

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Meeting
Monday, June 27, 2022 – 6:00 pm
Poultney Town Hall

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes: 6-13-2022
- 3) Public Comments and Concerns (limit of 15 minutes):
- 4) Road Report:
- 5) Town Manager's Report
 - Revenue and Expense Reports discussion
 - Fourth of July
- 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 Richard LaPierre. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Ron Kelley, Mark Teetor, Margaret Mug, Mary Sue Reed, Andrew Ohl, Dale Kerber and Aaron Kerber.

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: Carol Bunce made a motion to approve the minutes of 6-13-2022. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Mary Sue Reed questioned why the board appointed Mary Jo Teetor as an assessor rather than a lister. Paul Donaldson stated the issue is that since there are no other listers in the office, one acting alone must be an assessor. Mary Jo Teetor has the qualifications and training to be an assessor. Mary Sue Reed pointed out two typos and a font change in the June 13, 2022 minutes. She advised the board that Jane Williams is still experiencing water erosion from the road and again is requesting the installation of the drainage that Ron Kelley stated we would do. Ron Kelley said again he cannot give a date certain for this work. Jeff King asked Mrs. Reed why people approach her for information about Town matters and business. He advised her that people should be inquiring of him as Chair of the Board, or Paul Donaldson as Town Manager. She stated Jeff Kings contact information is not available to the public. He supplied Mrs. Reed with his phone number. Mary Sue Reed questioned why the road crew did work on Ames Hollow. We did work on the section that is still a Class 4 road. Ron Kelley also stated that our MRGP required us to do erosion control on those sections of the road. She questioned why the gate at the Kennedy Farm has not been installed yet. Ron Kelley stated it was a matter of ledge and the crew has to figure out a better way to deter motor vehicles from accessing the trail section of the road. She questioned Pomeroy Place and whether that is a Class 4 road or a trail as she recently visited the spot. Ron Kelley advised her it is indeed a Class 4 road. She stated that recently a caravan of trucks were traveling Hampshire Hollow Road and it appears one of them hit another as there was quite a bit of car parts debris in the road. She called the Sheriff's Department about this.

Mark Teetor advised the board that the CUD is planning to send a letter to the Selectboard requesting an allocation of \$50,000 from ARPA funds to assist with consultation costs for the CUD. Paul Donaldson stated he has not seen a request yet.

Andrew Ohl stated he is a member of the Poultney Republican Committee and wanted to let the board know they were working with Linda Knowlton regarding the benches on the East Poultney Green. The benches are in very poor shape and he is concerned that they pose a liability to the town. He also requested the removal of tree stumps from the Green.

Road Report: Ron Kelley reported the following:

- The newest truck needed brake tube work, which was still under warranty, as well as some other warranty repairs;
- The crew needs to haul 2 more loads of gravel to Morse Hollow Road, and then it will be graded again. There were no washouts from the recent rain storms we had;
- We just ordered 4,000 gallons more of chloride. The cost continues to go up with the addition of a fuel surcharge;
- We are still waiting for FR Lafayette to repair guardrails on Finel Hollow Road;
- The crew had to replace 3 culverts on Ames Hollow. We were able to reuse an old culvert from our inventory and we had to use 2 new culverts;
- Culvert prices from FW Webb have doubled in price;
- Brad Mayhew has left the Town Highway Department for another job;
- Ron has requested the new Class 2 paving to be line striped by the State;
- Terry Williams inquired of who's responsibility it was to attend to dead trees in the road right of way – the town or the land owner. Ron Kelley stated he has some materials on this and will report back to the board. If it is the Town's responsibility the board needs to start budgeting for this;
- We are still waiting for parts for the mower deck before Ron Kelley can do the roadside mowing;
- The crew will do some road side brush cutting on Pond Hill Road and Watkins Hill Road.

Town Managers Report:

- Revenue and Expense Report discussion was tabled;
- Fourth of July: Discussion re: law enforcement for the parade and the fireworks and volunteers to assist with donation collections, parking assistance, and clean up.

Downtown WiFi/CUD: Sarah Pelkey advised the board that the Rotary and PDRC has inquired as to whether there has been any progress repairing/installing new WiFi along Main Street. Jeff King stated that he had looked into the matter with Verizon and they do not have a program like that – only business by business. He stated Joe Duffy had looked into it at one point and it would be a \$20,000 item. Discussion followed. Sarah will follow up with Mr. Duffy.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business: Discussion regarding the Thrall Road bridge project: Paul Donaldson stated that the contractor that was awarded the project wants to commence the project sometime in September, 2022 by removing the bridge and preparing the subsurface for the new abutments. The contract deadline to finish the bridge is September 22,

2023. The plan is to have no bridge over the winter of 2022-2023, and then to commence the replacement structure in the spring of 2023. There are some folks in the community that are trying to persuade the State to require the project to commence in the spring of 2023, and to finish towards the end of 2023 so as not to have the access to bikes and pedestrians shut off for such an extended period of time. There are some reasons the contractor wants to start this fall, including, but not limited to, the fact that there are bats that live on the ledge and work on the ledge may have to stop for all of June and July. Further the contractor will not know the extent of ledge work until the bridge is removed. Also, there is a concern if the work does not start until the spring of 2023, it may push the completion date into 2024, with things like final paving that can not happen after October 15, 2023. There were delays in the ROW acquisition that also caused the project to span two construction periods. Paul Donaldson also stated that he was notified by the State that federal funds will cover 100% of the construction costs. The town is still required to cover 5% of the scoping, ROW acquisition, and engineering work. Discussion followed. Terry Williams made a motion that the project should start in the fall of 2022. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Aaron Kerber circulated the Fire Department's Captain's Report. He stated that his crew will be meeting with Caitrin Maloney of Slate Valley Trails to discuss training, review trails and access points, trail mapping, etc. Paul Donaldson and Aaron Kerber have had a meeting with Ms. Maloney to discuss issues regarding access to trails for extractions, cell coverage, repeaters. The Conine Family Foundation may assist the Fire Department with securing another piece of equipment to aid in extractions of injured hikers and/or bikers. Aaron Kerber stated that he has ordered repeaters with a December, 2022 ship date. He has not confirmed when the new radios will be shipped. Chief Kerber stated that he applied for a VLCT PACIF grant and it was awarded in the amount of \$7500 to purchase a compression fill station. He reminded the board that he had applied for a FEMA grant for the fill station but it is not looking like that award will be granted. He found a used fill station. It is a 2005 model but meets the needs of the fire house. He estimates that "all in" it will cost \$20,000 for this equipment. In addition to the \$7500 grant, \$2500 from his general budget, he is requesting to use \$10,000 from the vehicle equipment fund to assist with the purchase of the station, installation of the station, training on the station, moving of the station in the fire house, wiring and retrofitting of the station. Discussion followed. Terry Williams made a motion to approve Chief Kerber's request. Richard LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

Paul Donaldson and Aaron Kerber stated that the town recently had a VOSHA inspection but the inspectors were supposed to inspect the Village, so we were lucky that items that would have amounted to violations and/or fines will not. We did get a list of items that need to be fixed, and we are working on them.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Terry Williams stated that the next TAC meeting will be June 30, 2022.

Executive Session: At 7:31PM Carol Bunce made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss Personnel Matters. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. At 8:14PM Terry Williams made a motion to leave Executive Session. Richard LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. No action taken.

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

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

s/Paul A. Donaldson