

Poultney Selectboard
Meeting In-Person and via Zoom

Monday, August 14, 2023 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 839 3572 3883

Passcode: 989910

Or Dial: +1 929 205 6099 US

Meeting ID: 839 3572 3883 Passcode: 989910

Agenda

- 1) Call Meeting To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Adoption of the Agenda
- 4) Approval of Minutes: 07-24-23 and 07-27-23
- 5) Road Report
- 6) Town Manager's Report
 - Poultney Rescue Squad discussion
 - Finel Hollow Road hazardous spill update
 - Further discussion re: reclassification of some town roads
 - Tax Sale proceedings
 - VOREC wayfinding signage
 - Special event liquor license: Whaleback Vineyard
 - Tobacco license: Dollar General
 - Tax bills have been mailed out
 - Maureen LaBate inquiry into town owned property on Finel Hollow Road
- 7) Transact Any Other Lawful Selectboard Business
- 8) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 9) Public Comments (limit of 15 minutes)
- 10) Board Orders
- 11) Executive Session: 2 Contract matters
- 12) Adjourn

**Meeting Minutes
Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, August 14, 2023 – 6:30 PM
Poultney Town Hall**

Jeff King called the meeting to order and led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Jeff King announced that a board member, Richard LaPierre, had recently passed away. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Sheryl Porrier, Alan-Glen Burnell and Mark Teetor. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Joel Roberts, Highway Foreman, Dickie Ferguson, Margaret Mug, Rick Noren, Rachael Lynch, Lohr Kerns, Malcolm McIntyre, Deborah Hoisington, Carol Bunce, Jonathan Andrews, Mary Sue Reed, Josiah Simons, Medrick Petty, II, Mike McLean, Mike Babcock, Katrina Davenport, Maureen LeBate, and Aaron Kerber. Attending via Zoom members included Kimberly Varter, Kathy Marino, Melissa Weiss, Robin Miller, Sarah Pelkey, Dan Norwood, Janice B. Edwards, Nic Stark, Dale and Susan Hughes, Karen and Idris Atwood, Angelo ?, Nic Stark's Airgram Assistant, Iphone 8, Alecandra's Iphone, Patricia's Ipad, Kathy Marino, and Samsung SM-S911U.

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

Approval of Minutes: Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to approve the minutes of 07-24-23 and 07-27-23. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Road Report: Joel Roberts reported the following:

- The crew added materials and have graded New Boston, Lewis, Ward and High Roads.
- We had a pre-construction meeting with ANR for a culvert project on Watkins Hill Road.
- They are back on Watkins Hill Road cutting brush.
- We have contracted roadside mowing with a company to have their driver boom mow the roadsides.
- Joel has been doing MRGP reporting with the aid of Sarah Pelkey.
- Discussion re: status of repeaters. Paul Donaldson is dealing with GMP on this issue.
- The crew repaired recent washouts on Pond Hill and Pond Hill Ranch Roads.
- The crew has been dealing with beavers on Hillside Road.
- Discussion re: road downgrading: Lenox, Fairview Lane, Ridgeview South, Oliver Allen's roadway. Matter was table for another meeting.
- The crew place wayfinding signs for the SVT trailheads.

Town Managers Report:

Paul Donaldson reported that the State has tested to soil where there was a recent discharge on Finel Hollow Road. It has tested has Diesel fuel with other contaminants. The ANR Investigator

has been assigned the case and Paul Donaldson has left him a VM to get status of the investigation.

Debbie Hoisington, interim director and treasurer of the Poultney Rescue Squad (“PSR”) presented to the board and the public. She stated that the PSR is having trouble staffing the entity like many other rescue squads in the area and around the country. She stated reimbursements are down as well, She stated that Rutland Regional Ambulance has 5 trucks, but sometimes staffing of running less trucks. PRS has three board members, one fulltime staff, and per diem staff and volunteers. She stated that money is not the issue, but finding staff is. Discussion followed. Jeff King stated he would like the full board of the PRS to attend Selectboard meetings. Paul Donaldson discussed building costs, and whether the PRS should consider restructuring in a way so that staffing is less of an issue and so PRS could handle more calls for Poultney residents.

Paul Donaldson stated he is going to work with the same law firm that assisted with the last round of tax sales to do them again.

Paul Donaldson presented to the board a liquor license for a special event both at Whale Back Vineyard and at Regenerative Land Holdings. Mark Teetor made a motion to approve both event licenses. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Paul Donaldson presented to the board a tobacco license for Dollar General. Discussion followed. Alan-Glen Burnell wondered how the store would sell tobacco if it is mostly self-serve. Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to table the request pending Betsey Wescott providing more information on it. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Paul Donaldson stated that the tax bills have been mailed out for FY23-24.

Paul Donaldson presented to the board that Maureen LaBate has inquired about acquiring vacant land owned by the Town near her property on Finel Hollow Road. Discussion followed. Paul Donaldson will request a realtor give their opinion as to the value of the property.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:

-Sarah Pelkey presented to the board her Quarterly Economic Assessment Report to the board.

-Aaron Kerber stated that the UTV funded by the Conine Family Foundation is ready to be picked up. The new truck is set to begin assembly in September. In the last 24 hours the fire crew has had three calls. There are two new volunteers on the roster. He is also working on a new position, “Associate” Volunteers which would be folks that do not train for firefighting but for things like cleaning trucks, equipment, etc.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Sarah Pelkey stated the RRPC has not been having summer meetings.

Public Comments on matters (limit of 10 minutes total)

-Mary Sue Reed thanked Dickie for picking up construction debris on Hampshire Hollow Road.

Executive Session: At 7:44PM, Alan-Glen Burnell made the following motion: “Pursuant to 1 VSA 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. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Alan- Glen Burnell further made the following motion: “Pursuant to 1 VSA Section 313(a)(1)(A), I make a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract matters.” Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. The board entered Executive Session with Dan Norwood and Josh Moskowitz, both of Regenerative Land Holdings. At 8:52PM, Sheryl Porrier 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. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment: Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson