

Grand Isle Select Board
Grand Isle Town Office 9 Hyde Rd, Grand Isle VT
Minutes of the Meeting for Thursday July 20, 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: Rachael Griggs, Linda Thompson, Kathleen Vandevord, Mary Parizo, Kristina Botala, Dave Capen, Jen Morway, David Sands, Leslie Ward, Charlotte Kennedy

Old Business:

Grand Isle Post Office: The selectboard goes over the letter they drafted to send to the federal delegation regarding the Grand Isle Post Office. Josie Leavitt reads the letter:

The Grand Isle Selectboard would like to acknowledge the issues that are facing our post office and mail delivery.

We have heard from many residents about the mail service in our town, with some postal routes not getting mail for many days. This is not acceptable. We are a rural town that depends on the USPS and there is no reliability of timely service and delivery. Rural residents are dependent on delivery of medications and many other items that are otherwise not available. We do not have a pharmacy in our county and often insurance companies require people to use mail order for prescriptions. It is imperative this is fixed, and rural communities have reliable, dependable service.

As a Board we are working together to bring this to the attention of the Federal Delegation because the Post Office is a Federal Agency. Our State Reps have been in regular contact with our Senators and Congresswoman's offices. In support of our town residents, we as a Selectboard are adding our voices as well.

The Grand Isle Post Office is a small office that has been inundated with mail and packages with inadequate room or staff to accommodate the volume. The volume is likely not going away. Our townspeople deserve better and we are asking you to work together for a solution for our town and other towns with the same challenges.

Sincerely, The Grand Isle Selectboard

Community members take turns voicing their concerns over the issues with the post office and how the issues have affected them. The Selectboard explains that the letters will be sent to Peter Welch, Bernie Sanders, Becca Balint, Louis DeJoy, and the New England USPS supervisor. The selectboard expresses their concerns with the issues with the post office.

Jeff Parizo makes a motion to accept the Post Office letter and spend up to \$250 to mail out and to print the letter in The Islander. Ellen Howrigan seconds. Josie Leavitt asks Angie Low if she has everything needed to send the letter to The Islander and mail the letters out. Angie Low clarifies that the letters will be sent on letterhead to Peter Welch, Becca Balint, Bernie Sanders, and Louis DeJoy. Angie Low asks the selectboard if they will sign each separate letter, they say they will. Angie Low asks about the USPS supervisor they would like to send it to, Josie Leavitt says she believes their name is in The Islander article. Angie Low says she will look into that. **No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.**

Adjournment: *Jeff Parizo makes a motion to adjourn the at 6:31pm. Seconds. No further discussion. Couper Shaw calls the vote which passes unanimously.*

DRAFT