

Grand Isle Select Board
Grand Isle Town Office 9 Hyde Rd, Grand Isle VT
Minutes of the Meeting for Monday July 17, 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, Ron Bushway, Rachael Griggs, Denise Abbott-Douglass, Sue Moquin, William Shaw, Emily Clark, Jonathan Debono, Erin Moriarty, Jen Morway, Mary Parizo, Joe Longo, Mike Donoghue, Bianca Lafayette, John Lafayette

Add to Agenda: Jeff Parizo adds Post Office to New Business and Town Signs to Old Business, Couper Shaw adds Local Hazard Mitigation to old Business, Rachael Griggs adds Email for 2023 Audit to Old Business, Denise Abbott-Douglass adds noise to New Business, Emily Clark adds Update on Planning Process to Old Business

Review and Approve Minutes:

June 19, 2023: Ellen Howrigan says there is a correction that needs to be made, that the minutes say that Couper Shaw reviewed warrants and he did not. Couper Shaw says he did review the warrants. Ellen Howrigan points out that he did not review and stamp the invoices and that needs to be reflected in the minutes. ***Jeff Parizo makes a motion to approve the June 19, 2023 minutes with corrections. Josie Leavitt seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.***

June 26, 2023 Special Meeting: ***Josie Leavitt makes a motion to approve the June 26, 2023 minutes. Ellen Howrigan seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.***

Guests:

Sue Moquin- Letter re: The Islander Invoice for Longo Publication: Sue Moquin reads the following letter:

Dear Selectboard Members: First, we would like to thank The Islander for the very nice publication of our "thank you" to Joe Longo for all his service to the community. Second, we would like to thank the Chairman of this Selectboard for his comments of appreciation for all Joe's service to the community. Third, we have taken the suggestion of a current member of this Selectboard and "passed the hat" to collect the funds to pay for the publication in The Islander. Finally, we made a mistake in asking The Islander to invoice the Town of Grand Isle. However, since a former Selectboard set a precedent to accept "donations", please find attached to this communication a receipt for funds paid at the town office as payment, in full, of the invoice for the publication. Sincerely, Susanne Moquin

Jonathan Debono & Erin Moriarty- Pearl Street Block Party: Jonathan Debono says that he and Erin Moriarty would like to increase community engagement by holding a block party on Pearl Street. Erin Moriarty says that in the past she has been part of block parties and that they were always a great way to connect and get to know your neighbors. Erin Moriarty gives some ideas and examples of what they would like to do. Erin Moriarty asks the selectboard if they can block off part of Pearl Street to hold a block party. Jonathan Debono explains that they would like to hold it in the fall, once the tourists are gone. Jonathan Debono explains his idea in where they could block the road without interrupting too much traffic. Couper Shaw asks where the area of Pearl Street that the block party would be. Jonathan Debono explains that he was thinking either north of Rapmm Lane or near Bell Hill. Couper Shaw says that he thinks this block

party is a good idea, that it is good for building the community, and that having it after the tourists leave is a smart plan. Josie Leavitt tells Jonathan Debono and Erin Moriarty that she would advise them to coordinate with Sheriff Ray Allen. Jeff Parizo says that there is a Special Events Ordinance that they should review. Jonathan Debono asks Angie Low if she can help him get the Special Events Ordinance, Angie Low says she can. Jonathan Debono says they will return to the selectboard once they have a date set and that it will most likely be in September.

Highway Department Update: Ron Bushway reports that Pearl Street has been paved. Ron Bushway explains that they took a few days to fill-in the driveways because the pavement was higher. Ron Bushway says that people often ask why they keep so much gravel on-hand and explains that it is because it takes a lot of gravel and it needs to be the same color, that they use black stone from North Hero. Ron Bushway says they are still mowing roadsides. Ron Bushway says since the storm, they had to open the culvert at Mary Crest several times. Ron Bushway notes that yesterday the lake was so high that it was flowing into the marsh. Ron Bushway says that for the last week they have had to check the culverts and will be on-going for the rest of the summer.

Curb Cut for Andy Shaw 142 West Shore Road: Ron Bushway says they spoke to Andy Shaw at 142 West Shore last week and that he did the necessary brush-cutting. Couper Shaw asks if the rest of the selectboard has seen this. Ellen Howrigan says she has not and asks when it was sent out. Couper Shaw says he is not sure. Jeff Parizo comments that he has not seen it either. Couper Shaw says they will put this on the agenda for the August 7th meeting to give the rest of the selectboard a chance to review it. Ron Bushway comments that it should be an easy one to review because it is straight-forward. The Selectboard decides to review it now in order to make a motion this evening. Josie Leavitt asks Ron Bushway if it is okay that they are not adding a culvert. Ron Bushway says that is what they agreed on. ***Josie Leavitt makes a motion to approve the curb cut for Andy Shaw at 142 West Shore Road. Couper Shaw seconds. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.***

Buildings Facilities Manager Update: Ron Bushway says that the Hyde Log Cabin has had its surveillance upgraded. Ron Bushway says that they fixed the air conditioning at the Town Office. Ron Bushway says that they did a second treatment for snakes and wasps at the Town Office.

New Business:

Food Truck Ordinance: Jen Morway explains that the Planning Commission was asked to look at ordinances pertaining to food trucks for the bylaws, that it does not make sense to have it in the bylaws and that the town should consider creating an ordinance instead. Jen Morway says that the surrounding towns have an ordinance for food trucks rather than have it in their bylaws, that ordinances are easier to modify than bylaws. Jen Morway explains that the Planning Commission sent an email to the selectboard about what might be included in a food truck ordinance. Josie Leavitt says that it makes sense to follow how the other towns on the islands do it. Couper Shaw says that he will create a draft ordinance with what the Planning Commission sent them and go over it at the next meeting. Jen Morway notes that they may want to broaden the title to Mobile Vendor Ordinance so that it may cover other mobile services such as a mobile hair salon. Jean Prouty asks how this ordinance may affect the Farmer's Market. Jen Morway says that in the Planning Commission's recommendations regarding a mobile vendor ordinance to the Selectboard, they said that they think the ordinance should clarify that the Farmer's Market be exempt from the ordinance. Jeff Parizo explains that the Farmer's Market has a conditional use permit from the Development Review Board and would be exempt from the ordinance for that reason. Denise Abbott-Douglass asks if the ice cream truck that has been in the Islands for several years would be affected, noting that it is from New York. Couper Shaw says he is not sure but will find out.

Make-up Date for July 3rd Selectboard Meeting: The Selectboard decides that a meeting on July 31st is not needed and will call a special meeting if needed.

ARPA Monies CD: Jeff Parizo says at the June 19th meeting, it was said that Melissa Boutin would be asked to investigate CD rates for the ARPA funds. Couper Shaw says that Melissa Boutin was not aware that she was supposed to investigate CD rates and stated that currently, the ARPA funds are making 3.99% in money markets. Couper Shaw says that they most likely will not get a better rate elsewhere and he believes it should remain in that money market account. Ellen Howrigan disagrees and says she thinks that that other possibilities should be researched. Ron Bushway says that Key Bank is up to 5%. Couper Shaw asks the present members of the Planning Commission if they have a preference on how long to keep the funds in the account. Emily Clark says she would have to look at their calendar in order to make a recommendation, that they have a meeting next week and will discuss it. Couper Shaw says he will contact Melissa Boutin about looking into the rates at Key Bank. Emily Clark asks to confirm that asking the Town Treasurer to investigate CD rates is a logical task to request of a town treasurer. Couper Shaw says yes, that Melissa Boutin just did not know that task was given to her at the last meeting. Emily Clark says that it seems this task would be a matter of course for the Treasurer to do. Couper Shaw says that Melissa Boutin feels confident with where the funds are now. Emily Clark says that getting a monthly or quarterly report with recommendations from the treasurer on accounts would be helpful. Josie Leavitt says that getting those funds in on a higher interest rate, even if it is for 9 months, would be worth it. Ellen Howrigan says she thinks that since they will not be meeting for another three weeks, that they should consider holding a special meeting to decide on where to move the ARPA funds. Jean Prouty notes that they should make sure to ask for the rates for municipalities because they usually have lower rates and shorter terms than personal accounts. Jonathan Debono mentions that they should find out what the penalty is for withdrawing early on a CD. Couper Shaw says he will mention all of this to Melissa Boutin.

Old Town Garage Left Over Monies: Couper Shaw says they need to decide what to do with the leftover funds from the Old Town Garage demolition. Couper Shaw says there is about \$47,000 left over. The Selectboard agrees that the leftover funds should go back to the taxpayers. Jeff Parizo says the bill for the demolition came to \$52,120 leaving \$47,880 leftover. Jeff Parizo asks if they need a motion in order to give it back to the taxpayers. Josie Leavitt said that it was voted to spend up to \$100,00, explaining that they did not spend \$100,000, they just had the flexibility to spend up to that amount if needed and they can take the remainder off the tax bill.

Pearl Street Paving: This item was discussed under Highway Department Update.

Post Office: Jeff Parizo asks the board if they would like to hold a special meeting to discuss the issues with our post office. Jeff Parizo says he would like the board to write a letter of our concerns to send to the post office supervisor. Jeff Parizo notes that he knows that they might not be able to do anything since the post office is a federal entity, but he feels as though it is important to voice their concerns as a board. Josie Leavitt says she knows that state representatives have no power over this because it is all federal but she feels they still need to say something and would like to also send it to their federal delegation. Josie Leavitt says that she has been working closely with Becca Balint and Peter Welch's offices on this issue. Josie Leavitt says that she has not heard back from Bernie Sander's office. Josie Leavitt notes that the issues with the post office have nothing to do with the employees of the Grand Isle post office. The Selectboard decides to hold a special meeting with the post office as the only agenda item on Thursday July 20th at 6pm. John Lafayette comments that from his discussions, there is a problem with the employees and that it starts with the postmaster. Jean Prouty comments that she has heard rumors of closing the Grand Isle post office and wants to remind everyone that Grand Isle was the first rural mail carrier. Denise Abbott-Douglass comments that she checked on the packages that were in the parking lot of the post office because it was about to rain and she found that there were supplies for Grand Isle Rescue out there. Jen Morway comments that the landlord of the post office has offered to build an addition and the postmaster has declined. Jen Morway says that she has also been told that the postmaster of Grand

Isle has been an issue for employees and that may be adding to the issues. Jen Morway says they might want to consider getting metal storage containers to house the pallets of packages that do not fit in the post office. Josie Leavitt notes that she has spoken to many of the past mail carriers about why they quit and she has not heard any of them complain about the Grand Isle postmaster. Rachael Griggs comments that Grand Isle is not the only rural community with this issue, that Shelburne is having the same issues. Couper Shaw says he feels as though part of the problem is that no one wants to work for \$19 an hour for 12-hour days. Ellen Howrigan notes that everyone should continue sending letters to our congresspeople and senators, that it is important to voice their concerns. Josie Leavitt agrees and says that the volume of letters matter and notes that she listed the contact information for Sanders, Balint, and Welch in her Front Porch Forum post on July 13th and that everyone should continue writing letters because it will make a difference. Bianca Lafayette says she has been in touch with Sanders and Welch's offices and that Welch's office has been keeping track of who has been receiving mail and who has not.

Noise: Denise Abbott-Douglass says everyone around her started celebrating the 4th of July on July 2nd. Denise Abbott-Douglass says that fireworks went off constantly from July 2nd to July 7th. Denise Abbott-Douglass says that she called Josie Leavitt and Couper Shaw on July 2nd at 9:45pm and received a return call from Josie Leavitt but not from Couper Shaw. Denise Abbott-Douglass says she has since been told that she could call the sheriff or 911 for that issue in the future. Denise Abbott-Douglass asks if the Selectboard gets a list of who has permits for fireworks. Couper Shaw says that he has never seen a permit since he has been on the board. Josie Leavitt says that she spoke with the sheriff the day after Denise Abbott-Douglass' phone call and reported the issue. The Sheriff told Josie Leavitt that they sent an officer out and that it would not happen again. Denise Abbott-Douglass asks Couper Shaw why he never called her back. Couper Shaw asks Denise Abbott-Douglass what she expected the Selectboard to do about this issue at 9:45pm. Denise Abbott-Douglass says she expected someone to make a call. Bianca Lafayette asks Couper Shaw why he did not call Denise Abbott-Douglass back, that this is not the first time he has not returned calls or emails to constituents. Jen Morway asks if there is a noise ordinance. The Selectboard says there is not. Jen Morway says that it would be helpful if the ordinances were viewable on the town website and that it might be helpful if the town created a noise ordinance. Rachael Griggs comments that this issue is an issue for the sheriff and not the Selectboard. Jen Morway comments that without a noise ordinance, there is nothing for the sheriff to enforce. Jeff Parizo says he believes there is a state regulation that says no noise after 10pm that is enforceable by law enforcement. Emily Clark says that there are towns that have their own noise ordinances. Josie Leavitt looks up the statute on Vermont Statutes Online regarding noise at night and finds Title 13, Chapter 19, Subchapter 4, Section 1022:

A person who, between sunset and sunrise, disturbs and breaks the public peace by firing guns, blowing horns, or other unnecessary and offensive noise shall be fined not more than \$50.00. However, this section shall not prevent a person employing workers, for the purpose of giving notice to his or her employees, from ringing bells or using whistles or gongs of such size and weight, in such manner, and at such hours as the selectboard members of the town, the aldermen of the city, or the trustees of the village may prescribe in writing.

Josie Leavitt says she will draft a noise ordinance with the VLCT template. Couper Shaw says that Noise Ordinance will be on the next agenda.

Old Business:

Fraud Policy Update: Josie Leavitt says she has not heard back from him yet. Tabled until next regular meeting.

Opioid Settlement Discussion: Ellen Howrigan says that they received the curriculum for drug education for the elementary school, but it was only the base curriculum. Ellen Howrigan explains that the options, when ordering, were not clear and she needs to order curriculum for each individual grade. Ellen Howrigan says that it would be another \$175 to order the rest of them and would like Melissa Boutin to do that. ***Ellen Howrigan makes a motion to authorize Melissa Boutin to order the individual grade curriculum which are \$25 a piece for kindergartner through 6th grade.*** Josie Leavitt asks if they will have to buy it each year, Ellen Howrigan says she does not think so, that they should be able to reuse it each year. ***Josie Leavitt seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.*** Couper Shaw says he will let Melissa Boutin know. Couper Shaw asks if there are any ideas on what to do with the rest of the money. Couper Shaw says he feels they should give it to rescue and the sheriff for training and needle clean-up. Josie Leavitt says she agrees that they should give it to rescue but asks if they are able to donate to the sheriff and asks if they are a 5013c. Couper Shaw says he is not sure. Josie Leavitt says they should look into the legality of donating it to the sheriff. Couper Shaw says they put it on the agenda for the next meeting and make a decision then.

Donaldson Dump Site Discussion Update: Josie Leavitt says she wrote to Danielle Fitzko. Danielle Fitzko gave Josie Leavitt contact information for the person in charge of the state park, whom she reached out to but has not hear back from. Josie Leavitt reached out to Danielle Fitzko again to let her know that nothing has been resolved and asked for further advice. Danielle Fitzko said she would take care of it but is away for a couple weeks. Josie Leavitt says she is staying on top of this and will continue updating everyone on its progress.

Griswold Road Paving: Ron Bushway says the paving on Griswold is completed and was paid for by Cianbro.

Transfer Station Accident: Couper Shaw says that they got the accident report but it looks like not much was in the report. Ron Bushway gives a summary of events the day of the accident. Ron Bushway says that there was no officer visit at the site of the accident due to law enforcement responding to a burglary that day. Ron Bushway says he has the needed information of the individual that caused the accident for insurance. Ron Bushway says they have not moved anything and the transfer station still needs to be fixed. Ellen Howrigan notes that she took pictures the day of the accident that she will send Ron Bushway.

Town Signs: Josie Leavitt says that the sign needs to be taken off the poles to paint it. Josie Leavitt says that the person doing it will only charge for materials and not labor. The Selectboard discusses the painting of both signs. Couper Shaw says he will invite Shannon as a guest for the next meeting to discuss this topic.

Local Hazard Mitigation Plan: Couper Shaw says that they need to sign the local hazard mitigation plan. Josie Leavitt asks if the rest of the board has seen it. Couper Shaw says he is not sure if it was sent to the rest of the board. Josie Leavitt asks Couper Shaw to send it to the rest of the board. Couper Shaw says they will put this on the next regular meeting agenda.

Email for 2023 Audit: Rachael Griggs says that at the last meeting Ellen Howrigan mentioned that in regards to setting a date of the 2023 audit, that she emailed Melissa Boutin and never heard back from her. Rachael Griggs says she spoke with Melissa Boutin about this and found that the email was worded in such a way that no response seemed necessary. Ellen Howrigan says she did not realize she worded it that way and apologizes for making that comment. Ellen Howrigan explains that she thought Melissa Boutin would reply with a date. Ellen Howrigan asks if Melissa Boutin set a date for the audit. Rachael Griggs says yes. Ellen Howrigan asks for the scheduled date. Josie Leavitt says she contacted Fred Duplessis and asked when it is scheduled for and once she hears back from him she will update the board.

Update on Planning Process: Emily Clark says they are planning a kick-off process with the community on August 8th at 6pm at the Grand Isle Elementary School. Emily Clark says that it will be led by Fred Brunswick of Northwest Regional Planning and will be a combination presentation and engagement exercises for community members. Emily Clark invites

everyone to join them and to bring a friend. Emily Clark says there will be pizza. Emily Clark says there will be a follow-up meeting on October 24th at 6pm at the Grand Isle Elementary School. Emily Clark says they will mail out postcards with this information. Josie Leavitt says she cannot make the August 8th meeting and asks how she might be able to get a recap of the event. Emily Clark says that there will be a zoom recording. The Selectboard discusses the idea of having members of the Selectboard attend the Planning Commission meetings between August and October.

Review and Sign Warrants: *Josie Leavitt makes a motion for the Chair to review, approve, and sign the warrants. Couper Shaw seconds. Ellen Howrigan says that she has not had a chance to look over the warrants. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote- Jeff Parizo- yes, Josie Leavitt- yes, Couper Shaw- yes, Ellen Howrigan- no.*

Adjournment: *Josie Leavitt makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:05pm. Couper Shaw seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.*

DRAFT