

**Final Minutes**  
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET  
August 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  
Brian Crossman  
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV  
Kristin Powers  
Frank Nelson  
Ray & Beth Duquette  
Julie Mach  
Deb Hawkins  
Greg Bovey  
Harley Cudney  
Cori Rail  
Lauren Herbert  
Linda Lynton  
Hannah Herbert

**EVENT**

1. Call to order at 7:00pm 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:
    - Executive Session – to discuss labor relations agreements with employees & confidential attorney-client communications.

- Greg Povey , Otter Creek CUD – Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors
  - VOREC Grant – Old/Unfinished Business
- b. Deletions: None
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 6, 2024, as printed.
    - Mover: Rich Hulett
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
- Greg Povey, Consolidated Communications – The VT Communcations Union District has hired Consolidated to improve fiber optic accessibility to underserved areas. Greg went on to explain the installation process and a project summary. Visit [fidiumfiber.com](http://fidiumfiber.com), enter your address, and select the box indicating that you would like a drop to your home.
6. Announcements: The School Street Bridge is anticipated to be re-opened later this week. Estimated date is 8/23/24.
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, Damon Ferenc, provided a report to the Board:
    - During the last several weeks, the Highway Dept. has continued to check roads, cut brush, repair vehicles, met with Auctions International, performed ditch work, hauled material.
    - Upcoming work to include:
      - Continued roadside mowing, ditch work, and anticipated hiring of team members.
    - Additional pricing gathered for grader tires.
    - Bob Jones shared that a tree was reported down on Chet Clark Rd. was taken care of.
- D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.
- E. Town Clerk’s Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
  - Audio/Visual equipment is due for install late September.
  - 1 ANR notification.
  - Primary Election resulted in a very low voter turnout of 21% for the Town of Pawlet, though not an uncommon turnout percentage.

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 funds have been secured from the VT Municipal Equipment Loan and when the final bills are received, Julie will be able to finalize the closing out of the original loan.
- The title for the new truck has been received.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #25012 for \$6,934.60 and Accounts Payable Warrant #25010 for \$10.00 and Accounts Payable Warrant #25013 for \$41,218.49.

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.

H. Health Officer's Report: No report at this meeting.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Jill Marsano, VTUMS, passed along general facility reports to the Board.

J. Facilities Report: No report at this meeting.

K. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: No report at this meeting.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- VOREC Grant – Jessica Van Oort shared an update on this grant, first received in 2022 with Rupert, that still has some additional funding.
  - Months ago, the Selectboard decided to utilize additional funding to purchase a bench, picnic table, bike rack and bike repair station. Jessica suggested establishing a date to look at the area to decide on the placement of these items, which would involve community engagement.

- On Thursday, 8/29 at 5:00pm, the public is welcome to visit the West Pawlet Rail Trail entrance point to provide input and feedback on placement locations.
- Jessica Van Oort shared that the town-owned lot that has been in question in recent meetings has not had a recent survey. Jessica has inquired whether a currently open grant would be able to be utilized to also perform a survey.

9. New Business: None.

10. Public comment: None.

11 Motion made to enter executive session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees and confidential attorney-client communications at 7:42 pm.

- 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 8:18pm

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

13. Motion made to extend a job offer to two qualified applicants.

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

13. Motion made to adjourn at 8:20pm

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