**Meeting Minutes**

**Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, February 24, 2025 – 6:30 PM**

**Poultney Town Hall**

**Zoom Recording located here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/SEsuShnjuRQq3MuyIgUjwlaxnVRqGdcA2T0WeLPtYRFF247TIS_2uUJV75gRVNt2.s9FCD6QKi9HjMTnX>

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, Jonathan Andrews, Rachel Fowler, Devin Fowler, Carol Stierle, Vangie Blust, Patty Davenport, Carol Bunce, Michelle McCarron, Mary Sue Reed and Steve Betit. Appearing via Zoom: Sara Pelkey.

**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:** Sheryl Porrier made a motion to approve the minutes of 02-10-25 and 02-10-2025 Special Meeting. Rachel Folwer asked the board to clarify the order regarding Bhakta Dogs. Alan-Glen Burnellstated the motion did not contain an order to leash the dogs while on the Bhakta property. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

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

-VTRANS has been gathering boring samples at the South Street Bridge.

-The boom mower damage has been settled with the carrier’s insurance company.

-2021 Dodge was down again with the $5,000 repair, we were able to circumvent that with a different repair.

-Discussion about Village residents taking sand from the Town sand pile. Perhaps during the next budget sane we can include some sand in the General Government Budget since Village residents do contribute to those taxes.

-Joel recently found someone taking wood from the highway garage, and advised that person the firewood is not for public consumption.

-There is a possible road slat shortage, we can not get clearline, and have been mixing some sand with salt to stretch our supplies of salt.

-He plans to have a site visit with ANR and a contractor for a culvert replacement on Route 140 we hope to do sometime in May. We will have to close the road for up to 7 days.

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

-She continues to work on the MERP projects, and searching for other funding sources.

-She will work with EcoPixel in the second week of March to update the Poultney Rec Website to allow people to register and pay for summer rec. programs.

-March 6 there is a PDRC meeting to discuss setting up a Community Trust. CEDR and Preservation Trust of Vermont will be there as well.

**Town Managers Report:**

-Young At Heart Senior Center: deck project proposal: Michelle McCarron presented a proposed project to build a River View Deck by the walking path. She is seeking funding through an AARP grant. Paul Donaldson stated that we should keep in mind that we may be making changes to the highway garage, and we want to be sure that neither project negatively interferes with the other. The consensus of the board was that she should continue to look into applying and that Paul Donaldson will sign a Letter of Support.

-Order re: Bhakta dogs: Paul Donaldson had circulated the draft order to the board. Mark Teetor made a motion that Jeff King should sign the Order. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Liquor Licenses: Mark Teetor made a motion to approve the Liquor License Applications (1st, 2nd, and outdoors) for the American Legion and Tasteful Station. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Reappraisal Agreement: Sheryl Porrier made a motion to sign the Reappraisal Agreement with NEMRC. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Computer and IT updates: Paul Donaldson stated the new equipment is currently scheduled to be installed starting March 5, 2025.

-177 Main Street: Paul Donaldson stated we signed a P&S Agreement to purchase 177 Main Street for the purchase price of $356,000, with a $15,000 deposit. We have engaged an architectural firm, which will work with a construction company, to cost out upfits, and to assess the building for installing a new vault, and assessing layout to see if we can consolidate the Manager’s Office, Assessor’s Office, Clerk’s Office, new Zoning Office, and Community Development Office, as well as storage of all Rec. Equipment under the same roof. Currently the Village Office is located in that building, and if it stays, we will have to have a lease agreement with the Village. We have until 9-1-2025 to do all our due diligence, and put it to the voters with a Bond Vote.

-Bric Implementation: Paul Donaldson confirmed that the State of Vermont will have to be the applicant if we seek to implement any of the engineer’s recommendations since the rail trail belongs to the State. He has a conference call scheduled in early March to discuss this with the parties.

-Town Meeting: March 3, 2025 at 7:00PM.

**Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:** Sheryl Porrier advised those present that this year’s Farm To Table dinners will be July 19 and August 23..

**Health Officer:**  None.

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission:** Sarah Pelkey reported that there was a recent Regional Plan update meeting on 2-18-25 and there is a TAC Meeting this coming Thursday.

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

-Patty Davenport asked if it was true that the Town paid to have the brick portion of 43 Grove Street demolished. He stated it was not true, and that although he had recently addressed this at another meeting, he would do so again. He went on to explain the Town’s role in seeing that that unsafe building was demolished on the record again. He urged people to not believe rumors, and things they see on social media as it creates much confusion to people, and much consternation for his office. If people want to learn the truth its best to inquire from his office, and this board. Paul Donaldson stated that the Town’s involvement was through a contract and not a “gentlemen’s agreement.”

-Rachel Fowler believes that she has been victim shamed by the incidents between the Bhaktas and her and her husband in connection with the Bhakta dogs killing her chickens. She also stated the Selectboard has an obligation to reimburse her for the chickens pursuant to the Selectboard Handbook and Title 20 VSA 3741-3749. Paul Donaldson will need to review these statues.

Mary Sue Reed inquired about updates to the ACO. Paul Donaldson stated he has not done them yet. She also asked about the Merger Study. Paul Donaldson stated he is working on questions asked by the consultant.

**Executive Session:** None.

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

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

s/Paul A. Donaldson