

Meeting Minutes

Poultney Board of Selectmen

Monday, October 25, 2021 – 6:30 PM

Poultney Town Hall

Terry Williams called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Terry Williams, Carol Bunce, Sheryl Porrier and Rick LaPierre. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Ron Kelley, Mark Teetor, Katrina Davenport, Jamie Lee, Lori Provin, Nanette Greer, Jane Williams, Judy Leech, and Mary Sue Reed.

Adoption of the Agenda: Carol Bunce requested the addition of four items to the Agenda: 1) Preliminary Financial Reports should be supplied to the board in order to prepare for Budget discussions; 2) Whether an auditor can discuss grant tracking with the board and or bookkeeper; 3) Health Insurance cost comparisons; and 4) Further Rail Trail discussions.

Carol Bunce made a motion to adopt the agenda with the added items. Rick LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Carol Bunce made a motion to approve the minutes of 10/11/2021. Rick LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Katrina Davenport requested the board budget a \$2.00 per capita increase for the Poultney Rescue Squad for the next five years. Based on the 2020 census with a population of 3,020, the first increase for FY 2023 the amount allotted to the Rescue Squad will increase from \$34,320 to \$36, 240. Discussion followed. This request will be considered during budget meetings which will commence in November. Ms. Davenport also stated that the town should look into obtaining a sharps box at the transfer station as she has been collecting sharps but has no viable means of disposing of the same. She stated that people have been told to place needles in the hard #2 plastics and seal with duct tape to be disposed of. Paul Donaldson stated his transfer station crew has advised some people of this method, but it's a matter of getting people to do it that way.

Jamie Lee presented to the board that the Planning Commission (the "PC") is close to finalizing the updated Town Plan which was aided by a Municipal Planning Grant and the RRPC. The Commission is having a special meeting on November 3 to put finishing touches on the Town Plan and will then presented it to the Selectboard. The PC is working on applying for a grant to aid in updating the Unified Bylaws, which application is due November 15, 2021. She stated that we need to advertise for 2 vacancies on the Development Review Board, and 1 on the PC.

She requested that the Selectboard consider funds for zoning enforcement when in budget discussion.

Jane Williams stated that she is still negotiating with the State on the required easements on her property in order to allow for construction of the new bridge in East Poultney. She stated that one thing she is concerned about is indemnification. Paul Donaldson said he did not see that as being an issue, needs to discuss with Eric Furs and Town Attorney.

Mary Sue Reed questioned the last minutes accuracy in a reference to the discussion of ARPA funds and a that she stated the board should consider ARPA for infrastructure. She stated she did not make that exact statement. She also reminded the board that the draft meeting minutes are supposed to be posted 5 days after the meeting.

Nanette Greer again requested that the board reconsider zooming meetings. She stated that she had over 200 signatures supporting the notion. She questioned the security of the town's computers if they could not support zoom meetings. Paul Donaldson stated that the issue is the lack of a computer with a camera and a microphone. Discussion followed. Terry Williams asked if anyone on the board wanted to make a motion to reinstate zoom meetings. No motion was made.

Road Report: Ron Kelley reported the following:

- the dump box is on the new truck and should be ready sometime in the month of November
- The crew continues to ditch on Pond Hill
- We are finished on Hannon Road, and Grants in Aid on that project will fund about \$23,000 for the work
- We did get salt prices which went up by roughly \$4.00 per ton
- the crew has been repairing sanders and fitting the trucks with then and plows
- Salt shed is full
- Ron was recertified for UST endorsements at the garage
- he has 2 more quotes for the Boom Mower with prices ranging from 140,029.96 for a New Holland, \$171,885 for a John Deere, and \$172,000 for another John Deere
- the culvert inventory is low so the crew did not change a couple of cross-drains on Pond Hill
- the crew will continue to mow side road brush before snow
- Sheryl Porrier mentioned there was a down tree on Hampshire Hollow that Chris Seamons and Michael Mott removed

Town Managers Report:

- Paul Donaldson stated he has been advised that we need to start condemnation proceedings as some of the negotiations are taking longer than expected. Discussion followed.
- The Slate Quarry Park is approaching completion. Someone stated that the owner of the Parts Store is still concerned that parking will be an issue.

-We are working on securing some price quotes on the town report printing.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:

Rail Trail

-Paul Donaldson stated that he has spoken with the State and law enforcement. He believes the State has provided combinations to the gates to law enforcement. Carol Bunce questioned putting up a sign about closed Dawn to Dusk, but thought that would not be a good idea due to snowmobilers. Paul Donaldson stated enforcement would be the other issue.

Preliminary Financial Reports will be provided to the board so we can be prepared for budget discussions.

Paul Donaldson will inquire with our auditor as to whether we can input on our budget worksheets grant amounts as expected income to offset the grant amount reflected on the expense line, or a better system to track the In and Out of the grants

Paul Donaldson has not yet seen Health Insurance premium quotes and Neisja Crawford will put together a spreadsheet for comparison.

Terry Williams requested that we re-notice a site visit for Pomeroy Place and would like to try to finish the process of reclassification consideration prior to winter. Paul Donaldson stated that he has spoken with the RRPC and they advised we can make repairs to certain parts of the road without having to address all the road. Discussion followed. Rick LaPierre made a motion to start the process on Notification to the landowners. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Terry Williams stated the following:

-the last 2 RRPC meetings dealt with Solar projects in Rutland County and Act 250 matters.

Executive Session: None.

Board Orders: Sheryl Porrier made a motion to pay board orders. Rick LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Carol Bunce made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Rick LaPierre seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson