Beaver Brook, Andrus, Deer Run and Warren Switch Roads. Ditch work has begun on Briar Hill. Upcoming projects to include continued ditch work and continued winter sand hauling.
 - The Highway Dept. continues to seek a third member to join their team!
 - The Board briefly discussed the retired Town truck, which had been posted on an online auction site. Following a less than desired bid. The Board discussed options.
 - Motion made to decline the Auction International offer.
- Mover: Bob Jones

- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - PEG-TV has installed the permanent recording equipment for meetings.
 - One DLL Application – 48114 for Haystack Catering, LLC.
 - Motion made to approve application 48114 for Haystack Catering, LLC.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Pawlet ballots have been mailed and should be received by our voters soon if not already. First ballots arrived to the office today.

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.
- Ms. Mach requested the Board establish a date for a budget meeting.
 - The Board determined to establish a special budget meeting for November 19, 2024 at 7:00pm.
- The Board received a \$5,000.00 election grant which was applied for by the Town Clerk.
- Ms. Mach expressed interest in establishing a meeting with Berkshire, and requested increased level of communication between Board members and the Treasurer's Office.
- Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #25022 for \$145,703.17 and Payroll Warrant #25021 for \$9,908.82.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- EMD, Bob Morlino, shared a report with the Board:

- Mr. Morlino attended several virtual sessions during the VT Emergency Mgt. Preparedness Conference, and attended the REMC meeting.
- Mr. Morlino was notified that the Town of Pawlet's radio repeater frequency does not have an FCC license. This was contracted to be done by Adirondack Two Way Radio nine years ago, but they failed to file with the FCC. The repeater has been temporarily shut off until the vendor can reapply for the FCC license.

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

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Jill Marsano, VTUMS, provided test result summaries to the Board.

J. Facilities Report:

- Jessica Van Oort shared that Meg Campbell from VT Historic Preservation Trust came by to visit both the Town Hall and Library.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- The MSB met for their annual Board retreat, where they discussed their goals, policies, and goals for the school system.
- The next regular meeting will be 10/14/24 in Rupert.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort offered updates on the MERP Grant and the Pedestrian Accessibility Grant.
 - A public information meeting on the sidewalk grant has been scheduled for the afternoon of Saturday, November 16th. This date and time is to allow for a site walk in the daylight hours. The site walk will be followed by a meeting at the Town Hall.

9. New Business:

- Jessica Van Oort proposed the idea of adding a Library Board Report to the Selectboard agendas.
- Chairman Beecher acknowledged that VT State Law identifies that the Selectboard will need to fill a vacancy on the Selectboard until Town Meeting in March.
 - Anyone interested please submit a letter of interest to pawletselectboard@gmail.com or drop off at the Town Clerk's Office.

10. Public comment: None.

11. Motion made to adjourn at 7:58pm

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