

**Poultney Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
Monday, August 11, 2025 – 7:00 pm
Poultney Town Hall**

Zoom Recording located here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/iWkPMSQsI9CBtzx2sAMS0Fh00Tqb6BPyyFw-W0DMLWe8qedZU1dE5JfBkxza10kr.aPqQkHdVZRrAL0ZV>

Call Meeting to Order / Pledge of Allegiance: Shery Porrier called the meeting to order and led those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Selectmen present included: Sheryl Porrier, Alan-Glen Burnell, Mark Teetor, Valerie Broughton and Jay Morgan. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Sarah Pelkey, Joel Roberts, Carol Stierle, Jaime Lee, Carol Bunce, Patty Davenport, Mary Sue Reed, Jonathon Andrews, Branda Jones, _____, and Dr. Susan Johnson. Parties appearing via Zoom included Janice B. Edwards, Jesse Rose, and Nanette Greer.

Adoption of the Agenda: Mark Teetor made a motion to adopt the Agenda. Jay Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes: Valerie Brought made a motion to approve the minutes of 07-29-25 and August 5, 2025. Jay Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Road Report: Joel Roberts reported the following:

-We provided signs and cones for the 2 events this past weekend – East Poultney Day and The Scramble Running Race.

-Truck 4, the 1984 Utility Truck has a blown head gasket. We have two quotes to repair, one being \$4,000+, and the other being just short of \$3,000. Discussion followed. Mark Teetor made a motion to repair the tuck for the cost of up to \$3,000. Jay Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Wilk paving quoted us \$32,870 to pave the work we had done on Route 140 recently. We hope to pave the 2nd week of September. We also received a grant to pave On The Green, and Route 140 from the Village Line to Finel Hollow bridge. We will also be paving Bird Street, some shimming on Upper Road, and the transfer station entrance. Joel Roberts will also try to convince Wilk to pave the section of Route 140 were the steel plates were.

-Before paving Route 140, there is a culvert by the East Poultney Cemetery that needs to be replaced. We will do this work next Tuesday. The road will be closed from 8AM to 4PM on that day.

-We started the MRGP projects today.

-Long Trail Electric is going to do some work at the transfer station at a cost of \$850. We also need to install some waste blocks to stabilize the cement there.

Community Development: Sarah Pelkey reported the following:

- She has had several inquiries from private property owners on how to leverage state funds for improvements to their property.
- She has been attending VOREC steering committee meetings around the state.
- Next week there will be workshops in Poultney at the PHS of Recreation Committees focused on inclusivity, with support from VOREC and VT Adaptive Sports.
- She continues to work on MERP projects and has billed thus far for project management. She has drafted RFPs for the Town Office, Senior Center, Stonebridge. The work needs to be in construction by next spring.

Town Managers Report:

-Dr. Susan Johnson discussed the feral cat problem in Poultney. She stated that many communities have the same issues. She stated the best way to deal with it is the Trap/Neuter/Release method vs. attempts to eradicate the cats via euthanasia. She stated that feral cats are very territorial of their areas where they live, and once you eradicate a colony, another moves right into that territory. She stated the hardest part is trapping feral cats. She stated that winter time is the best time for her to help support the TNR efforts, although she is willing to support it as she can throughout the year.

-Jaime Lee presented to the board the proposed Food Truck Ordinance that the Planning Commission has proposed. The draft has been provided to the board, and the board will review it and consider whether to implement it. She stated that the Planning Commission is also working on Short Term Rental ordinance as well as Capital Planning.

-Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to adopt the model VLCT Ethics and Conflicts of Interest policies and procedures, as well as to appoint the Town Manager as the point of contact to receive such complaints. Jay Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

-Paul Donaldson has arranged for the State, the contractor, and the engineers to attend the regular September 8, 2025 meeting to present the timeline, and structure of the bridge replacement on Route 31. This meeting conflicts with the proposed Merger Committee meeting. The merger meeting will have to be rescheduled.

-Paul Donaldson is waiting to hear back from our attorney about the ATV Ordinance and whether it is difficult to revoke an ordinance if the board wishes to try the ordinance on a trial basis.

-Tax bills were mailed out this morning.

-Paul Donaldson presented the liquor license and tobacco license for the Dollar General. Mark made a motion to approve the licenses. Valeire Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business: Mark Teetor stated he has been in discussions with a solar company to provide solar to the Senior Center. They are looking at the sand shed roof for possible installation. They are also considering the fire department roof. If work is done before January 1, 2026, the project would be eligible for 1/3 refund. Discussion on what properties the town owns that could benefit from this prospective project.

Health Officer: None.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: None.

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

-Patty Davenport asked whether the transfer station position has been filled yet. Paul Donaldson stated that it has not yet been filled. She hopes that the bottle drives can continue. She questioned whether the board should consider reevaluating the 4-day work week especially during the winter, particularly as it relates to overtime. Paul Donaldson stated that we were discussing the same, but have yet to look at the data. He also stated every winter is different. Joel Roberts stated that there had been much research on this issue with many towns, and many towns have implemented the year-round work week.

-Mary Sue Reed asked about the progress regarding the highway garage and the bank building. Paul Donaldson stated these matters will be discussed tonight in Executive Session.

-Carol Bunce had questions about the next Merger Committee Meeting, and whether it would be at the firehouse. Paul Donaldson stated once the meeting is rescheduled he may inquire of Chief Kerber if we could use the firehouse for that meeting. She also stated that there is a big event at Paradox on New Boston Road this weekend. She urged the board to reach out and remind Paradox to tell participants to try to avoid the Route 31 bridge as there were many RVS and trailers damaged there this summer prior to other events at Paradox. We will send them an email.

Executive Session:

At 7:56PM, Alan-Glen Burnell made the following motion: "Pursuant to ONE V.S.A. 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 contract matters were discussed outside of an executive session. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

Alan-Glen Burnell further made the following motion: "Pursuant to ONE V.S.A. section 313(a)(1)(A), I make a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss contract matters. Jay Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. The board entered into Executive Session with Paul Donaldson, and Sarah Pelkey.

At 8:46PM, Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to leave Executive Session. Jay Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. No action taken.

Board Orders: Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion to approve the board orders. Jay Morgan seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

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

s/Paul A. Donaldson