

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
December 10, 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
Tom Collard

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV
Kristin Powers
Sue LaPorte
Frank Nelson
Gib Mach
Joe Clark
Joni Lee
Ray Duquette
Judy & Bud Coolidge
Deanna Mach
Sue LaPorte
Beth Duquette
Lyndsi Barnes
V. Lasky
Stan Decker
Bill Jones
John & Val Davis
Kait & Eddie Warren
Michelle Tilander
Steffanie Bourque
Julie Mach
Deb Hawkins
Linda Lynton
Grace Larson

Perry Brown
Chris Pritchard
Lauren Herbert
John Thrasher
Jay & Dolores Leubke
Kleis
Cori Rail
Tom Covino
Kalayna Ehlich
Mandy Hulett
Ken Norman

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:02pm 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:
 - Executive Session to discuss the negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options.
 - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 26, 2024 and Special Meeting Minutes of November 19, 2024
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
 - Steffanie Bourque, Rutland Regional Planning Commission - Addressed the Board as the Municipal Project Manager for the Municipal Accessibility Project. Spoke to the local concerns meeting held in November 2024, acknowledging feedback received during the public feedback portion of the meeting. At the current meeting, Ms. Bourque provided the Board with three possible alternatives to advance in project design.

- Jessica Van Oort shared an update from the Town's lawyer, providing clarification on one of the parcels that was initially thought to be Town-owned, but is in fact privately owned. It was brought to the Town's attention that the property owners are not in favor of the project, which would ultimately cease progression of the project as it is currently laid out.
- The floor was opened to public comment from the Body regarding opinions and feedback on the project as it stands now.
- Motion made to cease progression moving forward with the Pedestrian Accessibility project.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: Jessica Van Oort acknowledged that grant funds currently expended will need to be returned, and additional conversations will need to take place regarding next steps. In addition, the Town should not stop seeking opportunities to improve safety in the Pawlet Village intersection.
 - Some additional discussion points were made from other Board members as well as Town Treasurer, Julie Mach – including the possibility of requesting forgiveness for the funds spent thus far.
 - Decision: Approved

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- ZA Nancy Morlino digitally shared an update with the Board:
 - A Final reminder was sent to Short Term Rental owners to register their property by 1/1/25. As of today, five of sixteen identified properties are outstanding.
 - 34 total permits issued year-to-date.
 - Nancy electronically provided a 2024 Zoning Log to the Selectboard members.

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

C. Road Foreman's Report: No report at this meeting, however the Board and members of the public body unanimously provided their

praise to the Highway Department for their attention to the roads thus far this winter season.

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Deb Hawkins addressed the Board:
 - Election audit went well with no discrepancies. Thank you to Tom Collard and Rich Hulett for their delivery of the ballot bag.
 - Time to think about Town Meeting – reminder to submit reports.
 - Matt Corey is anticipated to complete PEG-TV set-up later this month.

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 take action to adopt a provided Resolution to obligate remaining ARPA funds.
 - Motion made to adopt the resolution to obligate remaining ARPA funds.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Ms. Mach requested the board approve the General Fund Budget of \$537,065.00 (a 6.77% increase).
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Ms. Mach requested the Board approve the Highway Fund Budget of \$739,500.00 (a 25% decrease).
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Ms. Mach requested the Board acknowledge the Waste Water Budget of \$148,610.00 (a 3.16% increase). No motion required as it is an established user's fee.

- Ms. Mach met with Constable Covino to set up a new radar purchase, an item included in the planning of the FY26 budget, however it is imperative that the new unit be purchased sooner. While this purchase would put the Constable's budget over for the current year, it is recommended the Board approve this purchase.
 - Motion made to approve the purchase of the radar unit.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Motion made to appoint Bob Jones as the Selectboard representative to sign the warrants on 12/23/2024
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Decision: Approved
 - Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #25036 for \$31,922.19, Accounts Payable Warrant #25035 for \$14,494.60.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report:
- Robert Morlino electronically provided a report to the Board:
 - R. Morlino attended a State Emergency Response Committee (SERC) meeting on 11/12/24.
- H. Health Officer's Report: Health Officer, Jennifer Sullivan, submitted a report. Nothing to report at this meeting.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF): No report at this meeting.
- J. Facilities Report: No report at this meeting.
- Judy Coolidge inquired about the whereabouts of a long cord formerly utilized for holiday lights in the green.
- K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: No report at this meeting.
8. Old or unfinished business:
- MERP Grant – Jessica Van Oort submitted the signed acceptance, with no major updates. Green Mountain Power did

contact Jessica regarding incentives from GMP that could dovetail to this project.

- Weather Tracking Cameras for Pawlet & West Pawlet – Mark Chila to be invited to attend the Selectboard’s regular meeting in January to speak further to the camera opportunities.
- Yield Signs around West Pawlet Monument – Rich Hulett shared that the Highway Foreman assessed the West Pawlet intersection, and the Town currently possesses the necessary signs.

9. New Business

- CCB Applications to Review.
 - Motion made approve VTCCB S-000010615.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

10. Public comment:

- Frank Nelson spoke to his visit to the Secretary of State’s Office, and the creation of a board put together to re-examine the Open Meeting Law, particularly regarding technology. Frank will be present
- Mandy Hulett inquired about the Special Officer appointment. Mike Beecher has made two attempts to contact the Town’s Lawyer to ensure all is in order. They are interested in proceeding with this, but want to confirm the correct steps are taken in this process.

11. Motion made to enter executive sessions to discuss the negotiating or securing of real estate purchase or lease options at 7:56pm.

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

12. Motion made to exit executive session with no decisions made at 8:24pm.

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

13. Motion made to adjourn at 8:25pm

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Tom Collard

- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved