

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

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes: 11-22-2021 and 12-6-2021
- 3) Public Comments and Concerns (limit of 15 minutes):
- 4) Road Report:
- 5) Town Manager's Report
  - Raj Bhakta: status report on Green Mountain College campus
  - Kim Rupe: presentation Chamber & Economic Development of the Rutland Region
  - Sarah Pelkey: status of VOREC grant progress
  - Hilary Solomon, Poultney Mettawee Natural Resource Conservation District
  - Grant Application re: D&H Rail Trail Trestle Bridge Study
  - Errors and Omissions from the Poultney Lister Office
  - East Poultney Gorge Bridge: bridge replacement schedule
  - Utility Relocation Order, re: East Poultney Gorge Bridge
  - Budget meeting (setting a date)
  - Planning Commission: proposed updated Town Plan Public Meeting
  - Governor Scott's Proclamation of Inclusion
  - Marijuana Dispensary Question for the ballot
- 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

### Poultney Board of Selectmen

Monday, December 13, 2021 – 6:30 PM

### Poultney Town Hall

Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Terry Williams, Sheryl Porrier, Richard LaPierre and Carol Bunce. Others present included Mark Teetor, Mary Sue Reed, Jonas Rosenthal, Kim Rupe, Chrispin White, Raj Bhakta, Leo Gibson, Hilary Solomon, Nicholas Stark and Whitney VanBuren.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Carol Bunce made a motion to adopt the agenda. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Approval of Minutes:** Richard LaPierre made a motion to approve the minutes of 11/22/2021 with the addition of Mary Sue Reed. The minutes of 12/06/2021 were to be amended to add the following people – Rebecca Cook, Ennis Duling, Bruce Williams, Jean Roberts who represented the Poultney Town Library. Terry Williams seconded the motion with the corrections. Motion passed with all in favor.

### **Public Comments and Concerns:**

Jonas Rosenthal was wondering about the status of approving the ARPA funds request for the Senior Center. Jeff King said that the board was still working on a detailed expenditure list and that the board would have additional information at the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting (the original meeting date had been changed from December 27<sup>th</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup> due to the holiday) the Senior Center will be added to the agenda.

**Road Report:** Due to the absence of Paul Donaldson, Town Manager and Ron Kelley, Road Foreman there was no report.

### **Town Managers Report:**

Raj Bhakta gave an overview of the transformation that he would like to do at the Green Mountain College campus. He seeks to turn the campus into a premier destination resort. This would be a multi-year project and would involve changes to be made to our zoning laws for that region. The campus would be a complex of hotel, distillery, dining areas, an equestrian center along with maintaining its current use of a community school for grades kindergarten thru grade 6. He would start a school for students to learn the restaurant business to maintain an educational atmosphere. In order to start this project he would be looking for tax stabilization from the town for an indefinite period of time with a unique plan to have a percentage of the profits to go to the town for an offset.

Leo Gibson, the attorney for Mr. Bhakta gave some information as to how the plan would work. It was recommended that he contact the town clerk as soon as possible to find the deadline for the select

board to put an article on the ballot. They are asking for this prior to knowing if the zoning law changes would be ratified.

Kim Rupe and Chrispin White from the Chamber and Economic Development of the Rutland Region gave a presentation on the council and what it does. They would like to be added to the budget. It was recommended that contact Betsy Wescott the Town Clerk as to the procedure for requesting funds since they were not previously in the budget under this name.

Sarah Pelkey will report on the status of the VOREC grant at the December 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Hilary Solomon gave a presentation on the Poultney Mettawee Natural Resource Conservation District with changes being made and to funds being available for various uses. A comprehensive information brochure was given to members.

Terry Williams and Jeff King are working on the D&H Rail Trail Trestle Bridge Study – the report is due to the state on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Hilary Solomon will give them a letter of support.

Errors and Omissions for a parcel of land that was reduced in size with a grand list reduction of \$2100. was submitted by the Poultney Listers. Terry Williams made a motion to accept the change, seconded by Sheryl Porrier. Motion carried with all in favor.

East Poultney Gorge Bridge is on schedule – all property owners have signed off. Carol Bunce asked if the Town is charged when a land transfer is made with the state or does the state factor in an estimate of additional costs. Jeff King stated that he believed that the state paid for it and not the town but would look into it.

Utility Relocation Order: East Poultney Gorge Bridge paperwork for relocation of utility lines was put on hold to allow for the board to have a chance to review.

Budget meeting date was set for December 20, 2021 at 4:15 PM.

Planning Commission – will decide Wednesday night at their meeting as to what date they plan to present their proposed changes to the voters.

Chairman Jeff King read the Proclamation of Inclusion to the Board – Terry Williams made a motion to approve, seconded by Sheryl Porrier. Motion carried with all in favor.

Marijuana Dispensary Question for the Ballot was tabled until the December 20, 2021 meeting.

**Transact any Other Lawful Business:** None

**Executive Session:** Carol Bunce made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Terry Williams all in favor. The board went into Executive Session at 8:25 and came out at 8:40.

**Health Officer's Report:** None

Rutland Regional Planning Commission –

**Board Orders:** Terry Williams made a motion to approve the board orders as submitted but Jeff King will tell Neisja that a second board order for payment of bonus checks and board stipends is to be done this week. Seconded by Richard LaPierre. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Adjournment:** Terry Williams made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Sheryl Porrier – all in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 PM.