

01-23-2026 Selectboard SPECIAL Meeting

Meeting minutes

CALL TO ORDER:

Amend Agenda for Matters NOT Listed:

Chair Parizo brought up a CAI (Computer Aided Imaging) that needed to be signed for Sue Lawrence, relating to tax maps used by the listers and zoning department. He requested to add this item to the agenda so it could be signed today.

Public Comment:

No public comment was offered.

Review and Approve Minutes:

The Board decided to hold off on reviewing minutes.

Guests:

No guests were present.

Review and Sign Warrants:

The Board decided to move the review of warrants to the end of the meeting.

Discussion ensued about how Thrive bills the town, with Aimee Cochran asking whether they have a certain number of hours or bill by the hour. It was noted this was a question for Jen, as they have a contract but couldn't remember the specific hour arrangements.

Regarding electric bills, Melissa clarified that the library pays their own electric bill, and if there are credits from solar, the library sends a check to the town. There was brief discussion about whether the new solar panels were working, with Chair Parizo noting they traditionally don't generate much in January and February when covered with snow and during cloudy weather, though Ron noted his personal panels had been working on recent sunny days.

Motion by Ellen Howrigan to approve the warrants as presented. Seconded by Ron Bushway. Motion passed unanimously.

Financials:

No financial updates were discussed.

Highway Department Update:

Ronnie reported that highway department staff went through the trucks today, getting plows ready, checking all fluids in preparation for an anticipated storm that could bring up to a foot of snow.

Buildings Facilities Manager Update:

Ronnie also reported that all fuel tanks in highway buildings had been checked, furnaces were running fine, and there was plenty of fuel in all buildings. Chair Parizo thanked him for completing these preparations.

IT Update:

No IT updates were presented.

New Business:

No new business was discussed beyond the items in Old Business.

Old Business:

Town Meeting Warning

The Board began detailed review of the warning for the annual town meeting. Chair Parizo confirmed the informational meeting date at the top looked correct, noting they needed to insert the Zoom link. Discussion followed about who would insert it and when, with the Board deciding to add it during the meeting so the pages wouldn't change after signing.

The Board proceeded through each article:

Article 1 addressed the Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, with legal voters to meet at 9 Hyde Road, polls open 7 AM to 7 PM.

Article 3 asked whether the town should have full details of the delinquent tax list printed in the town report. Brief discussion confirmed this is done annually, though without names.

Article 4 addressed payment of real property taxes in three installments. They also noted the complex wording about interest charges and collection fees, acknowledging it was "very wordy" but necessary due to the proposed change.

Article 5 set the payment due dates. Member 1 raised a concern: "That falls on Sundays. January 30 first 2027." Discussion followed about whether this needed adjustment. The Board considered various payment options available - postmark acceptance, online payment, ACH, and the drop box at the door. Chair Parizo compared it to credit card and mortgage payments that might fall on weekends, concluding people would figure out whether to pay Friday before or Monday after. They agreed to leave the date as is but could post reminders on Front Porch Forum when the date approached.

Articles 6-18 covered various budget appropriations which the Board confirmed had been checked for accuracy, including:

- \$1,335,986 for general fund budget
- \$23,862 for Cemetery Commission
- \$73,000 for Grand Isle Rescue
- \$14,000 for dispatching services
- \$105,000 for Grand Isle Volunteer Fire Department

- \$542,130 for highway department expenses
- \$70,000 for highway road materials
- \$86,542 for library expenses
- \$21,191 for recreation committee budget
- \$25,000 for removing invasive emerald ash borer trees
- \$1,500 for Champlain Islands Food Shelf
- \$1,950 for Island Arts
- \$8,000 for UVM Health Network

Article 19 proposed reducing the commission charged by the collector of delinquent taxes from 8% to 6%.

Article 20 asked voters to approve adoption of the Grand Isle Charter dated January 20, 2026. Chair Parizo confirmed the sections looked correct. The warning noted the charter was available for inspection at the Town Office Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 3:30 PM, with copies available upon request and on the town website.

Jeff asked about school budget information. Melissa Boutin noted they had provided a link but hadn't reviewed it yet. Chair Parizo expressed concern that the town budget was slightly over previous years' amounts.

Motion by Jeff Parizo to approve the official warning for the annual meeting for the Town of Grand Isle. Seconded by Ellen Howrigan. Motion passed unanimously.

EZ File rolling system for Town Office records retention

Member 1 explained the new filing system would replace the current double-sided map storage in the vault which was taking up significant space. The new mobile unit on wheels would hold twice as many maps in a smaller footprint, with maps hanging vertically and easily accessible. When asked about labeling, Member 1 confirmed they would mark the tops for identification.

The total cost was \$4,474.51, to be paid from the preservation fund which receives \$4 for every page recorded.

Motion by Jeff Parizo to approve the EZ File rolling system for the town office record retention for \$4,474.51 with funds to come from the preservation fund. Seconded by Ronnie. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board also addressed the CAI tax map maintenance proposal added to the agenda earlier. This annual contract maintains the tax maps used by the listers and zoning department.

Motion by Aimee to approve signing the tax map. Seconded by Ronnie. Motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session:

No executive session was held.

Administrative Check-In:

No administrative items were discussed.

Adjournment:

Motion by Ellen to adjourn. Seconded by Aimee. Motion passed unanimously.