

**Final Minutes**  
**SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET**  
November 14, 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

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers  
Frank Nelson  
Harley Cudney  
Ruth Lampi  
Lyndsi Barnes  
Tom Collard  
Constable Ricard  
Kevin Mason  
Diane Mach  
Deb Hawkins  
Nancy Morlino  
Aaron Levine  
Carol Schoenwetter  
Martin Kravitt  
Julie Mach  
Sue LaPorte  
Harry Van Meter  
Colin Stabile  
Allen T.  
Molly Beverage  
Grace Larson  
Barbara O'Connor

**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:
    - Pedestrian Accessibility Grant Update – Old/Unfinished Business
    - Personnel Policy: Overtime – New Business
    - Small Highway Safety Improvement Grant – Road Foreman’s Report
  - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the minutes of October 31, 2023 as printed.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Perry Brown
    - 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 a report with the Board:
      - 37 permits issued year to date.
      - Wide-format printer is scheduled for delivery on Wednesday 11/15.
      - An eviction notice has been served at the trailer in West Pawlet.
  - B. Planning Commission’s Report:
    - No report at this meeting.
  - C. Road Foreman’s Report:
    - Colby Generous has joined the Highway Department.
    - The 2023 Mack is undergoing fabrication improvements.
    - Highway Team members have begun hauling winter aggregate.
    - Sign replacement and inventory is ongoing, with a focus on ensuring compliance throughout the installation process.
    - Upcoming projects include:

- Guard rail assessment to determine which need replacing.
- Continuing to haul winter material and prep fleet for winter maintenance.
- The Town of Pawlet received the 2023 VTrans Highway Safety Improvement Program's Small Scale Local Safety Grant, which will fund a project at the intersection of North Pawlet Road and Rte. 30. Pawlet was approved for an award of \$14,440.00 at a 100% state share (no local match requirement).
  - Motion made to accept the 2023 VTrans HSIP Small Scale Local Safety Grant.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
- The Board reviewed the updated Winter Maintenance Operation Policy.
  - Motion made to adopt the Winter Maintenance Operation Policy.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved

D. Assessor Report:

- No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a report to the Board:
  - Notification from Act 250 distributed to the Board.
  - The Town Clerk's office will be closed on 11/15 while attending the New England Association of City and Town Clerk's Annual Conference.

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.
- Pawlet has received the 4th quarter VT State Aid payment in the amount of \$28,316.01.

- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #24023 \$9,431.93 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24024 \$30,400.02.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Perry Brown
  - 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, however Mike Beecher shared that he has worked with Jill Marsano to gather necessary end of year information.

J. Facilities Report:

- Harley Cudney shared that he has communicated with Dave Armstrong regarding the repair of the slate roof.
- Jessica Van Oort shared that an energy auditor will be visiting the Town Hall and Library to determine eligibility for grant-funded energy and weatherization upgrades.
- PEG-TV has extended the opportunity for an upgrade of video equipment for the Town, including permanent cameras and mixer board, etc. at no cost to the Town.
  - Motion made to accept the upgrade opportunity from PEG-TV.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
    - Discussion: Some discussion and inquiries about the equipment.
    - Result: Approved

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- No report at this meeting.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Pedestrian Accessibility Grant Update:
  - Jessica Van Oort shared updates following progress made alongside Steffanie Bourque of the Rutland Regional Planning Commission.

- Motion made to reject the bid from VHB and to submit a request for proposal to Fuss & O'Neill.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved

9. New Business:

- Personnel Policy - Overtime

10. Public Comment:

- Ruth Lampi, Martin Kravitt, Molly Beverage, Carol Schoenwetter, Sue LaPorte, Barbara O'Connor, Allen Turner, and Grace Larson – Addressed the Board regarding the recent personnel changes at the Pawlet Public Library. Mr. Beecher acknowledged these comments, acknowledging that the Library Board of Trustees is an entity independent from the Selectboard.
- Lyndsi Barnes addressed the Board regarding the recent personnel changes at the Pawlet Public Library.
- Tom Collard addressed the Board regarding interest in taking over the note of a property that was purchased by the Town via tax sale.
  - Julie Mach and Bob Jones spoke to this topic, offering clarifying details. No decisions made. To be added to the agenda of the next meeting.

11. Motion made to enter Executive Session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees 1 V.S.A. § 313 at 8:20 pm.

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

12. Motion made to exit Executive Session with no decisions made at 9:21pm.

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

13. The Board discussed the Constable and Wastewater budget, with no decisions made.

14. Motion made to Adjourn at 9:24pm.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort

- 2nd: Perry Brown
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved