

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Special Meeting
Thursday, June 11, 2020 – 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Virtual Zoom Meeting
Meeting Minutes

Terry Williams called the meeting to order at 6:07PM. Selectmen present included: Terry Williams, Carol Bunce and Sherly Porrier. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Town Manager, State of Vermont Engineers: Carol Cota, Mahendra Thilliyar, Shannon Beaumont, Todd Sumer, State of Vermont consultant: Jaime French, Jane Williams, Nanette Greer, Frankl Pauze, Chuck Helfor, Johnathan Taylor, Carol Sterile, Diane Bargil, Carmie Haley.

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

Discussion on the proposed bridge replacement of the East Poultney Gorge Bridge (Bridge No. 7, in the Town of Poultney) located at the intersection of Thrall Road, River Street, and On The Green, in East Poultney. Jaimie French presented a power point presentation as to why her company is proposing to locate a 24 feet wide bridge there instead of the 22 feet wide bridge that the Selectboard had already approved. The main issue deals with the safety of large trucks, fire trucks, negotiating the turn onto and off of River Street. There are a number of options i.e. two lane bridge with various stop signs, or marking the bridge as a one-lane bridge. The State does caution on increased maintenance of repainting the lines if it is marked as one way as vehicles will drive on the paint. Also, if it is a 24 feet wide bridge some vehicles will likely try to use it as a 2-way bridge. Currently the bridge is 18 feet, 3 inches. The plan as proposed will have two 9-foot travel lanes, a 4 foot shoulder, a 2 foot shoulder and a 5 feet six inch sidewalk. Discussion re: making it with two sidewalks. The issue is the condition of the ledge and the proximity of the old Tannery to a wider bridge. The shoulders can be made to 3 feet and 3 feet. The State can have 42 inch railings on both sides of the bridge. The State can explore leaving the flashing lights there. Several people asked various questions regarding the need for a one lane bridge vs. two lane. The State stated that the bridge is to be constructed for future uses as well, and who knows what traffic patterns might be years from now. Currently the State is trying to get the bridge scheduled for Summer, 2022. There will be no weight limits. The presentation will be available online. Paul Donaldson stated that the board will digest the material and make a decision at the June 22, 2020 meeting.

Adjournment:

Carol Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Terry Williams seconded the Motion.

Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson