

Poultney Selectboard
Meeting In-Person and via Zoom

Monday, May 15, 2023 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83935723883?pwd=QnEvcVVrSkN2OUpCMIFEM0lPTzBjdz09>

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Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Adoption of the Agenda
- 4) Approval of Minutes: 04-24-23
- 5) Road Report
- 6) Town Manager's Report
-Chief Kerber, Fire Department Updates
- 7) Transact Any Other Lawful Selectboard Business
- 8) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 9) Public Comments (limit of 15 minutes)
-Poultney Elementary School vandalism
- 10) Executive Session: Tax Stabilization Discussions re: Regenerative Land Holdings
- 11) Board Orders
- 12) Adjourn

**Meeting Minutes
Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, May 15, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Poultney Town Hall**

Jeff King called the meeting to order and led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Sheryl Porrier, Richard LaPierre, Alan-Glen Burnell and Mark Teetor. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Wendy Cadieux, Patty Davenport, Val Broughton, Steve Broughton, Carol Bunce, Mary Sue Reed, Jonathan Andrews, and Margaret Mug. Attending via Zoom members included Janice B. Edwards, Nic Stark, Richard Rockwell, Nancy Blair, and Alex Hilliard (twice).

Adoption of the Agenda: Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to approve the minutes of 4-24-23. Richard LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Road Report: Paul Donaldson reported the following:

- The crew continues to apply gravel to roads, fixing potholes, and grading roads;
- We continue to strategize highway garage alternatives;

Town Managers Report:

-Chief Kerber provided the April Captain's Report for the fire department, He advised that some members of the squad recently passed testing to upgrade their firefighter's certification. He advised that the Conine Family Foundation recently awarded the department with a grant to purchase a new UTV, which is scheduled to arrive sometime in August. The new truck and chassis has arrived at the dealer and is waiting to be up fitted. We need to put equipment on the truck as most of the equipment from the old truck will not work. Currently in the 600 Safety Equipment Fund is about \$423,781 (setting aside the \$40,000 from the Conine Family Foundation). The new truck is \$312,658. We need up to \$50,000 to equip the new truck. Discussion followed. Mark Teetor made a motion to approve up to \$50,000 to outfit the new truck. Richard LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Chief Kerber also reported that he will be outsourcing hose testing. He stated that the department recently had an open house this past Saturday where they engaged with the public and a couple prospective recruits. It was asked from the public present at this meeting what the volunteer commitments were and he stated that it requires about 50 hours per week of training, but if people want to volunteer to clean the house, trucks, etc. the department is always looking for help.

-Paul Donaldson advised the board that we need to file, annually, a Certificate of Compliance as to Roads and Bridges Standards. Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to adopt the standards. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Paul Donaldson advised the board that we need to file, annually, the Rutland Regional Planning Commission Mutual Aid Agreement. Discussion followed. Richard LaPierre made a motion to adopt the agreement. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Paul Donaldson advised the board that we need to file, annually, the Local Emergency Management Plan. He stated that Terry Williams had been the EMD and now he is given he has the training to be so. Discussion followed. Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adopt the plan. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Paul Donaldson stated that the auditor had acknowledged there was a Scribner's error in the audit and will be amending the same. He was advised a new vote is not necessary on the amended audit. Discussion with Mary Sue Reed who believes there were more errors and she will send Paul Donaldson her observations to send to the auditor.

-Paul Donaldson stated that he had sent notices to neighbors re: South Street bridge meeting for June 12, 2023. Discussion as to where the meeting would be, i.e. firehouse or town office. Paul Donaldson stated he thinks he noticed the meeting for the town office and reminded those present that we use zoom now per the request of the voters and believes that will allow people to participate remotely. He will check with the fire department if we can hold it at the fire department, otherwise we will have it at the town office.

-Paul Donaldson advised the board that Poultney Arts Day was 5-26-2024,, with performances on Main Street in the evening on that day.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:

-Sheryl Porrier mentioned that Stone Valley Arts held an open mic for high school kids.

-Mark Teetor inquired as to the Merger Study and Paul Donaldson stated he would discuss the same with Sarah Pelkey.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: No report.

Public Comments on matters (limit of 10 minutes total)

-Patty Davenport inquired about the oversight of the Poultney Little League and the accounting for the same. She asked if the town ever sees their insurance policy, handbook, rosters, accounting, etc. Discussion followed. She also asked about the bottle drives at the transfer station. She stated that she and her husband has helped at drives for the senior class, and raised

\$8,306.70 for the PHS senior class. She also stated that they had 20 lbs. of flip tops, and gave the bottle counters a \$185.00 tip when they returned bottles to Granville, NY. She wondered where the money goes if there is no drive on a given week. Jeff King advised he would discuss with Dan Williams. Steve Broughton opined that they should bring bottles to Beverage King in Castleton to keep the money in state. Jonathan stated that Dan Williams recently gave the board, and members of the public an accounting as to what groups, and how much money the bottle money went to.

Carol Bunce stated that the town gives \$2,500 per year for the Little League and there appears to be no accounting for where that money goes.

-Mary Sue Reed inquired about status of discussed repairs to the transfer station. Mark Teetor advised we were waiting for quotes. She also asked about the slab for the scales. Paul Donaldson stated the matter was on the back burner for the highway dept., but he will try to move it forward. She asked about updates to the website, and Paul Donaldson will discuss with Sarah Pelkey.

Executive Session: Alan-Glen Burnell made the following motion: “Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. section 313(a)(1), I make a motion that this board finds that premature general public knowledge would clearly place this board or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage if certain matters related to contracts were discussed outside of an executive session.” Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

At 7:26PM, Alan-Glen Burnell made the following motion: “Pursuant to 1 V.S.A. section 313(a)(1)(A), I make a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract matters.” Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

At 8:40PM, Richard LaPierre made a motion to leave Executive Session Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. No action taken.

Board Orders: Mark Teetor made a motion to pay board orders. Richard LaPierre seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Teetor seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson