

Meeting Minutes

Poultney Board of Selectmen

Monday, November 23, 2020 – 6:30 PM

Poultney Town Hall and Virtual

Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Terry Williams, George Miller (via Zoom), Carol Bunce, and Sheryl Porrier. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Town Manager, Dave Birmingham, from Green Mountain Power, Fire Chief Aaron Kerber, and Kathryn Barber (via Zoom).

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

Approval of Minutes: Terry Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of November 9, 2020. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments and Concerns: None.

Road Report: Paul Donaldson reported the crew has been preparing the equipment for winter. Ron Kelley has discussed with other highway departments re: Mutual Aid in the event our highway crew is affected by COVID exposure, as well as neighboring towns. Ron has also had a few conversations with a couple of individuals on an as needed basis if we need extra help due to COVID exposure.

Town Managers Report:

-Green Mountain Power has petitioned for Pole and Wire Locations within the limits of Pond Hill Ranch Road affecting Kathryn Barber, Michael and Lucia Florio and Harry O'Rourke Trust. Kathryn Barber has a concern that the project will kill the trees on her property. Paul Donaldson stated that any trees within the road right of way could be removed by the town. Discussion followed. Paul Donaldson stated he sent via certified mail to Kathryn Barber and another affected land owner, Michael and Lucia Florio. GMP had advised Paul Donaldson that they had a settled agreement with the Harry O'Rourke Trust, another affected landowner. Dave Birmingham agreed to limit the cutting to ten feet as opposed to 12 feet. Terry Williams made a motion to approve the placement of poles and wires within the Road Right of Way. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

-Paul Donaldson stated that the Slate Quarry Park Group continues to work on providing updated financial information regarding cash on hand. Discussion followed regarding no execution of the contract until the group demonstrates they have the funds available to complete the project.

-Paul Donaldson stated that the 3 wifi hotspots have been installed through the CUD, RRPC, and Dept of Public Service cooperation. The spots are at the Senior Center, The Village Office, and the East Poultney General Store.

-The board set December 7, 2020 at 4PM for a Special Budget Meeting.

-Discussion re: the transfer station, and costs of yellow bags. The information has been placed on the Town Website.

Transact any Other Lawful Business: Aaron Kerber stated that the fire department wants to purchase a used rescue trailer from the Whitehall Fire Department to haul the UTV to scenes. The trailer is not big enough to haul the UTV and the UTV trailer, but will allow for hauling additional equipment. The trailer has A/C unit and a heater so that will be helpful for the crew. Also some crew members have been training with ice and water rescue with equipment received from the trustees at Green Mountain College. Chief Kerber stated that he would like to purchase the trailer for \$4,500, and spend at the most \$1,500 to re-letter the trailer for Poultney, with the funds taken from the Safety Equipment Fund. Terry Williams made a motion to approve these expenditures. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Chief Kerber also stated that the crew continues to assist with Meals on Wheels on Tuesdays. The crew has now had two weeks of no in-house training. Chief Kerber is working with Middletown Springs to bulk purchase air packs in connection with the AFT grant for air packs, in hopes to get a better price. The grant was extended by one year. He reminded the board that the grant did not include funds for the fill station, it's a \$133,000 grant with a \$6,000 match.

Terry Williams asked about the proposed plan to convert part of the fire station for constable use.. Chief Kerber stated he had not had a recent discussion with Constable Kerber about that.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Terry Williams stated he was unable to attend the recent TAC meeting.

Executive Session: None

Board Orders: Carol Bunce made a motion to pay board orders. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Carol Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheryl Porrier seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson