**Meeting Minutes**

**Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, December 16, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

**Poultney Town Hall**

**Zoom Recording located here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Vc7kJ26UaREXmFTgajhOUBvM67ul3NrsazEUZxJNzyGglZL9OP_R3NOKgCHT9GB2.ECQ3grcPpgPuweIZ>

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, Sarah Pelkey, Joel Roberts, Mary Sue Reed. Jonathan Andrews, Aaron Kerber, RC Dayton, and Angelo Nitolli.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** Valerie Broughton made a motion to approve the minutes of 12-9-24. Mark Teetorseconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

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

-We are still waiting for a report on the damage to the boom mower. United Ag and Turf out of Hudson, NY has assessed the machine and will report on repairs estimate as well as value.

-There was a recent washout on Endless Brook Road that needed repairs.

-the crew checked all the roads after the recent rains.

-Pothole repairs as needed; its been difficult since all the trucks are fitted with sanders.

=-The 2012 Dodge is having engine troubles as well as slipping transmission. He is getting quotes for a replacement truck. There is an estimate of $9,000 for trade-in value.

-We sold the 2007 truck for $23,000 which will be put in the equipment replacement fund.

-He reminded the public that we are using different materials for road sanding, which is white and difficult to see.

-Discussion about the Town of Wells needing Mutual Aid for road maintenance as their road crew is down to one person.

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

-She has been working on grant reporting with assistance from Neisja Crawford and Kin Thierkield.

-She was appointed to the VOREC Steering Committee for a period of 2 years with the State of Vermont.

**Town Managers Report:**

-Discussion about the proposed Unified Bylaws Update. Mark Teetor made a motion to accept the proposed bylaws amendments. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Chief Kerber circulated the FD report for October and November. He stated that they are considering changing the furnaces at the FD from oil to propane as they have been having issues with the furnaces.. Further discussion about changes to the insurance for trucks, apparatuses, and equipment. Discussion about the proposal to a Length of Service Policy for members. The department is working on Mutual Aid with other towns. Discussion about USDA application to assist with funding for a new truck.

**Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:** Discussion about amendments to the Dog Control Ordinance. Mark Teetor made a motion to amend our ordinance to include the “Potentially vicious dog” sections of the VLCY Modal to our ordinance. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor with the exception of Sheryl Porrier who abstained.

**Health Officer:**  None.

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission:** No report.

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

-Johnathan Andrews commented that the road crew is doing a great job with road maintenance.

-Mary Sue Reed commented about the revised dog ordinance.

-Mary Sue Reed inquired about the Guaranty of a contract using ARPA funds in the amount of $35,000.00 for the demolition of a house on private property on Grove Street. Paul Donaldson stated that the board considered this a public health hazard, and thus agreed to guaranty the demolition. We expect that these funds will not have to be expended, but if they are, the Town will receive a first mortgage on the property if any town funds are expended.

**Executive Session:**

At 6:52PM, 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. Sheryl Porrier 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. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. The board entered Executive Session with Sarah Pelkey. At 7:28PM, Sheryl Porrier made a motion to leave Executive Session. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Sheryl Porrier made a motion to obligate ARPA funds in the amount of $16,571.50 to contract with Silloway Networks to update computers for the town. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Valerie Broughton made a motion to obligate ARPA funds in the amount of $16,044.00 to contract with Silloway Networks to pay for one year of managed services, security software, and storage for the town. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Valerie Broughton made a motion to obligate ARPA funds in the amount of $900.00 to contract with EcoPixel to provide SMS Messaging for the town’s website. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Valerie Broughton made a motion to obligate ARPA funds in the amount of $2,568.00 to contract with EcoPixel to pay for updates to the Townn’s Rec. Website. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to obligate ARPA funds in the amount of $13,372.00 to contract with an architecture firm to consult on a town office scoping study for the town. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Valerie Broughton made a motion to approve a Resolution to obligate and expend SLFRF funds in an amount up to $26,895.24 for the purpose of municipal workforce retention to pay for payroll\* expenses for the period July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024. See resolution attached. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

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

**Adjournment:** Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

s/Paul A. Donaldson

**RESOLUTION FOR AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) ALLOCATION**

**WHEREAS,** on March 11, 2021, the President of the United States signed into law the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to provide continued relief from the public health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS,** ARPA created the Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) that provided direct funding to state, local, and Tribal governments across the country to support their response to and recovery from the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Poultney has accepted an allocation of SLFRF in the amount of $ 509,490.06; and

**WHEREAS**, SLFRF provides needed fiscal relief for recipients that have experienced revenue loss due to the onset of the COVID-19 public health emergency; and

**WHEREAS**, Treasury presumes that up to $10 million in revenue has been lost due to the public health emergency and recipients are permitted to use that amount (not to exceed the award amount) to fund “government services.”; and

**WHEREAS**, Recipients may elect a “standard allowance” of $10 million to spend on government services through the period of performance; and

**WHEREAS**, All recipients may elect to use this standard allowance instead of calculating lost revenue using the formula provided by the U.S. Department of the Treasury, including those with total allocations of $10 million or less; and

**WHEREAS,** the Town of Poultney has the need to fund government services while in the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED,** the Selectboard of the Town of Poultney, Vermont, authorize the following:

**Section 1.** The following allocation of SLFRF funding to fund government services under the replacing lost public sector revenue spending category as follows:

Obligate and expend SLFRF funds in an amount up to $26,985.24 for the purpose of municipal workforce retention to pay for payroll expenses for the period July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2024.

Passed and Adopted by the Selectboard of the Town of Poultney, Vermont on the 16th day of December, 2024.

ATTEST:

**s/Alan-Glen Burnell**

**s/Mark Teetor**

**s/Sheryl Porrier**

**s/Valerie Broughton**

**S/Jeffrey M. King**