

Grand Isle Select Board
Minutes of the Meeting for Monday, March 7th, 2022 at 6:00pm
at Grand Isle Town Office and via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board Members Present: Josie Leavitt; Couper Shaw; Jeff Parizo; Adam White; Eric Godin

Community Members Present: Diane Cota; Rachael Griggs; Denise Abbot-Douglas; Sue Moquin; Tonya Poutry; Bianca Adams; Beth Deimling; Shannon Bundy; Ellen Paradee; John Lafayette; Mike Donoghue; Roth Perry; Jennifer Morway; Jason Moquin; Ron Bushway; Colleen Bushway; Elise Whittemore; Elaine Prescott; Charles Hollan; Bill Stone; Mary Parizo; Sue Lawrence; Mitchel Richardson; Sue Campbell;

II. FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS

Nominate and Elect Selectboard Chair and Vice Chair: *Eric Godin moves to nominate Adam White as Select Board Chair. Josie Leavitt seconds. No discussion. The vote passes unanimously, with Adam White abstaining.*

Adam White moves to nominate Josie Leavitt as Vice-Chair of the Board. Eric Godin seconds. No further discussion. Vote passes unanimously, with Josie Leavitt abstaining.

Amend Agenda for Matters Not Listed:
Minutes tabled until next meeting. – Eric

III. GUEST OPEN COMMENT

Denise Abbott-Douglas says that she called Joe Longo with a question about the stickers for the transfer station and got a rude response. Denise asks for clarification if the blue stickers for the transfer station were being done away with. It is determined that stickers are still required, and can be obtained at the Town Office. Adam White says that there is a miswording in the town report on this issue, and that the Road Commissioner will speak with the transfer station employees about their customer service. There is discussion about whether town residents have to have their sticker in the car. It is determined that people could be turned away without a sticker.

Michael Inners says that he is concerned the town is subsidizing private business, referring to the Turn to Joy Daycare being considered to move into the Annex, as well as other items mentioned in the Planning Commission ARPA discussions. Michael says that it is very difficult to ensure help given is dispensed fairly, and also difficult to ensure that the benefits will go to the taxpayers. Emily Clark from planning indicates that the wording of the listed ARPA text comes directly from the ARPA law.

IV. HIGHWAY DEPT / BUILDINGS FACILITIES MANAGER UPDATE

Ron Bushway says that the AEDs have been updated and reinstalled by David Leake. Ron goes on to say that he had not set the fuel to automatic delivery at the Annex, but will be doing so.

Ron says that the ditch over my Vantines froze over and had to be dug out, and there is a frozen culvert on East Shore North. Ron says to clear those, the town has to bring a 300-gallon water tank, a generator, and a steam sprayer to clear those, and it takes a lot of time. Ron distributes some pictures he took on Lover's Lane, where half of the road had been washed out. Jeff asks if there was a water leak. Ron says there was no leak, but there had been a snow buildup in a field which held back a lot of rain that had fallen, and that snow had given way and all the water ran down the hill. Ron says that they put sandbags down to divert the water back into the ditch.

V. NEW BUSINESS

Designate Meeting Time/Place, Posting locations and Newspapers: Adam White moves to designate the first and third Monday's of the Month at 6pm as the designated time, and Grand Isle Town Office and Zoom as the designated locations for Select Board meetings. Jeff Parizo seconds. No further discussion. Adam calls the vote which passes unanimously.

Adam White says that posting locations need to be determined, and that the town has typically used Emmons Supermarket and the Post Office as those location. Eric Godin agrees, but says that he would like the town to see about having a message board posted on the exterior of the post office, as the limited hours on Saturday make it impossible for people to see the agenda posted there until the day of the meeting. Adam says that he will reach out to see if this is a possibility. **Jeff Parizo moves to have agendas posted at Emmons Supermarket and the Post Office. Eric Godin seconds. No discussion. Adam calls the vote, which passes unanimously.**

Jeff Parizo moves to have the Islander be the newspaper of record for the Grand Isle Select Board. Josie Leavitt seconds. No discussion. Adam calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

Appoint Tree Warden: Adam White moves to nominate Bill Baron for a 1 year term as Tree Warden. Jeff Parizo seconds. Adam White calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

Adam says that there are a few other positions that need to be appointed, but Adam is looking for clarification on term lengths for the other positions, and the appointments will be taken up at a future meeting. There is discussion about the term lengths of Justice of the Peace.

Ratification of Town Meeting: Jeff Parizo says that a special town vote must be held to ratify the previous vote, due to the error in the warning. Jeff says that he had a phone conversation with David Rue about it, and was told that a special town meeting has to be held more than 30 days after the vote. There will be one item on the ballot to ratify the previous town meeting results. There is discussion about the need to post

notification of the town audit being available in the Islander, with it being determined that the audit report needed to be available 10 days prior to Town Meeting. There is further discussion about creating an administrative calendar to keep track of items and responsibilities the Select Board needs to address so things don't get missed.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

Annex – Public Notice of Lease: Jeff Parizo says that due to the Annex being a town building, there has to be a notice of public lease. Adam White questions the wording of the final paragraph. Jeff says that it was a typo where 'sold' was used rather than 'lease', and the attorney will be correcting it. Jeff says that the town attorney is drawing up the lease. It is noted that Turn to Joy is investing \$25,000 to improve the building, and those improvements wouldn't be removed at the end of the 5-year lease. Michael Inners says he feels that this plan does constitute a subsidy, as market value would be around \$1,500 per month for commercial space, and he doesn't feel that this is a reasonable transaction. Josie Leavitt says that she opened a book store in Shelburne, the town gave a great deal of help, as they really wanted a book store in town, and this seems like a very reasonable plan, with the tenant putting \$25,000 into the building. Jennifer Morway points out that the building is about 3000 square feet, but the usable space for daycare is under 1500 square feet, while Turn to Joy would be paying to heat the entire building. Jennifer says that in her experience, a business coming in often times will not pay rent as they invest money in the commercial space they are renting. Jennifer says that the Annex was with a realtor, and there were no offers on the building. It is pointed out that Ms. Egan is putting a lot of her own effort into this effort, as she is finding and hiring the contractors, has staff lined up for the Annex location, and is lining up clients to have their children at the new location, with minimal need for the town to invest resources. Ellen Paradee asks how long the building has been vacant, which is answered since June 2020. Ellen says that she feels this proposal is a win-win. Shannon Bundy says she feels the discussion has been reasonable, but still feels that this constitutes a subsidy, as Turn to Joy is a for profit business. Shannon asks if the building was marketed to any other groups other than daycares. Emily Clark says that the realtor was looking for daycares, but was open to any offers, and that the Annex is already configured for a daycare, with amenities geared towards children. It is pointed out that reconfiguring the building for other uses would be very expensive, as the upper floor is not handicap accessible at all. Joe Longo asks if there is any state statute against the town acting as a landlord. It is determined that there is not. Adam says that the notice of the lease is to let the residents know about the basic terms of the lease, and give them a chance to address their concerns. ***Jeff Parizo moves to have Adam White sign the notice of lease and post it in the two designated locations in town. Eric Godin seconds. No further discussion. Adam calls the vote which passes unanimously.***

IT - Charles: Adam White asks Charles what IT responsibilities he has been responsible for, and which duties he feels he will be able to continue doing. Charles says that his biggest problem is running Zoom meetings, as that forces him to be available at a certain time and place, and he hopes that individual boards can handle running their

own Zoom meetings. Charles says that he doesn't feel that posting agendas and minutes should be a big problem, but he has difficulties getting to the town office while it is open due to his full-time job duties. Charles agrees to send a list of what duties he can continue doing, and what duties should be delegated to individual boards. Adam asks how difficult it would be to move the town's domain to a .gov designation. Charles says that it would be some extra paperwork and the town would have to pay some fees. Charles says that there have been some malicious attacks on the website, and that switching to a .gov would prevent outside actors from spoofing the town's website. Charles goes on to say that switching things over would require some setup to make it work, as those kinds of networks have to be set up by hand and take time. Lucille Campbell asks if it would cost the town money to switch to .gov. Charles answers that there would be a nominal fee, but isn't sure exactly what it is. Adam says that there is a lot of discussion to be had still, but he would like to see the boards taking more responsibilities on in regards to their postings. Shannon Bundy says that there is a local cybersecurity professor is always looking for opportunities to have their students intern in a practical setting. Chuck says that he feels the town should invest in having personnel with IT security experience to deal with cybersecurity threats, as there are frequent attacks on the town's website.

VII. REVIEW AND SIGN WARRANTS

Jeff Parizo moves to have Chair Adam White sign the warrants. Eric Godin seconds. No discussion. Adam calls the vote, which passes unanimously.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Eric Godin moves to adjourn the meeting at 7:39pm. Josie Leavitt seconds. No discussion. Adam calls the vote, which passes unanimously.