

Meeting Minutes

Poultney Selectboard

Monday, August 12, 2024 – 6:30 PM
Poultney Town Hall

Zoom Recording located here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ltjKjozrUfgXH8DpLnWtrCEhSvRFn-XQdTjVJBK1FXacVZ5JnW-xNxRaGHwQTWi6.hFTQ0_ILTD5rrh3z

Jeff King called the meeting to order and led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Alan-Glen Burnell, Mark Teetor and Valerie Broughton. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Joel Roberts, Sarah Pelkey, Johnathan Andrews, Carol Bunce, Mary Sue Reed and Dale Kerber. Appearing via Zoom included Mark and Kim Flynn and Elizabeth Ayers.

Adoption of the Agenda: Mark Teetor made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to approve the minutes of 7-22-24. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Paul Donaldson explained that when NEMRC assisted the office with generating the tax bills, and reviewing the tax rates, we discovered that the Local Agreement Rate should be .0037 instead of the rate as set at .0031. Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to ratify the Local Agreement Rate to be set at .0037, and to revise the minutes of 7-25-2024 Special Meeting to reflect the rate of .0037, and to approve the revised meeting minutes of 7-25-2024 Special Meeting. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Road Report: Joel Roberts reported the following:

- Evergreen Road rehabilitation has been finished with the expectation of adding some more gravel at a later date.
- The crew has started to complete the MRGP work on Pond Hill.
- We have done some routine and unexpected maintenance on the excavator.
- The crew did some repairs to a prior drainage pipe located On The Green.
- We have some plow turn-around repairs that need to be done before the winter.
- We hope to have the leased boom mower by the end of this week. We were supposed to have it earlier, but there were so repairs needed.
- He had fielded some inquiries about the crew doing work on private driveways. He stated the crew never does work on private property with the exception of some work done outside the road right-of-way, with permission from the land owner in order to make repairs necessary to properly complete work done in the road right-of-way.

- We are still waiting for feedback from the engineer that looked at Upper Road with us. He had received an inquiry from Terry Williams on these issues.
- Paul Donaldson stated we are waiting for the private contractor to schedule the work on the Ragonet property. He also received some grant funds to do drainage repairs on the Jane Williams property, which we may need to revisit the plan since Jane Williams has advised Paul Donaldson with some information that could affect the planned work on that property.
- The guardrails around town will be cleaned of weeds soon.

Community Development: Sarah Pelkey reported the following:

- On the ORR grant application: She is applying for funds to conceptualize a Rec. Hub.
- She has discussed with VLCT, RRPC, CEDR, and others on funding opportunities for highway garage.
- She is assisting some people with 3-acre stormwater permitting.
- She is trying to leverage MERP funds for highway garage funding. She reminded the board that the town received MERP funds to assess 4 town properties and the Village for one property.
- She is still planning to submit a grant application for a generator at the Young At Heart Senior Center.

Town Managers Report:

- We applied for, and received grant funds to conduct updated Road Erosion Inventory, our match portion will be our labor to assist with the inventory.
- He presented Liquor Licenses: Special Events for Clucking Café (2) and (1) at Whaleback Vineyard. Valerie Broughton made a motion to approve all the applications. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.
- BRIC grant discussion: Paul Donaldson had hoped to have an update on this project but was unable to connect with the engineer. We are trying to apply for funding for implementation once the engineer makes recommendations.
- He has done some research on open burning ordinances, and it seems that most towns exempt fire rings, outdoor burn chimneys, etc. Some towns do limit the size of such apparatuses, however.
- He needs to recirculate the Dog Ordinance models supplied by VLCT, as apparently there are two models.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business: Paul Donaldson stated that Corporal Ricketts has been reassigned to Poultney and Wells, so he will be working with him again on continuing issues, such as the dogs on River Street, and others.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Sarah Pelkey stated that TAC and regular meetings will resume post-summer. She also stated that Road Foreman meetings will resume, and Joel Roberts plans to attend the first meeting in Ira..

Paul Donaldson stated he recently attended Town Manager luncheon/meeting held last week at the RRPC.

Public Comments on matters (limit of 10 minutes total):

-Carol Bunce asked the board why the minutes of 07-25-2024 Special Meeting did not reflect the fact that there was a Highway Budget deficit from the previous fiscal year. Paul Donaldson stated that there was a small, approximately \$2,500.00 overspend on the expense/revenue ratio. He stated that the board used \$50,000 of state aid to bring the rate for this fiscal year down, not to cover a deficit. Discussion followed. The board declined to amend the meeting minutes as requested by Carol Bunce, with the consensus that the minutes reflect the spirit of discussion, while not capturing every word said. Paul Donaldson also stated that recordings are now made available for 30 days post minutes being approved. Carol Bunce asked where those recordings can be found. Paul Donaldson stated that there is a link at the top of the minutes. She stated she could not open the link. Others in the room, including Jonathan Andrews, Sarah Pelkey and Paul Donaldson stated the link worked for them.

-Jonathan Andrews inquired about a burn ordinance and why wouldn't the board at least provide for a certain distance from property lines that fire rings, etc., could be placed. Paul Donaldson wondered if that would be appropriate for pre-existing fire rings, etc. Mr. Andrews also mentioned it would be important for the public to know if there was a budgetary deficit.

-Mary Sue Reed inquired how the public can listen to meeting minutes. Paul Donaldson stated that there is link on the top of meeting minutes. Discussion followed. Paul Donaldson stated he is trying the best he can with adhering to the law, and did mention he is not an "IT" person. Johnathan Andrews stated he is in IT, and if the town needs help he would help. Mary Sue Reed asked why Paul Donaldson does not send the minutes to PEG TV. Paul Donaldson stated he is trying to do what the SOS says needs to be done, although he did state he attended a presentation on the law by the SOS, and even they don't know yet fully on what needs to be done to comply with the new Open Meeting Law.

-Mary Sue reed asked about the definition of a burn pit. Discussion followed.

Executive Session:

At 7:21PM, Alan-Glen Burnell made the following motions: "Pursuant to 1 VSA Section 313(a)(1), I make a motion that this board finds that premature general public knowledge would clearly place this board or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage if certain matters related to contracts were discussed outside of Executive Session. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Alan-Glen Burnell further made the following motion: "Pursuant to 1 VSA Section 313(a)(1)(A), I make a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract matters. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Alan-Glen Burnell made a further motion as follows: "Pursuant to 1 VSA Section 313(a)(3), I

make a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. The board entered Executive Session with Dale Kerber. At 8:06PM, Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to leave Executive Session. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Mark Teetor made a motion that the Constable Pay Rate shall be \$45.00 per hour for all Constable hours for the duration of the current fiscal year. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Board Orders: Mark Teetor made a motion to pay board orders. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Adjournment: Valerie Broughton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

s/Paul A. Donaldson