

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
January 20, 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
Frank Nelson
Deb Hawkins
Nancy Morlino
Tom Covino
Mark Gutel

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:
 - MERP Grant – Old/Unfinished Business
 - Turkey Restoration Marker – Old/Unfinished
 - b. Deletions: None
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 6, 2026 as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett

- 2nd: Tom Collard
 - 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:
- Nancy Morlino shared that the current log is posted, and she met with the current chair of the PPC to review the permitting process.
- 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:
- Report from Tyler Technologies summarizing December 2025 reappraisal process.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, shared a report with the Board:
 - Report of two spots on the porch of the Town Hall.
 - Candidate Nominating petitions & consent of candidate forms are due January 26, 2026.
 - Deb presented the Town Meeting warning for the Board to review and approve.
 - Motion made to sign the Town Meeting 2026 warning.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- 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 #26041 for \$41,613.86 and Payroll Warrant #26040 for \$13,549.36.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort

- 2nd: Tom Collard
- Discussion: Half of the Lux Brush payment is included in accounts payable amount.
- Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Emergency Mgt Director, Bob Morlino, submitted a report summarizing November and December 2025.

H. Health Officer's Report: No report at this meeting

I. Waste Water Treatment Facility (WWTF):

- Mike Beecher shared a brief update about the functionality of the facility.

J. Facilities Report: No report at this meeting.

8. Reports to the Public:

A. Library Board Report:

- Cori Rail shared that their last meeting had a full board and the Board approved budget numbers.
- The Library's robotics program begins 1/21/26.

B. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- Julie Mach shared a brief summary of the most recent MSB meeting, including approved budget, tuition and anticipated tax rate numbers.
- Annual school meeting will be on Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 4:30pm at the Mettawee Community School.

9. Old or unfinished business:

- MERP Grant - Jessica Van Oort shared an update on the MERP Grant, including a recent meeting focused on the approval of our project which primarily focuses on a geothermal installation for the Library and Town Hall. The Board was requested to approve the updated budget.
 - Motion made to approve the updated budget.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Turkey Restoration Marker – Tom Collard shared an updated progress report on the conversations taking place regarding the placement and installation of a marker acknowledging wild turkey restoration in the Town of Pawlet.

10. New Business: None

11. Public comment:

- Frank shared an update with the Board regarding information gathered from the D&H Rail Trail meetings.
- Julie Mach spoke to the need of upgrading or replacing the owl meeting tool.

12. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 7:42pm.

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

13. Motion made to exit executive session with no decisions made at 8:11pm.

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

14. Motion made to extend a job offer for the vacant Highway Dept. position to a qualified candidate.

- Mover: Jessica Van Oort
- 2nd: Tom Collard
- Discussion: None
- Result: None

14. Motion made to adjourn at 8:12 pm.

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