

**Final Minutes**  
**SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET**  
March 18, 2025  
7:00 pm  
Pawlet Town Hall  
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT  
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher  
Bob Jones  
Jessica Van Oort  
Tom Collard

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV  
Kristin Powers  
Frank Nelson  
Nancy Morlino  
Mark Gutel  
Linda Lynton  
Cori Rail  
Sue LaPorte  
Bob Morlino  
Annie Nash  
Lauren Herbert  
Tom Covino

**EVENT**

1. Call to order at 7:00pm by Chairman, Mike Beecher, with the Pledge of Allegiance and a summary of the Selectboard's Rules of Procedure.
2. Introduction of those present, virtually and in person.
3. Addition or Deletion of Agenda Items.
  - a. Additions:
    - Bob Morlino – Pre-Requested
    - Auditorium Use – New Business
    - RRPC Appointments – New Business
    - VT Fish & Wildlife Dedication – New Business

- b. Deletions: None
- 4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 5, 2025 as printed, as well as the Special Meeting Minutes of March 5, 2025.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
    - Discussion: None.
    - Result: Approved.
- 5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
  - Bob Morlino – Presented the Board with the Rutland Regional Public Work Mutual Aid Agreement. This agreement is signed annually, and establishes mutual aid between Pawlet and surrounding Towns.
    - Motion made to sign the Public Work Mutual Aid Agreement
      - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
      - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
      - Discussion: None
      - Result: Approved
    - Mr. Morlino spoke to the Board about presenting at a future meeting regarding the Emergency Mgt. Plan.
- 6. Announcements: None.
- 7. Reports:
  - A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:
    - ZA Nancy Morlino shared that we are still at 5 permits year-to-date.
    - Nancy continues to scan in old permits, and has been attending the recent Planning Commission meetings. Nancy has offered training opportunities regarding zoning for newly appointed members.
  - B. Planning Commission's Report:
    - Frank Nelson, shared a report:
      - A special meeting was held on 3/18/2025, and Mr. Nelson provided the Board with letters from four interested candidates in joining the board.
      - Motion made to appoint Annie Nash and Ed Evans to the Pawlet Planning Commission, and Leon Corey to an alternate position on the Pawlet Planning Commission.
        - Mover: Bob Jones
        - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Jessica Van Oort

- Discussion: Annie Nash and Ed Evans terms will expire in 2026.
    - Result: Approved
  - Motion made to appoint Linda Lynton as the primary representative to the Rutland Regional Planning Commission Board of Commissioners and Transportation Advisory Council.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
- C. Road Foreman's Report: No report at this meeting, however Highway Foreman, Damon Ferenc, will be stepping away from his role at the end of March. The Board expressed gratitude for all Damon has contributed to the Town, and spoke to the quality of all that Damon has contributed to the Town.
  - The role will be posted to indeed and any interested applicants are encouraged to attend.
- D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
  - Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a memo with the Board:
    - One notice from the ANR
    - Upon taking the oath of office on March 17, 2025, Tom Covino has now transitioned from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 1<sup>st</sup> Constable, leaving the remainder of the term of the 2<sup>nd</sup> constable to be filled (expiring in March 2026).
    - Bob Jones signed 9 excess weight permits.
    - Ms. Hawkins shared an inquiry from a West Pawlet resident to purchase dog fencing that is currently sitting near the West Pawlet highway building.
      - The Board stated that the fencing belongs to the Town and is to be used in the event of a dog that needs to be impounded.
    - Mr. Covino introduced Mark Gutel, resident of West Pawlet, who has expressed interest in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable position. Mr. Gutel has been in law enforcement since 2020, actively teaching at the VT Police Academy in a negotiation position.

- Motion made to appoint Mark Gutel to the remainder of the second constable term, expiring March 2026.
  - Mover: Bob Jones
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved
- Deb Hawkins swore in Mark Gutel to fill the remainder of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Constable Term, expiring March 2026.

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 Board spoke to the intention behind the uniform service as opposed to a uniform allowance.
- Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #25057 for \$148,309.08 Payroll Warrant #25056 for \$13,148.68.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
  - Discussion: Tom Collard inquired about the picnic table for the D&H Rail Trail. Jessica and Mike clarified that this purchase will be reimbursed by grant funding.
  - Result: Approved.

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

H. Health Officer's Report: Rutland Habitat for Humanity can help build accessibility ramps for those experiencing physical difficulties entering and exiting their home. Email [rutlandhabitat@gmail.com](mailto:rutlandhabitat@gmail.com) for more information and/or to apply for this service.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF): No report at this meeting, however at the April 1, 2025 meeting, representatives from the RRPC and WWTF will be in attendance to go over potential alternatives for improvements at the WWTF.

J. Facilities Report:

- Town Hall Door Repair: Jessica Van Oort offered to reach out to Meg Campbell from the VT Historic Preservation Trust regarding suggestions.

K. Library Board Report:

- Cori Rail provided an updated from the Library Board, including their organizational meeting and upcoming events and committee initiatives.
  - Book sorters are seeking help in preparation for the Library book sale.
  - Library Board meetings are set for the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm, except for weeks where the Selectboard has a previously scheduled meeting.

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

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Town Property Surveying:
  - Tom Collard worked with Sue LaPorte and Deb Hawkins to take inventory of survey records of properties owned by the Town.
    - Mr. Collard created a list of un-surveyed properties, and asked the Board whether the best next step would be to have all un-surveyed properties surveyed.
      - The Board determined a request for proposals would be the next best step.
- Weather Monitoring Cameras:
  - The Board reviewed the updated estimate from Northshire Networks, and a conversation ensued amongst the Board and Body. No decision at this meeting.
  - Jessica Van Oort provided Mr. Beecher with the official appointment form for the Otter Creek Communication Unions District. Mr. Beecher signed this form.

9. New Business:

- VT Fish and Wildlife Dedication:
  - The Selectboard received a letter from David Sausville from VT Fish and Wildlife, offering to present to the Board regarding the possibility
- No fee for the PHS for the auditorium.
- Mr. Collard passed along an estimate from Ski Door. The Board needs to investigate where this came from and what it is for.

10. Public comment:

- Frank Nelson shared that there were no attendees at the energy presentation on Saturday, but has a small presentation available if there is interest by the Board.
  - Tom Collard shared that he will be attending the Selectboard training in Montpelier.
  - Julie Mach inquired if the small balance in the mini MERP grant can be rolled into the larger MERP grant. Jessica Van Oort to reach out on this.
    - Frank noted that the mini grant has a different filing process.
11. Motion made to adjourn at 8:17pm.
- Mover: Bob Jones
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved