**Meeting Minutes**

**Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, September 23, 2024 – 6:30 PM**

**Poultney Town Hall**

**Zoom Recording located here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/4hobDruD5wubqq-dmSonS__CYpdwuaL-soeK1EHnjYlEvCx9DU_aVbvwPEzsuxUs.1bjVzMAEe0jRlJF3>

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, Sarah Pelkey, Nic Stark, DeDe Harter, Carol Stierle, Mary Sue Reed and Johnathan Andrews. Appearing via Zoom included Nic Stark.

**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:** Valerie Broughton made a motion to approve the minutes of 8-23-24. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

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

-The crew is finishing up the MRGP work on Pond Hill Ranch Road;

-The crew will soon start checking and preparing the equipment for winter;

-They need to work on snowplow turnarounds;

-Winter sand is being trucked in. Discussion about use of new materials that comes from Omya, it is crushed aggregate 3/8 inches. Discussion as to whether the material is marble, and whether the material could be cancer causing. Joel Roberts will do some research on this and report back to the board. This material is also white, that can be colored so that people can see it as opposed to snow. 2/3 of last year’s sand was left from last winter in the shed;

-We had an issue with the loader, and the driveshaft needed to be repaired.

-The roadside mower has worked well, and Joel Roberts urged folks to take a ride on Morse Hollow Road to see the results.

**Community Development:** Sarah Pelkey reported the following:

-Town MERP Grant Applications (with RRPC): We are applying for funds for Town Office, Highway Garage, Stonebridge and Senior Center to make efficiency improvements.

-MERP Mini Grant  - Energy Efficiency Workshop: We will be holding a meeting in the near future to inform the public about efficiency improvements people can make to their own houses. We will partner with others, like GMP to inform people.

-USDA meeting for Fire Dept. apparatus: She had a meeting with USDA about grant opportunities to fund the purchase of a new fire truck.

-Town to Trails 'Rec Hub' Subcommittee forming: She has invited the SB, and Village Trustees to join a group to steer the exploration of e recreation hub, possibly to be located at the current highway garage location.

-GRCSU Board Meeting re: Elementary School Rec Facilities: She attended the last school board meeting to advise them of all the recreation planning the Town has done over the last several years. The PES facilities had been identified as assets as part of that ongoing planning.

**Town Managers Report:**

-Nic Stark, RRPC, Phase 2 of the 2026 Rutland Regional Plan: Nic Stark presented to the board the RRPC 2026 updates to the Regional Plan. Currently the RRPC is in Phase 2 of Public Engagement for the 2026 Regional Plan, and he will report back again.

-Discussion of ARPA funds obligations: Paul Donaldson stated that the board still has ARPA funds that need to be obligated, or moved to the general fund account, before the end of the 2024 calendar year. Discussion on whether to use some of those funds to fill the funding gap for the Merger Study. We currently have slightly over $117,000.00 left, with about $40,000 of that tentatively pledged for a project the board has been discussing. We need about $24,000 for the Merger Study. The board discussed these funds, and decided to wait a couple of more meetings to obligate towards the Merger while Sarah Pelkey explores one more funding potential.

-Kim Ragonnet project: We hope to do the project next week.

-Marble Valley Regional Transit Board of Commissioners is seeking interested parties to fill a position on their board.

-Rutland County Solid Waste District representative: Paul Donaldson is seeking for someone to fill a position on this board. Currently he handles this, but the meeting dates/times conflict with the Planning Commission meetings.

-The Planning Commission is wrapping up the modernization of the Bylaws, and will be holding a public meeting to take the public feedback.

-Paul Donaldson has asked the Planning Commission to suggest to the Selectboard some regulations on food trucks, as food trucks are starting to pop up in town more and more frequently.

-Discussion on new laws regarding tax sales, our attorneys are working on some guidelines for municipal clients on procedures to adhere to the new law before we launch our tax sale procedures.

**Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:** Paul Donaldson circulated the VLCT Animal Control Ordinance model, and stated that dog issues continue to be a problem around town.

**Health Officer:**  None.

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission:** Sarah Pelkey stated:

-She was appointed to Basin Water Quality Council (BWQC) as Regional Commissioner

-Report from Board of Commissioners Meeting 9/17: the RRPC is working on a $1.25M work force development grant, several Brownfields projects.

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

-DeDe Harter was here to let the board know she has an issue with food trucks making excessive noise from generators in the Shaws’ parking lot and Loomis Paint. She urged the board to make some regulations regarding the same. Paul Donaldson stated our Bylaws do have performance standards regarding noise, and he needs to purchase a new decibel meter as the one we have is rather old and does not work well.

-DeDe Harter also expressed concerns on the road materials Joel Roberts spoke about at this meeting being cancerous. Joel Roberts will research the same and report back.

-Mary Sue Reed stated that generators can be noise pollution and air pollution. She thanked the board for following up on the Animal Control Ordinances. She suggested the MVRTC, and RCSW positions be put on the website. She asked why the tractor purchase was discussed in Executive Session. Paul Donaldson stated that contracts were a permitted Executive Session matter per State statues.

**Executive Session:**

At 7:44PM, Alan-Glen Burnell made the following motions: “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 outside of Executive Session. Sheryl Porrier 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. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. The board entered Executive Session. At 8:04PM, 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. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

**Adjournment:** Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

s/Paul A. Donaldson