**Special Merger Committee Meeting Minutes**

**Poultney Board of Selectmen**

**Monday, June 3, 2024 – 6:00 PM**

**Poultney Town Hall**

Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Sheryl Porrier, Alan-Glen Burnell and Valerie Broughton. Village Board of Trustees present included Joe DeBonis, Gerri Harrison, Robert Williams and Idris Atwood. Other appointed members of the board included Ben Thirkield, Steve Betit, Carol Bunce and Nic Stark (via Zoom). Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Sarah Pelkey and Jonathan Andrews.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Idris Atwood made a motion to adopt the agenda. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Sheryl Porrier made a motion to approve the minutes of May 13, 2024. Nic Stark seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Merger Discussion:** Having not received any bids in response to our RFP, the board discussed different strategies to move forward. Ben Thirkield had prepared a Power Point Presentation on ways he sees the merger process/discussion has progressed to date. Discussion followed. Robert Williams and Steve Betit agreed that the first thing we should do is compare the grand lists for both the Town and Village, as well as the budgets for both at today’s rates and see what the implications would be on people’s taxes. Some members of the board still believe we need a consultant. Discussion followed.

Ben Thirkield made a motion that we should invite the consultant that had expressed some interest in the RFP, although at a higher rate, and see if he would be willing to meet with the board and give some ideas on how to move forward. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Ben Thirkield made a motion that we should invite the Town Manager of Lyndonville, and see if he/she would be willing to meet with the board and give some ideas on how to move forward. Nic Stark seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Ben Thirkield made a motion that the board should communicate through emails on this merger process. Discussion followed about Open Meeting Laws. No Second to the motion.

**Public Comments and Concerns:** Johnathan Andrews commented that he appreciates this boards efforts, and hopes it can carefully analyze all matters, costs, efficiencies, etc. in considering the question of whether to recommend for or against a merger.

**Adjourn:** Ben Thirkield made a motion to adjourn. Steve Betit seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.