

Grand Isle Select Board

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday, October 4th, 2021 at 6:00pm Grand Isle Town Office and via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Members Present: Jeff Parizo – Chair; AnnaMarie Demars – Vice-Chair; Adam White; Ron Bushway; Eric Godin

Community Members Present: Colleen Bushway; Melissa Boutin; Joe Longo; Lucille Campbell; Mitchel Richardson; Tonya Poutry; Emily Clark; Josie Leavitt; Jean Prouty; Bill Hall; Mike Donoghue; Doug DiSabito

Board Members to Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed:

John Deere Loader -

Rec Park – New Business

Mary Crest – New Business

Bylaw – Old Business

Monitor- Old Business

II. GUEST OPEN COMMENT

III. HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT/BUILDINGS FACILITIES MANAGER UPDATE

Open Sealed Bid for Water Heater: Ron Bushway opens the one sealed bid received for the old water heater. The bid is from Michael Gover and is for \$25. Jeff asks if a reserve was put on the water heater. Ron answers that we did not, and the water heater isn't worth very much. *Jeff Parizo moves to accept Michael Gover's bid of \$25 on the small water heater. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.*

Ron says that the garage doors on the old town garage have been removed. Ron also says that there is equipment being used to help South Hero prepare for paving. Jeff asks what is left to move out of the old garage. Ron says that there are some old plow blades that don't fit any of our trucks, and he will be asking Brad Sheridan what will be done with them.

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 20TH MEETING

Ron says that he would like to have his statement regarding the equipment being a 'tractor' be changed to say 'the John Deere Loader' and the amount he mentioned as \$20,000. *Ron Bushway moves to approve the minutes with corrections. Adam White seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the votes, which passes unanimously, with Eric Godin abstaining as he was not present at the meeting.*

V. NEW BUSINESS

Howard DeMars Letter of Interest for Planning Commission: Jeff Parizo says that the Planning Commission has already approved the letter. Adam White asks if Howard will

be filling out the remainder of a term. It is determined that Howard would be filling out the remainder of a term lasting until December of 2021. ***Adam White moves to appoint Howard DeMars to the Planning Commission for the term that ends in December 2021. Eric Godin seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously with AnnaMarie DeMars abstaining, as Howard is her husband.***

Louko's Excavation Invoice: Jeff Parizo says that after talking with Ron Bushway and Bard Sheridan, he has determined that the Louko's invoice is valid and needs to be paid. Jeff says this money will come out of the highway surplus fund. ***Jeff Parizo moves to approve the \$4,272.91 for invoice 675 for Louko's Plowing and Excavation. Invoice is dated November 22nd, of 2020. The money will come from the highway surplus fund. Adam White seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

VLCT Insurance Coverage: Old Fire Station, Garage and Contents: Town Clerk Melissa Boutin says that when VLCT was in Grand Isle doing their inspection, they noticed the two buildings being taken down, and mentioned the two buildings being removed from the insurance as well as the contents. Jeff Parizo notes that the new garage has coverage already, and asks if there is coverage on the contents. Melissa says that she will have to look into it, and there are still items to review. Melissa says she just wanted to be sure the Board was aware of the situation. Ron asks if the town still has liability insurance on the old garage and fire station. Melissa confirms that they do. Melissa asks if there is a number the Board wants to use to base the value of the contents of the new garage on. There is discussion about how to value the items in the garage, with the idea of making a video showing all of the tools and equipment to be insured inside the garage as a first step. Melissa says that the video could be submitted to the insurance company for valuation. Ron asks if there is a list of all the tools that the town has purchased. Melissa says they get put in a general equipment heading when they are purchased. Adam asks Melissa to check and see what the current insurance for the contents of the garage are. Jeff asks Melissa to also check into the cost to insure a higher amount. Adam asks what the insurance cost is for the contents of all the town buildings are. Jeff asks about the insurance at the fire department for the contents, and Melissa says that she will look into the issue and let the Board know.

Recreation Park: Jeff Parizo says that there has been a lot of talk on Front Porch Forum about activity in the Donaldson Road Recreation Park after dark. Jeff says he remembers a few years ago the Board had discussed options for improving security at the park, including moving the gates closer to the road. Eric Godin says he thought there was talk of a light and a camera being installed. Ron says that the gate was moved, but the larger issue is that David Graham used to live across from the park and would lock and unlock the gate daily, and that isn't happening now, since Mr. Graham moved. Ron says that the gate leading into the larger parking area is closed, but the gate exiting on Donaldson Road has been left open. Adam White offers to reach out to the Recreation Committee to see if they have any input on the situation.

Mary Crest Beach: Jeff says that there was an email received from a resident asking about what the town owns over at Mary Crest beach. Ron says that the area that the town owns is well marked. Jeff says that the plots on either side of the town beach are privately owned. Ron says that he thinks that the town may have put a staircase on the private portion of the beach. Adam notes that townspeople who go to the beach usually use the whole beach, including the private portions. Ron points out that the beach is not currently handicapped accessible, due to stairs being the only way to get down to the beach.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Storage/Donation Policies: Eric Godin says that he has not heard back from VLCT in regards to the storage and donation policies as of yet, but that he will email a reminder after the meeting. The issue is tabled for a future meeting.

John Deere Loader Update: Jeff says that the original invoice was for \$20,000, and the invoice has been lowered to \$15,687.41. Ron clarifies that the original invoice was for \$19,200. Ron explains that the loader had gone in for a replacement seal on the right side, and the dealer did several other repairs without checking with anyone in the town. Ron says that he stayed in contact with the dealer, who apologized repeatedly for the mix up. Ron says that Brad had asked them to do the annual service on the loader while they had it in the shop. Eric Godin asks if the dealer had called to inform the town of the additional repairs needed, would those repairs have been approved. Josie Leavitt asks what kind of policy could the town put in place to prevent this happening again. Eric says that he doesn't think a policy could have prevented this from happening. Ron says that he would like the money to pay for these repairs to come from the Highway Department Equipment Surplus fund. ***Jeff Parizo moves to approve the service invoice for United Construction and Forestry, Invoice number 9114685 dated 09/21/2021 for \$15,687.41 to come out of the Highway Department capital equipment fund. Eric Godin seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

Courthouse Update: States Attorney Doug DiSabito says that he has scheduled several interviews with the local news stations regarding the closing of the Grand Isle County courthouse. Doug says that there isn't any new information to provide, but says that he is not letting the issue die, and will keep up the pressure on the judiciary. Jeff says that the side judges are having someone come in to give an estimate on replacing the air handling system to make it COVID compliant. Ron Bushway says that during the countywide meeting on the issue, the state judiciary had said it would cost \$1 million per courthouse to upgrade the ventilation, and Ron wanted to know where the number came from. Doug says that he had no idea where that number had come from. Adam White says that he emailed every member of the Supreme Court with questions, and asks Doug if it would be a good idea to have the residents email the Supreme Court, as they are in charge of the courthouses. Doug says he thinks it would be a good idea, but that he had been asked not to email the Supreme Court further, as it could pose a

conflict of interest further down the road.

Zoning Bylaws: Jeff says that the public hearing for the bylaw change will be on October 25th, 2021.

Monitor for Zoom: Jeff Parizo says that he feels we should just purchase a new display for the town. Jeff says that the chosen monitor is an Insignia 39 inch display for \$239.99. Adam asks if a cart is needed to go with it. Eric says that a cart can be used or the display could be mounted on the wall. Eric says that a computer will be needed full time to be used for Zoom, as well as some HDMI cable extenders. ***Adam White moves to approve not to exceed \$400 to purchase various A/V equipment including the mentioned monitors to be used for public meetings. Ron Bushway seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.***

VII. REVIEW AND APPROVE WARRANTS

Eric Godin moves to have Jeff Parizo sign the warrants. AnnaMarie DeMars seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

AnnaMarie Demars moves to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm. Adam White seconds. No further discussion. Jeff calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

Select Board Scribe: _____
Eric Godin

Select Board Chair: _____
Jeff Parizo