

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
January 21, 2025
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
Bob Jones
Jessica Van Oort
Tom Collard
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV
Kristin Powers
Jennifer Sullivan
Cori Rail
Frank Nelson
Julie Mach
Sue LaPorte
Kevin Hoyt
Sandra Lane
Linda Lynton
Deb Hawkins
Nancy Morlino
Pawlet Taxpayer (zoom)

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:03pm 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 January 7, 2025, with one typo correction to the School Board Report.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - 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:
 - One small hiccup with the tree removal grant, stating that only the West Pawlet side of town qualifies for grant funding. Ms. Morlino is revising the grant for re-submission.

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

C. Road Foreman's Report: No report at this meeting.

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Deb Hawkins addressed the Board:
 - Nominating petitions and consent of candidate forms are due January 27th by 5:00pm.
 - Four applications from Dept. of Liquor and Lottery for approval.
 - Motion made to approve the following license applications:
 - 50924 for Apollo Industries, Inc.
 - 50928 for Apollo Industries, Inc.
 - 51042 for Sheldon's Market Corp.
 - 51043 for Shedon's Market Corp.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

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 #25045 for \$53,476.90 Payroll Warrant #25044 for \$12,732.88.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved.
- Motion made to approve General Fund Budget in the amount of \$715,833.00 and Highway Fund Budget in the amount of \$892,098.00
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Appropriation articles for Waste Water, Equipment, Reappraisal and Capital Projects.
 - Jessica Van Oort shared a spreadsheet summarizing the current fleet of Town equipment, which included estimated lifespans, and future purchase plan. Jessica continued to discuss projected capital projects (Town Garage), inquiring with the Board on how much they anticipate will ultimately be needed and when they anticipate construction to begin.
 - The Board discussed and agreed upon numbers for the Equipment, Reappraisal and Capital Projects appropriations.
- Motion made to approve the Town Meeting Warning as presented.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Julie Mach addressed the Board regarding the Town investment plan, summarizing current investments and potential investment options.
 - Motion made to reinvest Town monies with plan presented by Town Treasurer.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None

- Result: Approved
 - Friendly reminder: taxes are due Monday, February 10th.
- 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.
- 8. Old or unfinished business:
 - Municipal Ethics Liaison:
 - Motion made to appoint Mike Beecher as Pawlet's Municipal Ethics Liaison.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- 9. New Business:
 - Mike Beecher shared an updated on the park space, located in Rupert on Rte 30, currently overseen by Pawlet, Rupert and Dorset collectively. Per the Vermont Land Trust (VLT), Rupert has determined that they are not planning to continue to contribute time or finances to co-manage the park. A message from the VLT provided some insights regarding options for the land moving forward. The Board discussed this topic further.
 - Motion made to no longer continue to contribute to the park and to support the park land returning to agricultural use by the landowners.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- 10. Public comment:
 - Kevin Hoyt, Bennington, addressed the Board with observations of Pawlet's governance.
 - Frank Nelson spoke to a statement issued by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Vermont.
- 11. Motion made to adjourn at 8:08pm
 - Mover: Bob Jones

- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None

Result: Approved