

GRAND ISLE SELECTBOARD

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:00 PM via Zoom

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

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

Community Members Present: Sue Lawrence, Lucille Campbell, Bill Stone, Ron Bushway, Joe Longo, Karen Allen, Charles Hollon, Mike Donoghue and Tonya Poutry.

Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed: Delete under old business – Expenditure (\$6800) for 4-foot apron at Town garage (motion to deny)

II. REVIEW & APPROVE MINUTES: January 29, 2021, February 15, 2021

Adam White motions to approve the January 29, 2021 Selectboard minutes with additions. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Jeff Parizo motions to approve the February 15, 2021 Selectboard minutes with corrections. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

III. OLD BUSINESS:

• **Clarifications**

- 1) Jeff's accusation of Diane disparaging Jeff. Diane stated that she doesn't believe that a selectboard meeting should be used for political purposes, but since this accusation was made she wanted to clarify her response. At that meeting she said she did not remember calling a former Selectboard member to disparage Jeff because she knows it's not in her character to do those things. Since then she recalled she did call a former Selectboard member who is currently a candidate for Selectboard to let him know she was glad he was running for Selectboard and offered to help him campaign, he did decline the help. During their discussion about the candidates she did give him some information that is public record about Jeff. There was no intention of disparaging anyone nor did she start a rumor.
- 2.) Ron (Bushway, Road Commissioner) not having information about an MOU between Grand Isle Town and the Grand Isle Volunteer Fire Station(GIVFD) regarding the Highway Department keeping the fire station clear of snow. There were a lot of things besides plowing in the MOU. Ron stated that he didn't get the information about clearing the fire department of snow and that he didn't get a copy of the MOU. Diane said Ron had been in attendance of most of the Selectboard meetings. He was there when the MOU was discussed and the fact that the highway department would be asked to plow the snow from the fire station. He was also at the July 16, 2018 meeting when the MOU was

discussed and approved. Diane said somehow Brad (Sheridan-Road Foreman) got the message as the plowing of the new fire station did continue from then on until this year.

- **Rescind the motion made at Feb. 15, 2021 SB meeting of Town Garage Budget.** Rachael read the motion made at the Feb. 15, 2021 Selectboard meeting regarding using \$300,000 from the town's unrestricted funds for paying down on the new town Garage. We did not realize the budget Melissa Boutin (Town Treasurer) gave us at the last meeting was for the end of June 2020. Since then some of the funds were spent on the solar project (on the fire station roof) and on the plans for the Library/Municipal building among other items we approved for payment.

Jeff said we should still take the \$200,000 out of the highway fund and rescind the \$300,000 out of the Town's unrestricted funds.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion to rescind the (part in the) motion made at the February 15, 2021 Selectboard meeting on the Town of Grand Isle highway garage budget of taking \$300,000 out of the Towns unrestricted fund balance (leaving in the \$200,000 from the highway fund). AnnaMarie DeMars seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

- **Discuss Appropriations for Fire Department.** Jeff listed the articles we had approved. He said the fire department and equipment reserve amounts had not been submitted by a letter. AnnaMarie said she doesn't know why the fire department doesn't do it. Rachael said they are a 501-C3 and aren't required to do a budget. She reminded everyone that we did discuss these articles. Due to COVID the State said we didn't need signatures for appropriations and we voted to accept the requests from those who have requested in the last five years. Diane has checked with VLCT who said it's up to the Board to determine how best to approve articles on the budget. Jeff said he is not against these requests or the dollar amounts he just feels we should be fair and get the same information from everyone. Adam said in the future we need a standard procedure on what we are looking for and all use the same template across the board.

• ~~Expenditure (\$6800) for 4 foot apron at town garage~~

- **Change order proposal #12 for \$725.00-2 Hose Bibs & 2 Air Drops (motion to deny).** Diane said we had discussed the change order and said we aren't going to do it but we should vote to have it on record that we voted deny the request.

Rachael Griggs motions to deny change order proposal #12 dated February 3, 2021 from Millbrook Building and Remodeling for the new Town garage. The scope of work is to furnish and Install (2) Hose Bibs and (2) Air Drops for \$725.00. Adam White seconds the motion. Discussion-AnnaMarie said she thought they were needed and asked why are they not going to be done. Diane said we have to stop (the change orders) somewhere and Jeff Parizo already said he was going to pull it. No further discussion. Diane Cota votes yes, Adam White votes yes and Rachael Griggs votes yes. Jeff Parizo votes no and AnnaMarie DeMars votes no. The motion passes.

Jeff said he wants to have his name on the bottom of the minutes.

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Rachael asked Jeff why he pulled the request if he was going to vote no. Jeff said because he knew it wasn't going to get approved. Diane said we discussed not having extra things any more. As for the upcoming change order #13 for splitting the extra cost of the plywood we proposed sharing the cost and will vote on that change order at our next regular meeting.

- **No Storing of Personal Belongings Policy (rescind and re-motion)** This was not posted on the February 15, meeting so the motion shouldn't have happened therefor we need to rescind it.

Adam White motioned to rescind from the February 15, 2021 meeting the policy of Storing Personal Property on town property which read "No one including the employees will be allowed to store personal belongings in the Town buildings or on Town property. Rachael Griggs seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in and the motion passes.


Mike Donoghue asked if personal property is defined somewhere such as the road crew storing a change of clothes in their locker. Diane said we aren't being ridiculous. Ron asked if it includes parking vehicles of the company you work for on company property. Diane said she believes permission was received. Adam said we will bring this up again on the March 15th meeting.

- **Preparation for SB Informational Meeting on Sat. Feb. 27 2021**

Diane said she and Rachael listened to the (Vermont League of Cities and Towns (VLCT) informational meeting on how to hold our meeting. This is a Selectboard Informational Meeting, not a Town Meeting so Diane will be chairing the meeting. The warning will be posted tomorrow with the Zoom information. Our Zoom capacity has been increased to allow 1,000 people to join in. Adam will be handling the call-in list and it was agreed that each person who wishes to speak will have one minute. Rachael will time them and if they wish to speak again they can do so at the end of the discussed subject. Diane said she and Adam will be at the Town Office to conduct this meeting. She went through the steps on how the meeting will be held.

- **ADJOURNMENT:** AnnaMarie DeMars motions to adjourn at 6:50 PM. Jeff Parizo seconds the motion. No further discussion. All vote in favor and the motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,


Rachael Griggs, Selectboard Scribe

Date: March 8, 2021


Jeff Parizo, Selectboard Chair

Date: 3/12/21