

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
June 24, 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
Sue LaPorte
Maggie O'Brien
Jennifer Sullivan
Julie Mach
James Greeno

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 June 10, 2025, as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard

- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.

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

- Jennifer Sullivan - Community Member Concern: Shared a concern about a resident of West Pawlet, who's ongoing behavior (monitored and addressed by Town Health Officer and Constables) has impacted neighbors. Ms. Sullivan read aloud a letter written by neighbors regarding the troubling activity.
- Maggie O'Brien, Rutland Regional Planning Commission, Municipal Energy Resilience Program - Introduced herself and summarized her role for the Town with regard to the MERP grant. Reminded the Board as several requirements/priorities for the program to be kept in mind.
 - The Board proceeded to open the bids, one from John Turner Consulting and one from ArchiTend LLC.
 - Maggie O'Brien provided the Board with background information on both firms, helping to decipher key details about each bid.
 - The Board determined that the next step is to review the two proposals thoroughly prior to making a decision at the next regularly scheduled Selectboard meeting.

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports to the Board:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- Nancy Morlino electronically shared a report with the Board:
 - Attended the DRB meeting on 6/16 for a Conditional Use Permit application.
 - Attended the Planning Commission meeting on 6/17, reviewing the Rutland Regional Plan.
 - 25 permits issued year-to-date.

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

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Highway Foreman, James Greeno, provided a report:
 - Throughout the past two weeks the Highway Dept. has:
 - Ditching, grading, mowing, and adding gravel to roads as well as performing maintenance and conducting road inventory.
 - Upcoming projects to include:

- Begin Bauer Road culvert replacement project as well as securing the bank along the Brimstone Road culvert.
- Continue mowing and assist with the D&H Rail Trail rest area project.
- Proposed projects: culvert replacement on Kelley Hill Road & Bullfrog Hollow Road.
- Some conversations ensued amongst the Board, Body and Highway Foreman regarding several upcoming projects.

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo: No report at this meeting.

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.
- FY25 reporting on the mini-grant has been completed and FY25 reporting for the Better Back Roads grant is near completion (Mr. Beecher to sign the BBR submission paperwork).
- Mr. Beecher signed a pay rate sheet for FY26.
- Julie briefly summarized three new financial policies, electronically submitted to the Board, to be formally reviewed & adopted at the next regular meeting. Conversation ensued with no decisions made.
- Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #25078 for \$25,115.96 and Payroll Warrant #25077 for \$12,664.92.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: 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):

- Jessica Van Oort shared that the Sludge Storage project was recommended for federal funding.
- Jill Marsano, VTUMS, electronically submitted the May 2025 submissions.

J. Facilities Report:

- Tom Collard acknowledged several items in need of attention with fellow board members including:
 - Exterior painting and repair of the Town Hall and Library.
 - Action items to continue working toward include: roofing, painter, carpenter (rot repair).
 - The MERP grant may be utilized for window and library ramp repair.
 - The builder of the new Town Hall doors has submitted drawings to the VT Historic Trust, and the design was approved.

8. Reports to the Public:

A. Library Board Report:

- Sue LaPorte shared that the Library Book sale is coming up July 26 & 27, 2025.

B. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- No official report, however Julie Mach shared that H-454 did pass, which means there will be a commission working on redistricting the entire state of VT and reworking education taxes increases.

8. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort shared an update on the VOREC grant, which funded the improvements along the rail trail for the towns of Pawlet & Rupert. The towns have been given an extension to utilize the funds until September 2025. The Highway Department will be assisting with the efforts to set up the picnic tables and bike repair stations once received.
- Mike Beecher spoke to the stop sign currently coming into the West Pawlet village from Egg Street, and revisited the idea of the possibility of adjusting signage to allow for a yield rather than a stop.
- The Board determined to re-list the dump truck on auction international. James Greeno inquired about the possibility of selling other equipment that is no longer useful at the Town garage. The Board supported this.

9. New Business: None.

10. Public comment:

- Frank Nelson spoke to the Open Meeting Law amendments.
- Constable Covino asked, on behalf of second constable Gutel, what the process would be to procure two 40 mph speed limit signs on

Button Falls Road, as well as a, Welcome to Vermont, sign. The Selectboard approved the Highway Foreman to order said signs.

11. Motion made to adjourn at 8:32pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Tom Collard
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved