

Draft Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
April 14, 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:

Kristin Powers
Sue LaPorte
Frank Nelson
Jim Simmons
Tim Bryant
John & Val Davis
Mandy Hulett
Ruth Lampi
Sara Hannon
Cori Rail
Deb Hawkins – Zoom
Linda Lynton – Zoom
Chris Pritchard – Zoom
Michael – Zoom
Julie Mach – Zoom

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:

- Rutland County Health Partners Free Care – New Business
 - MERP Update – Old Business
 - b. Deletions: None
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
- Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 31, 2026 as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
- Chris Pritchard, State Representative, spoke to the Board and Body regarding Act 181 and S. 325. Chris also spoke to efforts brought forth by the Planning Commission regarding road speed reductions in town. He continued to share a reminder of the Wild Turkey Restoration marker unveiling ceremony this Saturday, 4/18/26 at 2:00pm at the West Pawlet Volunteer Fire Department.
6. Announcements: None.
7. Reports to the Board:
- A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:
- Nancy Morlino shared an electronic report with the Board:
 - Permit 2026-07 under appeal filed by L. Gibson – DRB hearing scheduled for 4/29/26.
 - Unpermitted construction on Herrick Brook Rd. brought into compliance on 4/8/26 with fine applied.
- B. Planning Commission's Report: None.
- C. Road Foreman's Report:
- Highway Foreman, Jim Simmons, provided a report to the Board, summarizing projects completed during the previous two weeks as well as upcoming areas of focus.
 - Jim Simmons & Ken Clark will attend a continuing education course offered by Vermont Local Roads.
- D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.
- E. Town Clerk's Memo:
- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a memo to the Board:
 - Two DLL Applications for approval: 75153 and 75154.
 - Motion made to approve DLL Application 75153 & 75154.

- Mover: Tom Collard
- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved
- Bob Jones signed the municipal excess weight permit.
- First day to file for Major Party Candidate petitions is Monday 4/27, last day is 5/28.
- Motion made to proceed with working to ensure compliance with proper CDL files re: our insurance company's directives.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - 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 Payroll Warrant #26059 for \$11,612.74 and Accounts Payable Warrant #26060 for \$55,726.71.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

G. Emergency Management Director's Report:

- Bob Morlino electronically shared a report with the Board:
 - Pawlet Emergency Mgt has been awarded a grant from VT Disaster Animal Response Team (VDART). The Jach Schoenberg Emergency Pet Sheltering Municipal Grant provides supplies for an emergency pet shelter.
 - R. Morlino attended the FBI working Group Quarterly Meeting, as well as the REMC meeting.

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

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

J. Facilities Report:

- Tom Collard thanked Julie Mach for following up with the necessary elevator maintenance. Upon repair of Deb's light, the list of the necessary VLCT repairs should be complete.

8. Reports to the Public:

A. Library Board Report:

- Cori Rail shared a summary regarding the last regular meeting of the Library Board. The Library Director position is still open, and the Board discussed opportunities for board training & retreats. Planning has begun for the annual book sale. Regular programs are ongoing, and hours are extended on Wednesdays and Fridays.
- Ruth Lampi's art is on display on the Library as a part of the Visiting Artist Series!

B. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report:

- Julie Mach shared a report from the MSB following their most recent meeting, summarizing items discussed and reviewed. Their next meeting is May 11, 2026 at 6:00pm at the Mettawee Community School.

9. Old or unfinished business:

- MERP Grant – Jessica Van Oort shared an update on the current status of the grant, following today's meeting of the working group which discussed the feasibility study.

10. New Business:

- Rutland County Health Partners is interested in bringing one of their free mobile health vans to Pawlet. The mobile health van aims to provide free, non-urgent care to uninsured or underinsured adults. The Board unanimously supported this effort and plans to reach out to our Health Officer/continue conversations with Krista of RCHP to establish a location and date.

11. Public comment:

- Tim Bryant inquired as to whether or not the Selectboard would be interested in drafting a letter, similar to other towns, that expresses the desire to repeal Act 181. Mr. Beecher shared that he is in favor of putting something together after having the opportunity to review similar letters drafted by other towns in the State.
- Sara Hannon shared disappointment in the fact that the resolution discussed throughout the last several Board meetings was not adopted.

12. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss arbitration or mediation at 7:54pm.

- Mover: Bob Jones

- 2nd: Rich Hulett
- Discussion: None
- Result: Approved

13. Motion made to exit executive session with no decisions made at 8:15pm.

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

14. Motion made for the discontinuance of ownership and maintenance on the portion of Robinson Hill Road from Solar Park up.

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

15. Mike Beecher shared about communication with DuBois & King Inc. regarding site investigation for a potential new Town Garage site.

- Motion made to proceed with having DuBois & King evaluating the potential Town Garage site.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

15. Motion made to adjourn at 8:20 pm.

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