

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Meeting
Monday, February 8, 2021 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall & Virtual

Note: To join this meeting via Zoom, use this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81931336219?pwd=cjNkcUIMdWtwNzRpZlFtNDI5cFR3dz09>

Meeting ID: 819 3133 6219

Passcode: 975663

OR

Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 819 3133 6219

Passcode: 975663

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes: January 25, 2021
- 3) Road Report
- 4) Public Comments and Concerns (15 minutes per individual/topic)
- 5) Town Manager's Report
 - East Poultney Gorge Bridge
 - Transfer Station/Highway Department Employee
 - March 1, 2021 meeting at the Firehouse
 - Offer to purchase town owned property on Lewis Road
- 6) Transact Any Other Lawful Business
- 7) Executive Session
- 8) Health Officer's Report
- 9) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 10) Board Orders
- 11) Adjourn

Meeting Minutes
Poultney Board of Selectmen
Monday, February 8, 2021 – 6:30 PM
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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, Ron Kelley, Highway Foreman, and members of the public all appearing via Zoom: Carmie Haley, Frank Pauze, Jane Williams, Jonathan Taylor, Nanette Greer, Linda Knowlton, Bert Cenate, Mark Teetor, Carol Stierel, Laurie Provin, Karen Atwood.

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

Approval of Minutes: George Miller made a motion to approve the minutes of January 25, 2021. Carol Bunce seconded the motion with a couple of spelling corrections. Motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments and Concerns: Further discussion re: East Poultney Gorge Bridge. Paul Donaldson advised that on the advice of the insurance company, that since the town is not maintaining the bridge during the winter, i.e., plowing, shoveling, salting, snow removal, deck inspection, or abutment inspections, the bridge should be closed to pedestrians. Paul Donaldson stated the matter came up when the Selectboard was approached by the snowmobile club, and at that time the State of Vermont Bridge inspectors advised not allowing the bridge to be used by them. The State further advised that if the abutments, upon our visual inspection looked worse than they were at the time the bridge was closed to vehicles, we should close to foot traffic. Ron Kelley had done an inspection and the abutments looked worse to him, although admittedly he is not an engineer. Paul Donaldson had circulated a letter via email to concerned folks about the closure. Since the letter, the State has sent engineers to inspect the abutments and they advise that the abutments can support foot traffic. However, the Selectboard was unpersuaded by members of the public appearing tonight and arguing to re-open the bridge to pedestrian and bike traffic. The board continues to be concerned about lack of maintenance and inspection, and advised members of the public appearing tonight not to shovel, or sand the bridge, and not to use the bridge. The board did state that they would consider re-opening the bridge to foot and bike traffic in the spring time once the frost/thaw cycle has passed, State engineers inspect and indicate the abutments will support foot and bike traffic, and the highway crew can inspect and repair the decking as needed.

Road Report: Ron Kelley reported the following: The crew continues to “salt, sand, plow,” continued winter road maintenance; we received the Diesel Emissions Grant. Paul Donaldson indicated he signed the same and is waiting for the fully executed to come back so we can order the new truck and equipment once it is fully signed.

Town Managers Report:

-The board set a Special meeting date and time of 02-16-2021 at 4:00PM to meet and discuss the proposed transfer station/highway department employee and a proposed job description.

-Paul Donaldson stated that the Pre-Town Information Meeting will be a hybrid In Person/Virtual Meeting. We have to install cable for internet as currently there is only DSL dial up. He plans to meet with Chief Kerber soon to go over the space/distancing, etc.

Paul Donaldson reacquainted the board with the offer to purchase town owned property on Lewis Road (the town purchased it at a tax sale in November, 2019) for the delinquent Tax amount of \$16,128.35. Mark Teetor has offered to purchase the property for that same amount. Paul Donaldson explained that he had a Comparative Market Analysis done on the property by Vermont Forest and Field, Inc. and that review opined that the value of the property was \$24,000.00. Paul Donaldson noted that the tax sale was well advertised and attended, and no parties besides the town bid on the property. The property does have a well, and a septic, but neither of those systems would likely be permitted to be used by the State since the house burnt many years ago, and the State rules give only a limited time to rebuild in order to use pre-existing well and septic. Paul Donaldson stated that in order for the town to sell town-owned property, it must be advertised to allow members of the public to object to the sale should they petition not to do so. Discussion followed. George Miller made a motion to enter into an agreement to sell the property to Mark Teetor at the offered price, and to advertise the same. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Paul Donaldson will advertise and wait to see if there is objections to the sale.

Transact any Other Lawful Business: Karen and Idris Atwood have stated that their neighbor has been appearing in the window of his house in a state of undress. The Atwoods wonder if there is a local or state ordinance against such behavior. They are concerned that the house where this is occurring is along the route to the Poultney Elementary School and that children will witness this behavior. Paul Donaldson stated he would discuss the matter with the RCSD, and review local ordinances to see if there is a rule(s) against such matters. The Atwoods did not allege the person doing this is acting in a lewd manner.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: None.

Executive Session: None.

Board Orders: Terry Williams made a motion to pay board orders. Carol Bunce 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