

Meeting Minutes

Poultney Selectboard

Monday, June 10, 2024 – 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, Sarah Pelkey, Chief Aaron Kerber, Johnathan Andrews, Second Assistant Chief Robert Dayton, Tim Loomis, Peter Kelley, Lisa Kellogg and Raj Bhakta. Attending via Zoom members included Elizabeth Ayers, Nic Stark, Dan Norwood, and Peter Kelley.

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 5-20-24. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Road Report: Paul Donaldson reported that the crew has been working on Evergreen Road, will finish MRGP work within the next couple of weeks, and will then turn their attention to Lewis Road. All roads have been graded at least once now.

Community Development: Sarah Pelkey reported the following:

-grant applications for generators: she has submitted applications for the PHS and the PES, for a total of 210,500 from DPS hazard mitigation funds. She is also working on a grant application for the senior center.

-She will be working on a mini-MERP application for the town

-Poultney Rec./4th of July: She has been working with Sheryl Porrier to line up vendors for the 4th of July, as well as working with the Bhakta campus and the Fire Dept. for events. She has requested a flyover for the parade.

Town Managers Report:

-Discussion re: giving the employees July 5 off. Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to approve that day off. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Evan Fitzgerald introduced himself to the board and the public as the engineer engaged to do the BRIC grant, Poultney River Flood Study. Discussion as to some of the field work they have done so far, and will put through a hydrological model. Tim Loomis had some ideas the flooding issues are caused by conditions west of the trestle bridge. Mr. Fitzgerald is open to exploring possible causes and solutions for the same. Peter Kelley, as an abutting landowner is open to all ideas.

-Fire Chief Aaron Kerber reported to the Selectboard about the equipment replacement plan as well as a list of all equipment. He wants to change the replacement schedule and replaced a different truck first. He is concerned he will not have enough funds to purchase the next truck. Discussion followed. Jeff King stated he wants to see how much the department has in its equipment replacement fund before we have further discussions about sources of funds to replace equipment.

-Paul Donaldson reported the Planning Commission is getting close to being ready to propose updates to the Unified Bylaws.

-The Rutland County Sheriff Department contract is ready to be renewed, with a 10% increase over last year.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business: Mark Teetor requested that we discuss the CUD at the next Selectboard Meeting.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Sarah Pelkey reported that at the May 21, 2024 meeting VELCO made a presentation as to the plans for them in the next several years. There is a lot of discussion about the VT DEC 3-acre permit funding availability. In Rutland County, only 9 applications for 89 properties have been received. The PES, Greenstone Slate, and Bhakta campus are three in Poultney permits being work on in Poultney. There is also quite a bit of funds available for Hazard Mitigation grant funds available.

Public Comments on matters (limit of 10 minutes total)

-Lisa Kellogg reported she was recently bit by a German Shepard on Grove Street. Paul Donaldson stated that Deputy Ricketts had ticked the owners in the past for nuisance animals. Deputy Duel has advised we need to start ticketing them again, which he has for this instance, as there is an issue with documentation on the other tickets. Paul Donaldson stated he was unaware of prior bites, which Ms. Kellogg has stated this is not the first bite. Paul Donaldson will speak with Deputy Tyler to see if we can pursue a remedy sooner under our current ordinance.

Executive Session:

At 7:59PM, 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. Alan-Glen Burnell further made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. The board entered Executive Session to discuss contract with Dan Norwood and Raj Bhakta, and then after to discuss personnel matters

without those guests present. At 9:50PM, Sheryl Porrier made a motion to leave Executive Session. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to sign the contract with the RCSD. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Sheryl Porrier made a motion that for this coming fiscal year, the Town of Poultney contribute .44% of the wage withholding for the Child Care Contribution that commences July 1, 2024. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. Next year, the board will consider the Town contributing .33 %, and having the employees contributing .11% as is permitted by the new law.

Board Orders: Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to pay board orders. Mark Teetor 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