

Poultney Selectboard  
Meeting In-Person and via Zoom

**Monday, September 25, 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

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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: 09-11-23
- 5) Road Report
- 6) Community Development
- 7) Town Manager's Report
  - Town To Trails presentation
  - Discussion re: appeal of Poultney Property, LLC/BCA decision
  - Need to pick a new date for road reclassifications hearings
  - East Poultney Gorge Bridge
  - South Street Bridge
- 8) Transact Any Other Lawful Selectboard Business
- 9) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 10) Public Comments (limit of 15 minutes)
- 11) Board Orders
- 12) Executive Session:
- 13) Adjourn

**Meeting Minutes  
Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, September 25, 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, Alan-Glen Burnell, Mark Teetor and Valerie Broughton. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Joel Roberts, Highway Foreman, Sarah Pelkey, Nic Stark, Kim Carter, Carol Stierle, Josiah Simons, Jonathan Andrews, Mary Sue Reed, Carol Bunce, and Dale Kerber. Attending via Zoom members included Nic Stark, Karen and Idris Atwood, Annetteny69, Janice B. Edwards, Emily Lewis from DuBois and King, and Ron.

**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 09-11-23. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Road Report:** Joel Roberts reported the following:

- The crew is put in the sand shed 2,200 yards of sand.
- They continue to do MRGP work when it is not raining on Watkins and Pond Hill.
- They will be assisting the Village with moving asphalt grindings off Main Street this week.
- They are waiting on an ETA for the culvert for Watkins Hill Road project.
- They will be mixing in smoother gravel on Watkins.
- The State will be removing contaminated soils from The Finel Hollow Road spill off the Taran property on October 9, 2023.
- Morse Hollow Road will be paved next week (the portion that is already paved).
- Truck 1 is in need of much repair. It is a 2006 model. The truck we ordered with the use of \$191,000 from ARPA funds will not be ready until at least March, 2024. They are having trouble finding a front axle for that truck. HP Fairfield has a 10-wheeler that can be ready in 45 days for a cost of \$282,000.00. Joel Roberts stated he needs a safe and functioning 10-wheeler over the mid-size truck that has been ordered. We can cancel that truck with no penalty.

Discussion followed. Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to cancel the mid-size truck and to use that allocated ARPA funds in the amount of \$191,000.00 and order the \$282,000.00 truck and apply the ARPA funds towards that purchase. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Paul Donaldson stated we have about \$40,000.00 grant reimbursement due in this week in connection with the DERA grant. He will explore a DERA grant or other funds to make up the balance.

**Community Development:** Sarah Pelkey stated that the Designated Downtown Board did a site visit this morning in connection with the PDRC's application for renewal of the Designated Downtown, which helps with grant funding and other opportunities. Jamie Lee and Nic Stark helped tremendously with this process.

-Sarah Pelkey stated that we were awarded Level 1 MERP assessments for the town garage, town offices, and YAHSC. This should help start the exploration of replacing the town garage.  
-Sarah Pelkey stated the dedication to the pavilion and track at the Senior Center was well attended.

### **Town Managers Report:**

-Emily Lewis from DuBois and King presented a brief summary of the Town To Trails report. The report will be available this week in its entirety for review. The report has identified and prioritized a number of projects that can be implemented in the coming years. This report will be instrumental in securing funding to implement the various projects.

-Discussion re: appeal of Poultney Property, LLC/BCA decision. Sheryl Porrier made a motion that the Selectboard NOT appeal the BCA's reduced assessment. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor except for Mark Teetor abstaining from voting.

-New dates of November 8 and November 9 at 4PM were chosen to do the road reclassification site visits for Lennox Road and Fairview Lane South.

-Paul Donaldson stated that the State has yet to give an estimate for how much longer the East Poultney Gorge Bridge will be completed.

-Paul Donaldson has circulated communications from the State in connection with the South Street bridge. The board needs to review the Conceptual Plan and get comments to the State by October 13, 2023.

### **Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:**

-Mark Teetor reported to the board the happenings of the Otter Creek Communication District. He stated that currently Poultney grouped into the second priority group, although he is trying to get us moved into Phase 1, which means the build-out of fiber network would happen sooner. The CUD has \$9.5M, and we need an estimate of \$14.5M to fully implement across the entire CUD.

-Dale Kerber stated that Deputy Ricketts is leaving the RCSD and going to work for Killington. He stated that the Rutland County Sherriff Department will not have enough deputies to cover Poultney. He asked if the RCSD ever provides its schedule. Paul Donaldson said not often. He stated that Fair Haven has been short-staffed and he rarely has time to put Constable time in Poultney. He also wonders why the RCSD has been doing weekends when he also does weekends. Paul Donaldson stated he will speak with the Sherriff. Dale Kerber wondered if the Town can put up no parking signs by the Farnham Road Rail Trail. Discussion also about recent vandalism on the Rail Trail.

**Health Officer:** None.

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission:** Sarah Pelkey attended the meeting last month. She advised the board that the RRPC is going to implement an Economic Development Strategy for the region. Other parts of Vermont have already been utilizing regional Economic Development Developers.

Sarah Pelkey stated that Logan Solomon from the RRPC recently gave a presentation about the new S.100 / Act 47 State of Vermont bill and is going to request he present to this Board.

-Sarah Pelkey stated that she recently attended the D&H Rail Trail Counsel presented by Nic Stark of the RRPC. The Town will need to find/appoint someone to represent the Town on this Counsel.

Sarah Pelkey stated that she has joined the Regional Committee for Act 250 and Act 249 reviews.

**Public Comments on matters (limit of 10 minutes total)**

-Mary Sue Reed inquired about the minutes of 9-11-23 whereby the Town entered into a Rent Guaranty. Paul Donaldson stated that the Board has guaranteed the rent for a 5-year period/to pay the rent of approximately \$22,000.00 of ARPA funds over the course of the term for a Lease Agreement between Heritage Family Federal Credit Union, Lessee, and JMD LLC, Lessor for the installation and maintenance of an Interactive Teller Machine at 177 Main Street (the drive-thru of the old Citizens Bank building). If HFFCU stops operating the ITM short of the 5 years, the Town's obligations will cease. The Board felt this was a prudent use of the ARPA funds since the lack of a bank in town has been of concern for so long, and no other bank was willing to commit to locating in town after much effort by many people to attract a bank.

-Carol Bunce asked about the Merger Study. Sarah Pelkey stated that she spoke with the Town Manager of Northfield which merged in 2014. She has spoken with VLCT about identifying funding options to hire a consultant. Nic Stark advised Sarah Pelkey that the Vermont Community Foundation may have some funding opportunities specifically for merger studies. Discussion followed.

**Executive Session:** None.

**Board Orders:** Sheryl Porrier made a motion to pay board orders. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Adjournment:** Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Alan-Glen Burnell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson