

**Poultney Board of Selectmen
Meeting
Monday, December 28, 2015 - 6:30 P.M
Poultney Town Hall**

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes: 12/14/15
- 3) Public Comments and Concerns:
 - Phil Pope - Lake St. Catherine Association
 - Slate Stone
 - Sherriff Benard - FY 2017 Budget
- 4) Road Report
- 5) Town Manager's Report
 - Letters & Communications
 - Budget FY 2016
 - Draft FY 2017 Budget
 - Noise in the Nighttime
 - Disorderly Conduct
- 6) Transact Any Other Lawful Business:
- 7) Board Orders
- 8) Adjourn

Meeting Minutes
Poultney Board of Selectmen
Monday, December 28, 2015 - 6:30 PM
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Chairman Ed Lewis called the meeting to order. Other Board members present included: Corey Davenport, Frank Fressie, Jeff King and Tom Coloutti. Others present included: Jonas Rosenthal, Town Manager; Ron Kelley, Road Foreman; Phil Pope from the Lake St Catherine Association; Debbie McMurry, Village Trustee; Sheriff Steve Benard; Ina Smith Johnson, Shawn Camara, Paul Hancock, Richard Balt, Matt McCoy, George Miller, Keith Roberts, Chris Taran, Doug Hatch, Terry Williams, Russ Stiles, David T. Hughes and Keith Williams.

Adoption of the Agenda: Jeff King made a motion to adopt the agenda. Tom Coloutti seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: Tom Coloutti made a motion to approve the minutes of 12/14/15. Jeff King seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments and Concerns:

1) Phil Pope, from the Lake St. Catherine Association (LSCA), presented his 2015 Aquatic Nuisance Control activities report. Copies of the Association's Report were mailed earlier. The activities of the milfoil management program includes suction harvesting, herbicide treatment using Renovate OTF and the boat launch greeter program. The LSCA spent over \$ 100,000 this past year to control and prevent the spread of Eurasian water milfoil in Lake St. Catherine. Mr. Pope thanked the Board for its annual support and again requested \$ 20,000 to support the Association's milfoil management activities for next year. The Board thanked Mr. Pope for his contributions and the work of the Association.

2) Matt McCoy, representing the Veterans, spoke on the behalf of those opposing the proposed location of the slate stone on the Town Hall property. Matt McCoy said that the view of the monument on the Town Hall lawn would be blocked if the stone was located in the area that was proposed. He also mentioned that the War Memorial (bell) located on the Town Hall property was also a part of living history of Poultney as well. Others in the audience representing the Legion spoke opposing the site as well. They included: George Miller, Doug Hatch, Russ Stiles and Terry Williams. Ina Smith, representing the Poultney Historical Society, spoke in support of the stones location. She presented a chronological list of events and meetings that went into the selection of several sites on the front lawn. The project was proposed to put Poultney on the VT Stone Trail map and to be a gateway to the Slate Valley honoring the slate industry and workers of the community past and present. Paul Hancock spoke in support of the location. Shawn Camara, who donated the stone, spoke and recognized the differences of both competing interests. Jeff King suggested that a committee be formed to come up with a compromised location that could serve the interests of the affected groups. Discussion followed. It was suggested that a committee be formed consisting of one person from the following: the church, the Selectboard, the Historical Society, the American Legion, the Slate industry and the arts group. Jeff King made a motion to appoint a committee consisting of the groups mentioned for

the purposes of finding a suitable location (placement) and anything else (consideration) that may apply. Tom Colouutti seconded the motion. Motion carried.

3) Sherriff Steve Benard presented the Department's new hourly rate of \$ 37 per hour (up \$ 1 from the current year). Rosenthal inquired into the Federal COPS grant for increasing the number of hours of weekly coverage. Sherriff Benard will look into this option for the Town. Discussion followed about the recent break-ins and the progress of the investigation without specifics. The State Police, the Sherriff's Department and the Town Constable are all working on the cases. Sherriff Benard also commented on the proposed Objectionable Noise Ordinance and how West Rutland approaches the issue of firearms within compact residential boundaries.

Road Report:

- 1) Repairs to Birdseye Road have been made in anticipation of logging activities during this winter.
- 2) Potholes continue to be filled on the gravel roads.
- 3) New 9-1-1 road signs for the Lewis Road have been installed as requested by the Fire Department.
- 4) Copies of the Highway Expenditure Reports dated December 21st were distributed. The Winter Highway Budget is in good standing at this point as compared to last year at this time.
- 5) A draft of the design for Bridge # 2 on VT Route 140 and the preferred bridge rail type was sent to the Town for review and comment. Discussion followed. Jeff King made a motion to approve of the preferred bridge rail type as presented. Tom Colouutti seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Town Manager's Report:

- 1) Copies of the November Financial Report, prepared by Susan Kasuba, were distributed.
- 2) Copies of Expenditure Reports for the General Government and the Fire Department dated December 21 were distributed.
- 3) Discussion of the revised draft copies of both the proposed Disorderly Conduct and the Objectionable Noise ordinances took place. The Sherriff's Department provided a copy of the Town of West Rutland stand alone firearms ordinance. Copies were distributed. This would solve the issue of Objectionable Noise with respect to firearms. A separate firearms ordinance similar to West Rutland could be considered with respect to where they could be safely discharged. Rosenthal will send a final draft with the revisions to Town Attorney Neal Vreeland for comment for the other Objectionable Noise and Disorderly Conduct draft Ordinances.
- 4) Rosenthal mentioned that Listers budget, the Town Clerk & Treasurers budget, the Elections budget, the Constable budget and the Fire Department budget may be presented to the Board by January 11th. No action taken.
- 5) The tire pile at the Transfer Station has been picked up.
- 6) Copies of the summary report for the Vermont Department of Taxes Equalization Study was received and distributed. The reported Coefficient of Dispersion is 12.08 %. The Common Level of Appraisal is 96.93 %. Both numbers are below the statutory requirement for a town wide reappraisal.
- 7) Neal Vreeland is working on a revised temporary construction easement for the Library expansion project for the property behind the Library property.
- 8) Loan closing documents for the Library construction project have been received. No closing date has been set. An opportunity to re-apply for up to \$ 50,000 for the USDA public facilities

grant has come up. The re-application must be received by January 8th. Last years' application was submitted for \$ 11,000 for furnishings. Hopefully the Town can bid the project out in February.

Board Orders: Jeff King made a motion to approve the Board Orders. Tom Coloutti seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Frank Fressie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Corey Davenport seconded the motion. Motion carried.

s/Jonas Rosenthal