

**GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD
MINUTES
Monday November 18, 2019
Town Office Community Room
9 Hyde Road, Grand Isle, VT**

I. CALL TO ORDER: AnnaMarie DeMars called the meeting to order at 7:00PM

Board Members Present: Rachael Griggs, Jeff Parizo, AnnaMarie DeMars, Chair and Eric Godin, Vice Chair.

Board Members Not Present: Diane Cota was not present for the regular meeting but was present via phone for the Executive Session

Community Members Present: Ronnie Bushway, Sue Lawrence, Charles Hollon, Joe Longo, Jerry Hebda, James Glover, Emily Clark, Amy L. Thompson, Melissa Boutin Members from Wrenegade Sports; Tyler Wren, Sarah Mutrux, Andrew Herwig and David Lane, from South Hero

Amend Agenda For Matters Not Listed:

- **Listers re: Computer Security**
- **Ron Bushway re: Comment about flags from Mark Cobb on FPF**

II. GUESTS:

- Sarah Mutrux – Wrenegade Sports/Farm to Fork Fondo
Guests from Wrenegade Sports were present to discuss the upcoming bike tour on July 19, 2020. Tyler Wren spoke of how the 2019 Farm to Fork Fondo in the Champlain Islands was an extremely successful event in many ways. He said after working with Sheriff Allen to implement additional safety measures in 2020 they will:
 1. Reduce congestion and avoid large packs of cyclists riding together by releasing riders from the start in waves, and branching routes away from each other before riders stop at their first aid station
 2. Increase safety by removing Breakaway Farm from aid station stops and do not include left-hand turns off Route 2 unless law enforcement is present to direct traffic
 3. Increase respectful riding by posting a dedicated Wrenegade Staff flagger in the opening miles to remind cyclists to ride on the shoulder and never more than two abreast
 4. Identify any riders that may disobey traffic laws by their bib plates (clearly visible at all times on the front of their bike) and adding a Tyvek bib and number to the back of the cyclist's jersey
 5. Increase community awareness of the event through regular communication with the community leading up to the event.

After discussions the Selectboard would be meeting with Sheriff Allen and other Grand Isle towns early in 2020 to discuss bike tours.

AnnaMarie thanked the members of Wrenegade Sports for coming.

III. Highway Department Update: Ron Bushway, Road commissioner Reported:

- All the Grand Isle sand is hauled and they will now help South Hero
- The road crew was able to get the plows on the truck two hours before the snowstorm
- The new person hired was out plowing during the storm

Buildings Facilities Manager Update: Ron Bushway, BFM Reported:

- Septic tanks have been pumped, which is done every three years and they look good
- Block School House Shutters are on except for the door
- The flags got taken down between yesterday and today

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: November 4, 2019

Jeff Parizo motions to approve the minutes of November 4, 2019. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

Listers, Computer Security: Sue Lawrence and Charles Hollon explained they are concerned about the security issue regarding the information on the Listers computers.

Sue said one, this is going to affect the whole Town's computers and two it's budget season if it's going to play a big part in it.

After discussing the problems and how they might get it fixed it was decided this issue will be corrected along with the website problem. Eric and Charles will work together on this to find a company to service all Town computers and website.

Sue introduced Charles Hollon the new Lister on board who she said has been doing really well.

Joe Longo wanted to let everyone know that the grand list is protected by direct downloads to NEMRIC twice a week. Joe said we feel relatively safe if the whole thing crashes it can be reconstructed relatively soon.

- **Ron Bushway on Mark Cobb's Comment on FaceBook Regarding Flags:** Ron said he wanted to comment on Mark Cobb's sarcastic comment on FaceBook. Jeff said at the last meeting the Selectboard agreed the Highway Department would take the flags down after Veterans Day. Ron said everyone knows we have been busy hauling sand, mixing salt with it and the priority is cleaning up the roads after the storm. We usually don't get snowstorms the first week in November. He said they started taking the flags down yesterday but had trouble with the ladder so Travis Bullis helped us out and finished removing the rest of the flags today.
- **Recreation Committee – Amy Thompson:**
 1. Three previous members have left and we now have three new people who have joined. We still may have one more opening.
 2. Amy said she wanted us to know they followed protocol to place a one-month ad
 3. Just gifted a hockey rink by Jane and Mark Perry. The Rec. Committee will try to get it set up at the park.
 4. Amy said the park is being used a lot more especially with pickle-ball and this has resulted in less vandalism
 5. Discussed was several ideas for the park such as the tree lighting

Jeff asked about the issue with the State expanding the ball fields. Amy said David Graham has picked this up and is working with the State.

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Joe Longo suggested, once the website is fixed, that the minutes are posted so people know what is happening. Jeff suggested having Rob Swanson from the Islander take pictures in the spring when pickle-ball starts up again. Amy said the pickle-ball players are now playing in the school gym.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Website Update:** Eric Godin reported on the problem that the website cannot be accessed to add information. He has tried several times to get in touch with someone at Word Press. The login page is the problem. He is going to take a day off this week and concentrate on getting the website back up and working for now. After the discussion it was decided that once Eric and Charles Hollon find a company to work on the security system Eric will ask if the website administration is offered. Eric said we need a contracted company or a person that will be in charge of this all the time.

Jeff Parizo motions to authorize Eric Godin to move forward to call an independent contractor to see about getting the website repaired using up to \$500. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all in favor and the motion passes.

- **Town Solar Project:** Jeff said he had sent out an email to DC Energy about the construction. Solar panels for the standing seam roof of the fire station would be clipped in place so no holes will be put into the roof and it shouldn't hurt the warrantee of the roof. The only hole might be drilled will be for the electrical conduit but would go through the soffit.

Melissa Boutin, Town Clerk/Treasurer:

- Reached out to Peoples Trust to finance the project. The interest rate is about 3-1/2%.
- DC Energy recommended a 10-year loan because the payback is about 10 years.
- After talking with Mr. Giuliani, who we worked with before doing the bond for the fire station project. He was thinking an agreement should be made internally so we are not borrowing funds and paying interest.
- We would write up an agreement using general funds balance money and do the payback within the department so we would be paying ourselves back.
- Right now the payback period is about 8 years however that was with interest into that.
- We also don't know what the new highway garage is going to need for power. It's going to be larger and more efficient so it will use more power.
- The payback is going to be definitely less then the 8 years.
- Whatever is normally budgeted within each fund for all Town buildings, instead of paying the electric company we are paying the back Town.
- Jeff said we now spend about \$11,000 a year for electricity between all the buildings. The savings of not paying the electric company would pay back our own money internally. If we authorize \$120,000 we would be paying ourselves without paying interest and reducing the term quicker.
- When we get to that point we are generating our own electricity, it's a win-win situation
- Melissa said we should be generating more power then we would use and may be able to sell it to another Town nonprofit at a reduced rate such as the Sheriff or Rescue
- Jeff said it looks like the project total is \$137,448.00, 15% assumed. So it looks like the loan principal will be \$116,830.00.

Jeff Parizo motions to approve the Town Solar Project on top of the Grand Isle Fire Station for one hundred thirty seven thousand, four hundred forty eight dollars (\$137,448.00). Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion. All in favor and the motion passes.

- **Island Industrial Park:** Jeff has made copies of the map of the Sheriff's Department, which is Lot 1 on the map. Lot 2, north of that, the 1.88 acres assumed is the Town gravel pit as we call it. We (Town) also own Lot 3 parcel ID 142017, 4.19 acres assumed. There was a discussion about giving Lot 3 to the Sheriff's Department. If we divide it in half it would cost about \$5,000. There are two ways we could do it. One is a temporary MOU and let Sheriff use it for a few years and see what happens. Or we could just do a quick claim deed and it would be transferred to the Grand Isle Sheriff's Department. We would have to hold a public hearing first.

Sheriff Allen will be on the agenda for the December 2, 2019 meeting and will continue the discussion.

- **Public Safety:**
 1. **Special Events Ordinance - Review Stowe Ordinance:** This came about after this summer's bike tour as well as foot races and the fact that we are not alerted about coming events. After reviewing Stowe's ordinance it was decided each Board member review Stowe's ordinance and bring suggestions back to a future meeting. We will discuss all ordinances at a special meeting on the next 5th Monday of the month, which is March 30, 2020.
 2. **Bike Single File Ordinance:** This will also be revisited and will be discussed when Sheriff Allen has a Countywide meeting in the beginning 2020.
 3. **Grass In Road Ordinance:** Jeff said he looked for a State ordinance and couldn't find one. He is going to check with the Town attorney and will discuss it at a future meeting.
 - **All Benefits:** We will hold a special meeting on the next fifth Monday, which is March 30, 2020 and review and possibly revise the benefits package.
 - **Insurance – PACIF:** AnnaMarie said she reached out to the insurance company and they did put the Block School House on the policy. An insurance representative will be coming out to meet with AnnaMarie on December 6 to inspect every Town building. After discussing insurance it was agreed that we stay with PACIF and after the inspection with AnnaMarie we should invite two or three insurance companies to come to a meeting and get bids. Melissa said this should be done annually.
- VII. REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS:** Jeff Parizo motioned to allow AnnaMarie DeMars, chair of the Selectboard review and sign the warrants. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion. All in favor and the motion passes.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION: Discuss Island Industrial LLC Litigation:

Eric Godin motions, I move that we enter executive session (1) to consider confidential attorney-client communications, because we find that premature general public knowledge of privileged communications will clearly place the Town of Grand Isle Vermont at a substantial disadvantage, and (2) to consider pending litigation to which the Town is a party, because we find that premature general public knowledge of privileged communications will clearly place the Town of Grand Isle Vermont at a substantial disadvantage. Rachael Griggs seconds the motion. Jeff Parizo recuses himself and leaves the building. No further discussion. All three members are in favor and the motion passes.

Eric Godin moves the Selectboard is coming out of executive at 10:00PM and would like to note that we had a discussion with the Town Attorney John Klesch on the phone and we are also joined by Selectboard member Diane Cota via phone. We are coming out of executive session, we move to return to Island Industrial, LLC the Irrevocable Offer of Dedication and two Warranty Deed documents that were submitted to the Town of Grand Isle Vermont regarding Island Circle Road and to advise Island Industrial LLC that the Town of Grand Isle Vermont considers Island Industrial LLC fully released from any and all obligations which may have arisen due to delivery of those documents to the Town. Diane Cota seconds the motion. No further discussion, all four members in favor and the motion passes.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Diane Cota motions to adjourn at 10:02PM. Eric Godin seconds the motion. No further discussion, all four in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Clerk

AnnaMarie DeMars, Selectboard Chair

Date: _____

Date: _____