

Poultney Board of Selectmen  
Meeting

**Monday, March 13, 2017 – 6:30 pm**

Poultney Town Hall

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Board Appointments
- 3) Approval of Minutes:           2/27/17
- 4) Public Comments and Concerns
  - Dollar General
- 5) Road Report
- 6) Town Manager's Report
  - Letters & Communications
  - Secretary / Bookkeeper
  - Town Report
  - Appointment of Town Officers
- 7) Transact Any Other Lawful Business:
  - Liquor License Renewals:
    - Midway Oil Corp -267 Main Street
    - Midway Oil Corp -10 East Main Street
    - AC's General Store (east Poultney General Store) – Rt. 140 & On the Green
    - Stewart's Shops Corp.– Junction of Main and Maple Streets
    - Lake St. Catherine Country Club (includes Outside Consumption)
  - Proposed Amendment to Unified Bylaws – Slate Quarrying
- 8) Board Orders
- 9) Adjourn

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Poultney Board of Selectmen**  
**Monday, March 13, 2017 – 6:30 PM**  
**Poultney Town Hall**

Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Frank Fressie, Tom Coloutti, Terry Williams and George Miller. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Town Manager, Ron Kelly Foreman, Neisja Crawford, Secretary / Bookkeeper, and Towns People (see sign in sheet)

**Board Appointments:**

Tom Coloutti made a motion to nominate Jeff King as Chairman. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Jeff King made a motion to nominate Tom Coloutti as Vice Chairman. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Tom Coloutti made a motion to adopt the agenda. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Tom Coloutti made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/27/17. Frank Fressie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Paul Donaldson introduced Ed Bove from Rutland Regional Planning Commission. He attended the meeting to say hello and give thanks. "RPC" is open to the public to assist with land use and economic development.

Ron Kelly is hosting a Road Foremen meeting scheduled for April 13, 2017 through "RPC". It's a good opportunity to see what other towns are doing (discussion, not training).

**Public Comments and Concerns:**

Jeff King addressed towns people regarding Dollar General (DG). He explained that the Select Board is a public forum to voice opinions, however, the Planning Commission is the administrating forum.

Paul Donaldson scheduled a meeting with the Development Review Board Next Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6 o'clock pm at tentatively at Town Office (trying to locate at High School Library).

Paul Donaldson discussing with attorney, necessary steps, to maintain "interested party status" at DBR hearing. Stonebridge (property owned by Town) is an abutter.

**Dollar General Discussion:**

*Greg Poven*, Church Street, believes DG will add no value to the Town, concerned about possibility of decreasing property value, removing historic "barn" will have negative impact on landscape, suggests studying variance and denying.

*Terry Williams*, the barn is on the National Register and would have to be relocated.

*Kim Carter*, Roberts Ave, asked what Select Board knows about the project, *Paul Donaldson* answered, the DG is not a franchise, an application was submitted for mix-use, the owner purchases property then leases it, VEMAS facility, current tenant refurbishes old buildings, Green Mountain College REED bank is not part of the current plan.

*Paul Donaldson*, the meeting has been "noticed" in paper

*Gene Sumner*, corner of Church and Beaman Street, concerned about view if relocate barn, bright lights, loitering, and decreasing property value, "Granville and Fair Haven DG's look like slums", low number of employees, suggests should rent to Discount Food.

*CB Hall*, Thrall Rd., concerned about jobs: DG 4-5 workers for 10,000 sq ft., REED program at College expected to have 50 people at once. Lights will be bright, competition will be bad for current businesses, industrial zoning will muddle picture for neighbors and other retailers in town.

*Kerry O Furlani*, College St., speaking for Chuck Colvin against manufacturing, Kerry emphasize history of Poultney, family history, National Chain Store will block her sculpture, wants Town to oppose DG.

*Pamela Burlingame*, Hampshire Hollow Rd, requesting Town, as an abutter, to oppose DG, asked Select Board how proactive they are in blocking corporations from coming to Poultney, *Tom Coloutti* responded, he personally would like to keep Poultney original, but must consider all tax payers and listen to all sides.

*Terry Williams*, need to look at from a tax standpoint, DG could help the Town, "This Town is Dying"

*Jeff King*, consider retail asset tax value, be proactive, for example, could hold taxes 3 years for new business until get on feet, set goals, listen to both sides, urged everyone to attend Wednesdays meeting.

*Terry Williams*, VT is not Pro-business.

*Gene Sumner*, is property owner open to negotiations to add a different discount store?

*Frank Fressie*, there's more on the table than just one site, e.g., "White Elephant" on corner

*Terry Williams*, parking is a problem.

*Neal Vreeland*, Church St., technical reasons under zoning can block DG, i.e., multi-use, variances, Town has right as municipality to participate, asking Select Board to take a position against DG.

*David Mook*, Ferncliff Rd, DG has 13,000 stores, doesn't think DG is a good fit for Poultney, in favor of locally owned businesses, worried corporate DG will change look of Town

*Kerry O Furlani*, the DG visual is a huge detraction for the Town

*Steve Vesmeyer*, East Poultney, what is considered an eye sore is difference of opinion, DG seems like a low aspiration, the town should seek higher employment goals.

*Frank Fressie to Neal Vreeland*, how long is the DRB process? Mr Vreeland answered, DRB must make a decision 45 days from date all evidence submitted (if DRB doesn't, then property owner wins by default), DRB will either grant or deny- 30 days to appeal, must establish party status pretrial to appeal.

*Kerry O Furlani to Neal Vreeland*, do you have to stand-up to participate? Mr Vreeland answered, affected if live in neighborhood, create a ten-member group, produce evidence in accordance with bylaws.

*Terry Williams*, does anyone know property owner...maybe should approach him with suggestions on what should put in there, *Pamela Burlingame* agreed.

*CB Hall*, DG pays generously for leases, will have very difficult time finding an alternate tenant.

*Ed Bove*, not subject to ACT 250.

*Paul Stonehouse*, North College Street, struck by Terry Williams comment, "This Town is Dying", must revitalize town, maintain why drawn to Poultney in the first place, companies only care about bottom line, Poultney find identity, decide what to do, then bring in those companies.

*Gene Sumner*, raised money for Fire Department, neither the DG in Granville or Fair Haven ever contributes.

*Christina Fabrey*, Thrall Rd., pro economic development, must find our vision, DG will detract, will not shop there, may consider moving, take a stance for what business to draw.

*Frank Fressie*, DG went into existing stores in Granville and Fair Haven, this is a different situation.

*Jeff King* agrees with *Kerry O Furlani* statement regarding Main Street visual and impact it will have.

*Terry Williams*, get petition together, be there, formally sign-up if accorded party status.

Jeff King made a motion to go to DRB meeting to maintain interested party status and authorize Town Manager to obtain legal counsel to represent the Select Board. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried

**Road Report:** Ron Kelly reported the following:

- 1) finalize grant on Finel Hollow Road
  - recruiting three letters of support
  - working with RPC, due Friday 17th
- 2) have estimate for guard rails Rt 31 bridge, price is good, using salvaged guard rails
- 3) Ferncliff lake encroachment, not sure what action to take
- 4) does Select Board want to review access road permits
  - yes- continue to maintain procedure of review
  - access (right of way) permit HWY 31

Tom Coloutti made a motion to approve reuse, Frank Fressie seconded the motion. Motion Carried.

Tom Coloutti asked Ron Kelly about upgrading to Class III road if purchase land on class IV road, Ron answered owner does at their own expense, unless approved by the Select Board.

**Town Manager's Report:** Paul Donaldson reported the following:

**Letters and Communications:**

due April 15, 2017, file annual Town HWY Financial Plan to request grant money, has this year and last year's

- Select Board to sign originals
- compliance for Town roads and bridges, culverts and signs

Terry Williams asked about speed limit- call Brian Sanderson for state procedures in "Orange Book"

Jeff King said put on agenda (change speed limit from 30 to 25 mph)

Ron Kelly left to prepare for blizzard.

**Appoint Town Officers:**

- 1) Frank Fressie made a motion to appoint Town Officers. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2) mail copies of Select Board Handbook to all members

**Transact Any Other Lawful Business:**

1) Rutland County Sheriff Report

2) Liquor License Renewals:

Midway Oil Corp -267 Main Street

Midway Oil Corp -10 East Main Street

AC's General Store (east Poultney General Store) – Rt. 140 & On the Green

Stewart's Shops Corp.– Junction of Main and Maple Streets

Lake St. Catherine Country Club (includes Outside Consumption).

Shaws

Tom Coloutti made a motion for approval of the Liquor License Renewals currently in front of the board. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried (Frank Fressie and George Miller abstained from voting on Lake St Catherine Country Club renewals because they own stock in the CC).

3) should employees be bonded?

SB can set bond requirements or rely on insurance

Tom Coloutti made a motion to rely on insurance. Frank Fressie seconded the motion. Motion carried.

4) Proposed Amendment to Unified Bylaws – Slate Quarrying

Slate Quarry Association wants to revisit the bylaws, section 417

- Put on agenda to study

5) Delinquent taxes- going to need a plan.

**Board Orders:**

Tom Coloutti made a motion to pay board orders and stop by Town Office to sign warrants. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:**

Frank Fressie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:30pm. Tom Coloutti seconded motion. Motion carried.

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s/Neisja Crawford, Secretary / Bookkeeper