**Meeting Minutes**

**Poultney Selectboard**

**Monday, April 28, 2025 – 6:30 PM**

**Poultney Town Hall**

**Zoom Recording located here:**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ZWCf46XguXKCrClgPtmVCmf5s-RMwbOlmzH9r\_vWasY7XFT11o-9tS3hWLrtpCn\_.BAqS6E-soBHvdi\_r**](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/ZWCf46XguXKCrClgPtmVCmf5s-RMwbOlmzH9r_vWasY7XFT11o-9tS3hWLrtpCn_.BAqS6E-soBHvdi_r)

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, Carol Bunce, Patty Davenport, Mary Sue Reed, Jonathan Andrews, Peter Kelley, Rusty Johnson, Richard Norey, Tammy Petty, Carol Stierle, Mike Krauss and Mia Krause. Parties appearing via Zoom included Thornton, Christie Gloss, Kerri Munroe, NB, Rachel Kukene, Janice B. Edwards, Richard Laird, Mark Flynn, Donna’s iphone, Ronald Kelley, Rach, Brenda Jones, and Donna.

**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 04-14-25. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

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

-The crew finished installing 165 feet of 18” culverts on Pond Hill Ranch Road.

-The crew did some cleanup work along the Barrett Brook at the Stonebridge.

-We have started grading gravel roads.

-We have been finishing up several small projects.

-Discussion about Route 140 work, and we are not sure when that work will be done, but plan to give several weeks notice of impending closure which could be for about 2 weeks.

-Roadside mower has been out clearing sides of roads, and it is going well.

-The crew did some ditching on Pond Hill Road.

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

-The garage site/rec hub study has been started, we have a site visit on April 24, 2025.

-Working on July 4th planning together with the PCC and in talks with folks on campus.

She is working on RFPs for the MERP projects.

She has not heard yet about the request for the Congressionally Directed Spending.

**Town Managers Report:**

-Paul Donaldson presented liquor license for outdoor consumption at Whaleback. Sheryl Porrier made a motion to approve the license. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor, except for Alan-Glen Burnell abstaining.

The feral cat discussion was tabled until the next SB meeting.

Sheryl Porrier asked if the Town Highway Department could assist with moving/repairing headstones in the East Poultney Cemetery. The consensus of the board was that this was a good idea if and when the crew had time to assist.

The D&H Rail Trail Council discussion was tabled until another meeting. Sarah Pelkey stated there was a recent establishment of a Management Plan for the council.

Discussion about the South Street Bridge closure. Paul Donaldson stated that the State is working on the data from their recent inspection to see if there is anyway to open the bridge back up in some form. The temporary bridge is not supposed to be installed some time hopefully this fall. The whole project (temp. bridge and bridge rehabilitation) is supposed to go out to bid on May 14, with contract rewarding expected sometime in June. When we have additional information we will make it available to the public. Terry Williams and Pattie McCoy are also pressing the State on solutions to the closure.

Paul Donaldson stated he heard back from the auditor re: the HRA. She stated it was a pooled account and reported in the general fund. Paul Donaldson stated the sheet that was in the town report was his form and not the auditors.

Terry Williams recently sustained damage to his truck due to a tree limb in the road. He is requesting that the Town pay for the damage. Terry Williams said he had had a recent discussion with Joel Roberts about the need to remove dead trees from the road right of way. Discussion followed. The consensus of the board is that this was “as act of God” and that the Town should not be responsible for the damage.

**Transact any Other Lawful Selectboard Business:** The Designated Downtown expansion was improved by the State.

**Health Officer:** None.

**Rutland Regional Planning Commission:** Sarah Pelkey reported the following:

-There were 2 TAC meeting in April. On May 7 there will be Open Meeting Training. Also at 6:30PM on May 19 there will be training in Poultney.

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

-Mark Flynn asked questions about the posting of the bridge closure. There was much discussion about how we could better post the closure. Joel Roberts stated we used the same posting plan as was approved by the State the last time the bridge was closed. Paul Donaldson asked that the public not move or remove any signs that we post. Joel Roberts will go over the route again and see if there are spots that we can better post. Discussion about New Boston and Cross Roads. Joel Roberts stated that road has several curves/blind spots and we do not want to use that road as the official detour route.

-Mary Sue Reed inquired about the Merger Study and Paul Donaldson reported that our auditor had provided additional information the consultants were looking for. She asked about the status of the project at Jane Williams’ house. Joel Roberts stated he had marked the spot for Dig Safe, and we plan to do the project soon.

Richard Laird asked how he could be notified of tax sales. Donaldson stated he should keep an eye on Selectboard Minutes.

Mia Krauss asked about buses using New Boston Road and Cross Road and whether culverts there would support the buses. Paul Donaldson will check in with the school.

Mike Krauss urged the Town to keep the bridge project a priority and asked the board to be more proactive. Jeff King stated we have been dealing with this project for a number of years.

Johnathon Andrews asked if more folks should contact our State Representative and Senator to push the bridge project further. Paul Donaldson stated they are working diligently on the matter.

**Executive Session:**

At 7:49PM, 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 contracts were discussed outside of an executive session. Sheryl Porrier 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. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

At 8:02PM, Sheryl Porrier made a motion to leave Executive Session. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor. No action taken.

**Board Orders:** Mark Teetor made a motion to approve the board orders. Valerie Broughton seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Adjournment:** Sheryl Porrier made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor.

s/Paul A. Donaldson