

**Final Minutes**  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
April 2, 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  
Brian Crossman

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV  
Kristin Powers  
Frank Nelson  
Harley Cudney  
Sue LaPorte  
Fred Stone  
Nancy Morlino  
Bob Morlino  
Chris Pritchard  
Olga Arnold  
Adam Sigel  
Fred Smith  
Jennifer Sullivan (Zoom)  
Rebecca Banyai (Zoom)  
Dave Brodsky (Zoom)  
Linda Lynton (Zoom)  
Julie Mach (Zoom)  
FF018 (Zoom)  
Deb Pawlet (Zoom)  
Tom Black (Zoom)  
Kevin Mason (Zoom)

## EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:03pm 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:
    - Bob Morlino, Emergency Management Director – Pre-Requested Appearances
    - Bob Morlino & Chris Pritchard – Pre-Requested Appearances
  - b. Deletions: None.
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 19, 2024 as printed (following some typo and date corrections).
    - Mover: Rich Hulett
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
  - Bob Morlino requested to collect the necessary signatures from SB Chair, Mike Beecher, to correspond with the Local Emergency Management Plan.
    - Motion made to sign the Local Emergency Management Plan
      - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
      - Discussion: None
      - Result: Approved
    - Bob Morlino shared that, in the E911 system, the name of the road commonly referred to as Rupert Mountain Road is officially Rupert Hill Road. A letter went out to residents of this road confirming this.
  - Bob Morlino, Chris Pritchard, and Gary Baierlein have been conducting research to gather information regarding the future construction of a new Town Highway Garage.
    - Three sites have been reviewed as potential locations for new construction: existing plot, West Pawlet plot, and the Town's

gravel pit. Morlino, Pritchard and Baierlein determined that of these three locations, the gravel pit stands to be the best option for a highway building.

- Morlino, Pritchard and Baierlein inspected the Rupert Town Garage, which was built approximately ten years ago, to get ideas of a size of a comparable building, prices, etc.
- Some items to consider include the potential for subdivision at the gravel pit, and the widening of the current driveway into the property.
- Next step could be to have the property surveyed.

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.
- Jessica Van Oort shared an update from the Otter Creek Communications Union District (OCCUD).
  - A signed form is necessary for the OCCUD records, confirming that Jessica Van Oort is Pawlet's representative.
  - A representative from Consolidated Communications requested to attend an upcoming Selectboard meeting to inform residents of what to expect as we approach the fiberoptic build. Consolidated would like to liaise with the Town to be sure there is communication as they progress with the fiberoptic project.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Town Highway team member, Colby Generous, provided a report to the Board:
  - The Highway Department has been:
    - Working on repairing dirt roads, completing truck and equipment maintenance, tending to snow removal as necessary, pre-treating roads as necessary, hauling stone to the Pawlet garage, and working on tree removal.
    - Mr. Generous has been working on gathering quotes for plow blades, and provided quotes to the Highway Liaisons.
    - Question raised as to when the Highway Department transitions their schedule to four, ten-

hour work days. It was determined that a smooth transition would take place at the start of the next pay period.

- The Highway Department submitted a list of purchase requests.
  - The Board supported these purchases, and authorized the Treasurer and Highway Department to work together to complete these.

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a report to the Board:
  - Bob Jones signed the 9 excess weight permits.
  - Deb received a call reporting a hole developing over a culvert on North Pawlet Road.
  - The Certificate of Highway Mileage has been emailed back to the state.

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.
- The VLCT insurance payment has come through for the 2018 Mack.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #24051 for \$44,764.27 and Accounts Payable Warrant #24052 for \$23,661.51, with the amendment of adding the State Line invoice for repairs to the 2018 Mack in the amount of \$44,764.27.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort

- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Brian Crossman

- Discussion: None.

- Result: Approved.

- The Board reviewed the opportunity for cost savings from VT Elevator Inspection services.

- Motion made to enter a five-year contract with Vermont Elevator Inspection Services.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort

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

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- EMD, Bob Morlino, shared a report summarizing March 2024 with the Board:
  - Pawlet's Local Emergency Management Plan was updated and will need signatures from the Chair of the Selectboard
  - R. Morlino attended the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee 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:

- Rail Trail Trailhead Lease Agreement:
  - The Board revisited this topic, originally discussed at the last regular meeting.
    - The Board determined to place the updated trail amenities on the Town-owned property across from the rail-trail entrance.
  - Jessica shared that she communicated with RRPC, who estimated that with our available funds, Pawlet would be able to add an updated kiosk, a few benches, and potentially a bike repair station to the West Pawlet entrance to the D&H rail trail.

9. New Business: None.

10. Public Comment:

- Frank Nelson shared that he took photos of heat loss in the attics of the Town Hall and Library.
  - Some discussions ensued regarding the publicizing efforts surrounding the infrared cameras.
- Hillary Solomon, PMNRCD, provided some updates to the Board:
  - Notices will be distributed regarding upcoming stream projects.
  - The PMNRCD has funding available now for water quality projects.

- Sue LaPorte addressed ongoing personnel and legal items happening at the Library.
  - Harley Cudney offered a comment on this matter.

11. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss ongoing attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the body and to discuss labor relations agreements with employees (1 V.S.A. § 313) at 8:10pm.

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

12. Motion to come out of executive session with no decisions made at 9:20pm.

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

13. Motion made to extend an offer to a qualified applicant.

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

14. Motion made to adjourn at 9:21pm

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