

Final Minutes
SELECTBOARD, TOWN OF PAWLET
April 28, 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
Jim Simmons
Frank Nelson
Gib Mach
Annie Nash
Lauren Herbert
Kevin Mason

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:
 - Community Garden Announcement – New Business
 - b. Deletions: None
4. Approval of minutes from previous meeting.
 - Motion made to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 14, 2026 as printed.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard

- Discussion: None.
 - Result: Approved.
5. Pre-Requested Appearances by Local Citizens and Visitors:
- Gib Mach spoke to his applications for Liquor & Tobacco, of which he is seeking approval. They have been submitted and the fee has been paid.
 - Motion made to accept DLL application #76779 and #76780.
 - 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:
 - Permit 2026-07 appeal hearing on 4/29/2026.
 - Section of road continuance scheduled 6/2/2026.

B. Planning Commission's Report:

- Annie Nash provided a summary of the PPC meeting on 4/27.
 - Linda Lynton is resigning from her role on the PPC. Anyone interested in joining the PPC are encouraged to reach out to Annie Nash.
 - Annie spoke to the response from state entities regarding the requested speed limit changes. The response has been positive overall; however, communications have indicated that a speed study would likely be necessary to adjust the school zone speed limit.
 - Frank Nelson reviewed the RRPC LURB map with the Board, a continuation of discussions from a previous meeting.
 - Motion to accept the Planning Commission's recommendation to use the Town's original zoning map, and to notify the RRPC of this decision.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

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.

D. Assessor Report:

- The Assessor's Office is requesting a 30-day extension for lodging the Grand List per Title 32, Section 4342. Board signature is requested.
 - Motion made to sign the 30-day extension request letter.
 - Mover: Jessica Van Oort
 - 2nd: Bob Jones
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- A new computer has been requested for the assistant assessor. The last new computer was received in 2019 and is not performing well.
 - Motion made to approve the purchase of a new computer for the Assessor's Office with a \$1300.00 purchase limit.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- The Assessor's Office is open Mondays, 8:00am-2:00pm and Tuesdays as necessary. Lisa Wright works in the Pawlet office one Monday each month and from home as necessary.

E. Town Clerk's Memo:

- Town Clerk, Deb Hawkins, provided a memo to the Board:
 - The Poultney Rotary, in honor of our country's 250th Anniversary would like to donate a Swamp Oak (the national tree of the US).
 - Motion made to accept the tree and encourage connecting with the School about planting it there.
 - Mover: Tom Collard
 - 2nd: Jessica Van Oort
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
 - Bob Jones signed the two Uniform Municipal Excess Weight Permits.
 - 4/27 was the first day in the Primary Election Cycle for Major Party Candidates to submit petitions, Consent of Candidate forms and Financial Disclosure statements.

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.
- Julie spoke to the mobile safety light approved for purchase at the last meeting. Unfortunately, the final price was approximately double the original approved purchase amount due to taxes and tariffs. Research to continue to find a new light option for (hopefully) a lower price point.
- Motion made to rescind fraud policies from 6/29/21 and 7/22/25 and approve the fraud policy distributed to the Board on 4/28/2026.
 - Mover: Rich Hulett
 - 2nd: Tom Collard
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved
- Julie continued to speak to several policies currently in place within Town that are quite dated. The Board unanimously supported Julie reworking and blending several policies together, updating in the process, and presenting to the Board.
 - Ultimately this led to a conversation regarding a multi-year approach to updating Town policies.
- Motion made to approve Payroll Warrant #26061 for \$9,993.64 and Accounts Payable Warrant #26062 for \$26,206.78.
 - 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, however conversations continue regarding the Mobile Health Van coming to Town.

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

J. Facilities Report:

- Tom Collard shared an update about repairs to the Town Hall front porch.

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: None.

10. New Business:

- The VT Center for Ecostudies has requested to hang a recording device on town-owned slate quarry property on Rte 153 to monitor the Whip-poor-will bird population in the area.
 - The Board unanimously supported these efforts!
- Jessica Van Oort spoke to Community Garden group's desire to relocate the community garden to a more central and town-owned property. Conversations ensued regarding this possibility.
- Mike Beecher spoke to the building at the WP Vol. Fire Dept that was taken down two years ago. He noted that the lot has two sewer hookups, however only one active sewer.
 - Motion made to deactivate the second sewer fee moving forward.
 - Mover: Bob Jones
 - 2nd: Rich Hulett
 - Discussion: None
 - Result: Approved

11. Public comment:

- Frank spoke to the decommissioning of Town-owned laptops.
- Annie Nash inquired about the pile of trash that remains on the land where the local park used to be. The Board acknowledged that this ultimately is now a situation that likely the VT Land Trust and property owners could be navigating.
- Deb Hawkins spoke to Green Up Day, which is taking place on Saturday, May 2, 2026.

12. Motion made to adjourn at 8:17 pm.

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