

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
December 9, 2025
7:00 pm
Pawlet Town Hall
122 School Street, Pawlet, VT
& Virtually via Zoom

Members in Attendance:

Mike Beecher
Jessica Van Oort
Tom Collard
Bob Jones
Rich Hulett

Others in Attendance:

PEG-TV
Kristin Powers
Frank Nelson
Julie Mach
Hilary Solomon
Erik Lubinsky
Ruth Lampi
Cori Rail
Lauren Herbert
Sue LaPorte

EVENT

1. Call to order at 6:58pm 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 confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Body.
 - Hilary Solomon, PMNRCD
 - b. Deletions: None.

4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 25, 2025 as printed.
 - Mover: Tom Collard
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
 - Hilary Solomon, PMNRCD – Addressed the Board regarding the results of a completed study, which observed bank stabilization along the Flower Brook. Hilary provided the Board with a summary of the PMNRCD's top 13 projects that may be eligible for more significant funding.
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 big thanks and acknowledgement to the group of people who helped to make Pawlet's first annual tree lighting such a joyful, uplifting and playful success. A North Pole mailbox is outside of the Town Hall and is being monitored by Santa's helpers.
 - A reminder has been sent out to Town entities to begin their reports for the 2025 annual Town report.
 - 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.
 - Funds from an insurance claim have been received.
 - The Town has received another donation to be ear-marked for a new garage.

- Motion made to approve Accounts Payable Warrant #26032 for \$24,923.99 and Payroll Warrant #26031 for \$13,890.32.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

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

H. Health Officer's Report:

- Jennifer Sullivan electronically reported one dog bite that took place in New Jersey by a dog that resides in West Pawlet. Ms. Sullivan is currently awaiting a reply from the owners of the dog.

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

J. Facilities Report:

- Tom Collard shared that he has been in contact with Lux Brush regarding the quotes for painting at the Town Hall and Library.
 - Motion made to accept estimate #351 for \$25,480.00, #352 for \$8,650, and #353 for \$19,450 for painting projects on the Town Hall and Library.
 - Mover: Tom Collard
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- The timer on the Town Hall has been fixed, and Tom Collard has thanked Ed, who fixed the timer.

8. Reports to the Public:

A. Library Board Report:

- Cori Rail shared a report from the Library Board, who also conducted a meeting on 12/9.
 - Thanked the community for the Tree lighting.
 - Requested the Board consider paying for a cleaner. Julie Mach clarified that cleaning services at the Library are paid from the Town's general fund. The Library has found someone to clean the building, and a representative from the Library will plan to work with Julie to proceed with the hire.

- Lauren Herbert spoke to the idea of blocking parking spaces near the library that are in danger of being impacted by snow fall.
- Cori Rail shared two members of the Library Board have resigned, and the Library Board will be seeking members to fill the vacant seats.
 - Rich Hulett inquired about whether the Board members who submitted their resignation gave reasoning for moving on. Lauren Herbert spoke to this, and also shared that the meeting was recorded on PEG-TV.
- Cori Rail stated that steps are being taken towards the hiring of a new Library Director.
- Lauren Herbert spoke of an anonymous donation that was made to the Library over the weekend.

B. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- Julie Mach shared a report with the Board, summarizing the MSB's regular meeting on 12/8. A budget for FY27 will be approved at their next regular meeting in January.

9. Old or unfinished business:

- MERP Funding – Jessica Van Oort summarized the presentation from Architend at the last meeting, which provided details on three options for updating the Town Hall and Library: geothermal, air-to-air, and air-to-water. The Selectboard, at this time, needs to decide which direction they would like to take the grant-funded project in. Following discussions, the Board agreed to proceed with plans for a geo-thermal system.
 - Motion made to proceed with and to request that Architend move forward with drawing up plans for this project.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Ordinance Review – Jessica Van Oort made the changes discussed by the Board at the last regular meeting, and presented it to the Board. See attached burn ordinance per 24 V.S.A. § 1972
 - Motion made to adopt the burn ordinance.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett

- 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

10. New Business: None

11. Public comment: None

12. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the Body at 8:07pm.

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

13. Motion to exit executive session with no decisions made at 8:38pm.

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

14. The Board had a follow-up discussion regarding the FY27 budget, with plans to vote on the budget at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

14. Motion made to adjourn at 8:50pm.

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