07-20-2026 Selectboard Meeting

Meeting Minutes

July 20, 2026, 6:00 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jennifer Morway called the Grand Isle Selectboard Meeting to order on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 6:00 PM at 9 Hyde Rd, Grand Isle, VT, and via Zoom.

a. Board Members Present:

Present: Jeff Parizo, Ron Bushway, Jennifer Morway (Chair), Aimee Cochran (Vice Chair), Ellen Howrigan

b. Board Members via Zoom:

No board members attended via Zoom.

c. Community Members Present:

Jeanne Prouty, Lucille Campbell, Sally Picard, Rachael Griggs, Diane Cota, Blanche Roberge, Melissa Boutin, Lynda Morgan-Gardiner, Colleen Bushway, Emily Clark, Marie Prescott, Stephanie Struble, Amy Thompson, Sara Santor.

d. Community Members via Zoom:

Paul Hansen (ecopixel web design), Adam Lavigne (Clerk of the DRB), Michelle Long, John Gaertner, Dave Skinner, Josie Leavitt, Jonathan Debono, and Melissa Howes. Representatives from WPTZ and WCAX, Note: Sue Lawrence attempted to join via Zoom but appeared to have difficulty with audio connectivity at the outset of the meeting.

II. Amend Agenda for Matters NOT Listed

Chair Morway opened the floor for amendments to the agenda. Board Member Ron Bushway indicated he had materials he wished to pass along when the board reached the town charter discussion. Community member Lynda Morgan-Gardner requested that an update on the Town-wide reappraisal be added to the agenda. Chair Morway indicated this could be addressed under the Guests section, as no formal decision was required—it was simply an update.

Planning Commission member Emily Clark announced a community workshop on zoning bylaw updates, scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th at 7:00 PM at the Grand Isle Fire Department community room. She explained that the Planning Commission is updating the town's zoning bylaws following the recent update to the town plan, and that the workshop is an opportunity to incorporate community vision—exploring potential changes to lot sizes or setbacks in village areas, as well as ways to preserve Grand Isle's natural beauty, rural character, and scenic views.

Chair Morway proposed moving Old Business items XIII(a) and XIII(b)—the results of the town-wide survey and the Town Charter proposed language—up to immediately before New Business, noting that this was likely the reason most community members were in attendance. The board agreed to this reordering. Chair Morway also noted that an Executive Session would be held at the end of the meeting.

III. Public Comment

Chair Morway opened the floor for public comment. Lynda Morgan-Gardner provided a brief update on the town-wide reappraisal currently underway (see also Section V below for additional detail), noting she had been informed the process was going well. No other public comments were offered at this time.

IV. Review and Approve Minutes

a. 06/29/26 minutes

> A motion to approve the minutes from June 29th, 2026, with any corrections, was made by Board Member Jeff Parizo and seconded by Board Member Ron Bushway. The motion carried unanimously.

V. Guests: Sally Picard & Lucille Campbell, Grand Isle Historical Society

Chair Morway welcomed Sally Picard and Lucille Campbell of the Grand Isle Historical Society. Sally Picard addressed the board, describing her lifelong involvement in preserving Grand Isle's history. She recounted that her interest in local history was sparked after marrying a Grand Isle resident around 1970, and that she subsequently "contracted the same disease"—a passion she humorously defined as "save everything"—from a fellow history enthusiast. Together, she explained, they have managed four estates in Grand Isle, accumulating a remarkable collection of historical artifacts.

Picard shared that her collection includes what she believes to be one of the finest collections of Abenaki baskets in existence, noting that Abenaki people historically resided on West Shore Road and would bring their weaving to the Vantine Manor. She displayed a range of materials she had brought to the meeting: a commencement program from the Grand Isle class of 1924; a handwritten dedication program for the Grange Hall from February 1913; a 1947 grammar school graduation program; magazines dating back to 1832, including The Lady's Repository and The Mother's Magazine; a restored copy of the Grand Isle Star dated July 16, 1903; a Book of Common Prayer belonging to Reverend Charles Faye of Grand Isle, dated 1872; and an autograph album containing signatures of Grand Isle residents from the 1800s.

Picard explained that her basement is filled with this material—"your history"—and that she is concerned about what will happen to it after her generation passes. She urged the board to consider the building across the street—the current library—as an ideal repository for this type of historical collection. "I would more than love to donate to the town to keep, with all the background history," she said.

Lucille Campbell, speaking as the Historical Society's curator rather than as an official spokesperson (noting the society had not yet formally discussed the matter), affirmed that Picard's Abenaki basket collection is "absolutely incredible" and of "museum quality."

Jeanne Prouty noted that the Historical Society currently caretakes three buildings—a schoolhouse, a barn, and the Hyde log cabin—all of which are at or near capacity. The barn, she noted, "started out as a tool shed; we couldn't get in. We built a barn, and now that is full." The school was similarly described as packed. Campbell emphasized that artifacts are increasingly being lost as the older generation passes, often discarded by heirs who have no knowledge of their provenance: "The history that goes with them is gone because you might see something, and you say, 'What is this?' And that person's going to say, 'I have no idea. Something my grandmother had.'"

Board Member Jeff Parizo asked which four estates Picard had worked on, and she confirmed they included the Vantine, Picard, Reynolds, and one additional estate.

The question was raised about who would manage a potential museum in the old library building, with Vice Chair Aimee Cochran noting, "I think that's up for debate." Several board and community members expressed that this discussion would tie naturally into the later agenda item regarding the future use of the current library building. Chair Morway thanked Picard and Campbell and noted the topic would be revisited under that agenda item.

VI. Review and Sign Warrants

Chair Morway noted a brief question for Town Treasurer Melissa Boutin: in one of the credit card statements, there appeared to be a Zoom account listed under the general fund that may belong to the library. Chair Morway asked Boutin to review and recode as appropriate.

> A motion for the Chair to sign the warrants was made by Board Member Jeff Parizo and seconded by Vice Chair Cochran. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. Financials

Chair Morway advised all present that a very preliminary draft of the fiscal year-end numbers had been circulated by Town Treasurer Melissa Boutin and cautioned that the figures were "very, very, very draft"—subject to significant change and not to be relied upon. With that caveat, Chair Morway shared a positive overall impression: "I was very impressed with how all of the numbers that seem like were within the town's abilities to constrain look. That was the takeaway I got from it." Things outside the town's control, such as fuel prices, were acknowledged as exceptions.

Treasurer Boutin provided an update on delinquent taxes. As of the numbers presented (through today), the outstanding delinquent tax balance stood at approximately $226,000. She noted that approximately $20,000 had been collected within the past few weeks, reducing the figure from the high of nearly $300,000 reported approximately one month prior.

Chair Morway provided context for community members who may have been unfamiliar with the situation. She explained that the town bills and collects roughly $10,000,000 in taxes annually, of which only slightly less than $2,000,000 is retained locally—the remaining approximately $8,000,000 is remitted to the state for education. Importantly, Treasurer Boutin is obligated to pay that education assessment three times per year regardless of whether individual taxpayers have paid. "When we have delinquent taxes that are over $200,000," Chair Morway said, "it means us keeping a really close eye on where we are in the checkbooks."

Chair Morway stressed that the Selectboard had made a deliberate decision to maintain a healthy fund balance for precisely this reason, and that the board and Treasurer Boutin were "working diligently constantly together related to managing cash flow." She was clear that the town did not anticipate needing to take out a tax anticipation loan: "We are in a very good situation even if nobody paid us this money until next year."

Community member Stephanie Struble asked about the town's policy regarding tax sales. Treasurer Boutin explained that properties must be delinquent for at least one year and must owe at least $1,500 before the town can pursue a tax sale. She noted the town is working with an attorney on these matters and that one property has been brought to tax sale auction multiple times without selling, representing approximately $25,000 in outstanding taxes. Boutin also noted that she has recently begun collecting residents' phone numbers and email addresses directly so she can reach out more proactively, having received feedback from some residents who felt they had not been contacted personally.

Community member Amy Thompson asked whether any delinquent taxpayers were not currently engaging with the treasurer's office. Boutin indicated she is now getting the town attorney involved in some cases, and that she is receiving more responses.

The board agreed that a full year-end review would be conducted once the numbers are less draft in nature.

VIII. Highway Department Update

Board Member Ron Bushway presented the Highway Department update on behalf of Highway Foreman Steve More. Recent activities included:

Completion of filling in driveway entrances on East Shore North following paving, and fill work near Marycrest Beach. The department also worked on the septic system at the new library, hauled commingled materials and cardboard from the transfer station, and installed the propane tank and new line at the new library. Roadside mowing is still ongoing.

Bushway noted that Northwest Regional Planning is conducting a culvert inventory throughout town, expected to last for the remainder of the week. The process involves assessing every culvert in town—including driveway culverts—logging their condition, materials, and then producing a prioritized replacement schedule. This work is grant-funded. Additionally, Tyler Billingsley is scheduled to conduct test pits near the Pomykala farm for road base assessment. Bushway reported that Steve indicated approximately two to three more days of work remain at the library before the department can return to regular town highway work.

Community member Diane Cota asked whether she would be notified if her driveway culvert needed replacement, as she and her husband believed work may be needed. Bushway confirmed they would be notified, while noting that prioritization would depend on the inventory findings—other culverts may be in worse condition. He clarified that while the town maintains driveway culverts after initial installation, the homeowner pays for the original installation.

Ms. Cota also asked whether she should hold off on having private work done on her culvert in case a grant would cover it. Bushway clarified that driveway culverts are replaced by the town, not paid for directly by the homeowner, but that it may take some time depending on the priority ranking.

IX. Buildings Facilities Manager Update

Board Member Bushway reported that one coat of paint had been applied to the annex entrance, where paint had flaked and required attention following a lead inspection. He characterized this as a "Band Aid fix" only, and noted that Alan Landry would be reviewing the area and providing an estimate for a more permanent solution. Additionally, Hegeman Electric completed the installation of an emergency shutoff switch at the fire station for the boiler.

X. Library Update

Board Member Jeff Parizo reported that solar installation is ongoing and expected to be completed within the week. Plumbing and electrical work is also ongoing and anticipated to take a couple more weeks. The mound system for the septic has been installed by Steve and is complete; power simply needs to be run to it. The propane tank has been buried and the gas line run is complete. Parizo summarized: "Big things are done on the outside, and it's looking better on the outside."

Chair Morway noted for the benefit of community members new to the meetings that the solar system is expected to generate enough energy to cover the entire town office's electric bills, and that the system is entirely grant-funded, costing taxpayers nothing from the general budget.

XI. IT Update

Vice Chair Aimee Cochran introduced the IT update and asked Paul Hansen, who had joined via Zoom, whether he was available to present. Hansen confirmed he was and proceeded to share his screen, presenting the draft home page for the new Grand Isle town website.

Hansen explained that the new design features much cleaner navigation and easier access to key information, including Selectboard materials, town news, and town contacts. He noted that a training session had been held the prior week for the Selectboard Administrator, and that Treasurer Boutin and DRB Clerk Adam Lavigne also have access to a recording of that training. Hansen noted the site is searchable—a feature Chair Morway described as "huge"—and that all existing documents from the current website have been imported. He acknowledged there is still cleanup and editing to be done and that access to both the .org and .gov domains has been a challenge, though he indicated that as of that day, progress had been made on resolving the domain access issue with a previous IT provider.

Planning Commission member Emily Clark expressed enthusiasm about the calendar feature, noting that when a meeting is added to the site, it automatically populates a public-facing calendar. Hansen confirmed this, adding that meeting details including HeyGov links can be added at that point, integrating the minutes and agenda workflow. Clark observed that "to me, has been a big gap in terms of letting people know what's going on"—not having an integrated calendar where residents can simply click a date and see what meetings are scheduled. Hansen confirmed that users with editing access will receive sign-in credentials and a training session will be held to walk them through adding documents and managing meetings.

Hansen closed by noting he would forward updates on the domain name access situation to the board shortly.

XII. New Business

Note: Per the amended agenda, Old Business items XIII(a) and XIII(b) were taken up prior to New Business. They are recorded here in their original agenda sequence for clarity. New Business items were addressed following those discussions.

XIII. Old Business

a. Results from town wide survey and Town Charter proposed language (possible action)

Chair Morway opened the discussion on the results from the town-wide survey and Town Charter proposed language. Vice Chair Aimee Cochran presented a summary of the survey results she had compiled from the Google Forms survey responses.

Cochran explained the scoring methodology: respondents rated each question on a scale of 1 (strongly oppose) to 5 (strongly support). The averages were as follows:

- Rooms and meals tax: 2.17
- Alcohol tax: 2.47
- Sales tax: 1.70
- Library (elected to appointed): 1.98
- Cemetery (elected to appointed): 2.02
- Constable (elected to appointed): 2.23
- Delinquent tax collector (elected to appointed): 2.67
- Treasurer (elected to appointed): 2.75
- Listers (elected to appointed): 2.69

Cochran noted that only the last three—delinquent tax collector, treasurer, and listers—scored above the 2.5 midpoint. She clarified that the charts shown contain raw breakout data (number of respondents choosing each score), and that the survey received 97 responses total—a figure Chair Morway called higher than expected given typical engagement levels in town elections.

Community member Michelle Long offered a technical note, pointing out that the mathematical mean of a 1-to-5 scale is 3, not 2.5, and therefore 3—not 2.5—is technically the "over/under" threshold. However, she expressed general support for the concept of a town charter, stating: "There's only so long people will have the institutional memory to remember how things are done. And so having a charter to review—the content, obviously, there's a lot of discussion about what the content actually needs to be. But the concept of having a charter... is not threatening the town. It's really establishing what the town's about."

Community member Jonathan Debono commented that, in his reading of the survey data, the distribution of responses—with a significant number of ones (strongly not in favor)—"overwhelmingly solidifies how the town voted."

DRB Clerk Adam Lavigne noted from a data sciences perspective that mean is generally considered poor practice for reporting on ordinal scales without also presenting the distribution. He calculated the median for the lister question at 2, noting that while the mean was reported at 2.69, the wide spread of responses at both extremes indicates substantial disagreement among respondents. He encouraged the board, if the voters have voted this down, to "look at different language in the charter" and suggested that including qualification criteria for each position might help voters feel more confident.

Community member Amy Thompson raised the question of how the board would act on the survey and specifically what the town charter would actually do. Chair Morway explained in detail the structure and limits of a charter: any charter must be voted on by the residents first and then approved by the Vermont Legislature before taking effect. She also clarified that the charter can contain whatever the town wishes—it need not include all items surveyed. Any change to the charter, once passed, must also go back to the voters and then the Legislature.

Chair Morway addressed the concern about the town treasurer position at length. She stated clearly: "I've said this for two years—the town treasurer position is a full-time position. It's no longer a part-time how it's been for years." She explained that the purpose of changing the position from elected to appointed is not about the current treasurer, Melissa Boutin, but about long-term planning and succession: "What if Melissa has a health item come up and she is unable to do her job anymore? That is what we are talking about." She also noted that if the position remains elected, there is no mechanism to require qualifications, and the board would have no recourse if an elected treasurer failed to perform.

Community member Emily Clark made several substantive points. She observed that it was difficult to draw firm conclusions from the March charter vote because the ballot combined multiple elements—including the sales tax, which many found objectionable—that could not be voted on separately. She noted that over the 20 years she has been a resident, elections have rarely been truly contested. She argued that positions requiring technical expertise—such as municipal accounting—are increasingly being filled by appointment in towns across Vermont for exactly this reason: "You can't find it [qualified candidates] out of somebody who fills out a petition and gets on a ballot."

Chair Morway also pointed out that the current clerk hired from outside the town, though being trained in lister duties, cannot actually hold an elected lister position because she does not live in Grand Isle—meaning the town is, in effect, training someone for another municipality's benefit.

Lister Lynda Morgan-Gardner acknowledged she had done additional research that afternoon at the suggestion of Treasurer Boutin, and returned with a new perspective. She read from a source: "A charter defines the organization and powers of the town government, ensuring transparency and clarity in operations." She emphasized: "This is about the town and what's best for the town. And it needs to be run as a business. There's a lot of money involved, and it's our tax dollars, every one of us." She acknowledged that an outside candidate, however qualified, "isn't gonna get voted on because nobody in the town knows them."

Board Member Bushway read at length from Vermont State Statute Title 17, Chapter 055, Section 2651c—Lack of Elected Lister; Appointment of Lister; Elimination of Office; Hiring Assessors—which he had researched to address the lister shortage. The statute provides that, where a board of listers falls below a majority and the select board cannot find someone to appoint, the select board may appoint an assessor until the next annual meeting, and that appointed person need not be a resident. It further provides that a town may vote at an annual meeting to eliminate the lister position, after which the selectboard must notify the Director of Property Valuation and Review within 14 days and employ or contract a professionally qualified assessor. Bushway suggested this statutory framework might provide an alternative to the charter for addressing the lister situation.

Chair Morway responded that while this was accurate, the 45-day window following a March vote would put the town in an extremely difficult position, particularly in the middle of a town-wide reappraisal. She explained: "If that happened, you have 45 days to hire a tax assessor—and the board of listers goes away while we are in the middle of a town-wide reappraisal. That is not possible." She also noted that the town does not currently have the budget for a tax assessor, and that the charter route would allow for a smooth, planned transition with adequate time to budget for the position, noting the listers budget would move to the Tax Assessors budget at that time to help offset costs.

Chair Morway outlined her preferred approach: a town charter provision that changes the lister position from elected to appointed, which would also allow the selectboard to appoint someone from outside Grand Isle if needed, and would include language allowing the board, at any point after the reappraisal is complete, to transition from a board of listers to a hired tax assessor—removing the 45-day constraint entirely and allowing for proper budgeting.

Community member Stephanie Strubel expressed enthusiasm for strategic workforce planning, drawing on her experience as a VP of Compliance for a credit union. She asked what the town's succession plan was and suggested reaching out to Vermont colleges for internships or junior staff who might grow into these roles. Chair Morway acknowledged the idea had merit but explained the structural barrier: "Nobody can tell an elected official how to do their job." She noted that even if the listers were willing to train someone, they are already stretched thin, and the clerk currently being trained lives in Burlington and therefore cannot hold an elected lister position regardless.

Board Member Jeff Parizo summarized the financial context: the town currently pays $176,000 for the reappraisal, a figure likely to rise to $300,000 in six years; full-time positions for treasurer and clerk will cost more; a tax assessor will cost more; all of this will ultimately fall on property taxpayers unless alternative revenue sources are developed. He noted the town has exhausted other avenues—the ferry is a federally regulated transportation asset, the power lines fall under FCC jurisdiction—leaving property taxes as the only available lever. He connected this to broader demographic trends, noting that as the largest population demographic ages and retires, state revenues will decline even as education costs remain.

Community member Amy Thompson asked whether community education could help, and whether the charter might pass if people better understood what it actually does and does not do. She reflected: "I think all of us saw the charter and thought, 'Hey, we're going to appoint people, and you guys aren't going to have a vote, and also we're thinking about a tax.' And everybody went bonkers on it." She suggested that more outreach—potentially at a community barbecue—might help voters understand the limited, specific nature of what was being proposed before a vote was held.

Community member Jonathan Debono expressed support for full-time compensation as a potential solution, suggesting that if the town paid commensurate with accountant salaries, there might be more qualified candidates willing to run. Chair Morway agreed in principle but noted that as long as it's an elected position, there is no mechanism to require qualifications regardless of salary.

Mr. Debono commented that, based on both the March vote and the survey data, the town has spoken against the charter, and asked what other data the board might have suggesting otherwise. Chair Morway responded candidly: "The charter was defeated by 15 votes. And what we kept hearing was it was based on the tax." She explained that the board originally planned to write the charter without the tax, then decided to first verify that assumption through the survey rather than acting on presumption. She expressed frustration: "I hope everybody here has heard what it is we're trying to do, what it is we're up against. And then for anyone who's saying you still don't want it—tell us what to do. How do you want us to fix it? Because the only other solution is to allow this to wait until March."

Regarding the survey comments, Vice Chair Cochran clarified that the board had chosen not to publish the written comments in full, not because they were uniformly negative, but because many were unkind, some contained inaccurate information about other elected officials, and they were not constructive. She emphasized that comments ranged across the spectrum—some in favor of appointment were among the harshest—and that their publication would add "even more drama in a town that already has a lot of drama."

Following the public comment period, the board turned to internal deliberations on the charter.

Taxes: Vice Chair Cochran indicated she would remove all local option taxes from the charter. Board Member Parizo and Chair Morway agreed. Board Member Howrigan noted she would be in favor of including only a short-term rental (rooms and meals) tax if it were included separately, but agreed with the broader board consensus that taxes should not be included in the charter at this time, given the risk of defeating the entire document. The board agreed unanimously to remove all tax items from the proposed charter. Chair Morway noted that the town attorney had confirmed that without a tax component, the charter review process—pending voter approval and legislative approval—could potentially be completed before April, as the Vermont Department of Taxes would not need to be involved.

Library Trustees and Cemetery Commissioners: The board agreed these positions should not be included in the charter, consistent with a prior decision.

Constable: The board discussed at length. Chair Morway noted that the current constable, Trever Boutin, holds qualifications well beyond what the constable position itself requires, and that those additional duties (such as writing municipal ordinance tickets) are separate from the constable role by statute. She concluded: "It doesn't seem like it has to be appointed." The board agreed to remove the constable from the charter.

Delinquent Tax Collector, Treasurer, and Listers: Chair Morway proposed these three positions remain the focus of the charter. She noted that the delinquent tax collector is no longer voted on. The town voted years ago for the delinquent tax collector to be the same person as the treasurer, and that both should go together for consistency. Vice Chair Cochran and Board Member Parizo agreed. Chair Morway confirmed: "Listers, delinquent tax collector, and treasurer. Those are the three items we ask the attorney to work on."

Board Member Bushway indicated he would vote no on moving forward with the charter, expressing his preference to give the issue more time—"another year or so before we jump into it again." He also suggested that the state statute he had read aloud might provide a path for addressing the lister situation without a charter.

The remaining members—Parizo, Cochran, Morway, and Howrigan—indicated agreement to proceed with having the town attorney draft charter language limited to the three positions (listers, treasurer, and delinquent tax collector), with no tax provisions, for a November ballot.

The board also discussed the importance of clearly communicating intent to the public—specifically, that if these positions change from elected to appointed, the current elected officeholders would immediately be appointed to continue in their roles. Community member Diane Cota asked if maybe this can be written into the charter itself, but suggested a cover letter or formal statement on the record could accompany the charter to address this concern directly if not.

b. Results from town wide survey and proposed future use of current Library building (possible action)

This agenda item was tabled to the next meeting.

c. Town copier lease renewal/purchase options

Town Treasurer Melissa Boutin presented the copier situation. The leases on both town copiers—one in the lister's office and one in the main office—had expired. She outlined three scenarios that had emerged: (1) a new five-year lease at $328.30/month covering both machines with no metering; (2) a subsequently revised proposal from the same vendor at $272.36/month for five years; and (3) outright purchase of the existing machines.

Boutin had investigated the purchase option and received an invoice to purchase both existing machines for a combined total of $3,320.77, including a property tax estimate of $336. She confirmed that toner for both machines is available through Staples and Amazon—a 4-pack for the color machine runs approximately $149.99 and a 4-pack for the black-only office machine runs approximately $79.99.

The board quickly recognized the financial advantage of purchasing: a five-year lease at $272.36/month totals approximately $16,320, whereas outright purchase of well-maintained machines would cost $3,320.77—with money remaining in the FY27 budget of $4,000 for toner and any service calls. Boutin confirmed the machines have been well-maintained throughout their five-year life. Service calls would incur a charge under the purchase scenario, but the consensus was that the math strongly favored purchase.

DRB Clerk Adam Lavigne, noting with good humor that he was "getting excited by the prospect of a larger copier so it's more easily accessible for mylars," asked about the capability of the larger machine for architectural plans. Boutin confirmed the plotter/large-format copier used by the Zoning office handles that function and advised Adam to coordinate with Kaitlyn (Zoning Administrator) on accessing it.

> A motion to purchase the existing copier machines—the one in the town office and the one in the lister's office—was made by Board Member Jeff Parizo and seconded by Board Member Ron Bushway. The motion carried unanimously.

d. Community information outreach options and brainstorm session

This item was tabled to a future meeting.

XII. New Business (taken up following Old Business)

a. General Fund Banking Proposals

Town Treasurer Melissa Boutin reported that, in connection with prior discussions about potentially moving general fund cash to Community Bank, she had proactively solicited proposals from three institutions: Community Bank, Northfield Savings Bank, and M&T Bank (the town's current bank).

- Community Bank offered 1.75% on the general checking account, with terms similar to the existing M&T arrangement including a $42,000 sweep account threshold. Startup checks and a remote capture scanner were included.
- Northfield Savings Bank (with whom the town already has CDs and the library project checking account) offered 2.25%, with no minimum balance requirement, also including startup checks and a scanner.
- M&T Bank, upon learning the town was soliciting competing bids, responded with a rate of 2.35% and immediately implemented that change in the town's checking account regardless of the outcome of the review.

Boutin noted that she had recently placed an order for accounts payable and payroll checks with M&T, and that the town has already set up direct deposit for payroll and is beginning the process of collecting tax payment data for ACH transfers. Given M&T's competitive response and the operational continuity benefits of staying with the current provider, Boutin recommended remaining with M&T Bank.

The board expressed appreciation for Boutin's thoroughness in seeking competitive bids and agreed with her recommendation. No formal motion was required, as this was an administrative matter.

b. DRB candidate for alternate position and review DRB job description, possible update

Chair Morway introduced the item. DRB Clerk Adam Lavigne presented Greg Lassiter, who had submitted a statement of interest for an alternate position on the Grand Isle Development Review Board. Lavigne reported that Lassiter attended the June DRB meeting, shared his background as a high-level executive at several businesses, came from the New York area, currently resides in South Hero, and expressed interest in eventually relocating to Grand Isle because he "likes the vibe better." Lavigne described him as "definitely qualified" and "very enthusiastic, with a good attitude."

Chair Morway acknowledged that Lassiter's resume was "incredibly qualified" and that she was "very excited to read it," but raised a concern: Lassiter does not currently live in Grand Isle. While the DRB job description does not explicitly require residency (unlike the Planning Commission bylaws, which do), Chair Morway expressed concern about the precedent it would set—particularly for boards like the DRB and Planning Commission that shape what the town looks like: "It would be pretty easy for somebody in Burlington who's a developer to come up here and say, 'I want to be on the board.' And we're kind of setting a precedent by saying it's okay that you don't live in the town."

Board Member Parizo agreed, stating he had "a hard time having somebody from a different town making decisions for taxpayers here." Vice Chair Cochran also agreed reluctantly, noting she wanted to disagree given Lassiter's qualifications but felt the principle was important: "I'll find him a house in Grand Isle—I'm on Zillow."

The board agreed that the DRB job description and bylaws should be amended to require residency in Grand Isle. Lavigne indicated he would draft proposed language to bring to the board. The discussion turned to how to define "residency"—"live or work" language had been used previously in the Planning Commission context, though it had not been formally adopted. The board ultimately directed Lavigne to bring a recommendation, with a working direction that candidates should be a "resident of Grand Isle." The question of whether to define residency as living, owning property, or being a registered voter was left to the attorney and Lavigne to advise on. The board agreed to ask the town attorney whether "resident of Grand Isle" language is sufficient and appropriate.

The DRB alternate candidacy of Greg Lassiter was not approved at this time, pending amendment of the job description and bylaws.

c. Reschedule or cancel 9/7/2026 Selectboard meeting

> A motion to reschedule the September 7, 2026 Selectboard meeting to August 31, 2026 was made by Board Member Jeff Parizo and seconded by Chair Morway. The motion carried unanimously.

XIV. Executive Session

> A motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter, citing 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(2)—that premature general public knowledge would clearly place the public body or a person involved at a substantial disadvantage—was made by Chair Jennifer Morway and seconded by Vice Chair Aimee Cochran. The motion carried unanimously.

The board entered executive session. Upon conclusion:

> A motion to exit executive session at 9:18 PM with no action taken was made by Vice Chair Cochran and seconded by Board Member Ellen Howrigan. The motion carried unanimously.

XV. Administrative Check-In

No formal administrative check-in was recorded.

XVI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn at 9:19 PM was made by Board Member Ellen Howrigan and seconded by Board Member Jeff Parizo. The motion carried unanimously