

**Special Merger Committee Meeting Minutes  
Poultney Board of Selectmen**

**Monday, September 29, 2025 – 6:00 PM  
Poultney Town Hall**

**Zoom Recording:**

**[https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/uNbT2tO0tC3\\_xioSl\\_0vkIwfCR8josM9K0ZPPWBCVP\\_ckq6WDcPyN5j-HC0zyp4B2.gZ3Puf7IZIL7-zs4](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/uNbT2tO0tC3_xioSl_0vkIwfCR8josM9K0ZPPWBCVP_ckq6WDcPyN5j-HC0zyp4B2.gZ3Puf7IZIL7-zs4)**

Joe DeBonis called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Sheryl Porrier, Alan-Glen Burnell, Valerie Broughton and Jay Morgan (Mr. Morgan is not a member of the Merger Committee). Village Board of Trustees present included Joe DeBonis, Gerri Harrison, Idris Atwood and Bonnie Gray (Bonnie Gray is not on the Merger Committee). Other appointed members of the board present included Ben Thirkield, Carol Bunce and Nic Stark. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Sarah Pelkey, and members of the public listed on the attached Attendance Sheet. Appearing via Zoom were Paul Bishop and Wiley Little of Center For Governmental Research (“CGR”), Janice B. Edwards, Sophia Buckley-Clemente, “182” and “Iphone”.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Ben Thirkield made a motion to adopt the agenda. Idris Attwood seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Approval of Minutes:** Approval of the 10-21-2024 minutes was tabled.

**Merger Impact Study:** Wiley Little and Paul Bishop presented their merger report, a link of which can be found here: <https://www.cgr.org/poultneyvtstudy/documents/>

The study concluded with three paths to move forward: 1) Merge (there is a projection of a slight savings for Village residents, and an even slighter savings for Town residents); 2) Do nothing, i.e. do not merge; or 3) do not merge but the Village and Town could share facilities such as office space, and highway garages, and share equipment. The first option would require the formation of a separate Water district to handle the Water and Sewer infrastructures of the Village. The study did not investigate a merger whereby all residents in the Town and the Village shared in the costs, debt servicing of the Water and Sewer infrastructure.

The Merger Committee set the next date for a meeting on October 20, 2025 at 5:30PM.

**Public comments, questions:** There were several questions and comments from the Committee and members of the public.

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

