

**GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD MEETING
MINUTES of
Monday February 1, 2021 via Zoom**

I. CALL TO ORDER: Diane Cota, Chair calls the meeting to order at 6:00PM

Board Members Present: Diane Cota - Chair, Jeff Parizo - Vice Chair, AnnaMarie DeMars, Adam White and Rachael Griggs

Community Members Present: Ron Bushway, Joe Longo, Melissa Boutin and Mike Donoghue (Person from the Islander)

Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed: Under New Business - Town Meeting Preparation Meeting (Informational Meeting); Under Old Business-Mailing Absentee Ballots & /Follow up: COVID at the Fire Station and Town Office

II. GUESTS: None

III. Highway Department Update: Ron Bushway said there is not a lot to report.

- Highway department employees have been plowing and sanding
- Working on equipment putting edges on the plows
- New Town Garage building: Met with Tyler Billingsley-East Engineer, Dave Pratt-and site contractor from Mill brook Construction
- Septic system has been approved
- Water pressure has been fixed
- Walls and trusses are up and half of the roof on west side is on the salt/sand shed.
- Some outside work will have to wait until spring to be completed.
- Jeff said some work such as painting the entry doors and the final grade on exterior soils will wait until spring. Some money will be held out until this work is complete. He will be discussing the amount to hold out with Dave Pratt. He has no doubt Dave will come back.

Buildings Facilities Manager Update: Ron said he doesn't have much to report. He has been checking the Town buildings to be sure the heat is on. Rachael asked about getting an alarm system for the buildings if the heat fails. Ron said not yet.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: January 18 and January 29, 2021

Adam White motions to approve the January 18, 2021 minutes. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Adam White motions to approve the January 29, 2021 minutes. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Joe Longo said in the January 18 minutes there needs to be a correction under the Lister's budget to correct the date in the town wide reappraisal from 2010 to 2008.

Jeff Parizo motions to amend the January 18, (2021) minutes to reflect the date change of the town wide reappraisal to 2008. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

V. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Bike Tour Notification from Friends of Northern Lake Champlain:** Diane hasn't heard from them. Jeff asked Rachael if she had sent the (Special Events) Ordinance to them. Rachael said she has. Jeff said we will have to wait to hear from them because what's required is spelled out in that ordinance. Adam said it's up to them now.
- **Discuss new use for Annex Building:** Diane said it wasn't too long ago the Selectboard discussed selling the building and thought there might be room at the school for a nursery and PreK. Adam said our intent was to sell it to the Learning Adventure but it wasn't spelled out at that time. The septic system is shared with the new garage building. Adam said it's the same as the system at the fire station sharing with the apartments next to it so this is something that isn't unheard of. After discussing the issue, the Board agreed to have a further discussion with Elaine Chasse at our next meeting. Joe Longo asked how this will affect the budget since the revenue isn't coming in anymore. The answer is \$1200 has been added to the budget. Rachael said she is open for discussing this further and wants to bring the town's people into the discussion as well. AnnaMarie said maybe we could offer some incentives if someone would like to open a daycare here. Adam said it looks like the Planning Commission is looking into this as well and bringing up a proposal.
- **Discussion on holding Selectboard meeting on March 1:** It was decided to have the first meeting in March on the 8th. The meeting will be an organizational meeting following the election. Joe Longo asked about people taking the oath and was told the oath can be taken anytime.
- **Town Meeting Preparation Meeting (Informational Meeting):**
This will be discussed at the February 15th meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

- **Mailing Absentee Ballots:** Jeff said at the special meeting we had on Friday we voted to send out ballots to all on the active voter check list. He questioned how new people moving in would get their ballot. Melissa said it's not every resident that gets a ballot, it's every registered voter that gets a ballot. There are several ways to sign up to vote. On March 2 the town office will be open 7:00AM to 7:00PM to vote in person or to drop off your ballot, including your return envelope. Anyone wishing to register to vote can do so at the town office now through election day at 7:00PM.
- **Update on Tyler Billingsley's RFP old fire station building's removal:** Jeff said we had already approved to have Tyler send out an RFP when we are ready. The Board agreed it's time to go ahead with it. Jeff will notify Tyler that we are ready for him to send the RFP out now.
- **Donation Policy:** Diane read the policy as written: Donations to the Town of Grand Isle, VT:
The Town of Grand Isle accepts and appreciates donations. All information pertaining to donations must go through the Selectboard first and all donated money must be funneled through the proper channels by the Town Clerk/Treasurer and applied to the correct account(s). Jeff asked if either one of these has been vetted through the Town Attorney. Diane said she will contact VLCT.

No Storing Personal Items in Town Buildings or Property Policy: Diane read this policy as written:
Storing Personal Belongings in Grand Isle Town Buildings or on Town Property:
No one, including employees will be allowed to store personal belongings in Grand Isle Town buildings or on grounds.

Jeff makes a motion that we accept the Storing of Personal (Items) Belonging to Grand Isle Town as written as a policy. Adam White seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

- **Update on Personnel Policy review:** Diane has sent the policy to VLCT to the MAC group who replied it's a very busy time with COVID and town meetings etc. but will get in touch with one of their lawyers. She will get back to Diane after the lawyer gets back to her with a timeline on when they will be able to review it and the estimated cost.

- **Rosenberger laying pipes application review (motion to approve):** Rachael had received an email from Franz Rosenberger saying they understand the town's position and are willing take care of things. Jeff read the email and would like to move this to the next meeting as he has an issue with the last item in the email. This will be moved to the February 15th meeting. Jeff is going to contact Franz to let him know of discussing this at our next meeting.

- **Permit Application for Laying Pipes and Wires Review:** Jeff said looking at the permit for laying pipes and wires he would like to see the same signature line "For use by Road Foreman Only" on the permit application for curb cuts. Melissa said it would be easy to make these changes at the town office.

Adam White motions to approve the application permit for laying pipes and wires review with corrections noted. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

- **Application Permit for Curb Cut Review:**

Adam White motions to approve the application permit for curb cut review application sheet as presented to the Selectboard today. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

- **Follow up on COVID at the Fire Station and Town Offices:** Diane said she heard that there is no COVID cases at the fire station.

Melissa said everybody is back doing their jobs. The town office is open to the public, doing appointments again, allowing one person from the public at a time to be in the office having them sign in like we did before. Taking all precautions wiping everything down our own surfaces and even in the restroom. We have a lot of disinfecting supplies through the Ledger Grant.

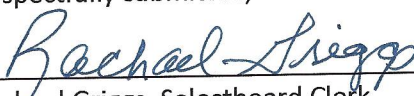
- **Mike Donoghue** said he had received a couple follow ups and concerns and one was that the town had a holiday party. If there was one did it comply with state rules for COVID. Melissa said they had a luncheon with very minimal people there (5 office workers) and all sat 6-feet apart around their large table and ate some snacks. She said it was in December before Christmas and there were five people. These were people who all work together anyway and they took precautions.

VII. **REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS:** Jeff asked if the Ledger Grant funds we are paying are on the warrants and are they going to come out of the grant so at the end of the day not affect our bottom line? Melissa said because we received the Ledger funds it has to show as a revenue then I have to show all the expenses that will equal the amount of money we received. The other question Jeff asked has was the L.A. Jess Associates' last town ballots and last year consolidated ballots and if they are from 2020? Melissa said yes, they had emailed all the invoices around the time COVID hit and a lot of towns missed the emails. They sent the invoices out again and the Unified District will reimburse the town.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion to allow the Selectboard Chair to sign the warrants via email. Adam White seconds the motion. No further question. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

VIII. **ADJOURNMENT:** AnnaMarie DeMars motions to adjourn at 6:44PM. Adam White seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,


Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Clerk


Diane Cota, Selectboard Chair

Date: February 15, 2021

Date: February 20, 2021

2021-02-01