

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Meeting
Monday, September 13, 2021 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall

Revised Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes: 08-23-2021 and 9-1-2021
- 3) Public Comments and Concerns (limit of 15 minutes per topic):
- 4) Road Report:
 - New truck status
 - Winter preparations
 - Boom Mower Estimates
- 5) Town Manager's Report
 - Sheriff Fox, Rutland County Sheriff Department
 - Pomeroy Place discussion
 - Liquor License – event Whaleback 9-18-2021
 - Slate Quarry Park progress report
 - Chili Cook Off, Saturday, September 25, 2021
 - Transfer Station policies
- 6) Transact Any Other Lawful Selectboard Business
- 7) Executive Session:
- 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, Carol Bunce, Sheryl Porrier and Rick LaPierre. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Ron Kelley, Highway Foreman, Steve Betit, Sarah Pelkey, Economic Development Coordinator, Rutland County Sheriff David Fox, Rutland County Deputy Sheriff Lt. Jim Bennick, Lori Provin, Nannette Greer, Mary Sue Reed, Jack Dobeck, Steve Broughton, and Val Broughton.

Adoption of the Agenda: Terry Williams made a motion to adopt the agenda with the addition of the following items added to “Transact Any Other Lawful Selectboard Business”: 1) Discussion of Grant Opportunity jointly with Fair Haven and Castleton, and 2) Discussion of gate at Kennedy Farm on Ames Hollow Road. Motion seconded by Sheryl Porrier. Motions carried.

Approval of Minutes: Terry Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of 08-23-2021 and 9-1-2021. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Terry Williams made a motion to move Sheriff Fox agenda item up on the Agenda. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Discussion with Sheriff Fox and Lt. Bennick re: Rotating schedules for when the Deputy is assigned to patrol Poultney, shift changes, better communications between law enforcement offices, i.e. State Police, Sheriff, and Constable. Lt. Bennick stated we are able to have the Deputy do some late night shifts, and would work with Paul Donaldson to figure out scheduling. Unfortunately the departments have not communicated with themselves for various reasons. The State Police is now using the same call system as the Sheriff Dept. so this may make communication better between departments. The town would like to see better information conveyed to the Town Manager and/or the Selectboard. Sheriff Fox says sometimes patrol car seems stationary in various spots for long periods of time, and this is often attributed to the Deputy doing various paperwork as opposed to going to Rutland to do the same.

Carol Bunce asked why the Town of Castleton has been patrolling in town and at the State Park. Sheriff Fox stated that the Town of Castleton bid to do security at the State Park..

Terry Williams asked if the Sheriff Dept. still had plans to do dispatch for local communities. Sheriff Fox said there are no local plans to do that. Terry Williams asked of plans to do a joint agreement between Poultney, Wells, and Pawlet for police coverage. Wells is contracting for 4 hours per week, but no plans beyond that.

Steve Broughton stated that the Rail Trail has been a very active party hot spot, and he believes criminals are using that trail to access backyards, including his own where is truck window was smashed and a bunch of cash was stolen. He asked if the department could patrol the trail. Sheriff Fox opined that he would need two officers and ATVs to access the same. Paul Donaldson will inquire as to access to keys for gates.

Sheryl Porrier made a motion to move the discussion with Sarah Pelkey up on the agenda. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Paul Donaldson had already supplied the board with a narrative prepared by RRPC of what the grant opportunity was. Sarah Pelkey offered a letter of support for the town to join Castleton and Fair Haven in a grant application (at no costs to the towns) to seek USEDA funds through ARPA to do a study for building warehousing, cold storage, and food processing facilities to help producers and manufacturers of goods in the area with storage and transportation of goods. Discussion followed. Rick LaPierre made a motion to sign the Letter of Support. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Mary Sue Reed asked if the board has already considered how to use the ARPA funds the town will be receiving. Paul Donaldson stated he has attended one online seminar designed to discuss how the funds could be used, but the seminar was not very helpful. He plans to attend more in the future, and the board will seek public input in the future when discussing how to use funds. Mary Sue Reed stated that VLCT has some good resources that the town should use. Paul Donaldson stated he plans to seek some additional guidance on how the funds can be used.

Steve Betit asked about the Route 31 bridge and whether the Village should share in the costs of repairs to the same. Paul Donaldson stated that the bridges have historically been funded by the town only even though they are shown on various maps as being in the Village and the Town. Steve Betit stated that the town municipalities should consider merging. Jeff King stated it is a topic that has been discussed several times in the past, and it would entail a pretty detailed study to see if it would be an idea worth pursuing. There would have to be a vote in the Town and the Village as well.

Lori Provin stated she was here to inquire about a school bus parking on the sidewalk on Granville Street. Paul Donaldson stated that while this is a Village issue he is dealing with the same.

Nanette Greer inquired as to why the Speed Cart has yet to be moved on Thrall Road closer to the 25 MPH zone. Paul Donaldson stated he has asked Dale Kerber to do this and will inquire again. Dale Kerber had stated he does not think there will be enough sun to power the unit.

Road Report: Ron Kelley reported the following:

- the crew continues to cut brush with the excavator.
- The crew finished ditch and stone line work on Endless Brook Road and Dayton Hill Road
- We need to finish a FEMA project on Saltis Road.
- We are waiting for sand provider to open his sand pit so we can get sand. Some neighbors had complained so the provider is waiting for State Inspectors to allow him to re-open the pit. There are other providers if there is an issue with opening the pit.
- Ron did secure one price quote for a Boom Mower.
- the new truck is in Williston at the end of this month to be outfitted with equipment
- The crew appreciated the meeting with the board at the shop on 9-1-2021
- the crew will be moving to Hannon Road to finish MRGP project.

Town Managers Report:

- Paul Donaldson reminded the board that the Rotary plans to have the Chili Cook Off on September 25, 2021.

-Paul Donaldson has spoken with Mike Bradley about pinpointing the Poultney/Castleton Town Line on Pomeroy Place. After that the board will need to decide if it wants to reclassify portions on that road from a Class 4 to something else, or keep the road a Class 4.

-There is a Wedding event at Whaleback on 9-18-2021 that requires a Liquor License. Terry Williams made a motion to approve the license. Carol Bunce seconded it. Motion carried with all in favor.

-Slate Quarry Park progress report. Paul Donaldson reported there continue to be delays in getting materials for the park. He is still waiting for some documentation from slate provider so we can apply for reimbursements through the grant.

-We need to discuss new Transfer Station polices regarding use of scales and other polices.

Transact any Other Lawful Business:

-Sheryl Porrier wants to correct the record. There is not yet a gate located on Ames Hollow Road. She was incorrect at a past meeting when she stated that a gate had been placed there. Ron Kelley is working on placing the gate there.

Paul Donaldson stated that Chief Kerber reports that he has reinstated mask wearing requirements in the firehouse and in trucks as there may have been possible COVID exposure with another fire department while they attended a mutual call.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Terry Williams stated that the board is now back to meeting on their schedule.

Executive Session: None.

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

Adjournment: .Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick LaPierre seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson