

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
January 6, 2026
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
Cori Rail
Sue LaPorte
Linda Lynton
Julie Mach
Deb H
Erik Lubinsky
Tom Covino

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:06pm 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: Executive Session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees.
 - b. Deletions: None
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 23, 2025 as printed.

- Mover: Rich Hulett
- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None.
- Result: Approved.

5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors: 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: No report at this meeting.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Highway Foreman, James Greeno, provided a report to the Board, summarizing projects completed during the previous two weeks as well as upcoming areas of focus.

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - A reminder that we have 30 days to respond to the letter recommending changes to the boiler. Mike Beecher has contacted a contractor who will be conducting the work. Deb to confirm this with the boiler inspector.
 - Candidate Nominating Petitions & Consent of Candidate forms are due January 26th and Article Petitions are due January 15th.
 - Deb hopes to have the Town Meeting warning ready to be signed at the next Selectboard meeting.
 - Effective 2026, the Town Clerk and Treasurer's offices will be open on Thursdays.

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.
- Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #26038 for \$12,624.60 and Payroll Warrant #26037 for \$28,324.95.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

- The Board reviewed the appropriation numbers as provided by the Town Clerk and Treasurer. They discussed the Town Equipment Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Wastewater Upgrade & Maintenance Fund and Townwide Reappraisal Fund.
- G. Emergency Management Director's Report: No report at this meeting.
- H. Health Officer's Report: The Health Officer and Emergency Mgt Director investigated a complaint regarding a neighboring wood boiler of the complainant. Awaiting follow-up information from State DEC before making a final determination.
- I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF): No report at this meeting.
- J. Facilities Report:
- Tom Collard spoke to a quote received from Lux Brush for interior ceiling repair work and painting to be completed at the Library.
 - a. Motion made to accept the quote for \$3,293.00 from Lux Brush to complete the work at the Library.
 - i. Mover: Tom Collard
 - ii. 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - iii. Discussion: None
 - iv. Result: Approved
 - Mike Beecher shared that rodent damage was discovered in the heating system at the WWTF. A remedy is being investigated.
8. Reports to the Public:
- A. Library Board Report:
- Cori Rail shared that four interested candidates submitted interest to the Board of Trustees. While all four were qualified, the existing Board members determined to extend the offer to the first two interested parties: Amy Miller & Phoebe McChesney.
 - Motion made to appoint Amy Miller and Phoebe McChesney to fill the two vacancies on the Library Board for the remainder of the terms expiring in March 2026.
 - Mover: Tom Collard
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

B. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: No report at this meeting, however Julie shared that the next regular meeting is on Monday, January 12th at the Town Hall at 6:30pm.

9. Old or unfinished business:

- Jessica Van Oort updated the Board and Body on a meeting which took place on 1/5/25 regarding the Wild Turkey monument/maker with members of the Town and State. Momentum is positive and ongoing to have the marker placed at the Town's desired location.
- Jessica Van Oort provided an updated on the MERP grant. A meeting is forthcoming to discuss upcoming plans and to be sure the Town's desired work plan will work with the grant parameters.

10. New Business: None

11. Public comment: None

12. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 7:48pm.

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

13. Motion made to exit executive session with no decisions made at 8:12pm.

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

14. Motion made to hire a temporary employee for the Highway Department following a recent personnel change.

- Mover: Tom Collard
- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: The vacant position will be advertised via all usual channels.
- Result: None

14. Motion made to adjourn at 8:18 pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved