

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
March 31, 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
Jim Simmons
Deb Hawkins
Frank Nelson
Leon Corey
Tom Covino
Gary Baierlein
Roscoe Stark
Bob Morlino

EVENT

1. Call to order at 7:05 pm 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:
 - Bob Morlino, Emergency Mgt Director – Local Emergency Mgt Plan.
 - b. Deletions: None
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.

- Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of March 17, 2026 as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.

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

- Bob Morlino, Emergency Mgt Director – Addressed the Board regarding the annual renewal of the Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP). Requested Chairman Beecher sign the annual LEMP document.
 - Motion made to adopt the annual Local Emergency Mgt Plan for 2026.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

6. Announcements: None.

7. Reports to the Board:

A. Zoning Administrator's (ZA) Report:

- Nancy Morlino shared an electronic report with the Board:
 - The zoning log was electronically distributed to Board members.
 - One violation warning was issued to a property owner on Herrick Brook Road for unpermitted construction. Awaiting response as of time of meeting.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- Leon Corey, on behalf of the PPC, recapped the draft letter composed by the Commission to be submitted to the State as a request for speed limit reductions on various stretches of road throughout Town. Leon continued to address the Board regarding potential changes for overweight vehicle policies on Town roads.
 - Motion made to approve the letter drafted by the PPC re: speed limits in Town to be submitted to the State.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

- Conversation ensued regarding the possibility of a process for overweight travel on Pawlet's roadways, and the Board unanimously supported the Planning Commission in proceeding with conducting research and drafting a plan and guidance on how to regulate overweight travel on our roads, to be presented to the Selectboard at a future meeting.
- Frank Nelson provided the Board with the summary of wetland mapping. The Board requested additional clarification before acting.

C. Road Foreman's Report:

- Interim 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.
- Motion made to purchase the roadway safety signal(s) presented by Jim Simmons.
 - Motion: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Following discussion, the consensus of the Board is to approve the Grant Administrator to proceed with applying for the structures grant application due 4/15 for the Pawlet/Rupert Mtn Road culvert.

D. Assessor Report: No report at this meeting.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a memo to the Board:
 - Town Clerk's office has been busy with Dog License Renewals.
 - Bob Jones signed the 9 Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits.
 - Approaching the window for Major Party Candidates to begin submitting petitions.

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.
- Jessica and Julie have been invited to participate in an upcoming Capital Planning Form in Burlington on April 9 to speak regarding Pawlet's participation in the Capital Plan Pilot Program.

- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #26054 for \$12,318.01 and Accounts Payable Warrant #26056 for \$21,956.62.
 - 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): No report at this meeting.

J. Facilities Report:

- Tom Collard provided a progress report of facilities repair and maintenance items indicated at the last regularly scheduled meeting on 3/17.

8. Reports to the Public:

A. Library Board Report: No report at this meeting

B. Mettawee School Board (MSB) Report: No report at this meeting.

9. Old or unfinished business:

- Conversation ensued amongst the Board and Body regarding the proposed resolution brought to the Board by Slate Valley Action regarding Immigration & Customs Enforcement activity in the State of VT at the Board's last regularly scheduled meeting. Discussions included input from the public body regarding the statement as well as offers to edit the resolution as presented.
 - Motion made to adopt the resolution as it is currently written.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: None
 - Discussion: Additional discussions ensued highlighting the varying perspectives surrounding the proposed resolution.
 - Result: Not approved
 - Roscoe Stark shared his interest in working to re-word the original statement.

10. New Business:

- Tom Collard shared that he was approached by a resident of the Town interested in utilizing slate in the Town's slate pile. Mike Beecher spoke to the insurance requirements.

- Rich Hulett shared that the salesperson who worked with the Town through the purchase of the last Highway Dept. truck planned to provide the Town with lease options for future fully-equipped Town trucks with a guaranteed buy-back value.

11. Public comment:

- Frank Nelson spoke to the process of finding the Town's inclusivity statement on their website. He also spoke to the history of John Jackson.

12. Motion made to enter executive session to discuss labor relations agreements with employees at 8:36pm.

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

13. Motion made to exit executive session with no decisions made at 9:15pm.

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

14. Motion made to offer a position to a qualified applicant 9:15pm.

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

12. Motion made to adjourn at 9:16 pm.

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