**Special Merger Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Poultney Board of Selectmen**

**Monday, October 21, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

**Poultney Town Hall**

**Zoom Recording:**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting\_id=tMA%2FNujwTvSMtQalgYgmfQ%3D%3D&amp\_device\_id=1ce06072-78ee-4a82-947c-27a2f4a256b0**](https://us02web.zoom.us/recording/detail?meeting_id=tMA%2FNujwTvSMtQalgYgmfQ%3D%3D&amp_device_id=1ce06072-78ee-4a82-947c-27a2f4a256b0)

Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Sheryl Porrier, Alan-Glen Burnell and Valerie Broughton. Village Board of Trustees present included Joe DeBonis, Gerri Harrison, Robert Williams and Idris Atwood. Other appointed members of the board present included Ben Thirkield, Steve Betit, Carol Bunce and Nic Stark (appearing via Zoom). Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Sarah Pelkey, and Paul Bishop and Wiley Little of Center For Governmental Research (“CGR”).

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Gerri Harrison made a motion to adopt the agenda. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Idris Atwood made a motion to approve the minutes of September 16, 2024. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Merger Discussion:** Paul Bishop started the meeting and stressed the importance to include community thoughts and questions about the merger process. He asked board members to share some of the comments, questions, and concerns that community members had expressed to board members. Several board members shared some of the things that have been asked of them. Many questions and topics were discussed concerning: what financial implications a merger might have; how will the water/sewer department be treated; debts of the different municipalities; shared services, what would be the implications on staffing; facilities; structure of government if merger happens; Charter changes; blending Town and Village priority lists; and others.

CGR will be in town tomorrow and have a full schedule of meetings with different stakeholders. CGR has asked us to provide documentation of different items which we are in the process of compiling. They will also have calls/meetings with bookkeepers, and Paul Donaldson.

Ben Thirkield asked why the Village does not have a website, and Paul Donaldson stated a shortage of staffing to maintain the website,

**Adjourn:** Ben Thirkield made a motion to adjourn. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.