

**Final Minutes**  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
February 20, 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  
Perry Brown  
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

Kristin Powers  
PEG-TV  
Sue LaPorte  
Frank Nelson  
Harley Cudney  
Linda Lynton  
Cori Rail  
Nancy Morlino  
Pawlet Resident (zoom)  
Tom Black  
Harry Van Meter  
Dave Ricard

**EVENT**

1. Call to order at 7:04pm 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: None.
  - b. Deletions: Re-Appraisal Draft Contract.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

- Motion made to approve the special meeting minutes of January 30, 2024, with one edit to Michael Allen's comment, special meeting minutes of January 31, 2024 as printed, and regular meeting minutes of February 6, 2024 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:

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report: No report at this meeting

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

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Highway Foreman, Rick Lawrence, submitted a report to the Board:
  - The Highway Department has:
    - Continued to stockpile gravel.
    - Graded roads as weather permits.
    - Maintained and repaired equipment as necessary.
    - Began cutting brush on select roads.
    - Continued to perform winter maintenance to the roads as weather requires.
- The Board discussed the request from the VT Agency of Transportation for a signed grant amendment form for the FY23 Grants in Aid program.
  - Motion made to sign the grant amendment form.
    - Mover: Rich Hulett
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Perry Brown
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
- The Board received the spring mailer packet from VTrans, which includes required mandatory paperwork. The Board determined this paperwork would best be completed after Town Meeting.

- The Highway Liaisons shared that there is an injector issue with the 2018 Mack, which appears to have resulted in some more significant issues throughout the truck.

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
  - Two excess weight permits for signature. Bob Jones signed both permits.
  - There will be a cemetery association meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>. The Selectboard's special meeting (Organizational Meeting) will be held in the main office space.

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.
- There is a bill, S.55, in VT Senate that would require all open meetings to be available as in-person and virtual. There will be testimony opportunities this week and the Treasurer's Office will have the information on where to submit testimony.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #24043 for \$9,715.92 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24044 for \$44,881.89.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report: No report at this meeting.

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Health Officer, Jennifer Sullivan, has taken report of three dog bites (three separate dogs and locations) in the last two weeks.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Mike Beecher shared that there was an excessive amount of propane used in a short period of time at the WWTF. A repair person suggested the duct work has been compromised by an animal, and the heating system also seems to be showing its age. Both of these items will likely need to be repaired imminently.

- The new pump motor has arrived and is awaiting a schedule for installation.
- J. Facilities Report: No report at this meeting.
- K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:
- Julie Mach, MSB Chair, submitted a report from the February 12<sup>th</sup> Board meeting to the Selectboard.
    - At the meeting on 2/12/24, the MSB was joined by students to get their feedback and input. The Board also discussed financial planning and budgeting.
8. Old or unfinished business:
- The Board discussed the item brought up last meeting regarding development at the former Dutchie's Store property, with no decisions made.
9. New Business:
- None.
10. Public Comment:
- Jennifer Sullivan inquired about the status of the knocked over speed sign in West Pawlet. The Highway Liaisons to reach out to the Highway Department.
  - Mike Beecher relayed a citizen inquiry regarding the flag on the West Pawlet monument. Dave Ricard spoke to this. The Board determined that a flag could be ordered.
  - Frank Nelson addressed the Board regarding his request regarding reimbursement for a tax penalty.
    - Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, suggested the Board take a copy of the procedural document provided to Mr. Nelson for review.
  - Dave Ricard spoke to a job well done by the Highway Department. Inquired about the procedure of calling in employees. Also shared several observations of recent activities performed by the Highway Department.
    - Specific conversations ensued regarding the necessary procedure for changing speed limits along roadways.
  - Sue LaPorte read a letter penned by Rhonda Schlangen, specifically addressing concerns of the community's governance as it pertains to the Library Board.
  - Mike Beecher shared mailing received regarding bankruptcy and opiates. Jessica Van Oort offered to look over the correspondence and report back.

- Jessica Van Oort acknowledged a mineralogical report survey that the Board has requested to fill out.
11. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 7:48pm.
    - Mover: Rich Hulett
    - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
  12. Motion to come out of executive session with no decisions made 8:42pm.
    - Mover: Bob
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
  13. Motion made to extend a job offer to a qualified applicant.
    - Mover: Bob Jones
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
  14. Motion made to adjourn at 8:43pm
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved