

**Draft Minutes**  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
November 28, 2023  
7:00 pm  
Pawlet Town Hall  
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT  
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
Bob Jones  
Jessica Van Oort  
Perry Brown  
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers  
Frank Nelson  
Harley Cudney  
Robert Morlino  
Paul Luciano  
Michelle Tilander  
Sue LaPorte  
Molly Beverage  
Ruth Lampi  
Harry Van Meter  
Lyndsi Barnes  
Pat Bradley  
Diane Mach  
Paige Williams  
Dave Ricard  
Asher  
Aaron Levine  
Steve Williams  
Cam Smith  
Lauren Herbert  
Joanne  
Barbara Conner  
Colin Stabile  
Tom Covino

Joy Proft  
Martin Kravitt  
Jennifer Sullivan  
Mason  
Cori  
Nancy Morlino

## **EVENT**

1. Call to order at 7:04 pm 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:
    - Tom Collard – Town Note Transfer Request (moved from Unfinished Business to Pre-Requested Appearances)
    - Executive Session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body.
  - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the minutes of November 14, 2023 as printed.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
  - Robert Morlino & Paul Luciano (OPH Consulting) – Spoke to the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is due for its five-year update. This grant-funded update allows for FEMA to recognize the plan, making the Town eligible to receive state funds following an event which may require FEMA support. The goal of the Hazard Mitigation Plan is to raise community awareness of potential hazards and to establish a plan to mitigate these risks.

- Tom Collard – The Board re-visited Mr. Collard’s note transfer request from a previous meeting.
  - Motion made to assign the bid for the purchase price of the property plus statutory interest to November 28, 2023, plus the recording fee for the Assignment instrument plus attorney’s fees.
    - Mover: Rich Hulett
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Perry Brown
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved

6. Announcements:

- Holiday decorating on the Town Green will take place on 12/2 at 10:00am. Volunteers are welcome and encouraged to attend.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator’s (ZA) Report:

- No report at this meeting.

B. Planning Commission’s Report:

- Jessica Van Oort shared a report with the Board:
  - The PPC met on 11/27, focusing on finalizing updates to the Town Plan, following information received from the Rutland Regional Planning Commission. This draft of the Town Plan is now ready to be shared with the public. A special meeting will be warned for 12/19 at 7:30pm.
  - The Planning Commission requests that the Selectboard authorize the application for the Community Capacity Building Mini Grant. This is a zero-match grant that could potentially fund the purchase of infrared heat cameras. These cameras would be available to members of the community to assess heat loss and retention in their homes.
    - Motion made to authorize the application of the Community Capacity Building Mini Grant.
      - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
      - Discussion: None
      - Result: Approved.

C. Road Foreman’s Report:

- Highway Department Team Members:

- Continue to haul winter aggregate materials and perform necessary maintenance on Town equipment.
- Perform winter road maintenance during recent early-season inclement weather.
- Working through action items outlined on the VLCT Risk Assessment report.
- A third member of the Highway team begins on Monday 12/4/23.
- Two purchase requests:
  - Flammable storage cabinet for the Town Garage with a cost of \$1080.00 (per VLCT Risk Assessment).
  - Milwaukee Lithium-Ion Combo Tool Kit to support day-to-day tasks with a cost of \$599.00.
    - Motion made to approve the above purchases.
      - Mover: Bob Jones
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Perry Brown
      - Discussion: None
      - Result: Approved
- Lafayette Highway Specialties performed a guardrail inventory and provided the Town with a proposal to replace and repair all missing or damaged guardrails in Town.
  - Some discussions took place regarding the current state of the guardrails, possibility of re-using some existing material, and potential timeline of completing this improvement project.
- Daniels Construction has confirmed an April 2024 start date for the grant-funded School Street Bridge project.

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting, however Lisa Wright plans to attend next upcoming meeting to provide an update on the reappraisal process as well as an update on H-480/Act 68 of 2023 re: statewide reappraisal system.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- No report at this meeting.

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 Payroll Warrant #24027 \$7683.64 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24028 \$28,359.93.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- No report at this meeting, however EMD Bob Morlino submitted two requests:
  - A motion from the Selectboard to appoint Robert Morlino and Jonathan Weiss as Pawlet's representatives on the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee.
    - Motion made to appoint Robert Morlino and Jonathan Weiss as Pawlet's representatives on the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee.
      - Mover: Rich Hulett
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
      - Discussion: None
      - Result: Approved
  - The Town's radio repeaters need two new batteries, at an approximate cost of \$130.00 each. The Board unanimously supported this purchase.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Jill Marsano, VTUMS, digitally shared the 10-23 DMR submittal and WWTF updates.

J. Facilities Report:

- Harley Cudney is meeting with Dave Armstrong to try and address the leak issue at the Library. Estimated fix is \$1200.00 and a half day's work.
- Frank Nelson shared that he went around with the MERP assessor, visiting the Library and Town Hall. Some additional

information is needed that was not able to be accessed during the initial visit.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- Julie Mach shared a report from the MSB:
  - Shared overview of last three meetings of the MSB.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Personnel Policy – The Board discussed the portion of the personnel policy pertaining to overtime.
  - Motion made to maintain current pay structure, acknowledging overtime hours being honored as hours worked outside of a pre-established daily work period.
    - Mover: Rich Hulett
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Perry Brown
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved

9. New Business:

- None.

10. Public Comment:

- Sue LaPorte provided the Board with letters from members of the community regarding the recent personnel changes at the Pawlet Public Library, reading an excerpt of one of the letters to the Board.
- Martin Kravitt spoke to the personnel changes at the Library, requesting that the Board make requests from the Library Board of Trustees to gain additional information on this ongoing situation.
- Aaron Levine read aloud a letter from a local resident addressing the recent personnel changes at the Pawlet Public Library.
- Barbara O'Conner spoke to the recent personnel changes at the Pawlet Public Library.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body 1 V.S.A. § 313 at 8:00pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

12. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 9:06pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

13. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:08pm

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved