

**Final Minutes**  
**SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET**  
April 1, 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  
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV  
Kristin Powers  
Frank Nelson  
Linda Lynton  
Sue LaPorte  
Mark Guptel  
Devon Neary  
Jay Leubke  
Cori Rail  
Nancy Morlino  
Jill Marsano

**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: None
  - b. Deletions: None
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
  - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 18, 2025 as printed.

- Mover: Rich Hulett
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.

5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:

- Rutland Regional Planning Commission (RRPC) & Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF) Guests
  - Devon Neary, RRPC, and Jill Marsano, Vermont Utility Management Systems (VTUMS), attended and updated the Board on the Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) supported project, focused on improvements at the WWTF.
    - Devon provided the Board with the draft alternatives report for the project, which included five project alternatives. At this point, the Board needs to decide which direction the project will go. The funding provided will bring the Town to the engineering portion of the project.
      - Devon elaborated on the five alternatives, and Jill spoke to previously obtained evaluations of the facility as they related to the alternatives. Conversation ensued amongst the Board and Body.
      - Devon spoke to the origin of this project, which was the Board's desire to reduce user fees associated with the WWTF following information gathered via the master plan for the West Pawlet Village.
    - Devon ultimately asked the Board members whether they felt comfortable selecting an option that would allow the plan to advance. Upon weighing the risk (no-risk project) and forecast for funding in the future, the Board determined they wished to continue with this funded-portion of the project.
      - Motion made to ask RRPC to move forward with alternative three for the Waste Water Treatment Facility.
        - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
        - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
        - Discussion: None
        - Result: None

6. Announcements: None.

## 7. Reports to the Board:

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

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- Frank Nelson, shared a report:
  - Organizational meeting was deferred until more members can be present.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Damon Ferenc culminated his time as Foreman last week, and team members, Mike and Jim, are spot grading and hauling stone as we begin to see spring-like weather conditions. Ditch work will begin next week if weather cooperates.
- One of the Mack trucks needed a sensor replaced and should return to Town on Wednesday 4/2.
- Team member, Jim, provided the Board with prices for a leaf blower (handheld and backpack) as the only current leaf removal apparatus currently owned by the Town is a tractor attachment.
  - The Board supported this and suggested Jim contact a local retailer for pricing.
- Following up from the last meeting, the quote that came in from Ski Door was to replace the mechanisms at the West Pawlet garage. It is suspected that these were burnt out during a power surge, and the question was raised as to whether this could be filed as an insurance claim. The Board supported this being submitted as an insurance claim.

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a memo with the Board:
  - Motion made to approve both facility requests – fundraiser for Pawlet Food Pantry on 5/3 & Historical Society Event on 5/15 with fees waived for both events.
    - Mover: Tom Collard
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Rich Hulett
    - Discussion: None
    - Result: Approved
  - Motion made to appoint Bob Morlino as Deputy Health Officer, effective, 5/1/2025.
    - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones

- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved
- Bob Jones signed the five excess weight permits.
- Tom Collard to contact Dave Armstrong regarding roof repair at the Town Hall following storm damage.

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.
- Julie shared she attended a VLCT training on grants.
- Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #25059 for \$20,854.10 Payroll Warrant #25058 for \$14,710.68.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
  - Discussion: None.
  - Result: Approved.
- Julie shared that Frank Nelson had requested that a report be generated sharing the balance left on the MERP mini grant. Julie briefly summarized a general amount of funds left as well as what the funds have been approved to be used for. Julie's recommendation would be to put the funds towards the larger MERP grant's upcoming project.

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

H. Health Officer's Report:

- a. Town Health Officer, Jennifer Sullivan, attended a meeting about asbestos.

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF): No report at this meeting.

J. Facilities Report:

- a. Jessica Van Oort shared that she contacted Meg Campbell from the VT Historic Preservation Trust regarding Town Hall door repairs. Upon letting Meg know that the repair is larger in scale, we have yet to receive an update but will await next steps.

8. Reports to the Public:

A. Library Board Report: No report at this meeting.

B. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- a. Julie Mach shared a report from the MSB with the Board:
  - i. At the regular meeting on March 10, 2024, the MSB set meeting dates for the year and heard a School Goals

update and discussed legislative activity regarding Education governance and finance reform.

- ii. A special meeting was held on March 24, 2025 ratifying several org meeting motions due to one member not taking an oath of office prior to the 3/10 meeting.
- iii. Next regular meeting will be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> at the Rupert Firehouse and on Google Meet.
- iv. The MSB requested the use of the Pawlet Town Hall Auditorium for meetings on May 19, 2025, August 11, 2025, and January 12, 2026.
  1. Motion made to approve these requests to use the Town Hall Auditorium.
    - a. Mover: Jessica Van Oort
    - b. 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
    - c. Discussion: None
    - d. Result: Approved

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort, as the Otter Creek Communications Unions District rep, followed up on what is happening with the West Pawlet wifi project.
  - PSA to Fidium Fiber subscribers, feel free to contact Jessica Van Oort with any questions or concerns about service.

9. New Business:

- Motion made to approve CCB renewal license Application S-000011754.
  - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
  - 2<sup>nd</sup>: Bob Jones
  - Discussion: None
  - Result: Approved.
- Jon Weiss, Pawlet Volunteer Fire Dept, wrote a letter to the Board inquiring about the possibility of purchasing a vehicle for the dept. through the municipality to benefit from municipality pricing, which is not available to non-municipal entities such as the PVFD. The dept. would reimburse the Town for all expenses associated with the vehicle purchase.
  - The Board felt that they would like to support the PVFD in this purchase, but want to make sure they go about it the correct way.
- Tom Covino addressed the Board regarding the updated policies and procedures for the constabulary. These policies

are updated regularly by the VLCT. Tom requested the Board review these so that they can be adopted.

10. Public comment:

- Frank Nelson shared that he is delaying his energy presentation until he has more time.

11. Motion made to adjourn at 8:29pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Tom Collard
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved