

# 01-19-2026 Selectboard Meeting

## Meeting minutes

### OPEN PUBLIC HEARING

Chair Jeff Parizo opened the public hearing for the adoption of the Town Charter at 6:00 PM.

### DISCUSSION OF WARNED ARTICLE – Adoption of Town Charter

Jeff Parizo began by addressing a question from the previous meeting about the local option tax language in the proposed charter. He read from the charter section: "Tax collected shall be paid to town pursuant to... the cost administration collection tax shall be paid pursuant to the tax via town, paid to the town pursuant to shall be paid to town on a quarterly basis, may be expended by the town for municipal service only and not for educational expenditures."

Jennifer Morway asked what exactly that sentence meant. Jeff explained that the attorney had clarified: "The intent is to provide the town shall continue to uphold the local option tax even if the legislature repeals the general authority then we can still do the local option tax." He noted this was "basically a boilerplate they put in all of them to protect the towns."

Sue Lawrence then read a letter from the cemetery commissioners dated January 13th: "The 5 elected Grand Isle cemetery commissioners are in unanimous agreement with the following statement. The select board did not ask the commissioners prior to writing their proposed charter if there was a need for the select board to take control of the appointment of cemetery commissioners."

She continued reading: "Currently, there are 5 elected commissioners with staggered 5 year terms. 1 commissioner is elected each year by ballot vote on town meeting day. The cemetery commissioner has had no problems in the last 20 years filling the 5 positions by election. In the last 10 years, there have been 3 resignations for health reasons and 1 death. Each time, a good replacement was appointed by the commission to fill the vacancy until town meeting. Those people chose to run for election to a full term."

Sue emphasized the historical context: "Cemetery commissioners have been elected in this town since at least 1907. The term of 5 years may seem lengthy, but we all agree that it takes a year or more to become familiar with the rules and statutes governing cemeteries in Vermont." She noted that "1 of our commissioners described the commission as running like a well oiled machine. That comes from working together for more than a couple of years."

The letter concluded strongly: "The residents of Grand Isle whose family, friends, and neighbors buried in our cemeteries deserve to be able to vote to determine who takes care of our cemeteries, the final resting places of many. That should not be the responsibility of a 5 member select board... It is ironic that in the year of the 250th anniversary of the founding of America, our select board is discussing taking the power of the vote away from the citizens." The letter was signed by Val Hunter (chair), Sue Lawrence, Brian Allen, Suzanne Sauve, and Lucille Campbell.

After Sue finished, Ron Bushway said simply, "Nothing for me."

Ellen Howrigan commented, "I mean, I don't... it doesn't really matter to me if we have it in there or not. I don't want to offend anybody." She explained, "The only reason to put it in is to get it all in there in 1 fell swoop. In the event, different people. You guys are not around and able to do such and can't fill it, but we can always address that when the time comes, if and when the time comes."

Sue Lawrence asked about the process: "If this was to pass, if the charter was to pass and it's worded this way, would you have to have a charter change, or can you have a charter change now and take that out?"

Jeff clarified: "No. We can do whatever we want right now. We can take it out... But in the future, to change the town charter, you have to do the process all over again."

When asked about the library board's position, Susan Willard, who serves on the library board, said, "We didn't discuss it at all... I don't believe myself have an opinion either."

Jennifer expressed concern: "I will say it, though, that both library and [cemetery] make me nervous because I know that there are different rules. It's kind of a thing I've said from the beginning."

Jeff acknowledged, "I think the reason it's on in there is the attorney wanted, you know, the idea. Everything gets put in at once... I'm fine with taking it out too. I mean, like you said, it was just boilerplate, throw everything in, see what sticks, have these meetings, and discuss it."

After some discussion, Ron suggested, "I think I'm all for taking them both out, the library and the cemeteries."

Jeff agreed: "Let's just take it out."

Sue Lawrence then raised another point about the listers: "Thing I would like to say my personal opinion on listers is that it may not be a bad idea to have appointed. I would like to see eventually someday an assessor... because this job is so complicated and so detailed... I'm looking at it like kind of almost a full time job."

Jeff responded appreciatively: "I'm thankful that you're in the position until at least we get through this appraisal... Because I think that's gonna make or break the assessor discussion." He noted they hadn't had an appraisal since 2008 and expected "a huge difference" in how taxes would be distributed.

After checking with online participants for any comments and hearing none, Jeff stated: "I'll make the motion we close the hearing for the town charter at 6:15."

Ron seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

## ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing was closed at 6:15 PM.

## CALL TO ORDER

Jeff Parizo called the regular selectboard meeting to order at 6:15 PM.

Board Members Present: Aimee Cochran, Ron Bushway, Jeff Parizo, Ellen Howrigan, Jennifer Morway (all board members present)

Community Members Present: Sue Lawrence, Colleen Bushway, Lucille Campbell, Susan Willard. Melissa Boutin and Sara Santor were also present.

Community Members via Zoom: Lynda Morgan Gardner, Rick Brigham from Sullivan Powers, David Leake, Diane Cota, Rachel Griggs, Kaitlyn Carney.

## Amend Agenda for Matters NOT Listed

Jeff asked each board member if they had anything to add. Aimee had nothing. Ron mentioned "Just the highway stuff." Jeff had nothing. Ellen said her items were "covered in the other categories." No amendments were made to the agenda.

## Public Comment

No public comments were offered.

## Review and Approve Minutes

01/05/2026

Jeff asked if there was any discussion about the minutes. Hearing none, he made a motion: "I'll make a motion we approve the 1/5/2026 minutes with corrections if there is any."

Ellen Howrigan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## Guests

### Rick Brigham, Sullivan Powers – 2025 Audit Report Update

Rick Brigham began his presentation: "So let's start right from wherever you wanna start. Alright. So why don't I take a few minutes and kinda walk you through the audit report, the things that are here in the report, and then I'll get to the finding at the end and if you have any questions."

He explained the audit opinion types: "Looking at an audit opinion, you have 3 choices. Adverse opinion means your financial statements are not fairly stated. A qualified opinion could mean that your financial statements are fairly stated except for something or some things. The best you can get is an unqualified opinion, which, again, the town of Grand Isle has achieved an unqualified opinion for June 30, 2025."

Rick congratulated the board: "I always like to congratulate my clients that get to that level. A lot of clients are still trying to get there, but the books were in great shape to get you to that unqualified opinion."

He then walked through the major funds' financial positions. The general fund had a total fund balance at June 30th with \$135,000 unassigned, which was up from last year's \$110,000. The highway fund had "a healthy fund balance of \$479,975 at the end of the year," and the library had \$460,391. The library building project fund had \$558,396 at the end of the year.

Rick noted that total revenues were over budget by \$53,000, mostly from pilot income, interest income, planning and zoning fees, and solid waste fees. Expenses were about \$103,388 under budget, largely due to a garage generator that was voted on but then funded by a grant instead, plus savings in lister salaries and DRB clerk stipends.

Regarding findings, Rick explained: "As part of our audit, we are required to report any significant deficiencies and material weaknesses that we noticed. We did have a significant deficiency that we noticed and basically relates to journal entries." He recommended having "another pair of eyes" review journal entries with proper documentation and approval processes.

Ellen asked several specific questions about the audit. Regarding page 20's custodial credit risk, Rick clarified it was standard wording for all municipalities. About construction in progress on page 22, he explained: "What happens is you start a project, you say, oh, we haven't finished the project yet... we call it construction progress. Then once it's completed, we take it out of construction progress and put it into the other line items."

Rick concluded: "Overall, we were very pleased how the audit went... No difficulties in dealing with staff or management. No disagreements with staff or management. There were no consultations with other auditors, and all entries we proposed were posted by management."

Jennifer commented: "I actually thought it was great. And on top of that, I thought it was great to see such a small amount need to be done. I feel like everybody has busted their butts in this town, you know, doing additional work that, you know, is additional work for everybody, but this is kind of the payoff is a clean audit report."

After Rick's presentation, Melissa confirmed they would address the journal entry findings by creating a binder with proper documentation and approvals. Jeff thanked Melissa: "By the way, thank you. This was awesome, this audit, and I know it's from your hard work, and we appreciate it, and we look forward to having it like this from now on."

## Review and Sign Warrants

Jeff pointed out a correction needed on the MVP insurance invoice. Melissa explained the amount should be \$1,202 even instead of \$1,216.19, as they had switched from platinum to gold coverage effective January 1st.

Jennifer Morway made a motion that the chair signs the warrant. Ellen Howrigan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

## Financials

No items were discussed under financials.

## Highway Department Update

Ron Bushway presented the Certificate of Highway Mileage, explaining they complete this every year. The town has 37.715 miles of highway: Class 2 - 9.31 miles, Class 3 - 18.23 miles, and State Highway - 10.175 miles.

Jeff Parizo made a motion to adopt the certificate of highway mileage. Ellen Howrigan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ron then brought up Austin's evaluation and after discussion, Jennifer suggested that going forward, such decisions should be put in writing for clarity and personnel files. The board decided to discuss Austin's raise in executive session rather than immediately voting on it.

## Buildings Facilities Manager Update

Ron reported he had replaced the charcoal filters at the fire station on January 4, 2024. He explained that the fire department now plugs airlines into the brake systems so trucks don't have to run inside the building, which helps preserve the filters. He mentioned borrowing a ladder from the highway department as the fire station's ladder wasn't quite high enough.

Jeff asked if Steve was going with Ron for maintenance training. Ron said he hadn't been doing that yet but had talked to Steve about it last week.

Jeff expressed concern about checking furnaces in buildings during the upcoming cold weather, especially the annex building. Ron agreed to check fuel levels.

Ellen asked about programming the town office thermostat to reduce temperature when the building is unoccupied to save fuel oil. Ron said he would look into it.

Jennifer brought up the basement cleanup project that Lynda Morgan Gardiner was working on with Melissa. There was trash and metal that needed to be removed. Ron suggested the highway crew could pick up bags if they were left by the back door. Linda, participating via Zoom, confirmed she couldn't do more work until the trash was removed.

## IT Update

### Website Development Meeting Update

Aimee Cochran reported they had given Paul from ecoPixel access to WordPress so he could "fiddle around and see what he needs to move." Adam would start looking at what content needed to migrate. They received guidance from the attorney about legally required content retention. Many photos had been submitted for the new website, and they expected to see a mockup at the next meeting.

### Next Meeting: January 20, 2026, 12:00-2:00

The next website meeting was confirmed for Tuesday, January 20th from 12:00-2:00 PM.

Sue Lawrence asked about IT needs for the listers' AP5 reappraisal system. They needed two monitors for each computer (three monitors total) and potentially a Microsoft G3 license. Jeff suggested contacting Thrive for

compatibility requirements and pricing. The board agreed monitors should also be ordered for Melissa and Terri, as working with dual monitors would significantly improve efficiency.

## New Business

### Grand Isle Investment Policy – Revision to 2024 policy

Jennifer had updated the policy to include collateralization language as required by the auditor. She read the new paragraph about collateralization requirements for certificates of deposit and repurchase agreements.

Jeff Parizo made a motion to approve the revision of the investment policy including the new collateralization language. Ellen Howrigan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Municipal Audit Services RFP – open bids

Only one bid was received, from Sullivan Powers. Jeff read the five-year pricing: 2027 - \$33,000; 2028 - \$33,700; 2029 - \$34,300; 2030 - \$35,000; 2031 - \$35,700. If a single audit was required for grants, it would cost \$7,000 for one major program and \$5,000 for each additional program.

Jennifer noted they would likely need a single audit due to upcoming grants exceeding the \$750,000 threshold. The board discussed adding \$7,000 to the FY27 budget to cover this anticipated expense.

Jeff Parizo made a motion to accept Sullivan Powers' cost proposal for the years June 30, 2027 through June 30, 2031. Ellen Howrigan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

### Town Meeting Warning – set date and time

The board decided to hold a special meeting on Friday at 5:00 PM to approve the town meeting warning with any corrections from tonight's meeting. Jeff hoped they might also have the library GC contract ready by then.

Jeff made a motion to set the special meeting for Friday at 5:00 PM. The motion passed.

### Town Meeting Informational Meeting – set date and time

Jeff Parizo made a motion to set the informational meeting for Saturday, February 28th at 10:00 AM at the school. Jennifer Morway seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Sara was asked to contact Ashley, the school principal, to arrange the venue. There was discussion about past issues with the school being on vacation that week, causing problems with heat control and Wi-Fi access.

## Old Business

### General Fund Budget 2027

The board reviewed Melissa's version dated 1/19/26. They identified several items needing decisions: constable pay (to be discussed in executive session), legal fees (also for executive session), and the audit line item (increased from \$35,000 to \$40,000 to cover the anticipated single audit).

Jennifer asked about breaking out individual buildings in the budget. Melissa clarified they had decided to add line items but use subcategories for tracking, particularly for the new library.

The board decided to finalize the budget after executive session since two key numbers needed to be determined.

### RFP for Lawn Care – review RFP and prepare to send

Ellen had prepared the RFP. Discussion ensued about whether to bid for one, two, or three years. Ron preferred one year due to fuel price uncertainty. Jennifer argued for longer terms for budget stability. Ron mentioned his past experience mowing the cemetery and dealing with fuel price fluctuations.

Jeff Parizo made a motion to approve the invitation bid for lawn care for 2 years and get it sent out. Ron Bushway seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Ellen would correct the document to reflect two years instead of three and send it to Sara for distribution.

## Junk Ordinance

This item was deferred to executive session.

## Town Charter

Jeff Parizo made a motion to approve the town charter with the corrections discussed tonight (removing cemetery and library commissioners from appointed positions). The motion passed.

The board also needed to make a procedural motion per the attorney's guidance:

Jennifer Morway made a motion "to find that the town charter dated January 19th, 2026 is too long and unwieldy to set out in full form. So we will include a concise summary of the charter in the notices in town meeting day warning with copies available upon request for public inspection and review at the town clerk's office." The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Before moving to executive session, Melissa mentioned she had researched the map storage solution discussed at the last meeting. She found nothing comparable to the specialized cabinet that could hold 800-1,028 maps. Alternative solutions would require multiple units at much higher cost. The quote for \$4,400 was still valid for 90 days. The board agreed to add this to Friday's special meeting agenda, with funding from the records preservation fund.

## Executive Session

Jeff Parizo made a motion to go into executive session with the town constable and ZAO to discuss confidential attorney-client communications made for the purpose of providing professional legal services to the selectboard pending per 1 VSA state statute 313(a)(1) that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or person involved at substantial disadvantage. Jennifer Morway seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The board entered executive session at 7:26 PM.

The board came out of executive session at 8:02 PM with the following actions:

Jeff Parizo made a motion to increase the town general fund by \$44,189, changing the total general fund for year '27 to \$661,452. Ellen Howrigan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Parizo made a motion to change the proposed town general budget amount with the increase of \$44,189 to \$1,335,986. Ellen Howrigan seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jennifer Morway made a motion to approve the Town of Grand Isle Ordinance Regulating Disposal of Solid Waste and Outdoor Storage of Junk and Junk Vehicles. Jeff Parizo seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jeff Parizo made a motion to increase Austin's pay (Road crew) by a total of \$2,080 per year. Ellen Howrigan seconded. Ron Bushway recused himself. The motion passed.

## Administrative Check-In

No items were discussed.

## Adjournment

After confirming all agenda items had been addressed:

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

**TOWN OF GRAND ISLE**  
**ORDINANCE REGULATING DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE**  
**AND OUTDOOR STORAGE OF JUNK AND JUNK VEHICLES**

**SECTION 1. AUTHORITY.** This Ordinance is adopted by the Selectboard (“Selectboard”) of the Town of Grand Isle (“Town”) under the authority granted in 23 V.S.A. § 2157; 24 V.S.A. § 1971, § 2291(12) - (15), and § 2246; and 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59.

**SECTION 2. PURPOSE.** The purpose of this Ordinance is to regulate the disposal of solid waste, the location and outdoor storage of junk, junk vehicles and abandoned motor vehicles in the Town of Grand Isle, Vermont, in order to protect the public health, safety, and well-being of the public and to protect their environment.

**SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS.** For purposes of this Ordinance, the following words and/or phrases will be defined as follows:

**MOTOR VEHICLES**

- A. “Motor vehicle” means any vehicle propelled or drawn by power other than muscular power, including trailers and campers.
- B. “Abandoned motor vehicle” means:
  - 1. a motor vehicle that has remained on public or private property or on or along a town highway without the consent of the Town or the owner or person in control of the property for more than 48 hours, and has a valid registration plate or public vehicle identification number which has not been removed, destroyed, or altered; or
  - 2. a motor vehicle that has remained on public or private property or on or along a town highway without the consent of the Town owner or person in control of the property for any period of time if the vehicles does not have a valid registration plate or the public vehicle identification number has been removed, destroyed, or altered
- 3. “Automobile graveyard” means a yard, field, or other outdoor area on a property owned or controlled by a person and used or maintained for storing or depositing four or more junk motor vehicles, except as provided in 24 V.S.A. § 2241(15)(A), (B), (C) or (D).
- 4. “Junk motor vehicle” means a discarded, dismantled, wrecked, scrapped, or ruined motor vehicle or parts thereof, or a motor vehicle, other than an on-premises utility vehicle, which is allowed to remain unregistered or uninspected for a period of 90 days from the date of discovery. 24 V.S.A. § 2241(6).
- 5. “Salvage yard” means any place of outdoor storage or deposit for storing, keeping, processing, buying, or selling junk or as a scrap metal processing facility. “Salvage yard” also

means any outdoor area used for operation of an automobile graveyard. It does not mean a garage where wrecked or disabled vehicles are stored for less than 90 days for inspection or repairs. 24 V.S.A. § 2241(7)

## WASTE

6. "Waste" means a material that is discarded or is being accumulated, stored, or physically, chemically, or biologically treated prior to being discarded or has served its original intended use and is normally discarded or is a manufacturing or mining by-product and is normally discarded.
7. "Junk" means old or scrap copper, brass, iron, steel, and other old or scrap or nonferrous material including, but not limited to, rope, rags, batteries, glass, rubber debris, waste, trash, or any discarded, dismantled, wrecked, scrapped, or ruined motor vehicle or parts thereof. 24 V.S.A. § 2241(5)
8. "Solid waste" means any discarded garbage, refuse, septage, sludge from a waste treatment plant, water supply plant, or pollution control facility; and other discarded material, including solid, liquid, semi-solid, or contained gaseous materials resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, or agricultural operation and from community activities but does not include animal manure and absorbent bedding used for soil enrichment; high carbon bulking agents used in composting; or solid or dissolved materials in industrial discharges that are point sources subject to permits under the Vermont Water Pollution Control Act, chapter 47 of title 10. For the purpose of this Ordinance, solid waste s also includes marketable recyclables.
9. "Hazardous waste" means any waste or combination of wastes of a solid, liquid, contained gaseous, or semi-solid form, including those which are toxic, corrosive, ignitable, reactive, strong sensitizers, or which generate pressure through decomposition, heat, or other means, which in the judgment of the Secretary may cause, or contribute to, an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible or incapacitating reversible illness, taking into account the toxicity of such waste, its persistence and degradability in nature, and its potential for assimilation, or concentration in tissue, and other factors that may otherwise cause or contribute to adverse acute or chronic effects on the health of persons or other living organisms, or any matter which may have an unusually destructive effect on water quality if discharged to ground or surface waters of the State. All special nuclear, source, or by-product material, as defined by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 and amendments thereto, codified in 42 U.S.C. § 2014, is specifically excluded from this definition.
10. "Disposal" means the discharge, deposit, injection, dumping, spilling, leaking, or placing of any solid waste or hazardous waste into or on any land or water so that such solid waste or hazardous waste or any constituent thereof that enters the environment or is emitted into the air or is discharged into any ground or surface waters.

## ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS

11. "Person" means any individual, partnership, company, corporation, association, unincorporated association, joint venture, trust, municipality, the State of Vermont, or any agency, department or subdivision of the state, federal agency, or any other legal or commercial entity.
12. "Abutting property owner" means any person who owns, leases, or in any other way uses or controls the real property abutting any portion of the property of another.
13. "Enforcement Officer" means any Town official, law enforcement officer, constable, police officer or other individual(s) appointed by the Selectboard to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance.
14. "Highway" means any highway as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 1(12). For purposes of this Ordinance, this definition also includes municipal trails as defined in 19 V.S.A. § 301.
15. "Main traveled way" means the portion of a highway designed for the movement of motor vehicles, shoulders, auxiliary lanes, and roadside picnic, parking, rest, and observation areas and other areas immediately adjacent and contiguous to the traveled portion of the highway designated as a roadside area for the use of highway users and generally but not necessarily located within the highway right-of-way.
16. "Notice" means written notice mailed by certified mail with return receipt requested or hand-delivered with a signed affidavit by the person hand delivering the Notice affirming the date and place of hand delivery and to whom they delivered the Notice.
17. "Secretary" means the Secretary of Natural Resources or the Secretary's designee.
18. "Solid waste order" means a directive issued by the Selectboard in accordance with the factors enumerated in 24 V.S.A. § 2297a(a) directing the respondent to take actions necessary to achieve compliance with this Ordinance, abate hazards created as a result of noncompliance, or restore the environment to the condition existing before the violation and may include a civil penalty of not more than \$800.00 for each violation and in the case of a continuing violation, not more than \$100.00 for each succeeding day.

## **SECTION 4. REQUIREMENTS.**

- A. Hazardous Waste. It is a violation of this Ordinance to dispose of any hazardous waste without first obtaining certification from the Secretary for such facility, site or activity.
- B. Solid Waste. It is a violation of this Ordinance to dump, deposit, throw or leave solid waste, or to cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing or leaving of solid waste on any

public or private property, on highways, or into any waters in the Town, with the following exceptions:

1. The composting of organic material;
  2. The disposal of solid waste in a privately owned or maintained waste container with the express consent of the owner of the container;
  3. The disposal of solid waste in a publicly-owned or maintained waste container in a public building, or on public grounds provided such solid waste was created or originated in the public building or on its grounds or generated during the use of said public building, or on such grounds; or
  4. The disposal of other materials as approved by the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation, the Selectboard, and the Northwest Vermont Solid Waste Management District.
- C. **Junk and Junk Vehicles.** It is a violation of this Ordinance to place, dispose, discard, or abandon junk or junk vehicles on any property in Grand Isle. Per 24 V.S.A. § 2241(15) property owners are limited to no more than three junk vehicles on a single property, parcel or lot of land. More than three junk vehicles so placed, discarded or abandoned on a single property, parcel or lot of land is hereby declared to be a public nuisance and a violation of this Ordinance.

D.

Salvage Yards:

1. **Location.** No person may establish or initiate operation of a salvage yard.
- E. **Screening.** All places of outdoor storage of junk and junk vehicles must be effectively and completely screened from public view by a fence or vegetation at least six feet high. Any fence must be of sound construction, of solid vertical board or stockade type construction, and must be maintained neatly and in good repair. Such a fence may not be used for advertising signs or other displays which are visible from the main traveled way of a highway. Any vegetation used for screening must be of sufficient density to effectively screen the area from view. Failure to provide screening as required herein is a violation of this Ordinance.

## **SECTION 5. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.**

A. **Violation of Requirements.**

1. Upon receiving written notice from the Enforcement Officer to do so, the owner of any junk, junk motor vehicle, or abandoned motor vehicle discovered in violation of Section 4 of this Ordinance, and/or the owner of the property on which the junk, junk motor

vehicle, or abandoned vehicle is located, must remove any such items or vehicles from the property or screen the items or vehicles from view in accordance with Section 4(E), above. If the owner of the junk or junk motor vehicle(s) does not remove the items, or remove them from view, within 30 days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the written notice by the Enforcement Officer, the Enforcement Officer may notify the appropriate state agencies or issue a municipal ticket and then commence an action in the Vermont Judicial Bureau or Vermont Superior Court. Failure to remove the items, or remove them from view, within 30 days from the date of mailing or hand delivery of the written notice by the Enforcement Officer is a violation of this Ordinance.

2. If the owner of the land on which a junk motor vehicle is discovered in violation of Section 4 of this Ordinance does not hold title or disclaims title to the vehicle, and the true owner of the vehicle is known or can be ascertained, the true owner must dispose of the vehicle upon receiving written notice from the Enforcement Officer. If said vehicle is not removed

**B. Abandoned Motor Vehicles.**

1. An Enforcement Officer, including any law enforcement officer, is authorized to remove or cause removal of an abandoned motor vehicle from public property and may contract a towing service for removal of such motor vehicle, based upon personal observation by then Enforcement Officer that the vehicle is abandoned or based on a signed affidavit of an Enforcement Officer stating the vehicle is abandoned based on the Enforcement Officer's personal observation.
2. An Enforcement Officer, including any law enforcement officer, is authorized to remove or cause removal of an abandoned motor vehicle from private property and may contact a towing service for removal from private property of such vehicle, based upon complaint from the owner or agent of the property on which the vehicle is located that the vehicle is abandoned.
3. An owner or agent of an owner of private property is authorized to remove or cause removal of an abandoned motor vehicle from that property and may contact a towing service for removal from that property of an abandoned vehicle. If an owner or agent of an owner removes or causes removal of an abandoned motor vehicle, the owner or agent must immediately notify the Grand Isle County Sheriff. Notification must include identification of the registration plate number, the vehicle identification number, make, model, and color of the vehicle. The owner or agent of an owner of property upon which a motor vehicle is abandoned may cause the vehicle to be removed by a towing service without any civil liability to the owner of the property on which the abandoned vehicle was located.

- C. Other violations.** All violations of this Ordinance will be a civil matter which may be enforced in the Vermont Judicial Bureau or in the Grand Isle Unit, Civil Division of Vermont

Superior Court, at the election of the Selectboard. An Enforcement Officer does not need prior authorization from the Selectboard to issue a municipal complaint ticket that will be heard on-appeal by the Judicial Bureau, but the Selectboard may choose to dismiss such a municipal complaint and pursue a complaint in the Grand Isle Unit, Civil Division, Vermont Superior Court.

1. Violations enforced in the Judicial Bureau will be in accordance with the provisions of 24 V.S.A. §§ 1974a and 1977 et seq. For purposes of enforcement in the Judicial Bureau, any Enforcement Officer has the authority to issue tickets and represent the Town at any hearing.

2. The Enforcement Officer is authorized to recover civil penalties for violations of this Ordinance in the following amounts for each violation:

<b>First offense</b>	<i>\$100 full penalty / \$50 waiver penalty</i>
<b>Second offense</b>	<i>\$200 full penalty / \$100 waiver penalty</i>
<b>Third offense</b>	<i>\$400 full penalty / \$200 waiver penalty</i>
<b>Fourth and subsequent offense</b>	<i>\$800 full penalty / \$400 waiver penalty</i>

3. The Enforcement Officer is authorized to recover a waiver fee in lieu of a civil penalty, in the stated amount, from any person who declines to contest a municipal complaint and pays the waiver fee.

4. Each day that a violation continues constitutes a separate violation of this Ordinance.

5. Determining the sequences of offenses for violations of this Ordinance will be as follows: a subsequent violation that is identical to, and that occurs within twelve months of, a previous violation will be considered a higher offense (i.e., second, third, or subsequent offense). Any subsequent identical violation that occurs after twelve months of a previous identical violation will be considered a new first offense.

6. Violations enforced in the Superior Court will be in accordance with the Vermont Rules of Civil Procedure. The Town may pursue all appropriate injunctive relief.

D. Solid Waste Order and Enforcement. For any violations of this Ordinance the Selectboard may also use the procedures set forth in 24 V.S.A. Chapter 61, Subchapter 12 to issue a solid waste order to enforce any of the provisions of this Ordinance. Such order may include civil penalties for each violation and, in the case of a continuing violation, a penalty for each succeeding day.

1. The Selectboard may seek enforcement of a final solid waste order in the Superior Court or before the Environmental Division. If a penalty is imposed and the respondent fails to pay the penalty within the time prescribed, the Selectboard may bring a collection action in the Superior Court.

2. Imposition of a penalty by the Town through a solid waste order under 24 V.S.A. Chapter 61, Subchapter 12 precludes imposition by the Town of any other administrative or civil penalty under any other provision of law for the same violation.

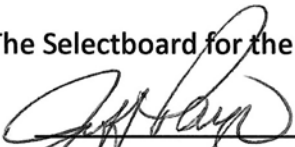

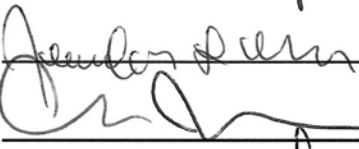

**SECTION 6. OTHER LAWS.** This Ordinance is in addition to all other ordinances of the Town and all applicable laws of the State of Vermont. All ordinances or parts of ordinances, resolutions, regulations, or other documents inconsistent with the provisions of this Ordinance are hereby repealed to the extent of such inconsistency.

**SECTION 7. SEVERABILITY.** If any section of this Ordinance is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such finding will not invalidate any other part of this Ordinance. If any statute referred to in this Ordinance is amended, this Ordinance will be deemed to refer to such amended statute.

**SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE.** This Ordinance will become effective sixty (60) days after its adoption by the Selectboard. If a petition is filed under 24 V.S.A. § 1973, that statute will govern the taking effect of this Ordinance.

Adopted this 19 day of January, 2026.

The Selectboard for the Town of Grand Isle:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
  
\_\_\_\_\_

Date 1/19/26

#### **Adoption History**

1. Agenda item at Selectboard meeting held on 9/15/35.
2. Read and approved at Selectboard meeting on 1/19/26 and entered in the minutes of that meeting.

3. Posted in public places on \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Notice of adoption published in the \_\_\_\_\_ newspaper on \_\_\_\_\_ with a notice of the right to petition.
5. Other actions [*petitions, etc.*]

The five elected Grand Isle Cemetery Commissioners are in unanimous agreement with the following statement. (presented at public hearing Jan. 19, 2026)

The Selectboard did not ask the Commissioners prior to writing the proposed charter if there was a need for the Selectboard to take control of the appointment of Cemetery Commissioners. Currently there are five elected Commissioners with staggered five-year terms. One Commissioner is elected each year by ballot vote on Town Meeting Day.

The Cemetery Commission has had no problem in the last 20 years filling the five positions by election. In the last 10 years there have been 3 resignations for health reasons and 1 death. Each time a good replacement was appointed by the Commission to fill the vacancy until Town Meeting. Those people chose to run for election to a full term. Cemetery Commissioners have been elected in this town since at least 1907.

The term of five years may seem lengthy, but we all agree that it takes a year or more to become familiar with the rules and statutes governing cemeteries in Vermont.

One of our concerns is that appointed commissioners may not have the feeling of responsibility to the position that those who are elected feel, and they will not complete the term. One of our Commissioners described the Commission as running like a "well-oiled machine." That comes from working together for more than a couple of years.

The residents of Grand Isle who have family, friends and neighbors buried in our cemeteries deserve to be able to vote to determine who takes care of our cemeteries, the final resting places of many. That should not be the responsibility of a 5-member Selectboard.

We would like to remind the Selectboard of statute V.S.A. 18 § 5373 which reads as follows: "When a town votes to place its public burial grounds under the charge of cemetery commissioners, it shall elect separately a board of three or five cemetery commissioners, who shall have the care and management of such burial ground and exercise all the powers, rights, and duties with respect to such care and management **and all responsibility on the part of the selectboard shall cease.**" The right to vote, the ability to choose, should not be taken from the legal residents of the town.

In closing, the Cemetery Commissioners strongly urge the selectboard to remove the Cemetery Commissioners from the list of appointed officers in the proposed charter. They should be elected officers. Do not create a problem where there is none.

It is ironic that in the year of the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of America, our Selectboard is discussing taking the power of the vote away from the citizens.

Val Hunter, Chair   Sue Lawrence   Brian Allen   Suzanne Sauv    Lucille Campbell