

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Meeting
Monday, February 10, 2020 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall
Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes: 01/27/20 and 02/03/20
- 3) Public Comments and Concerns
 - Request to approve a proposed solar installation as a “preferred site” – Hill Rich Hemp farm, South Street
 - Liquor License renewal – East Poultney General Store
 - Letter of praise for the highway department
- 4) Road Report
- 5) Town Manager’s Report
 - Sanctuary Town resolution
 - Resignation of Kathy Hutson at Young At Heart Senior Center
 - DRB meeting this Thursday, re: Artificial Bait Manufacturer
 - Rutland County Solid Waste District
- 6) Transact Any Other Lawful Business
- 7) Executive Session
 - Economic Development Coordinator position
- 8) Health Officer’s Report
- 9) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 10) Board Orders
- 11) Adjourn

Meeting Minutes

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Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Terry Williams, George Miller, Carol Bunce, and Kim Rupe. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Town Manager, and members of the public (see list attached).

Adoption of the Agenda: Carol Bunce made a motion to adopt the agenda. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: George Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of 1/27/20. Kim Rupe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Terry Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of 2/3/20. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Khanit Munro and Philip Allen, bot of Same Sun Vermont presented a proposal to site a solar array on Tom Whyte's property. There is about 4 acres of less than productive agricultural land that he desires to put a solar array. Mr. Whyte plans to scale back his hemp growing operation from about 50 acres to 20 acres. The array will provide power to property owned by Charlie Chouglin in Rutland. The arrays are about 8.5 to 9 feet tall, and there is a 25 year lease. The solar company wants the board to recognize the site as a "preferred site" which streamlines the permitting process. The permitting process calls for a decommissioning process. Discussion followed. Paul Donaldson noted that the site is identified as an Industrial Zone on the zoning map. The developer circulated some materials showing their process, some projects they have done, and the statutory language of what it means to be a preferred site. Matter tabled until next week for board to digest materials.

Tyler Ballard and Steven J. Taran, and supporters, came back to the board to present their petition to recognize Poultney as a "Sanctuary Cit" related to "A Resolution for the defense of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms." Paul Donaldson stated he discussed the matter with Town Attorney and Vermont League of Cities and Towns, and because of Dillon's Rules, it is symbolic, and not enforceable. Discussion followed. Mr. Taran also presented a number of signatures in support of the Resolution. He kept the same, and the intent was for the board to see that there is support for the resolution. They are not asking for a special Petition or "election" but rather a Resolution should the Selectboard support it. If the Selectboard does not pass the Resolution, they may seek to have a vote by Petition. Paul Donaldson clarified which resolution the gentlemen were seeking as there were two somewhat different resolutions filed with the Selectboard last meeting. Paul Donaldson read the Resolution, with the attached excerpt of

Marbury vs. Madison. The gentlemen agreed that was the Resolution they were seeking the board to approve. Discussion followed. Terry Williams made a motion to adopt the Resolution. George Miller seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Paul Donaldson circulated a copy of a taxpayer thanking Ron Kelley and Richard Ferguson of the Highway Crew for work well done.

Road Report:

Paul Donaldson reported that:

- The crew has been plowing and salting/sanding as needed, and making repairs as needed. The truck that was overturned on Endless Brook Road continues to be repaired.

Town Managers Report:

Paul Donaldson reported the following:

- Kathy Hutson resigned as the director of the Young At Heart Senior Center. The center will be putting an ad together seeking applicants for the position. Discussion followed.
- There is an upcoming Development Review Board meeting regarding an application of Robert Scott to manufacture artificial bait at the former VEMAS property.
- He has been attending Rutland County Solid Waste District meetings hoping to get some input on bettering the services at our own transfer station.

Transact any Other Lawful Business:

None.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Terry Williams stated there is a Transportation Committee Meeting specific to bridges coming up he plans to attend. He has spoken to Devon Neary re: the trestle bridge on D&H Rail Trail.

Executive Session: At 7:47 P.M. Terry Williams made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. Kip Rupe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. At 8:00 P.M. George Miller made a motion to leave Executive Session. Kim Rupe seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. No action taken.

Board Orders:

Carol Bunce made a motion to pay board orders. Kim Rupe seconded the motion.

Motion carried.

Adjournment:

George Miller made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry Williams seconded the Motion.

Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson