

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Meeting
Monday, August 8, 2022 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Adoption of the Agenda
- 4) Approval of Minutes: 7-25-2022, July 25-2022 Special, June 29, 2022 Special, August 2, 2022 Special
- 5) Public Comments on matters (not on the agenda) (limit of 10 minutes)
- 6) Road Report:
- 7) Town Manager's Report
 - East Poultney Green improvements
 - Personnel Policy
 - Library entrance repairs
 - Informational Meeting re: East Poultney Gorge Bridge construction 8-15-2022
- 8) Transact Any Other Lawful Selectboard Business
- 9) Health Officer's Report
- 10) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 11) Board Orders
- 12) Public Comments on matters discussed at this meeting (limit of 5 minutes)
- 13) Executive Session: Tax Stabilization Agreement discussions with Regenerative Land Holdings
- 14) Adjourn

**Meeting Minutes
Poultney Board of Selectmen**

**Monday, August 8, 2022 – 6:30 PM
Poultney Town Hall**

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, Ronald Kelley, Highway Foreman, Andrew Ohl, Mark Teetor, Mary Sue Reed, Margaret Mug, Vicki Loomis, Tim Loomis, Rebecca Cook, Kim Ragonnet, Leo Gibson, Dan Norwood, Bruce Williams, Art Sabin, Dan Williams, Kim Carter, CB Hall, Mario Mesiti, Diane Bargiel, Lauri Provin, Jane Williams, and Aaron Kerber.

Jeff King called the meeting to order and led the group reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Adoption of the Agenda: Terry Williams requested that discussion of correspondence received from David Sawyer be added to the Agenda. Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adopt the Agenda with the addition. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Carol Bunce made a motion to approve the minutes of 7-25-2022, 7-25-2022 Special, June 29, 2022 Special, August 2, 2022 Special. Terry Williams seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Public Comments on matters (not on the agenda)

CB Hall requested that a discussion on the East Poultney Green benches be moved up on the Agenda. Terry Williams made a motion to move the item from Town Manager's Report to Public Comments. Richard LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Paul Donaldson explained that Andrew Ohl had come to a recent meeting to advise the board that he, and others, were concerned about the deteriorated condition of the benches. That evening Paul Donaldson went to the green and agreed with the assessment that the benches were in "treacherous" condition. Paul Donaldson had the highway crew remove the benches the next morning. Paul Donaldson is looking into a long-term plan to place benches on the green that will have a longer life-span than benches used in the past. Andrew Ohl, as a member of the Poultney Republican Committee, stated that group would like to do a community fundraiser to raise money to replace the benches. Margaret Mug questioned the optics of the town working with a political group to raise money. Discussion followed.

CB Hall and Mario Mesiti argued that there was nothing wrong with the benches that Paul Donaldson had removed. Jeff King and Paul Donaldson stated we removed them as a liability precaution. CB Hall suggested rebuilding the benches that were there.

Dan Williams offered to do a bottle drive for the benches at the transfer station. For the last 10 weeks, bottle drives have raised \$5,026.30 for different groups in town. He offered to do a drive for the benches on 9-10-22. Andrew Ohl and others if they wish can man the drive.

Vicki Loomis cautioned that any fundraisers had to take into account accountability for the funds.

Diane Bargiel cautioned the board to choose benches that were in keeping with the historic nature of the green and the church, and cautioned about securing them with cement pads.

The benches issue was tabled until the board can further deliberate on what to do about replacement benches, fundraisers, etc.

Jane Williams inquired as to the status of the water drain in front of her property. Jeff King and Ron Kelley advised that we may engage a private contractor as the highway crew is trying to finish a Grants-In-Aid project that has to be completed by the end of September.

Diane Bargiel questioned about roadside mowing and whether the board had discussed using ARPA funds to purchase its own mower. Jeff King advised that that has been considered, but the highway crew also needs a new one ton truck, and a new highway garage so it's been a balancing act on how to best use funds. Discussion as to whether we should have a private contractor do it every year.

Mary Sue Reed questioned when Zoom equipment will be installed. Paul Donaldson stated all the equipment has yet to be received. Mary Sue Reed questioned when the signs on Hampshire Hollow and Finel Hollow will be installed. Ron Kelley advised the signs had been ordered so we are waiting on the same to come in.

Lauri Provin questioned on whether the "bridge Closed" signs had been removed or stolen from the end of Thrall Road. Ron Kelley stated we did not remove any, so he will take a look.

Tim Loomis and Vicki Loomis presented an offer to purchase property from the Town of Poultney and the Village of Poultney that both municipalities own through a tax sale on Granville Street. Paul Donaldson took the offer, and will present it to the Village Board at their next meeting.

Chief Arron Kerber came to the meeting to present/show the board and the public the equipment the fire department purchased with ARPA funds and the status of other equipment procurements.

Mario Mesiti requested that "Blind Person" signs be placed by his house on Bird Street. Terry Williams made a motion to so place those signs. Richard LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Road Report: Ron Kelley reported the following:

-the crew has finished cutting brush, ditching and grading, and applying chloride, on Watkins Hill Road, the Class 3 section;

-the crew has started a Grants-In-Aid project on Pond Hill that needs to be done by September 30, 2022. This is a \$33,000.00 reimbursement project, and an MRGP project;

-Roadside mowing is all done in North Poultney, and mowing continues on other sections of Poultney;

-the bike/pedestrian and speed signs have been ordered for Hampshire and Finel Hollows;

-Ames Hollow signs have been ordered;

Town Managers Report: Paul Donaldson reported:

-He requested that the board set aside a special meeting to discuss revisions to the Personnel Policy. The board set a Special Meeting for August 16, 2022 at 6:00PM.

-Paul Donaldson and Bruce Williams stated that the front entrance to the library is in very poor condition. Paul Donaldson had stated that perhaps ARPA funds should be used to make those repairs. Bruce Williams has had a tough time getting estimates because no one knows how bad it is until they start tearing it out. He will try to get an estimate of “not to exceed” a certain amount. Bruce Williams also stated that the Library Board of Trustees has appointed a new member to their board to fill a vacancy. The new member is Emily Sosnoff.

-Paul Donaldson reminded the board and the public that there is an Informational Meeting on the construction schedule of the East Poultney Bridge on August 15, 2022, at 6:30PM at the Fire House.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:

Paul Donaldson stated that correspondence has been sent to the neighbor of David Sawyer about an alleged zoning violation.

Health Officer: No report.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Terry Williams stated that there was no August RRPC meeting. There was a recent TAC meeting where VTRANS transportation equity was discussed. He also spoke with the State about trying to get them to take over the maintenance of VT Route 140.

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

Public Comments on matters discussed at this meeting: Mary Sue Reed questioned whether the public will have the opportunity to sit in and weigh in on Tax Stabilization discussions with Regenerative Land Holdings. Paul Donaldson stated that the first several meetings will likely be in Executive Session, and thereafter the board will have open meetings on the same. He also reminded folks that voters will have to ratify any potential agreement at a warned meeting.

Executive Session: At 7:45PM Sheryl Porrier made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss/negotiate a Tax Stabilization Agreement/Contract with Leo Gibson and Dan Norwood on behalf of Regenerative Land Holdings. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. At 8:45PM Sheryl Porrier made a motion to leave Executive Session. Richard LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

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

s/Paul A. Donaldson