

Grand Isle Select Board
Grand Isle Town Office 9 Hyde Rd, Grand Isle VT
Minutes of the Special Meeting for Monday June 26, 2023

CALL TO ORDER: Selectboard Chair, Couper Shaw, calls the meeting to order at 6:00pm

Board Members Present: Josie Leavitt, Jeff Parizo, Couper Shaw, Ellen Howrigan

Community Members Present: Jean Prouty, Lucille Campbell, Jonathan Debono, Jen Morway, Rachael Griggs, Mike Donoghue, Deb Lang, Jeff Luce, William Shaw, Emily Clark, Kristina Botala,

Add to Agenda: Couper Shaw adds Selectboard Rules & Procedures to New Business, Rachael Griggs adds Griswold Paving to New Business

New Business:

Selectboard Rules & Procedures: Couper Shaw reminds everyone that the Selectboard signed the Selectboard Rules & Procedures at the beginning of this year's session in March and that by attending the meetings, the community members agree to follow. Couper Shaw reads the Rules and Procedures out loud. Josie Leavitt asks Couper Shaw how he would like them to get his attention if they would like to speak. Couper Shaw says he would like community members to raise their hands and only after the Selectboard members have had the opportunity to discuss the issue, that the community members would then have 10 minutes to speak. Couper Shaw says for Selectboard members, he would like them to either raise their hand or ask to be recognized by the Chair.

Griswold Paving: Rachael Griggs says that the hole on Griswold Road has been paved and would like to know if the town fixed that. Couper Shaw explains that the people who built the bridge had agreed to repair that hole. Couper Shaw says Ron Bushway will give an update on this at the next regular meeting.

Old Business

Special Election & Town Report Distribution Discussion: Couper Shaw says that two individuals have submitted candidate petitions to fill the Selectboard vacancy. Couper Shaw explains that naming the individuals on the warning is not advised. Couper Shaw says he would like to talk about the Town Report Distribution before making a motion. Couper Shaw asks the other members of the Selectboard if they have any questions about what the Town Attorney sent in regards to the special election warning. Jeff Parizo says that in regards to the Town Report he feels they should add the second paragraph, article 2, of what the town attorney sent them to the special election warning. Jeff Parizo asks if anyone would like him to read that out loud, members of the community nod indicating they do. Jeff Parizo reads article 2 as follows:

Shall the voters approve mailing the Town Report to each voter at least 10 days before the Town's annual meeting per 24 V.S.A. § 1682(a) in lieu of providing notice of availability of the Town Report in the newspaper as approved by the voters in March 2010?

Josie Leavitt says she feels like it is a good idea to allow the towns people to vote on this but is worried about the cost since they have not budgeted for this. Josie Leavitt explains that she contacted a printer

that she has used and their estimate for printing 1,700 town reports was about \$3,500 and that their estimate on flat rate mailing would be about \$6,000. Josie Leavitt says that printer is working on a quote and will have it to her before the July 17th Selectboard meeting. Jeff Parizo advises that they should reach out to the South Hero town clerk to see who they use for a printer and see how much it costs them. The Selectboard discusses whether having the town report distribution on the special election ballot or waiting until the March 2024 town vote makes more sense. Ellen Howrigan remarks that she feels it should be on the special election ballot because it has been discussed many times and the towns people who have requested it have a valid point. Josie Leavitt notes that if they use a printer rather than print at the town office, they will have to gather the information for the report and have it ready to go in order to schedule the printing in order to have enough time to mail it out. Jeff Parizo says that this would mean they need to schedule their audit sooner. Ellen Howrigan says that she spoke with Fred Duplessis of Sullivan & Powers and he advised that they call to schedule the audit soon. Ellen Howrigan says that she emailed Melissa Boutin about scheduling the audit and is waiting to hear back from her. Jeff Parizo notes that they have money in unassigned funds. Couper Shaw reiterates his concerns about costs for outsourcing printing and mailing ~1,700 town reports. Couper Shaw asks the board that if they put this on the ballot and it passes, are they ok with spending between \$5,000-8,000 of unassigned funds to print and mail the town report to every registered voter. The rest of the selectboard says yes. Ellen Howrigan asks if someone can follow-up with Melissa Boutin to see if the audit has been scheduled. Josie Leavitt says she just emailed Fred Duplessis to ask if it has been scheduled. Couper Shaw says he will contact Melissa Boutin to follow-up. Jen Morway asks if this would be voted for every year. Couper Shaw says he believes the Selectboard would have to opt to add it to the ballot every year. Josie Leavitt says she will speak to the South Hero town clerk about their process of printing and mailing their town reports and will speak to at least three printers about pricing and will give an update at the July 17th Selectboard meeting. Deb Lang comments that the mail service has not been reliable and they should keep that in mind when scheduling mailing out the town report before voting day. Ellen Howrigan notes that distributing the town report 10 day before town meeting day is in statute, but they can distribute it earlier than that. Jonathan Debono comments that having the town vote on whether to mail the town report out every year is a good idea. Deb Lang asks if they do mail out the town report, would there will be extra copies available at the town office for anyone that might not have received one in the mail. Couper Shaw says that there would be extras available. Couper Shaw asks if the Selectboard is ok with removing the names of the candidates from the special election warning per advice from the town attorney, the selectboard says yes. Josie Leavitt asks if they should make a motion. Couper Shaw says they need to make a motion to approve the warning being posted and that it also must combine both articles from the lawyer. The Selectboard goes over article 1 of the warning and what wording needs to be changed in order to not list the candidates' names. The Selectboard goes over the wording of article 2.

Ellen Howrigan makes a motion to approve the warning to read as: The legal voters of the Town of Grand Isle are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Grand Isle Municipal Offices located at 9 Hyde Road on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, beginning at seven o'clock in the morning (7:00 A.M.) when the polls will open, and continuing until seven o'clock in the afternoon (7:00 P.M.) when the polls will close, to vote by Australian ballot on the following Articles: Article 1: Shall the voters elect an individual to fill a vacancy on the Selectboard for the remaining approximately seven months of a three-year term, ending in March, 2024? Article 2: Shall the voters approve mailing the Town Report to each voter at least 10 days before the Town's annual meeting per 24 V.S.A. § 1682(a) in lieu

*of providing notice of availability of the Town Report in the newspaper as approved by the voters in March 2010? The legal voters of the Town of Grand Isle are further notified that voter qualification, registration, and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated. Dated at Grand Isle, Vermont, this 26 day of June, 2023. Josie Leavitt seconds. Couper Shaw comments that he does not feel as though they should be putting something on the ballot that they have not budgeted for. **No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls a roll call vote: Josie Leavitt- yes, Jeff Parizo- yes, Ellen Howrigan- yes, Couper Shaw- no.***

Review and Sign Warrants:

Jeff Parizo makes a motion that the Chair approve and sign the warrants. Josie Leavitt seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.

Adjournment:

Jeff Parizo makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51pm. Josie Leavitt seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.

DRAFT