

Poultney Selectboard
Meeting In-Person and via Zoom
Monday, December 11, 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 / Pledge of Allegiance
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda
- 3) Approval of Minutes: 11-27-23 and 12-04-23 Special Budget Meeting
- 4) Road Report
- 5) Community Development
- 6) Town Manager's Report
 - Vermont Community Development Program final meeting re: Young At Heart Senior Center pavilion and walking track
 - No meeting on Christmas/set another date?
 - Poultney Rescue Squad
- 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: 1 Personnel matter
- 12) Adjourn

**Meeting Minutes
Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, December 11, 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, Valerie Broughton and Mark Teetor. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Joel Roberts, Highway Foreman, Dickie Ferguson, Sarah Pelkey, Johnathan Andrews, Aaron Kerber, Lee Panzica, Mary Jo Teetor, Dan Williams and Carol Stierle. Attending via Zoom members included Debbie Hoisington, Kimberly Carter, Janice B. Edwards, Brian Lamson, Mary Sue Reed, Nic Stark and Nic Stark again.

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: Mark Teetor made a motion to approve the minutes of 11-27-23 and 12-04-23 Special Budget Meeting. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Road Report: Joel Roberts reported the following:

- Truck 2 is in Westminster for a radiator issue. They had already changed hoses on the radiator.
- Truck 7 broke the bolts on the transmission in the last storm. Dickie Ferguson has already repaired in with larger bolts; this is a known issue with these trucks.
- The Thrall Road bridge is opened. Joel Roberts stated it is difficult to navigate the turn off of River Street and onto the bridge.
- The culvert project on Watkins Hill Road has been completed. The contractor was also able to remove some ledge which will help with the flow of water into ditches instead of onto the road.
- Further discussion on the four 10-hour workdays. Sheryl Porrier made a motion that the Poultney Highway Department be permitted to work four 10-hour days, Monday through Thursday throughout the year. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.
- Discussion re: using liquid brine on the roads. Joel Roberts stated it would cost quite a bit of money to retrofit the trucks and he hears the material is quite a bit more corrosive to equipment and cars traveling the roads.
- Dan Williams inquired as to whether the crew salted at the transfer station today. Joel Roberts stated they did at 6:30AM this morning. He went back to cleanup further but the gate was locked and he needed to be at another location. Dan Williams stated he cleaned it up himself.

Community Development: Sarah Pelkey reported the following:

- She has been working on the VOREC application for Cones Point Store project. She has support from the Library and the State Park. The Hydro-raking quote is \$85,000.
- The MERP assessments are supposed to happen next Monday.

-She has reached out to the Housing Trust to discuss some housing development possibilities for 2024 in Poultney.

-The Merger Study MPG application has been submitted and we will know sometime in December if we will receive this \$13,000 grant.

Town Managers Report:

-Debbie Hoisington of The Poultney Rescue Squad stated that call logs for October were 42, and for November 45. They have been able to respond to more calls and provide more transports. She is working on a Petition to be placed on the Warning for the request for increases to funding in the budget. She will be at the Town Meeting Day to explain the funding increase request.

- Vermont Community Development Program final meeting re: Young At Heart Senior Center pavilion and walking track: Paul Donaldson stated that he had advertised this meeting in the Rutland Herald, and it was published on November 21, 2023. This is a requirement of the grant to allow the public to opportunity to examine the statement of the use of the \$108,080.00 funds used for the project, and to further obtain the views of the citizens , and provide information about the project to the community. Mark Teetor stated he is aware that there are a couple spots on the track that need to be repaired. Carol Stierle, of the Senior Center, stated that she has spoken to the contractor and the issue had to do with some ledge they encountered when the installed the track. Carol Stierle stated the track and pavilion is used quite a bit, especially after citizens have lunch at the Center. They also purchased some tables that are suitable to be placed under the pavilion.

-Discussion re: no meeting on December 25, 2023. The board will meet instead on December 18, 2023 for a Special Budget Meeting at 5:30PM and a regular meeting on the same date at 6:30PM.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:

Mary Jo Teetor presented to the board the Assessor's Errors and Emissions for the Welch Presbyterian property. The Church conveyed the property to a non-profit fraternal organization which will use the property for public and pious purposes. There was some delay with that group getting the Assessor some information, and she had removed its tax-exempt status. Our legal counsel has advised us that the property qualifies to be tax-exempt, and thus she is removing it from the grand list for taxes, and making it tax exempt again.

Aaron Kerber, Chief of the Fire Department, circulated the Captain's Report for the last 2 months. October was Fire Prevention Month and they gave a presentation at the PES and did some recruiting at the PHS. His crew assisted with putting lights on the Christmas Tree at the Town Office. They also visited with homeschoolers, and need to reschedule a visit to LI High School. He stated the new truck is close to being completed, with a timeline to receive it by January, and put it into service early February, 2024. He further discussed the Mutual Aid Agreements Poultney has with Fair Haven and Hampton, NY.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Nic Stark asked the board for permission to use photos the Town paid for through the last VOREC grant to use on the Velomont Trail project the RRPC is working on, which is a bike/hike trail that weaves through Vermont, with a plan to come through Poultney eventually. Paul Donaldson asked about huts along the trail, and Nic Stark stated there may eventually be some huts identified in Poultney. Sarah Pelkey stated that since the Velomont is currently still in the permitting process, photos identifying Poultney should not be used. Nic Stark agreed to not use any Poultney centric photos for the Velomont project. The board granted the RRPC to use some photos (no Poultney specific photos) for the Velomont project.

Public Comments on matters (limit of 10 minutes total)

-Mary Sue Reed inquired of Dan Williams as to what the transfer station hours will be during the Christmas/New Years holidays. He stated that transfer station will be open as usual on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Executive Session: None.

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

Adjournment: Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson