**Meeting Minutes**

**Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, October 28, 2024 – 6:30 PM**

**Poultney Town Hall**

**Zoom Recording located here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/mRKzl_lqGyAhB0cjGPOADp_AN0XUg1VQq4zESIJO3EUIvGgcOULv1dm4r2MrcmU-.yN7Y6YrygCt_bHzx>

Jeff King called the meeting to order and led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Sheryl Porrier, Alan-Glen Burnell, Mark Teetor and Valerie Broughton. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Joel Roberts, Sarah Pelkey, Nicole Bower, Johnathan Andrews, Carol Stierle, and Mary Sue Reed. Appearing via Zoom included Iphone and Dan Norwood.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Alan-Glen Burnellmade a motion to approve the minutes of 9-23-24. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Road Report:** Joel Roberts reported the following:

-He did some more research on the question of silica content of the new material we will be using in lieu of winter sand. He has been advised that there is a lower silica content as opposed to the bank run gravel and granite materials we have traditionally used. The content is lower than VOSHA, MSHA and OSHA tolerances;

-The crew finished the MRGP work on Pond Hill Ranch Road and Pond Hill Road, Watkins, and Dayton Hill;

-The sand shed is full and ready for winter;

-The crew has been working on smaller projects;

-They did some hot mix on On The Green, and Lake View Hill Roads;

-They have been cleaning and prepping snowplow turnarounds;

They are doing final year grading on roads that need it;

-Sanders have been tested;

-The 2014 truck needs extensive repairs to the sander track, to the tune of about $26,000 for bed chains and sprockets. If we need to we will put in our insert sander and use the tailgate spinner.

**Community Development:** Sarah Pelkey reported the following:

-Merger Study Update: Interviews have proceeded, and we are still gathering data the consultants need to review;

-Poultney Energy Fair (Mini MERP) - 11/13 at Young at Heart Senior Center. We are working with Efficiency Vermont, GMP, and Solar Fest folks to power food trucks;

-Poultney Recreation:

4th of July Award from Lakes Region Free Press: We received recognition for the Best of the Best for the parade.

Act 78 Funding for After School & Summer Learning Programs: We are exploring funding for recreation opportunities.

-UVM Intern in Sustainable Urban Planning: We will have an intern this year to assist with different projects. One project we want the intern to work on is looking at different ordinances that might benefit Poultney.

**Town Managers Report:**

-Nicole Bower asked that the board consider making catering licenses to be reviewed and approved by the Town Clerk’s Office instead of having to come to the Selectboard every time for a special event liquor permit. Discussion followed. Mark Teetor made a motion that all special event liquor/catering permits may be approved by the Town Clerk’s Office without having to go in front of the Selectboard. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

- Municipal Impact Questionnaire: Regenerative Land Holdings, ACT 250: Paul Donaldson stated he had completed the “MIQ” in connection with the campus Act 250 project, specifically stating that we had inadequate police protection to provide for the project, and that the project would overburden our police protection services that are paid through the Constable and contracting with the RCSD. Dan Norwood believes that the Town is unable to opine if the project would be a cause of overburdening the police protection. He wants to Town to change its response on the MIQ. Discussion followed. Paul Donaldson stated that the town has been talking about improving the police protection since he has been manager, and that the conversation goes at least beck to the 1990’s were a study drew the same conclusion. Mr. Norwood believes the Town is trying to “saddle” Regenerative with its insufficient police protection. He stated that their engineers has suggested that Regenerative settles the matter with the Town before submitting the MIQ to ACT 250. They have no counterproposal to resolve the issue. Discussion followed. Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion that Paul Donaldson submit the same anserws on the MIQ as he did as of 10-22-24. Valerie Broughton seconded the. Motion passed with all in favor, except for Sheryl Porrier abstaining.

-Merger Study funding: Sarah Pelkey has not yet heard from the $7,500 grant opportunity she applied for to help fund the study. We still need $23,470.00 to fund the study. Mark Teetor made a motion to use ARPA funds in the amount of $23,470.00 to fund the balance of the Merger Study. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Paul Donaldson asked if the board wanted to change the 11-11-24 (Veterans Day) meeting. Mark Teetor made a motion to move the meeting to 11-4-24. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-The board set a budget meeting for 11-14-24 at 4:30PM.

-We are close to having an agreement with the architects to assist with the highway garage study.

-The engineer has been working on river study and is ready to discuss some alternatives with the board in meetings in November.

-Our attorneys have provided a Memo on the new laws as it relates to tax sales, and we should be able to proceed with them in the near future.

-The PC has finished working on the revised Bylaws, and held their own meeting on the same. The SB needs to have their own public meeting on the same, before the end of the year.

-Paul Donaldson stated the PDRC has reviewed a grant to help fund their assistant, and the Town needs to sign an Attestation that they will continue to fund the PDRC. Mark Teetor made a motion to sign the Attestation. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor, with Alan-Glen Burnell abstaining since he is on the PDRC.

**Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:** None.

**Health Officer:**  None.

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission:** Sarah Pelkey stated:

-The TAC meet last Tuesday. The regular commissioners meeting discussed VTrans projects, and VT Rail updates.

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

-Jonathan Andres thanked the board for carefully considering the question of police protection and the sufficiency of the same in its discussions with Regenerative Land Holdings.

-Mary Sue Reed advised the board that part of the new required bylaws deal with more intense housing density and its important to keep that in mind when talking about police protection. She asked about the Z.A. position, and Pau Donaldson advised the person he has discussed it with had a couple of personal projects he had to finish and he hopes to have the position filled by the end of the year. She asked about the Jane Williams project, and Paul Donaldson advise Jane Williams knows we are in the process of redesigning the same due to site limitations.

**Executive Session:**

At 8:05PM, 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. Valerie Broughton 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. The board entered Executive Session with Dan Norwood. At 8:32PM, Mark Teetor a motion to leave Executive Session. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. No action taken.

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

**Adjournment:** Valerie Broughton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

s/Paul A. Donaldson