

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
November 26, 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
Lauren Herbert
John & Val Davis
Frank Nelson
Harley Cudney
Nancy Morlino
Tom Covino
Julie Mach
Deb Hawkins
Harry Van Meter
M. Hulett

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:04pm 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 labor relations agreements with employees.

- Grant Updates – Road Foreman’s Report & Old/Unfinished Business
- b. Deletions:
 - Waste removal from School St. Bridge
- 4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 12, 2024.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - 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:
 - ZA Nancy Morlino shared an update with the Board:
 - Approximately half of short-term rental agreements have been received, and a reminder will be sent out that agreements are due by January 1st.
 - Brief conversation ensued regarding the tree removal grant, brought to light by Nancy, and the Board and Body discussed ongoing efforts related to this grant application.
 - B. Planning Commission’s Report:
 - Jessica shared a report. PPC is working on Enhanced Energy Plan – Harry Van Meter made great progress on this, and the PPC is picking efforts back up. While the Town Plan has an energy chapter, the Enhanced Energy Plan would serve as an enhanced appendix. This would give the town substantial deference when approaching large energy-related development projects. The PPC is reviewing options on how to move ahead with continuing to draft this plan.
 - Jessica Van Oort announced that she plans to transition away from the Planning Commission, and shared the fact that the Town will need to begin searching for a replacement.
 - C. Road Foreman’s Report:
 - Damon Ferenc shared that the Highway Dept. assisted Haynes Tree Care with traffic control on N. Pawlet Road.

- Treasurer, Julie Mach, submitted the grant reimbursement paperwork for the School Street Bridge project. Reimbursement should be processed in the coming weeks upon the final submission of signed paperwork.
 - The Board signed the Request for Reimbursement for the School St. Bridge grant.
 - Tree removal has been completed for the Highway Safety Improvement Program grant on the North Pawlet Road. Next steps are to order and install signage.
- D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
- Deb Hawkins addressed the Board, thanking Jessica Van Oort for all she has done for the Town through the Planning Commission, and thanked Tom Collard and Rich Hulett for their assistance this week.
 - Happy Thanksgiving to all from Deb!
- 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.
 - Auditor has suggested that the Town assign ARPA funds that have been verbally allocated to various projects. Jessica reiterated this, sharing that the funds need to be obligated by the end of 2024, and spent by 2026.
 - A treasury bill has matured, and Ms. Mach recommended it be reinvested.
 - Motion made to reinvest matured t-bill for \$40,000.00 for six months.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #25034 for \$33,379.76, Accounts Payable Warrant #25031 for \$24.00 and Payroll Warrant #25033 for \$11,077.84.
 - 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: No report at this meeting.
- 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, however there is a meeting on Monday December 2nd at 6:30pm.
- L. Harley Cudney shared a report from the Library – The Library Board met for their regular meeting, and following, received the resignation of the Library Director. Next meeting is December 3rd.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- MERP Grant – Jessica shared that the Town was awarded a zero-match grant to benefit the Town Hall and Library. Municipal Energy Resilience Project. Intended to increase efficiency of Town buildings. Have been awarded \$444,535.65. To be used for the building envelopes, insulation, HVAC, and other various projects to enhance efficiency.
 - Motion made to accept the MERP grant.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Weather Tracking Cameras for Pawlet & West Pawlet – Kristin Powers shared information following a meeting with Northshire Networks regarding the potential installation of cameras in Pawlet and West Pawlet for road condition/weather monitoring purposes for the Highway Dept.
- Permit for Speed Signs on Rte 30 – Further steps have been taken towards completing the permit. The Board discussed locations on Rte 30 to apply for permitting for installation of the speed signs.
 - Motion made to complete permit.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion None
 - Result: Approved

9. New Business

- CCB Applications to Review.

- Motion made approve VTCCB S-000010534.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- A regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting falls on December 24th. The Board discussed this, and plans to approve a member to sign off on the warrants on behalf of the Selectboard, and will resume regularly scheduled meetings on Tuesday, January 7th 2025. There will be no Selectboard meeting on Tuesday 12/24/24.

10. Public comment:

- Frank inquired about the status of the freight building on the D&H Rail Trail.
- Sue LaPorte shared information about a petition for the resignation of the chair of the Library Board.

11. Motion made to enter executive sessions to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 8:15pm.

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

12. Motion made to exit executive session with no decisions made at 8:30pm.

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

13. Julie Mach recapped decisions made regarding personnel budget items, as well as budget line items for various offices and departments that were not discussed publicly at the special meeting on 11/12.

14. Motion made to adjourn at 8:32pm

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Tom Collard
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved