

Poultney Board of Selectmen
Meeting
Monday, April 25, 2022 – 6:30 pm
Poultney Town Hall

Agenda

- 1) Adoption of the Agenda
- 2) Approval of Minutes: 4-11-2022
- 3) Public Comments and Concerns (limit of 15 minutes):
- 4) Road Report:
- 5) Town Manager's Report
- 6) Transact Any Other Lawful Selectboard Business
- 7) Executive Session:
- 8) Health Officer's Report
- 9) Rutland Regional Planning Commission
- 10) Board Orders
- 11) Adjourn

Meeting Minutes

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Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Carol Bunce, Sheryl Porrier, Rick LaPierre and Terry Williams. Others present were Ron Kelly, Mary Sue Reed, Chief Aaron Kerber and Assistant chief Bill Jones. Town Manager Paul Donaldson was not present due to illness.

Adoption of Agenda: Carol Bunce made a motion to adopt the agenda, seconded by Terry Williams. Motion Carried.

Approval of minutes of 4/11/2022. Rick LaPierre made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Carol Bunce explained that there were many typographical errors. The motion was amended to say, with corrections. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comments and Concerns: Mary Sue Reed had a couple. The first one is remote meetings. People are texting her about when the meetings were going to be offered remotely. People feel that there is a bit of “foot dragging” going on, please and don’t shoot the messenger. Jeff explained that it would not be for a while because we were waiting for bids on the equipment needed to do it. Jeff will check into the matter with the town manager.

Mary Sue Reed stated that Jane Williams wanted to know where East Poultney Gorge bridge bids would be posted when all were submitted. Jeff explained that was the responsibility of the State of Vermont. Ron Kelly stated that he believed that the bids for the bridge construction had gone out on the 6th of April and that there was a two-week time for submission. Chief Aaron Kerber threw out a Vermont State of Transportation web address, VTRANSPARENCY.gov. She then asked if we would be notified when the bids were submitted. Ron Kelly stated that we should know the bid results within the first two weeks in May.

Road Report: Ron reported that the road crew was filling potholes. The grader has been out on the back roads, but there were still wet spots that they would have to let dry out before they can grade them. The crew is hauling gravel, but the supplier had equipment broken down and now is back in operation.

Trash bags were delivered today. We received 5 pallets of bags, so everybody who didn’t get their full allocation of bags should be able to pick them up now.

The oldest truck in the fleet is down for repairs so we are down one truck. They are still looking for a dump body to replace the defective body.

The road crew members are asking about their 4-day workweek. They have only had two days off since Christmas. Some are taking their vacation time one day per week to get some down time. Carol stated that the personnel handbook stated that the 4-day workweeks started on 1 June, but that the select board had the authority to change that based upon recommendation. Discussion followed.

Terry Williams asked if there were going to be any projects that would have to be bid out to private contractors, to which Ron stated yes. He is waiting on scoping study results on the bridge on the Lewis Road that they will have to sub out. ANR must approve the project first. Carol Bunce asked for Ron Kelly's recommendation on the 4-day work week. He said that they would work 5 days a week 10 hours a day, if need be, but that would cut in on their overtime budget. Equipment maintenance could be done at either end of the workday and could be done on a rain day. Ron and Carol agreed that it would be ideal to start on 12 May. Jeff stated that we had a meeting on the 9th of May and we could finalize this at that time.

Jeff King stated that the road crew really cleaned up the salvage material at the transfer station and it looks nice. Ron stated that we got \$3,300 dollars from the salvage company for the scrap metal. The leaf debris was removed and sent to a composter. Jeff asked when the tires would be removed from there. Ron said that he is talking to a company that would bring a box trailer and leave it for the used tires. That cost is still being negotiated.

Jeff asked if the road to the transfer station off of Hillside Road is scheduled to be paved this year. Ron stated that it was on his list to be paved and if our class II paving requests were approved, we should be able to finish the Saltis Road as well. He put in for a section of Route 140 and he is hopeful that we should be able to get it all done.

Sheryl Porrier asked if the road by the East Poultney green to the gorge bridge was being considered when the bridge is completed. That has not been specked out, but it will be when the bridge is done next year. Jeff King stated that section of road could put it in the next budget because the bridge isn't scheduled to be completed until next year. Ron said that there needs to be some serious engineer scoping for that whole section of road due to run off concerns.

Terry Williams asked if Ron had worked out the town road work prioritization schedule. Ron said he had, but every time he has it close to being done, something comes up and it changes. Terry also asked if he had an "on call" list for someone other than him to respond to emergency calls? He stated that he would end up getting called anyway, so that he doesn't have an on call list.

Poultney Fire Chief Aaron Kerber on ARPA Funding: Ron asked if Chief Kerber had any progress to report on the radio repeater hardware. He did and went into detail about that issue. See attached ARPA Request. Aaron's priority #1 was the Battery Extrication Tool. # 2 was the repeater system radios (x 2 because they need two radios for the cell tower). Priority #3 was to replace the out-dated radio for the fire station which would make the firehouse more resilient as an Emergency Operation Station. Priority #4 was for a computer and promethean board which could be used by all using the firehouse for meetings.

There was much discussion about how much Town ARPA funding was left and whether the Village should also be approached to help fund some of the fire department requests with their allocation of ARPA funds. The requested funds would enhance the fire, rescue, and road crew communication. The provided estimates have an April 28th deadline before they would have to be requoted.

Rick LaPierre made a motion to approve funding for requested items 1-3 for now and hold off on number 4 until we know how much funding we have left to fund this request for a total cost of \$62,083

for extraction tools, \$13,000 for hardware for the Repeater System, and \$10,000 for New Radio for the Fire station. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Town Managers Report: Paul was absent.

Transact any other Select board business. Jeff King stated that he really wants to get the select board project prioritized list completed soon and get them on the agenda at each meeting to get them done. We all had a list of items to be add to the priorities.

Carol started with her list, not in any order: Town Sign; ARPA Funds priority; Employee Benefits Briefing should be available the 1st of July the start of the new FY. Carol will get with Neisja and get the figures for the briefing. Additional items for the list were - Employee Handbook; Tax Warrants for notice of tax sale; Quarry Park finalization.

Sheryl Porrier gave her list of projects: Town Bridge priority for replacement; Hampshire Hollow Road Signs;

Terry Williams added the Town Highway repair prioritized list for the road crew and the Town Strategic Plan for all projects which require our approval.

Rick LaPierre wants to add the Information Technology plan so that we can link all town agencies to a common server and enhance information sharing electronically. We should have a plan to bring funds into the town. He recommends that we Look at a local sales tax. He also would like to look into forming a town land bank and a plan for an affordable housing fund.

Jeff King added the Enhanced Energy plan to our priority list. Carol stated that should be the responsibility of the planning commission, but Jeff said that the select board should tell them that they need to do it.

Discussion on the employee handbook went to the sample that the Vermont League of Cities and Towns already has digitized and is available for our use. Terry said that we need to consider hiring someone to do this to insure it gets done.

Lily Pond Property. Terry Williams said that the Federation Fund for Conservation and Training is still interested in conserving that property and wants to ensure that the reappraisal is done during the next tax grievance period. Paul said that he would speak to the listers about it.

Rutland Regional Planning Commission: Terry Williams explained that the last meeting was held on 19 April 2022. He is on both the Regional Committee and the transportation Committee. The Transportation Committee meeting is next Thursday the 28th of April. The agenda and meeting materials can be seen at www.rutlandRPC.org. The Regional Committee approves Act 248 and Act 250 submissions in the county. There were no Act 250 issues that need to be done at this meeting, but there were Act 248 solar projects. One in Castleton that we have been dealing with for 3 years. It has morphed from a 500 KW project to now a 2.2 Mega Watt project. The planning commission has not been in favor of it because the land is considered prime agricultural land. The committee acknowledge that it may be approved anyway, because it does meet the regional plan requirements and the town does not have an Enhance Energy Plan which should exclude this parcel from solar development. Enhance Energy plans are a must and should be a part of the town plan. I don't believe that Poultney has an enhanced energy plan.

Mary Sue Reed, who is a member of the Poultney Planning Commission was in attendance at this meeting. asked if we have an enhanced energy plan. She said she has not heard of this plan.

Mary Sue Reed asked how the Trolley Track Solar project got approved. Terry commented that there was no complaint, so it will be approved.

Executive Session: Carol Bunce made a motion to go into executive session at 8:18 PM. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried.

At 8:58 PM Sheryl Porrier made a motion to come out of executive session. Carol seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pay Board Orders: Sheryl Porrier moved to pay the board orders. Carol Bunce seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Rick LaPierre moved to adjourn. Terry Williams Seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Nothing Follows.

/S/ Terry K. Williams